



Georgian Trail
since 1989

Staying on Track!

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INVITATION TO THE GCSTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 9, 2022 - Marsh Street Centre, Clarksburg, 1 pm

Please consider attending this meeting and making suggestions for how the Trail can be improved.

Bike Bells

The Association will be promoting the use of bicycle bells along the Georgian Trail. We have arranged to make them available to interested riders over the Canada Day long weekend. Give our volunteers a friendly hello if you pass them at the Trestle Bridge or the Craigeith Depot, and make sure to stop if you could use a bell. Donations welcome!



Bike bells will be distributed on the Trail over the July long weekend.

Highway 26 Crossing

Trail usage has increased dramatically over the past several years, and with it has grown more concern for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at the trail crossing of Highway 26 east of Thornbury. As a result of years of advocacy by the Association, the Ministry of Transportation reduced the speed limit from 80 kph to 70 kph at this intersection, and installed improved signage in 2021. In addition, the Association paid for bollard gating at the crossing on both sides of the highway in 2017. However, following public consultations in 2014, The Blue Mountains, the County of Grey and the MTO agreed that the best solution will be a crossing relocated to a controlled intersection to be installed at Highway 26 and Grey Road 2. This crossing will be completed when that intersection is rebuilt.

Sponsorship Opportunity

A bicycle repair station has been installed at the Meaford Harbour entrance to the Trail. Please contact the Association if you would be interested in sponsoring this installation. georgiantr.info@gmail.com

E-Bikes

Some pedestrians have told us that that they are concerned for their safety when approached by fast moving bikes, some of which are not permitted on the Trail. The bikes that are not permitted are considered motorized vehicles because they do not require the user to actually pedal and can reach speeds in excess of 32 kph. Motorized vehicles are NOT permitted on the Georgian Trail. We have approached the Town of The Blue Mountains about this concern and have highlighted the need for additional signage and possibly speed limits in the Craigeith and Trestle Bridge areas in particular. We have also recommended that The Blue Mountains consider an e-bike by-law, similar to that which is in place in Collingwood, which regulates the use of trails in that municipality by electric pedal assist bicycles.

Trail Maintenance

In the spring of 2021 the Association made an offer to Meaford, The Blue Mountains and Collingwood to help finance enhancement of the Trail in areas which needed improvement because of deteriorating conditions. Our expectation is for the travel way surface to be cleared of encroaching grass and weeds to ensure there is sufficient space for users to safely pass. We do not see a need to widen the Trail to the original 12-foot width, or to remove the natural habitat along the Trail, unless it is for safety reasons in congested areas or to improve drainage. We are awaiting information from staff at the municipalities as to how those funds will be utilized this coming fall.

Board of Directors

The Association is grateful for the services of its volunteer directors and in particular this year would like to express its appreciation to Murray Knowles for his coordination of our memorial bench program over the past decade, as well as his liaison with municipal staff at all three municipalities. We are seeking new volunteers to fill his shoes and those of others on the Board who will be retiring.

A Strong Community Builds a Future Tree Canopy

The Blue Mountains recently had 100 volunteers and supported by town staff plant over 600 tree seedlings along the Georgian Trail. Working in teams, they planted cedars, white pines, red oaks and native shrubs near Northwinds Beach and at the 10th line.



The event also demonstrated collaboration between the municipality and local community groups. "The degree of collaboration among the program partners has been exceptional", said John White of the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club. "There has been strong synergy and benefit from the Town of The Blue Mountains, Treetrust TBM and Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary working together on this first-of-its-kind effort. Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services for TBM, saw the event as an important learning opportunity: "We did a lot of collaborative planning that helped make the event successful but we also learned a lot that will help us in future programs." Over the summer, water tanks will remain in place for community watering.

If you want to see more trees planted in our area – stay tuned. Treetrust TBM will soon be announcing a project to make potted trees available for residents to plant in their front or back yards. You can sign up to have your name on a list for one or several of these trees at csadmin@thebluemountains.ca. treetrust.ca