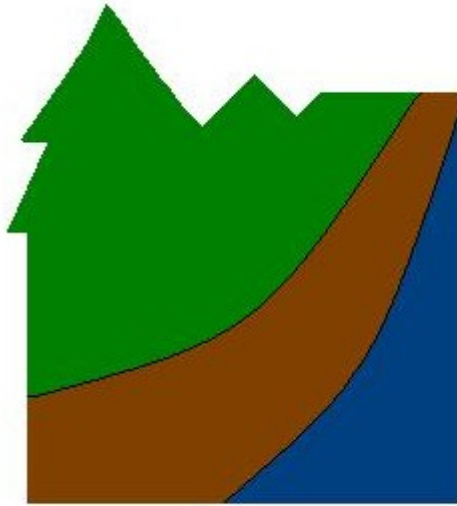


TAY SHORE TRAIL COMMITTEE



Tay Shore Trail

REPORT TO COUNCIL

December 2007



INDEX

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1-2
	1.1 History of the Tay Shore Trail	1
	1.2 Evolution of the Tay Shore Trail Committee	1
	1.2.1 Corridor Committee	1
	1.2.2 Trail Committee	2
2.0	DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY	3-6
	2.1 Phase 1 – Wye River to Victoria Harbour	3
	2.2 Phase 2 – Victoria Harbour to Waubaushene	3
	2.3 Phase 3 – Tay Shore Trail to Port McNicoll	4
	2.4 Amenity Development	4
	2.5 Signage	5
	2.5.1 Regulatory	5
	2.5.2 Interpretive	5
	2.6 Promotion	5
	2.7 Public Relations	6
3.0	RECOMMENDATIONS	7-9
	3.1 Future Trail Committee	7
	3.2 Future Spur Trail Development	7
	3.3 Funding Opportunities	7
	3.3.1 Community Opportunities	7
	3.3.1.1 General Donation	8
	3.3.1.2 Amenity Sponsorship	8
	3.3.2 Commercial advertising	8
	3.3.3 Grants	9
4.0	APPENDICES	10

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 History of the Tay Shore Trail

In conjunction with the Federal Government initiative, Trans Canada Trail (TCT) negotiated the donation of the CN Rail line to TCT. In accordance with the above agreement, Trans Canada Trail gifted the corridor to the Township of Tay in 2004 as attached (appendix #1).

In November 2004, Tay Township Council appointed members of the community and staff to a Corridor Committee to research the development of a recreational trail along the rail line.

1.2 Evolution of the Tay Shore Trail Committee

1.2.1 Corridor Committee

Council of the Township of Tay appointed a Corridor Committee by Resolution on November 11th, 2004. The Committee consisted of three Public Members (Volunteers) being Holly Bryce (Ward 2), Elizabeth Goetz (Ward 3) and Kevin Hagen (Ward 1), three Staff Members being: Ted Walker, CAO, Rhoslyn Llewellyn, Recreation Co-coordinator and Mara Burton, Director of Planning and Development and two Council Members being: Bill Rawson, Chairman and Bob Coryell.

The Purpose and Mandate of the Corridor Committee was:

“With respect to the abandoned CN Corridor known as the “Midland” Subdivision, from Mile Post 62.13 to Mile Post 72.32 (including without limitation the entire length of a certain wooden trestle bridge located at the end of such mileage at the boundary between the Township of Tay and the Town of Midland in the Township of Tay) – To consult with residents, interest groups and organizations, established trail committees and organizations, trail experts, Trans Canada Trails and Tay staff and members of Council to assist in the preparation of recommendations to Council concerning the following:

- *Portions or entirety of lands to be used for trail purposes;*
- *Specific uses to be permitted on the whole or part of the lands which may vary from section to section;*
- *Alternative routes, if considered, to by-pass sensitive areas;*
- *Identify uses which will not be permitted on any portion of the lands*
- *Type(s) of trail surfaces to accommodate uses(s);*
- *Investigate potential sources of funding for construction and maintenance;*

- *Disposal considerations for excess lands; and,*
- *Consider merits of establishing a Trail Committee to deal with on-going issues if and when a trail is established”*

Comprehensive research combined of public consultations, telephone surveys and delegations was conducted and compiled. Based on the information gathered, the Corridor Committee presented a report to Council in June 2005 recommending the development of a recreational trail along the corridor in its entirety.

Included within the report, were recommendations for use, ownership and development, trail base, policing, mitigating measures and the formation of a Trail Committee as attached (appendix #2).

1.2.2 Trail Committee

Council approved the recommendations contained within the report and a Trail Committee was formed. The existing Corridor Committee structure remained with Angela Kruger replacing Elizabeth Goetz for Ward 3. The new mandate for the Trail Committee is as follows:

- *To compile research on various development options and help fundraise to provide trail extras (benches, signage, etc.)*
- *To be responsible for the preservation the trail (i.e. signage, trail features, etc.) however, maintenance and capital development should remain responsibility of Township staff.*
- *To consider and recommend mitigating measures should abutting property owners experience problems.*
- *Name the trail*

The Trail Committee has met on a regular monthly basis from July 2005 to present, completing their mandate in September 2007 with the completion of the Trail. Items such as signage and features will be addressed in section 2.4.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

2.1 Phase 1 – Wye River to Victoria Harbour

Subsequent to Councils approval of the Corridor Committee report, development of Phase 1 began in the spring of 2006.

Surface preparation was minimal as the original rail bed remained intact. Remedial repairs to the guard rails were required on the large trestle bridge crossing the Wye River, as well as the two (2) smaller bridges crossing Hogg Creek and Hogg River. As the asphalt surface was laid, custom gates were installed at various locations to deter non permitted uses along with the required regulatory signage (stop signs, trail etiquette etc). The majority of the work was completed by Township staff which minimized the overall cost of development.

June 2006 marked the grand opening of Phase 1 which was held in Victoria Harbour. Approximately 200 members of the public and local dignitaries joined Council in a trail ride/walk from the Wye River into Victoria Harbour where the opening ceremony was held, followed by a free community barbeque sponsored by the Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour Lions Clubs.

Photos related to Phase 1 are attached (appendix #3)

2.2 Phase 2 –Victoria Harbour to Waubaushene

The development of phase 2 from Victoria Harbour to Waubaushene was delayed until late spring of 2007 due to the water main installation project.

Extensive reconstruction of the rail bed was required to restore the base to a suitable standard which would allow for proper drainage and compaction of the asphalt surface. Within the Village of Waubaushene in the Albin Road area, there were several properties which were dissected by the trail which required the installation of private access points. These access points were predetermined and installed by the Public Works Department in consultation with the affected individual property owners. Similar to Phase 1, gates and signage were also installed as required along the trail.

In September 2007, the official opening ceremony of Phase 2 was held with approximately 300 members of the public and local dignitaries followed by a free community barbeque at the Waubaushene Legion which was sponsored by the Victoria Harbour and Waubaushene Lions Clubs and the Legion.

Photos related to Phase 2 are attached (appendix #4)

2.3 Phase 3 –Tay Shore Trail to Port McNicoll (Trestle Trail)

The development of the Trestle Trail from the Tay Shore Trail into Port McNicoll was made possible through a licensing agreement between Tay Township and Skyline (Port McNicoll) Development for use of the property along Hogg Bay into Port McNicoll.

Development of Phase 3 required minimal surface work as the trail was constructed along mostly old rail line which was undisturbed. As the area had not been utilized in past years, some brushing was required to allow equipment access.

With approximately 100 people in attendance, Phase 3 was officially opened in late September 2007. As with the previous openings, the ceremony included a trail walk/ride into Port McNicoll followed by a free community barbeque at the Fourth Avenue Gazebo which was hosted by the Port McNicoll Lions Club.

Photos related to Phase 3 are attached (appendix #5)

2.4 Amenity Development

During the development of the trail in its entirety, various locations were identified for the installation of rest stations, picnic and parking areas.

Benches of simple design were placed strategically along the trail for users to rest at. Areas of the trail which were wider where developed into small picnic areas with a table and waste bins.

In Victoria Harbour at the Albert Street/Trail intersection a parkette was developed to benefit not only trail users, but also to beautify our downtown core. This location included parking, picnic tables, benches and waste bins. Similar parkettes are planned for the Coldwater Road/Trail intersection in Waubaushene as well as off of Ney Avenue in Port McNicoll.

Along the Trestle Trail a spectacular lookout point was developed overlooking Hogg Bay. This area provides a rest spot and one-of-a-kind glimpses of wildlife that frequent the area.

2.5 Signage

As part of their mandate, the Trail Committee reviewed and developed various types of signage for along the trail. The two main types of signage were regulatory (maps, etiquette etc) and interpretive (nature, history etc). Although this is an ongoing area of development, the committee was able to have the majority of the signage complete and installed for the openings.

2.5.1 Regulatory

In addition to the required stop and caution signs, trail etiquette signage as attached (appendix #6) outlining the rules of the trail were also created and installed at various locations.

A need for No motorized vehicle signs was also required and posted at all road/trail intersections.

The most visible regulatory signage is the trail heads which are located in five (5) locations along the trail. Designed in a similar fashion to our “Welcome to Tay Township” sign, the trail heads provide users with an overall map of the trail and trail etiquette guidelines as attached (appendix #7).

2.5.2 Interpretive

The committee spent a great deal of time researching and developing the interpretive signage as attached (appendix #8) to enhance the natural and historical features of the trail. The signage highlights natural areas such as the Sturgeon River and Georgian Bay as well as our forested and wetland areas.

2.6 Promotion

Trail promotion is an ongoing endeavor that the Trail Committee has just briefly touched on. The Tay Shore Trail received a considerable amount of media coverage surrounding the grand openings and has been featured in the local papers on numerous occasions. It will also be highlighted in the 2008 Southern Georgian Bay Visitor Guidebook.

The Trail is listed on several trail related websites such as Huronia Trails and Greenways, Trans Canada Trail and Trails of Georgian Bay.

One of the committee’s greatest achievements was the Tay Shore Trail Map and Information Guide. First released in June 2006, version two was released at the Phase 2 opening. The new guide consisted of 60 pages of trail related information

including individual trail section maps, historical walking tours, wildlife, active living tips, environmental information and more!

Plans are currently underway to produce a small one-page brochure (appendix #9) for mass distribution at local restaurants, accommodations and Chambers of Commerce within Simcoe County.

2.7 Public Relations

A very valuable addition to the trail and the public relations of such has been the Trail Watch Volunteer Program. Interested volunteers submit an application to the Trail Committee for review and acceptance, after which they are provided with first aid and CPR training as well as a general trail orientation.

Currently, seven (7) volunteer residents are appointed as Trail Watch Volunteers and patrol the trail at their leisure acting as our eyes and ears. They have been very beneficial in promoting the trail, assisting trail users and reporting occurrences affecting the trail.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Future Trail Committee

The Tay Shore Trail Committee is an important component of the Trail and as such should remain as a Committee of Council. As the existing mandate for the committee is now complete, we would recommend the following mandate for a future committee to commence in January 2008 to December 2010;

- *To help fundraise to provide trail amenities (benches, signage, etc.)*
- *Monitor and review trail use on an annual basis*
- *To be responsible for the promotion of the trail*
- *Develop and host special events relating to the trail*
- *Maintain and build the trail watch program*
- *Investigate and recommend possible spur trail connections to the Tay Shore Trail*

The future committee should consist of staff members; Mara Burton, Director of Planning and Development, Holly Bryce, Recreation Coordinator, Simone Latham, CAO or designate as appointed; one resident representatives from each ward and Bill Rawson, Council representative as Chairperson.

Should existing ward representatives not wish to remain on the committee, the available positions should be advertised in the manner outline in the Township policy.

3.2 Future Spur Trail Development

It is the recommendation of this committee, that should the opportunity arise to develop spur trails through Township or private property, that the spur trail be developed to the same standards as the existing Tay Shore Trail. The spur trail would form part of the Tay Shore Trail system, however, would be named separately.

3.3 Funding Opportunities

3.3.1 Community Opportunities

Providing the public with the opportunity to donate to the trail benefits both the donor and the Township. A donation program is a way to generate revenue for the trail that could be used in various ways to support the trail such as interpretive signage, map book production, maintenance etc.

Based on donation programs from surrounding municipalities for similar projects, the Trail Committee would recommend the following sponsorship opportunities;

3.3.1.1 General Donation Program

Sponsors would be recognized at various locations along the trail in the form of plaque, similar to the Trans Canada Trail adopt-a-metre program, as well as on the Township website. All donations would be eligible for a tax receipt and would receive a certificate of appreciation. The recommended sponsorship amounts are as follows:

Bronze	\$50	Gold	\$500
Silver	\$250	Platinum	\$1000

3.3.1.2 Amenity Sponsorship

Community sponsorship for trail amenities is a cost effective way to develop various types of amenities such as bicycle racks, benches and gardens. Similar programs in the Town of Midland and the City of Orillia are very successful and are a way for the community to show their support and pride.

Areas suitable for amenity development would be predetermined by the Public Works Department and would be limited in number. The Township would supply and design, plant and maintain the sponsored item and in the event of vandalism or deterioration, the Township would repair or replace the item as budget allows.

Sponsors would be recognized in the same fashion as the general donation program, however, in the case of benches and bicycle racks, plaquing and engraving would be done directly on the sponsored item. The Committee recommends the following amenity sponsorship program:

Bench Memorials	\$500
Tree Dedication	\$500
Flowerbed	\$500 annually
Bicycle Rack	\$250
Picnic Table	\$250
Shrub Planting (group of 3)	\$150

3.3.2 Commercial Advertising

The Committee has reviewed several commercial advertising options for the trail that would not be considered obtrusive or cluttering; yet still provide trail users with information on our local businesses and to provide local businesses the opportunity to benefit from trail traffic.

Advertising posts as attached (appendix #10) could be installed at select locations determined by the township that would be capable of advertising a number of businesses. Advertise blades similar in design to street signs (but blue in colour) would be purchased by the business for an annual proposed fee of \$200. The blade would include the business name and an arrow indicating the direction and number of kilometers to the business.

3.3.3 Grants

Below is a partial list of grant opportunities available for trail and related projects. Any grant applications should be completed jointly between the Township and the Trail Committee upon Council approval.

- Ministry of Recreation
- Trillium Foundation
- Trans Canada Trail Foundation
- Shell Environmental
- TrailPaq
- Good for Life
- Friends of the Environment (TD Bank)
- Casino Rama
- Ducks Unlimited
- Tree Canada Foundation

4.0 APPENDICES

Appendix #1	Trans Canada Trail Gifting Agreement	11
Appendix #2	June 2005 Report to Council (less appendices)	19
Appendix #3	Phase 1 Photographs	34
Appendix #4	Phase 2 Photographs	36
Appendix #5	Phase 3 Photographs	38
Appendix #6	Trail Etiquette Sign	39
Appendix #7	Trail Head Signage	41
Appendix #8	Interpretive Signage & Locations	42
Appendix #9	Sample of new Brochure	44
Appendix #10	Commercial Advertising Design	46