

Prairie Restoration and Stewardship Workshop

On Wednesday, April 17, 2013, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Ministry of Natural Resources co-hosted the *Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway: Prairie Restoration and Stewardship Workshop* at the Ojibway Nature Centre. Over 90 people attended the full-day session, including representatives from community-based and national/provincial environmental/conservation organizations, governmental agencies, universities and colleges, and representatives from local First Nations and the Parkway team. Organizations represented included Friends of Ojibway Prairie, St. Clair College, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Tallgrass Ontario, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Transport Canada and Walpole Island First Nation.

The purpose of the workshop was twofold – to highlight all of the restoration, research and active management efforts underway as a part of the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway and to begin a dialogue with those who have a shared interest in protecting and managing Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems. “This workshop is an important first step toward meeting the stewardship and outreach obligations arising from the permit issued under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*,” said Joel Foster, Head of Environmental at MTO’s Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group. While the focus was on restoration activities associated with the Parkway, the day also included an update from Transport Canada on species at risk relocation and restoration activities on the site for the new Canadian inspection plaza, presentations from Essex Region Conservation Authority, the City of Windsor and Walpole Island First Nation.

“This [Parkway] project applies the best practices that the restoration community advocates, including taking a whole-ecosystem approach, and using adaptive management strategies. While the project does focus on species at risk, it has also taken steps to preserve broader ecosystem functions, as demonstrated by the strategy of moving healthy, whole sections of prairie soils and vegetation to degraded areas, thereby ensuring that the vital soil community is retained. I am very impressed by how the many stakeholders came together to cooperate in this progressive, ecological approach, and this project should be used as a model for other infrastructure projects where ecosystem preservation is a top priority,” said Marnie Branfireun, Instructor, Centre for Environment and Sustainability, Western University.

The workshop included roundtable discussions on land stewardship, education and outreach, and future research opportunities. There were many good ideas generated and MTO is committed to continuing the dialogue and working with other partners who have a shared interest in preserving Tallgrass Prairie habitats.



this issue

Prairie Workshop	P.1
Highway 3 Traffic Shift	P.2
Awards	P.2
Out and About Town	P.3
Just the Facts	P.3
People Profile	P.3
Upcoming Events	P.4
Kids Zone	P.4



Scan the barcode with your smart phone to check out the latest aerial photos of the Parkway. If you don't have a smart phone, visit www.flickr.com/hgparkway.

Horticulture Technicians Learn about the Parkway

In April, students and faculty from the Horticulture Technician program at St. Clair College attended the *Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway: Prairie Restoration and Stewardship Workshop*. The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Horticulture program emphasizes hands-on learning in both design and construction, so the workshop acted as a unique opportunity for future graduates to meet with industry professionals and engage in a dialogue about sustainable development.

Professor John Lein, coordinator of Landscape Horticulture at the college, was glad his students were able to attend. “The whole administration of the process really got the students interested. They wanted more info on how it’s getting built.”

As these graduates enter into the workforce, familiarity with the Parkway’s innovative environmental initiatives gives students a leg up on the competition. “It’s in our backyard. We think there are some obvious job opportunities there,” says Lein.

Another Win for the Parkway

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) was presented the 2013 Provincial Infrastructure Award at the Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference held in Toronto on April 8, 2013.

The award was given in recognition of MTO leadership along with significant and innovative efforts related to the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway – *Endangered Species Act* (2007) Permit.

Five years ago, the *Endangered Species Act*, 2007 (ESA) established a new standard for the protection and recovery of species at risk in Ontario.

Check out the Parkway's commitment to ecological and community sustainability at www.hgparkway.ca/sustainability.

I Believe in My Community

On March 28, 2013, United Way Windsor-Essex County welcomed over 250 guests to celebrate and honour the supporters of the 2013 United Way Campaign.

The event "I Believe in My Community" recognized those that went above and beyond to help those in need through United Way.

The Windsor Essex Mobility Group and Parkway Infrastructure Constructors were awarded the "Corporate Community Excellence" award.

United Way runs a fundraising campaign annually to fund its three strategic investment priorities:

- supporting basic needs and independence
- positioning kids and families for success
- creating thriving neighbourhoods.

All of the funds raised are invested locally to support strategies across Windsor and Essex County.

Highway 3 Traffic Shift

On April 3, 2013, traffic shifted onto a permanent section of the new Highway 3 between Howard Avenue and Huron Church Line. This traffic shift marked a significant achievement in the construction of the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway as traffic now travels on several permanent features of the Parkway — Bridges 10 (west of St. Clair College) and 11 (west of Howard Avenue), and the southern branch of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10B).

Sandwich West Parkway reopened to traffic to correspond with the re-alignment of Highway 3, removing Diversion 14, which had been used to take traffic around construction. The process to finalize the permanent Sandwich West Parkway configuration is being completed in stages. Subsequent stages include the opening of a third lane and then a fourth. When Cousineau Road reopens in late 2013/early 2014 a fifth lane will also open allowing traffic to travel across Highway 3 between Sandwich West Parkway and Cousineau Road.

The Highway 3 shift also included the opening of Diversion 11, west of Geraedts Drive to maintain full access to St. Clair College. Traffic signals were adjusted at these two intersections – Geraedts Drive and Sandwich West Parkway – along with incorporating a temporary pedestrian walkway between Sandwich West Parkway, St. Clair College, and Cousineau Road. Road diversions remaining at each end of this section of the Parkway provide a smooth transition between Highway 401/Highway 3 and local roads without impacting construction.

Shifting traffic onto this section of the Parkway provides for the construction of the Geraedts Tunnel (T-8), the Cousineau Tunnel (T-9) and the other side of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10A). In addition to these structures, this shift also allows work to begin on the below-grade Highway 401 and associated infrastructure like retaining walls, noise walls, stormwater management, and utilities in this area. Final grading and landscaping works will also be advanced where possible, in locations adjacent to the new Highway 3.

Once the Parkway is completed, this section of road will carry local traffic from Howard Avenue, Highway 3 traffic from Essex County through the roundabout, and local traffic exiting Highway 401 east of Howard Avenue.

All Parkway tunnels will have lighting installed that accommodates multi-level intensity controls for day and night hours. This enables drivers to adjust quickly within the tunnelled sections. Power Distribution Assemblies (PDAs) on each tunnel top provide a power source for these luminaires. It is estimated that when completed nearly 15,500 lights will be installed in the 11 Parkway tunnels. That is just 5,000 fewer lights than what is on the *Eiffel Tower*.



Top left: The Parkway team accepts the Provincial Infrastructure Award at the Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference.

Top right: The Parkway team proudly accepts the I Believe award for Corporate Community Excellence.

Bottom: Parkway field team members pose with the Provincial Infrastructure Award.



People Profile

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.

What is your name and position?

Chris Babic, Project Engineer Intern (EIT)



Where are you from?

Windsor, Ontario

What type of work are you doing on the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway project?

I am co-ordinating civil works construction activities from Cabana Road to Ojibway Parkway.

How long will you be working on the project?

Until project completion.

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

People are always curious about how the Parkway will function and what the completion date will be. I tell them that once the Parkway is complete, it will function as one of the most crucial infrastructure gateways in Canada and will be what this community has been awaiting for a long time.

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

The most rewarding part so far is gaining unsurpassed experience in many different areas of construction with some of the most talented people I have ever met.

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

I am excited to be a part of one of the largest infrastructure projects in Ontario and I am very proud to see how Windsorites have been so cooperative with the ongoing construction activities.

Just the Facts

As part of the recent Highway 3 traffic shift (see article to the left), three permanent structures are now open to traffic. Here are some interesting numbers about what went into the construction of those structures. When the Parkway is completed there will be 11 permanent tunnels and 15 permanent bridges.

	number of piles driven	cubic metres of concrete poured	metres squared of area waterproofed
Bridge 10 (west of St. Clair College)	259	6,323	5,561
Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10B)	184	2,650	4,936
Bridge 11 (west of Howard Avenue)	259	6,082	4,936
TOTALS	702 piles	15,055 m3	15,433 m2

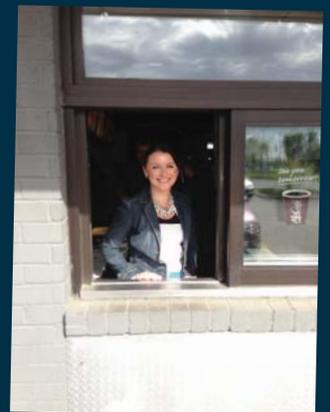
The weight of the total cubic metres of concrete poured is equivalent to the weight of 10,285 African elephants.

The waterproofed area is equivalent to the size of 3 NFL football fields or 2 CFL football fields.



Out and About Town

The Parkway Communications Team volunteered with local McDonald's Restaurants for McHappy Day 2013. Below are just a few snapshots of them having fun in the community for this great event.



Come and Join Us

We will be at the 3rd annual "Meet-A-Machine" community literacy event hosted by the Windsor-Essex County Ontario Early Years Centres. This event showcases machines of all types for children to discover and explore!

Parkway staff will be on hand to answer questions about the project and the piece of construction equipment we will have on display.

Saturday June 15, 2013
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WFCU Centre Parking Lot
8787 McHugh Street, Windsor

Admission is FREE!

For more information about this event please contact
519-255-5344. ■

Try your hand at this issue's craft for our budding builders in the community.

Tools Needed To Make This Snake

- Plastic two piece eggs
- String or twine
- Marker
- Small drill with 1/2" drill bit or 1/4" drill bit
- Small piece of wood to drill on
- Glue or Hot Glue
- Jelly beans or beans to put in the head (if you want it edible use jelly beans and tape it)
- Optional: googly craft eyes



Directions

Important: make sure you help small children with any sharp objects used to make the holes or pre-drill for them.

- drill a small hole in each egg using a 1/2" drill bit or 1/4" drill bit
- cut two lengths of string
 - one for the tongue (about 8 cm)
 - one for the body (about 60 cm)
- tie the short one on the front of the face as the tongue
- tie the longer one on the back of the head end to string the body
- insert beans in the head and glue it tight (don't fill totally as the beans need to move around)
- string the body egg halves all facing the same way except for the last 1 or 2 (see the picture)
- tie the end...don't pull the string too tight!
- once complete, let it dry thoroughly.



Ontario Early Years Centres
 A Place for Parents And Their Children.



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■ www.hgparkway.ca
 ■ 1-877-937-5929

■ www.facebook.com/hgparkway
 ■ www.twitter.com/hgparkway
 ■ www.flickr.com/hgparkway
 ■ www.youtube.com/hgparkway

■ Public Liaison Office
 2187 Huron Church Road
 Suite 340 A
 Windsor, ON N9C 2L8
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■ Ministry of Transportation
 949 McDougall Avenue
 Suite 200
 Windsor, ON N9A 1L9
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