

Science City

Fun for all ages

Are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Look no further. We want you to come and check out the new Windsor-Essex Parkway exhibit at Canada South Science City.

Surrounded by stunning graphics immersing visitors in the Parkway, the exhibit features many fun zones for kids of all ages to experience and learn.

At first, visitors are greeted by a construction-like setting where you can take a look at the Parkway's evolution on the large timeline wall. Upon entering the exhibit stop by the carpool lot and catch a ride to take your journey along the Parkway.

From the carpool lot, embark on a voyage following a one-of-a-kind artists' rendering of the Parkway that was hand-drawn on the floor. On your journey don't forget to stop along the way and learn about various aspects of the Parkway including the Parkway's recreational trails, the Oakwood Tunnel ecopassage, and construction equipment being used to construct the Parkway. A 40 foot Parkway wall map provides visitors with an understanding of where each featured aspect is located within the corridor.

As visitors approach the end of the Parkway road network, travel through the modern roundabout and watch a video on how to safely navigate through this highway feature. When you're done head over to the Tallgrass Prairie imagination centre and the construction play area.

Check out a video of the grand opening of the exhibit that took place on June 27, 2012, at www.youtube.com/weparkway and view photos at www.flickr.com/weparkway.

More information about Canada South Science City can be found at www.csssciencecity.com.

Canada South Science City is located at 930 Marion Avenue in Windsor. Come out and tour the exhibit as well as everything else Science City has to offer Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Our Next Public Meeting

We are currently planning our seventh Public Information Open House (PIOH) to be held later this summer. This event is planned to provide you with the opportunity to offer final input into the Parkway's landscaping.

An update on construction activities and an opportunity for you to provide feedback on your construction experience will also be provided at the PIOH.

We look forward to presenting up-to-date project information, and hearing feedback from the community. Look for event announcements, including details on upcoming neighbourhood meetings, at www.weparkway.ca, www.twitter.com/weparkway, www.facebook.com/weparkway and in your local community paper.

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Above children from the Toy Box visit the Parkway exhibit at Canada South Science City.

The completion of the new Trillium Court site represents a new standard in affordable housing units within Essex County, with all of the new homes being Energy Star certified. The 56 families living at the existing Trillium Court located just off of Sandwich West Parkway moved into their new homes in early July.

Located less than one kilometre from the existing Trillium Court, construction of the new units created and sustained approximately 66 local jobs. Local company Archon Architects Inc designed the new Trillium Court, while Oscar Construction Company Limited of Oldcastle constructed the housing units with the assistance of approximately 17 local sub-contractors.

Trillium Court is operated by River Park Non-Profit Housing Corporation and was identified during the DRIC study in May 2008 to be among the 900 properties MTO required for the construction of the Windsor-Essex Parkway. Throughout planning, design and construction of the new Trillium Court many partner organizations brought specific knowledge and expertise to the project to ensure that residents' rights and needs were respected while a safe and environmentally friendly new facility was built.

To learn more about the Trillium Court project visit www.weparkway.ca/trilliumcourt or check out photos of the construction progress at www.flickr.com/weparkway.

On June 27, 2012, Tallgrass Ontario (TGO) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Windsor at the Ojibway Nature Centre to a group of approximately 50 attendees. The highlight of the event was a full-day workshop featuring the Tallgrass Prairie restoration work that is part of the Windsor-Essex Parkway. The workshop included walking tours around the Ojibway Nature Centre and tours of two of the Tallgrass Prairie sites that are being restored as part of the Parkway project.

The attendees came from all over Ontario and included local residents interested in learning more about the Parkway species work. They were fortunate enough to meet two Eastern Foxsnakes and a Butler's Gartersnake. These three individuals were recently captured in the footprint and are protected under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*, (2007). Following the session, the snakes were taken to the lab where field staff recorded vital stats and they were then relocated just outside the Parkway footprint later that day.

The Windsor-Essex region holds Canada's most biologically diverse ecosystems with the greatest number of species at risk in the country. Dan Lebedyk with the Essex Regional Conservation Authority (ERCA) discussed the importance of the Windsor-Essex region to Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems. The restoration sites associated with the Parkway were identified as sites with high conservation value that will help to create larger blocks of habitat for prairie species in the Windsor area.

During the bus tour, attendees visited two Parkway prairie restoration areas where they saw four species at risk (Colicroot, Dense Blazing Star, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, and Willowleaf Aster) as well as other rare and unusual prairie plants that were in bloom.

To view videos of the presentations please visit www.youtube.com/weparkway. Are you interested in learning more about Tallgrass Prairie in Ontario? Visit www.tallgrassontario.org or take a walk through the Ojibway Prairie Complex located at 5200 Matchette Road in Windsor.



Left: participants of the Tallgrass Ontario workshop.

Supporting species at risk work through partnerships with local organizations

This past June, the Windsor-Essex Parkway environmental team partnered with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and Danshab Enterprises, a Walpole Island First Nation business specializing in ecological restoration, to assist in the recovery of a threatened species at risk wildflower.

The work involved commissioning a nursery to grow a large stock of Dense Blazing Star from seed collected within the Parkway footprint. The nursery ended up with a surplus of 4,000 plants. Looking for ways to share this with other ecological partners in the region, the Ministry of Transportation and ERCA teamed up to enhance the Tallgrass Prairie habitat at Ruscom Shores and Hillman Marsh Conservation Areas and also River Canard Park.

The plants are expected to bloom this summer and will continue to grow and thrive in their natural habitat in Windsor-Essex. Dense Blazing Star which is a provincially and nationally threatened Tallgrass Prairie species is characterized with spectacular long spikes of purple flowers.

Danshab Enterprises is a Walpole Island First Nation business that has been involved in other habitat restoration work associated with the Parkway. Danshab also contributed a variety of prairie plants from their own nursery stock for planting in the newly restored River Canard Park. Some native wetland species were transplanted to this site, bringing diversity for this shoreline restoration project. These plants were identified and salvaged by Danshab from within the Parkway footprint.

ERCA is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting, restoring and managing the natural resources of the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region.

People Profile

Meet some of the team

The Windsor-Essex 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. In each issue of this newsletter, we'll introduce you to at least one person involved with the Parkway.



Q. What is your name and position?

Drew Chevalier, Junior Project Manager

Q. Where are you from?

I live in LaSalle, Ontario.

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

I help to document the progress that AMICO is making on the Windsor-Essex Parkway. I take daily photographs of all of the construction sites as well as write reports on current construction activity. I've recently began measuring the quantities of materials such as stone or clay that is being used during construction.

Q. How long will you be working on the project?

I am a student that will be working on the project for a 20-month work term.

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

Wow! That must be so cool to get to see all of that!

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

My most rewarding experience to date was the first day I worked on my own and realized the magnitude of work and progress that is achieved on a daily basis.

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

I feel pretty lucky to have the opportunity to work on a project of this magnitude as not everyone has the opportunity to say they were a part of Ontario's infrastructure history.

Helping Hands

On June 22, 2012, in response to a statement issued by the Windsor Downtown Mission and Windsor-Essex food bank that they were in need of non-perishable items, AMICO, a local sub-contractor working on the Parkway, donated a truck load of over 50,000 cans or 13,000 pounds of non-perishable items. Dominic Amicone, President of AMICO, said "we feel it's important to respond when our community is in need and we are supporting our community with this donation."



Left:
Linda Amicone arrives to deliver the items on behalf of AMICO.

Info Corner

Here is what has been happening within the corridor:

Diversions 4, 5, 7, and 8 have now opened to traffic.

Diversions 2 and 3 between Labelle and Grand Marais are under construction.

Pile driving for bridge B-11 (west of Howard Avenue) began in May 2012.

Pile driving on tunnels T-2 (Labelle Tunnel), T-7 (Villa Borghese Tunnel), and the second phase of piling on B-10 (west of St. Clair College) began in July 2012.

Excavations of tunnels T-1 (Spring Garden Tunnel), T-2 (Labelle Tunnel), T-5 (Oakwood Tunnel), T-7 (Villa Borghese Tunnel) and T-11 (Oliver Estates Tunnel), are ongoing.

Excavation for bridges B-9 (east of Huron Line), B-10 (west of St. Clair College), and B-11 (west of Howard Avenue) are ongoing.

The Wolfe Drain, Cahill Drain and Basin Drain realignments are complete.

Embankment construction continues in the areas of Malden Road, Matchette Road and Ojibway Parkway.

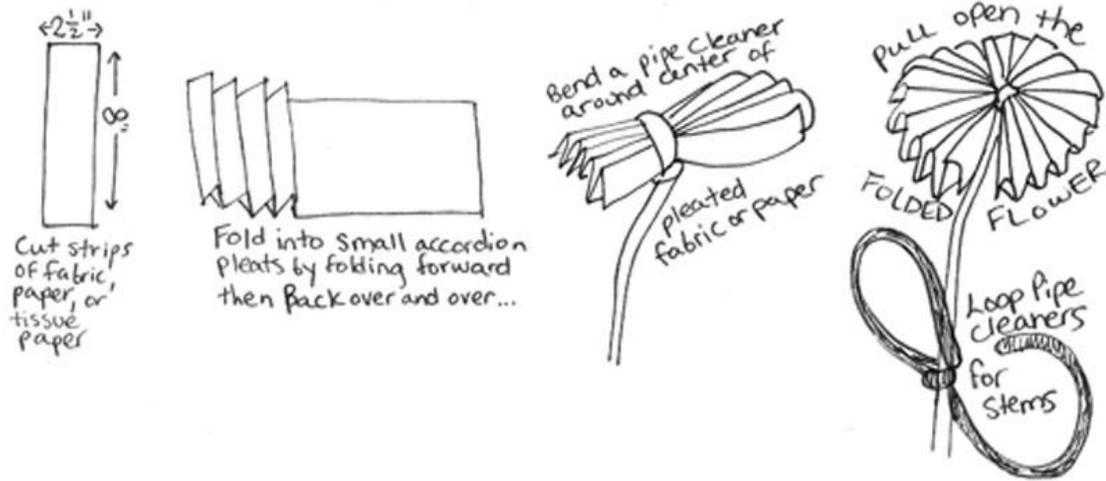
Wick drain installations have been completed in the Matchette Road area.

Keeping up-to-date with the Parkway

Have you visited our facebook page yet? If not, next time you're online check us out at www.facebook.com/weparkway and like our page. You will find out more about traffic notes, upcoming events, #MachineryMonday and much much more.

Starting later this month we will be launching our online question and answer session with members of the Parkway construction team. Each month we will answer a few of the most common questions received. Have a question you would like to see featured as part of this series? Submit it to us on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/weparkway.

“Grow” your own Tallgrass Prairie



Step 1: Use a strip of tissue paper about as long as your hand.

Step 2: Fold the paper into small accordion pleats, folding forward then back & over & over.

Step 3: Bend a piece of pipe cleaner around the centre of the pleated tissue paper.

Step 4: Pull open the flower to reveal your Tallgrass Prairie flower.



Pictured above is the Tallgrass Prairie imagination centre at the Parkway exhibit located at Canada South Science City.



Scan the barcode with your smart phone to view a video of Science City. If you don't have a smart phone, visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/weparkway to view.

There are many ways to stay up-to-date

■ www.weparkway.ca

■ 1-877-WE-PKWAY

■ www.facebook.com/weparkway

■ www.twitter.com/weparkway

■ www.flickr.com/photos/weparkway

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