

Seven Grandfather Teachings



Wisdom: knowledge, prudence, intelligence



Love: to know love is to know peace



Respect: honour all creation



Bravery: fearless heart



Honesty: be honest in word and action



Humility: equal to others, not better



Truth: do not deceive yourself or others

Spotlight on Trail Bridges

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway (the Parkway) multi-use trail system is linked with seven pedestrian trail bridges that allow users to travel the length of the corridor without encountering a vehicle.

The Parkway team has designed the trail bridges to be easily identifiable and help users find their way when using the 20 kilometres of recreational trails. Structurally, the bridges are made of a steel truss and concrete abutment system that can commonly be found throughout Ontario. The steel truss system will be coated with a select colour palette.

The seven trail bridges will vary in length dependent upon location and are designed to meet current accessibility and safety standards so the entire community can use them.



Three themes – colour, teaching and symbol – have been interpreted and then applied to the seven pedestrian bridges for cultural significance.

- The inspiration for the themes came threefold from the significant colours, teachings, and clans of the local Anishinaabe First Nations (Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi people) as interpreted by community members from Walpole Island First Nation.
- The seven colours for the bridges came from the four colours of the Medicine Wheel and the three colours that represent life on earth.
- The ‘Seven Grandfather Teachings’ are universal values to help guide us in our day-to-day living, including our interactions with the natural environment.
- The animal symbols are artistic representations of the original seven clans of the Anishinaabe people.
- Each colour, teaching and symbol are linked together.
- Trail side markers will introduce the themes at the approaches to the bridges.

Relationship building between Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN) and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) began in 2004 with the early planning stages for the Detroit River International Crossing study. Effective consultation has led to a dedicated partnership with a shared vision. Walpole Island First Nation is historically, ecologically and culturally connected to Windsor and Essex County. Walpole Island and the surrounding region is called Bkejwanong (“Where the Waters Divide”). The Parkway is located in the traditional territory of Walpole Island First Nation.

For more information visit www.hgparkway.ca/info-centre and check out the Public Information Open House tab.

this issue

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Spotlight on Trail Bridges | P.1 |
| Seven Grandfather Teachings | P.1 |
| A Homage To Safe Passage | P.2 |
| Construction Update | P.2 |
| Accelerated Girder Production | P.2 |
| People Profile | P.3 |
| Freddie’s Corner | P.3 |
| Prescribed Burns Update | P.3 |
| Winter Maintenance & Safety | P.4 |
| Kids Zone | P.4 |

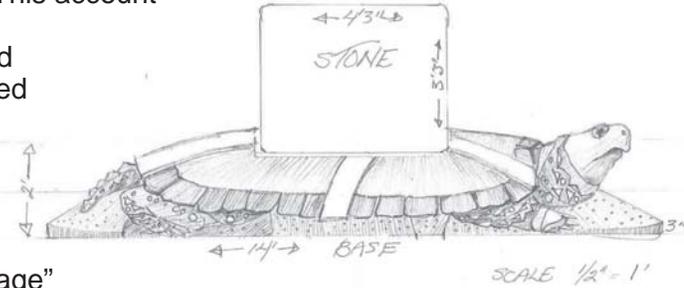
Construction Update

Crews have been on site carrying out a wide variety of works. Below are some highlights.

- In December 2013, Diversion 1 was realigned to allow for construction of Pump Station 1 next to the Labelle Tunnel (T-2).
- Girder removal has begun at two affected structures while preparatory works for girder removal has begun at the two other affected structures. The process to remove the girders is very intricate. The crews are dealing with very large, heavy objects and they are doing so with due caution to make sure no damage is done to the other bridge or tunnel components that make up the structure. The project team designers and engineers are working closely together to make sure that the disassembly of the structures goes smoothly, properly and safely.
- Excavation for pump stations is underway and in some locations the concrete walls of the pump stations are being formed and sheet piles are being driven.
- Bridge, tunnel and roadway construction continues throughout the corridor.

A Homage To Safe Passage

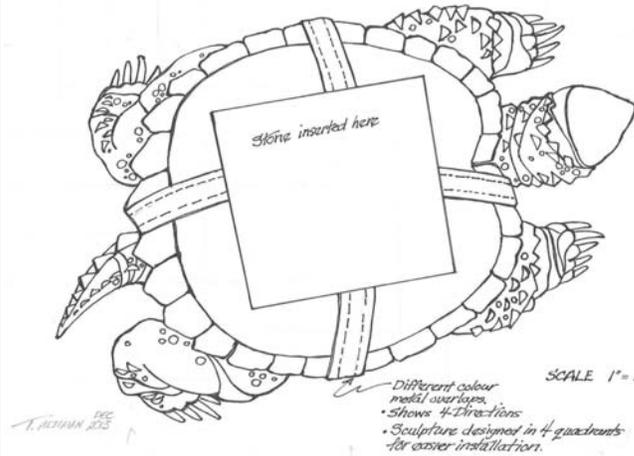
First Nations heritage plays an important role in the final Landscape Plan for the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway. Along with the colours, teachings and symbols that have been associated with each of the seven trail bridges, a symbolic marker will also be incorporated into the Parkway aesthetics. Through consultation with Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN) the account of the 1669 Dollier and Galinee journey through Essex County was identified as historically significant. This account is well documented, recounting the journey through the Great Lakes and along the Detroit River which included an encounter with a sacred marker. The Parkway team in consultation with WIFN identified the rest area on top of the Spring Garden Tunnel (Tunnel 1) as an opportunity to interpret the "Homage to Safe Passage"



- a symbolic marker to recognize safe crossing from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair.

As part of the consultation process, the design team and WIFN worked with Teresa Altman, an accomplished First Nations artist, regarding the potential of creating an integrated small scale public art expression that would become the focal point along the trail on the Spring Garden Tunnel. During excavation a boulder was salvaged to be integrated as part of the 'homage'.

The boulder will be placed upon a sculpted base in the form of a turtle. The turtle (Mzhiikenh in the Ojibwe language) is legendary to First Nation people. After the Great Flood, Mzhiikennh offered its back, its shell, for the sacred earth to be placed upon. The Winds from the Four Directions blew and blew and the Earth grew and grew. It became North America, the homeland of all First Nations people, and called by many as Turtle Island. Mshiikeh is honoured to carry the "Mishomis Sin" Grandfather Stone.



The original Mishomis Sin was located not far from Windsor-Essex County along the Detroit River and was honoured by the First Nations people who were grateful for passing safely across Lake Erie. Missionaries Galinee and Dollier destroyed this sacred stone when they journeyed up the Detroit River for the first time in 1670. The stone that was recovered from the Parkway construction site and will be placed on the Spring Garden Tunnel is a limestone glacial erratic.

Accelerated Girder Production

The Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) and Parkway Infrastructure Constructors (PIC) are taking steps to increase production of girders to help ensure replacement can take place as quickly as possible.

Production of new girders has begun at local contractor PSI. Accelerated production is not at a cost of quality. A more stringent inspection and monitoring program is in place at PIC's expense. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has also increased oversight.



Above: Parkway crews work to construct a pump station.

People Profile

Meet Some of the Team

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway is creating and supporting jobs across the region and helping to stimulate our local economy. Design and construction of the Parkway is also providing training for people in our community and creating unique partnerships.

Q. What is your name and position?

A. David Skillings, Project Coordinator with Parkway Infrastructure Constructors



Q. Where are you from?

A. I was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario.

Q. What type of work are you doing on the Parkway project?

A. Currently, I am coordinating construction activities for several pump stations located along the Parkway.

Q. How long have you been working on the project?

A. I've been working on the project for one year.

Q. When people find out that you are working on the Parkway project what do they typically say?

A. People generally ask when the project will be complete or when a particular crossing will be open. A few are curious about how things are built.

Q. What has been the most rewarding part of your work on the project so far?

A. The enormity of the project brings a smile to my face. I have been exposed to so many different aspects of highway and bridge construction.

Q. Do you have anything else you would like our readers to know about your experience working on this project?

A. This project has been very exciting to work on. I grew up half a kilometre from the project right-of-way and am happy to be part of such a big improvement to the area.

Prescribed Burn Update

In November and December of 2013, prescribed burns of Tallgrass Prairie were conducted on restoration sites associated with the Parkway. Over 23,000 m² of area was burned. Prescribed burns are deliberately set, carefully controlled and closely, monitored fires. The Tallgrass Prairie sites associated with the Parkway will become a permanent feature of the completed Parkway and will be subject to these burns in accordance with permits issued under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*.

Prescribed burns are the most effective management tool to maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems. This is the first fall burn conducted for the Parkway.



A number of precautions were taken prior to the burns to ensure safety for the community.

Letters were delivered to adjacent residents giving them advance notice and the sites themselves were off-

limits to the public during the burns. Our animal friends were protected as well. Our species at risk specialists inspected the site immediately prior to the burn and were on site during the burn. During one of the burns, a flock of 12 eastern bluebirds watched curiously from a safe distance. They will no doubt be left with some great habitat for spring nesting. Burns are planned for spring 2014.



Freddie's Corner

While the wind blows and the snow falls in Windsor and Essex County, I am resting comfortably in my hibernacula. I wrote this edition's column before settling in for the winter.

Did you know that the species at risk work for the Parkway has required the development of new techniques which are both sustainable and innovative? My snake friends and I are doing what we can to support this innovation and benefit from it too. Here are three examples.

1. The Toronto Zoo design for constructed hibernacula has been specially adapted for the Parkway. Using the foundation of some homes that were being demolished by MTO, hibernacula were constructed using rubble from the demolition sites.
2. State-of-the-art radio telemetry technology has been used to study the movement of Butler's Gartersnakes and Eastern Foxsnakes resulting in many new areas of discovery relating to habitat needs. During the hibernation period, the radios are turned off and even during the active season, the radios are turned on only for short periods of the day to prolong the life of the battery. Come spring the radios will be turned on again allowing the Parkway Environmental team to continue their monitoring.
3. Eastern Foxsnakes tested different fence designs leading to the development of a new permanent snake barrier design.

The Parkway's commitment to ecological and community sustainability is unprecedented for a roadway project in Ontario.

Winter Maintenance and Safety

A dedicated winter maintenance team uses heavy equipment to keep the permanent and temporary roadways within the Parkway corridor safe and clear of snow and ice. As a reminder please be courteous and remain a safe distance back from maintenance equipment when you see blue flashing lights. To do the job right, snow plows and salt and sand trucks must travel slower than regular traffic. Sight lines and visibility near a working snow plow are significantly reduced by blowing snow. Never pass a snow plow. It is extremely dangerous to pass either between or around snow plows because of whiteout conditions and the ridge of snow being passed between plows.

Please stay safe this winter. Pedestrians are asked to stay on designated walkways and out of construction zones. As well, ponds should not be used for skating and earth berms and embankments should not be used for sledding. Please stay alert for flaggers and heavy equipment which may not be visible around high snowbanks. ■

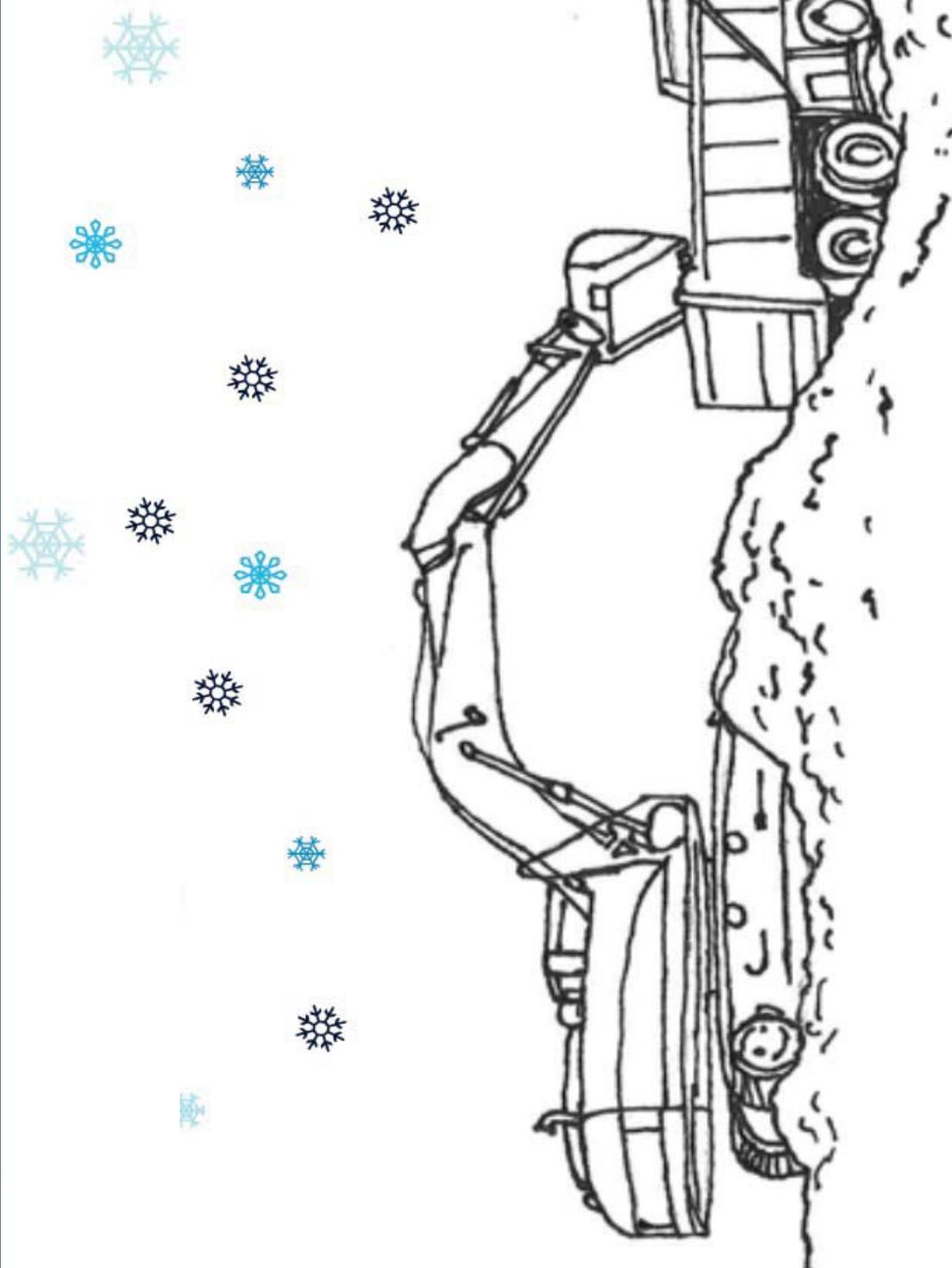


Scan the barcode with your smart phone to see a video of the Burn Boss talking about fall prescribed burns. If you don't have a smart phone, visit www.youtube.com/hgparkway.

KIDS ZONE

Colouring Contest

1. Colour the picture.
2. Take a photo of your work.
3. Tweet your photo to @hgparkway for your chance to win a prize.



- www.hgparkway.ca
- www.facebook.com/hgparkway
- www.twitter.com/hgparkway
- www.twitter.com/ParkwayFreddie
- www.flickr.com/hgparkway
- www.youtube.com/hgparkway
- www.pinterest.com/hgparkway
- www.linkedin.com

There are many ways to stay up-to-date

■ Public Liaison Office
2187 Huron Church Road
Suite 340 A
Windsor, ON N9C 2L8
hgp-plo@wemg.ca
1-877-937-5929

■ Ministry of Transportation
949 McDougall Avenue
Suite 200
Windsor, ON N9A 1L9
detroit.river@ontario.ca