

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 20th, 2024

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Reopens Stoney Island Conservation Area to Visitors

ALL SAUGEEN WATERSHED MUNICIPALITIES – Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington-North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) is pleased to announce that the Stoney Island Conservation Area property has reopened, and **many trails** are ready for public use. The trails are currently ungroomed and are open for everyone to enjoy.

Please note that with the recent temperature fluctuations, some trails may be very muddy. We encourage visitors to dress appropriately and use caution while exploring the area.

Snowshoers, hikers, dog walkers, fat bikers, skiers and all nature enthusiasts are welcome to explore the trails. This is a great opportunity to experience the area in new ways and enjoy its natural beauty during the winter months.

The reopening follows the completion of the ash tree removal project this fall, undertaken to address severe emerald ash borer infestation. This work was essential to ensure the continued use of the area as a recreational space. **Forest and trail remediation work is ongoing.** Visitors are encouraged to tread carefully, as the trails may still show signs of restoration work.

"Sharing our conservation lands with the public allows people of all ages to connect with nature. It's a wonderful way to inspire the next generation to care for and protect the environment."

– Donna Lacey, Manager of Forestry and Lands, SVCA

To ensure a positive experience for all, please practice good trail-sharing etiquette: yield to others as needed, stay aware of your surroundings, and stick to open trails to protect the natural environment.

Per the *Conservation Authorities Act*, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times on all SVCA properties. This helps protect wildlife and ensures the safety and comfort of other trail users. SVCA reminds visitors that off-road motor vehicles are strictly prohibited on all Conservation Authority owned lands.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Stoney Island Conservation Area welcoming and safe for all visitors!

For updates and additional information, visit www.saugeenconservation.ca

For more information, please contact:

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Email: media@svca.on.ca

Phone: 519-369-4295

Website: www.saugeenconservation.ca



Photos: Hiker; Fat Bike rider.