

2013 by the Numbers

As 2013 comes to an end, here are some impressive Parkway facts and figures from the year.

- Over one million hours of work were logged by the Parkway team.
- April was our busiest month for visitors at www.hgparkway.ca – with over 500,000 visitors.
- Kids showed their Parkway spirit by sporting Parkway tattoos at community events. They were a hit with over 5000 given out this year. Visit us at our next event to get yours.
- Have you visited our Pinterest Boards yet? This year we pinned 234 items to our 10 boards. Follow us here www.pinterest.com/hgparkway.
- Over 30,000 community newsletters totalling more than 240,000 pages were delivered to mailboxes this year.
- 393 photos of the Parkway were posted to Flickr this year. They have been viewed 170,862 times. Check them out to see what you've missed www.flickr.com/hgparkway.
- 5182 piles were driven this year with pile driving for all but one structure completed.
- 150,000 tonnes of asphalt were used this year throughout the corridor.
- Since construction began approximately 25,000 metres of storm pipe has been installed.

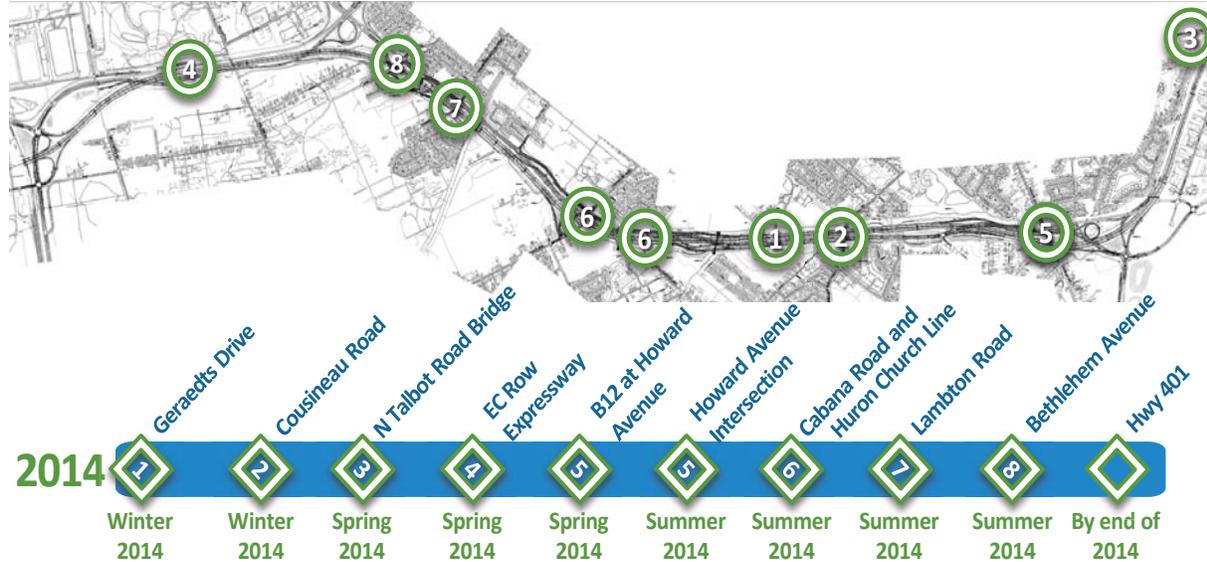
Parkway Team Presents New Schedule Focused on Re-Opening Roads

On November 1, 2013, the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway team announced that approximately 300 girders placed on-site at the Parkway will be removed and replaced with new girders and that a revised construction schedule would be developed.

Subject to final approval, the re-sequenced construction schedule can be found detailed in the map below. The project team understands the impact this large construction project has had on the community and the Windsor Essex Mobility Group and Parkway Infrastructure Constructors have re-sequenced the schedule in a way that allows them to work quickly and efficiently toward overall project completion. The key to the schedule is the focus on prioritizing the connection of neighbourhood streets across the Parkway.

"We have re-sequenced construction activities to minimize delay in completion and we will apply a staged approach for tunnel and bridge construction that makes the opening of local roads a priority," said Cindy Prince, Communications Manager for Parkway Infrastructure Constructors.

The re-sequenced schedule is based on seasons. As the opening dates for cross-roads approach, more detailed information will become available. Details on the schedule are available on www.hgparkway.ca and continued updates will be easily readable on the construction interactive map available on the website homepage.



Girder Removal

Girder removal will occur over the next 3 months at Tunnels 2 (Labelle Tunnel), 5 (Oakwood Tunnel) and 7 (Villa Borghese Tunnel) and Bridge 15 (North Talbot Road Bridge). Neighbouring residents will receive notices before the removal work begins. For Tunnels 5 and 7, removal will involve cranes lifting the girders and placing them on flatbed trucks for hauling. At Tunnel 2 and at the North Talbot Road Bridge, removal will include removal of the concrete decks and parapets and then cranes will lift the girders and place them on flatbed trucks for hauling. Efforts will be made to limit noise, dust and impacts on traffic. All work will proceed in accordance with municipal noise by-laws.

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Freddie's Corner

Hi folks. By the time you read this, I will already have been hibernating for a number of weeks. I wrote this prior to settling in for the winter.

My Eastern Foxsnake friends and I hibernate from early September to mid-April.

Here are some interesting facts about Eastern Foxsnake hibernation:

- We eat a good supply of mice and voles beforehand.
- Young snakes (called neonates) will eat a lot of food to put on weight and store energy before hibernating.
- We spend our winters in hibernacula, which are underground spaces below the frost line.
- We hibernate in abandoned mammal burrows or in holes among tree roots.
- When these locations are sparse we also hibernate in manmade building foundations and old wells.
- We like to hibernate in the same location every year.
- The Parkway team created several new hibernacula in protected restoration areas to replace hibernacula affected by construction.
- Although we hesitate to try new things, these (new) hibernacula are in grasslands where we spend our summers and we will be trying one out because they look pretty comfortable.
- Snakes have to conserve energy to survive the cold winter, so we remain inactive during hibernation.
- We hibernate together so sometimes other Eastern Foxsnakes, and even brown snakes or gartersnakes, keep me company.
- When we emerge from hibernation in the spring one of the first things we do is find a warm sunny spot to bask.

Saving Threatened Plants to Save Endangered Species

Originally published by Wildlife Preservation Canada, September 10, 2013.

Reprinted with permission from the author, Victoria MacPhail

What happens when a rare plant is found in the path of a major highway construction project? Will it still have pollinators visit it if the plant is transplanted from one area to another? The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway project in Windsor has been breaking new ground in species at risk research at the same time as it is breaking ground to construct a new thorough-way through Windsor, Ontario to the United States. Wildlife Preservation Canada was invited to participate in this research by observing the insect visitors to several at-risk plant species located on land involved with the Parkway project.

Victoria MacPhail, a WPC Biologist, and a colleague from York University, recently spent some time on the Parkway site observing Colicroot, a Threatened plant species that produces a spike of white flowers in early July. While this species was reported by one study to be pollinated by bumble bees and bombyliid flies, additional data was desired, particularly for Ontario populations. An intriguing question presented itself for the Parkway site: will the same pollinators visit transplanted patches of Colicroot as naturally-occurring ones?

To save the Colicroot in the direct path of the construction project, soil mats approximately 1m x 1m in size that contained the plants were dug up, and then transplanted to nearby areas. This method was used by contractors associated with the Parkway project because recent research has shown that the plant's roots rely on fungi in the soil to survive: transplanting the plant alone will not work.

Victoria's first impression after a few days of surveys is that the transplants were a success in terms of attracting pollinators as she did not note any major differences between sites. Bumble bees were the most common visitor and pollinator of the plants in both natural and planted populations, and they were active throughout the day. Although much more uncommon, a few other bee and butterfly species were also noted visiting the flowers, which are new records for Colicroot. By understanding the pollinators of Colicroot, and other rare plants, Parkway staff can manage the habitat around the plants to ensure the pollinator needs are met, and so that they will flourish and help the rare species establish and survive well into the future.



Safety first. Required equipment on construction sites – butterfly nets.

By the way, as the plants were technically on the construction site property, the researchers had to wear the same safety equipment as those working with the heavy machinery. This included hard hat, safety vest, steel-toed boots, and safety glasses – very stylish! They also had to attend a 3 1/2 hr safety and species at risk training that all workers on the site need to attend.



A hibernacula created by the Parkway team.



One of Freddie's Eastern Foxsnake friends.

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. 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?

A. Wendy Calito, Project Coordinator

Q. Where are you from?

A. I have lived in Windsor for the last 15 years.



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

A. I coordinate earthworks, roadways construction, utilities, and traffic staging to ensure everything is constructed according to design documents in the areas west of Todd-Cabana.

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

A. Until project completion.

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

A. They are interested in the final completion and the way it will look.

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

A. The most rewarding part of my experience with the project was being able to open two diversions last year that facilitated the full construction of the future Highway 401 and all the structures between Todd-Cabana and E.C. Row Expressway.

Remember the Roundabout Rules of the Road

The Parkway multi-lane roundabout opened to traffic in November 2012. It connects Highway 401 on/off ramps, Highway 3 and the Howard Avenue Diversion (County Road 9). With the recent closure of Howard Avenue south of Highway 3 more people are using the roundabout than ever before. Here are a few tips to help you safely navigate the Parkway roundabout.

Rules for Roundabouts

1. Slow down as you approach the roundabout. Keep to the right of the Splitter Island.
2. Use the correct lane for your intended destination.
3. Watch for vehicles already in the roundabout.
4. Traffic in the roundabout always has the right-of-way. Entering vehicles must always yield.
5. Enter the roundabout when there is an adequate gap in the circulating traffic.
6. In the roundabout, keep to the right of the Central Island and travel in a counter-clockwise direction.
7. Do not stop, pass large vehicles or change lanes within the roundabout.
8. Use your right-turn signal when exiting the roundabout.
9. If you miss your exit, continue around the roundabout again and exit.

For more educational information including videos and tutorials on the Parkway roundabout visit www.hgparkway.ca/info-centre.

Howard Avenue Closure south of Highway 3

Howard Avenue south of Highway 3 was closed on October 25, 2013. This closure is to allow for the construction of Bridge 12 which will carry traffic from Howard Avenue over the lowered Parkway. A detour route was set up to carry traffic around the closure. It is through the roundabout just east of Howard Avenue.

Traffic heading to Howard Avenue south of Highway 3 will take the roundabout and stay right to County Road 9 (Howard Diversion). At the lights, travellers will turn right onto the Howard Connector and access businesses and residences either left or right.

For more information on how to use the roundabout, visit our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/hgparkway.



Giving Back United Way Update

The Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) and Parkway Infrastructure Constructors (PIC) have kicked-off the 2013 campaign for United Way Windsor-Essex. A BBQ lunch event was hosted at the Huron Church offices where project partners embraced the start to this year's workplace campaign. United Way guest speakers shared stories with staff on the value of investments in the United Way. PIC and WEMG senior management also took to the podium as leaders in building a stronger and more vibrant community under the priority of creating thriving neighbourhoods. Since the kick-off, fundraising has continued through a BBQ dinner, pasta dinner, and participation in the 2013 Tough Truck Pull weekend. The PIC construction team pulled over 75 000 pounds for 50 feet at this event.



The Parkway Team is excited to continue giving back to the community through United Way and building upon the success of the 2012 campaign. Stay tuned for upcoming events held by WEMG, PIC, LiUNA – Local 625, and the Operating Engineers – Local 793.

Help Ian the construction worker find his safety vest.



KIDS ZONE

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- 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

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