

Springwater Conservation Rally - Sept 17-20

8079 Springwater Road, Aylmer

Hosted by Mark St. Martin & Wendy Harry

We look forward to a group camping experience at Springwater Conservation located between St. Thomas and Aylmer. <https://www.catfishcreek.ca/springwater-campground/>. There is no need to book your own site, but WE need to know you are coming. Please send an rsvp email to wharry62@gmail.com.

*** I will also need to know if you are arriving Thurs and will you have a vehicle and how many can fit in it. Saturday we will be a driving tour of the area and out for supper.

We are in the North group camping site G304 in the East Campground, just inside the gate and to the right. Please see the map and link below. It is a nicely cut grassy area with shade. There is one central hydro location in this group camping area with 1 - 20 amp dual outlet, and 1 - 30 amp outlet that we will make into smaller 15 amps outlets as needed. Long extension cords will be required. We will reserve the electrical spots for those with cpap machines. So far 3 have been spoken for.

We will have use of the schoolhouse all three days for our meals, games, and gatherings. There are two washrooms in this building. There are two other public washroom facilities a little further away with showers.

There are dumping stations on site, no charge.

Pets are allowed but leashed at all times. They are not allowed in the swimming area.

There is an extensive hiking trail in the park and a swimming POND to cool off in after if temps allow. Check out the trail map here - bike and pet friendly

<https://www.catfishcreek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Springwater-Trails-Map.pdf>

Eats, treats and things to do:

****Please bring your own dishes, cutlery and cups/mugs to meals.**

There is a sink in the schoolhouse for washing up.

Thurs night 6:00 Chili, caesar salad and crusty buns.

A night to settle in with a bonfire and campfire snacks.

Friday 8:30 Breakfast - Continental breakfast (muffins, yogurt, fruit, toast, bagels, coffee)

Lunch 12:00 - Picnic style - Cold cuts and buns will be provided.

****** please bring picnic type food to share.

1-4 Stay put with afternoon games - Corn hole, frisbee golf, other games TBD, or a hike.

5:00 Happy & Gabby hour

Supper 6:00 - Pulled Rotisserie chicken, potato/macaroni salads, corn

Evening bonfire - movie night - pie irons, campfire snacks

*******Desserts and campfire snacks are always welcome!!!

Saturday:

Breakfast: 8:30 Continental breakfast - muffins, yogurt, fruit, toast, bagels Lunch:

Lunch 12:00 Picnic style with leftovers, chicken etc.

Driving Tour: 1:00 - 5:00 (see below)

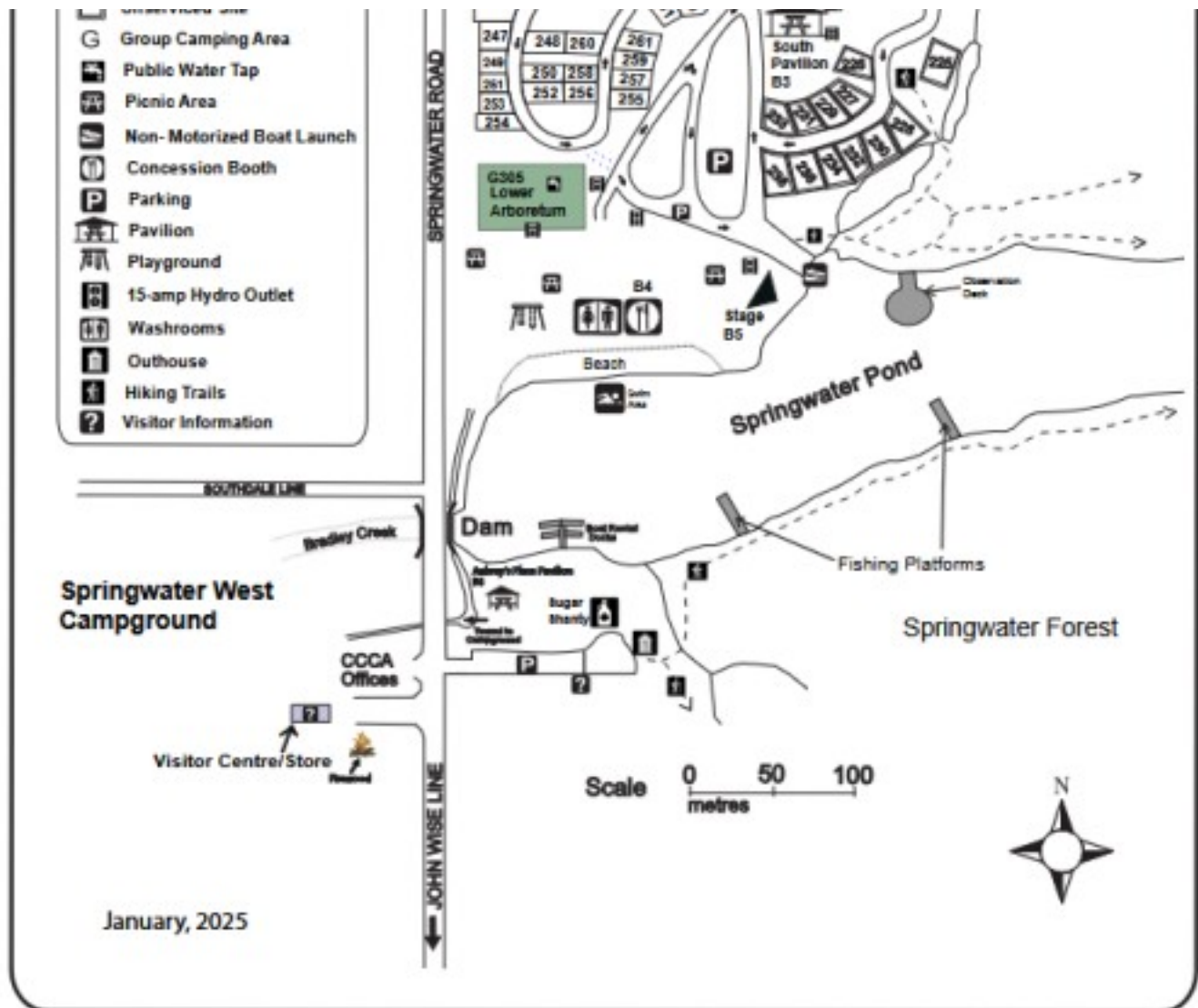
Supper 5:00 at Riva Restaurant in Port Stanley after the tour

Evening: Games and bonfire, another movie if wanted

Tour: We will rely on toads for a guided tour of a few of our favorite highlights in the area.

Sky Chase Winery, Great Lakes Cider, Jumbo the Elephant monument & Elevated Park

Sunday morning: 8:30 Egg McMuffins, Continental Breakfast items. Safe travels home!



[http](http://www.catfishcreek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SPW-east-campground-2025.pdf)

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A little info about St. Thomas.

The Railway Capital of Canada:

Due to its strategic midway location between Detroit and Buffalo, it was once a massive rail

hub processing over 100 trains a day. Visitors can explore preserved locomotives and history at the [Elgin County Railway Museum](#) and at the Caso (Canada Southern Station) building nearby, once the largest of 31 railway stations built in Ontario in the 1870s

Jumbo the Elephant: In 1885, the world-famous circus elephant Jumbo was struck and killed by a train in St. Thomas. Today, the city is known for its life-sized [Jumbo the Elephant Monument](#) erected to commemorate the centennial of his demise

Canada's First Elevated Park In 2013, **On Track St. Thomas** buys the MCR (Michigan Central Railroad) Bridge plus 4 km of former rail corridor. On Track is a non-profit dedicated to preserving and promoting the railway heritage of the community. After years of planning, the bridge is opened in 2017 as **Canada's first Elevated Park**, with safety railings, public art, plantings and seating areas. The trail from King St. to the Elevated Park is fully accessible. The first Elevated park in Ontario - <https://www.elevatedpark.ca/>

Sky Chase Winery - <https://skychasewinery.com/>

This used to be Quai Du Vin Estate winery which our close friends Rob and Lisa Quai used to own. Quai Du Vin Estate Winery is Elgin County's oldest estate winery, founded by Redi, Roberto, and Lisa Quai. Key milestones include planting the first vineyards in 1970, officially opening the winery doors in 1990, and transitioning ownership to Kyle MacDonald in 2023 to become Skye Chase Estate Winery.

Great Lakes Farm & Hard Cider - <https://www.greatlakesfarms.ca/hard-cider>