

There is much to celebrate as we near the end of 2017.

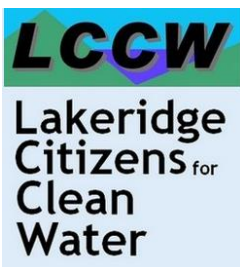
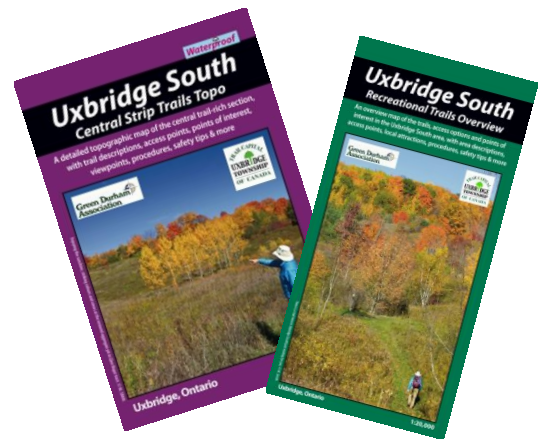
GDA founding member William P. Wilder was recently awarded Member of the Order of Canada on November 17, 2017 in Ottawa “For his leadership in the business community and for his philanthropic contributions in support of higher education and conservation initiatives”. Congratulations Bill, we are all proud of this well-deserved recognition of your efforts.



As you know, GDA lent our charitable status to support our Land Over Landings friends in their efforts to raise funds for a study of the “Airport lands”. Last month [LOL announced](#) they had reached their goal of \$80,000 to complete this study; \$60,000 of those dollars were donated through GDA and tax receipts issued. (Thank you to our treasurer Adam Conyers for all that additional receipt-writing!)

Our [map project](#) continues: two maps have been published and are for sale locally.

A third is in the final review stages before going to print and will be available for sale early in January 2018. The final map is underway and will be published in Spring, 2018.



Another success:

GDA pledged to match funds donated to Lakeridge Citizens for Clean Water up to \$4,000. In October a cheque for \$8,000 was delivered to LCCW to support the important work they do to protect groundwater from dumping of “fill”.



GDA contributed to the Trails of Uxbridge sculpture carved by the talented Fly Freeman. The sculpture was installed in the Fall in front of the Uxbridge Township office. Here is Fly putting the finishing touches on the sculpture last week.

Be sure to visit it when you are in Uxbridge, it is a beautiful tribute to the Trails.

GDA is developing a volunteer base to help with maintenance on the trails in the East Duffins Headwaters properties. We received a generous donation of time and tools from Team Home Depot and spent a great day out on the trails working together. We look forward for working with them again next year. Visit GDA's Facebook page for photos of the event.

## Other News

GDA is continuing to pursue the establishment of trail connections to the new Rouge National Urban Park from the communities of Seaton and Claremont. [Read all about it.](#)

[Work is underway](#) to develop a plan to connect the northern boundary of new Rouge National Urban Park to Uxbridge Township with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other partners. The Plan will be completed in July, 2018. Watch our Facebook page for announcements.

On November 2017, [GDA submitted comments](#) on the Uxbridge Township Master Parks Plan.

Our trail sign initiative is steadily growing. To date we have installed 30 plaques on navigation posts throughout the East Duffins Headwaters properties, out of a possible 96 posts. [You can see some of the messages here on our website](#) or better still, take a walk in the woods and see them in their "natural habitat". The funds donated to purchase these plaques go right back into helping to maintain the trails of the East Duffins Headwaters properties. Donors receive a charitable tax receipt.

Best wishes for 2018!