



Waterfront Trail

A signature project of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust

Making Ontario a Cycle
Tourism Destination using Signature
Trails

May 2014

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Waterfront Regeneration Trust

Eastern Ontario Active Transportation Summit

Almonte





Making Ontario a Cycle Tourism destination

- Leverage the appeal of signature trails to achieve
 - Health
 - Ecological
 - Economic goals
- Waterfront Trail as an example
 - What 20 years of investment has created
 - How our partnership works and role of the WRT
 - Promotions → Beyond Brochures
 - Template for expansion



Evolution of the Organization

1988-1992

Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront

1992-1999
Waterfront
Regeneration Trust
Agency

1999-Waterfront
Regeneration Trust

- Federal & Provincial mandate
- Hon. David Crombie, Commissioner
- Public Hearings → public wanted an accessible, healthy waterfront
- Final Report→Regeneration
- Nine waterfront principles-Clean, green, connected, affordable, useable, open, diverse, attractive and accessible

- Provincial Agency
- Implement RCFTW recommendations
- •Create the Waterfront Trail
- Lake Ontario Greenway
 Strategy→Multi-disciplinary
 work groups on waterfront
 issues from brownfield
 remediation, shoreline
 management, natural
 heritage, tourism and
 economic development

- Registered Charity
- •Focus on the Provincially significant Waterfront Trail
- Articulate the Vision
- Coordinate partnership of 70+ communities, CA & RTOs
- Secure participation by senior government
- Add value to local & regional initiatives by working on Trail-wide initiatives--promotional



Vision

The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes on earth, containing 21% of the world's surface freshwater. In Canada, they are unique to Ontario and one of our most precious resources.

The WRT is committed to connecting people to their Great Lakes waterfront and in doing so, engage them in the work to make our Great Lakes waterfront a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.

We envision a Great Lakes Waterfront Trail that is complete & connected, an integral part of each ecosystem it passes through, enhancing the environment, economy, society and history of every community that participates in the development and use of the Trail

Waterfront Regeneration Trust

- Complete, enhance and expand and connect the Waterfront Trail
- Facilitate a partnership of 100+ municipalities, conservation authorities and others
 - Planners, parks and recreation, transportation, public works, economic development departments
- Inspire the public to use the Trail and support protection and regeneration of the Waterfront
- Develop the tourism potential of the Waterfront

Active, healthy, affluent, and aware

"Young people today are driving significantly less than previous generations. Motor Trend magazine notes that young professionals flocking to cities today are less inclined to buy cars and 'more likely to spend money on smartphones, tablets and \$2,000-plus bikes.' These young people represent the 'creative class' talent pool that many companies covet."

http://greenlaneproject.org/blog/view/198



The Economist



The trend in ownership and kms traveled is reaching a saturation point.

Young people are getting their licenses later and driving less.

http://www.economist.com/node/21563280

September 22, 2012



Economic Benefits-Tourism

- Cycle tourists stay longer and spend more (Transportation Options, Velo Quebec)
- In 2010, 2 million Canadian visitors went cycling while travelling in Ontario and spent \$391 million, (an increase of 25% and 18% respectively from 2009).
- 70% of Ontarians want to cycle more (Share the Road Coalition--2013)



Quebec Cyclists

- Quebec has 4 M cyclists!
- 3.1 M adults 18-74 ans
 - + 500 000 vs 2005
- Cyclists spend more (108\$ VS 52\$)
- Quebec cyclists spend \$166 M annually and \$134 M annually on Route Verte
- Stay longer (7.5 vs 3.1) and travel more often
- May until the end October



Tourism Potential-- what Quebec says 2012 Montreal Bike Survey

- 88% say knowing about Waterfront Trail leads to planning a trip
- 33% knew about the Waterfront Trail (♠13% from 2011)
- 88% were interested in touring Lake Erie
- In 2011 Grande Tour introduced 2,200 Quebec cyclists to Ontario!
- 40% thinking about travelling to Ontario this year; 45% plan a trip in the next 1 to 3 years

... that between the 6 of us, the "Team Quebec" members as we like to call ourselves, there are to date some 20 to 25 people we talk to that are almost certain to go on the next GWTA. So what you guys are doing for the Waterfront Trail; getting people to know about it, use it, bringing tourism over, the development of it, it's

working !!!

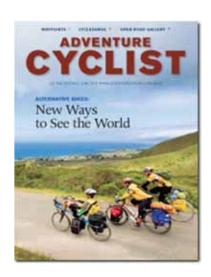


- Returns to the Waterfront Trail in the Niagara & Lake Erie regions August 2 to 9
- 1800-2000 participants
- 52% from Montreal → large potential for repeat visits
- 59% earn \$80K+
- 300 stay in hotels
- 36000 meals locally sourced
- 150 portable toilets rented
- 250,000→ size of Velo Quebec network of cyclists who learn about cycling destinations through the Tour
- 81% of participants in the **2011 Grand Tour** indicated they would return to the area in the future
- 90% would recommend the area to friends and family.
- 88% say knowing about Waterfront Trail leads to planning a trip (2011 Montreal Bike Show Poll)

Tourism Potential--USA

• \$46.9 billion is spent on meals, transportation, lodging, gifts and entertainment during bike trips and tours.

Source: League of American Bicyclists Darren Flusche Policy Analyst, June 2009





The Waterfront Trail











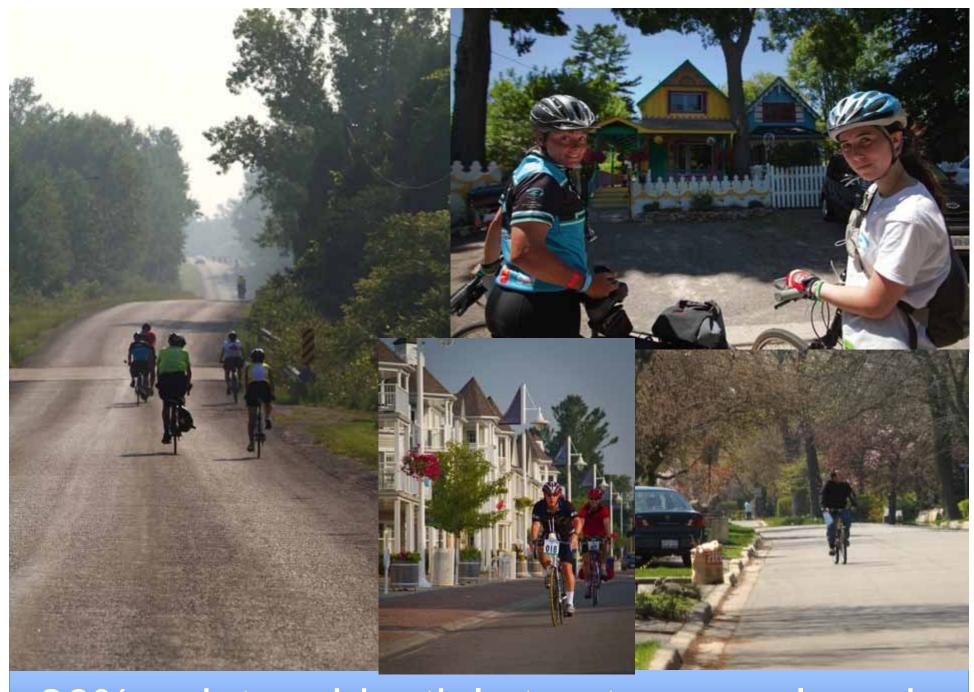




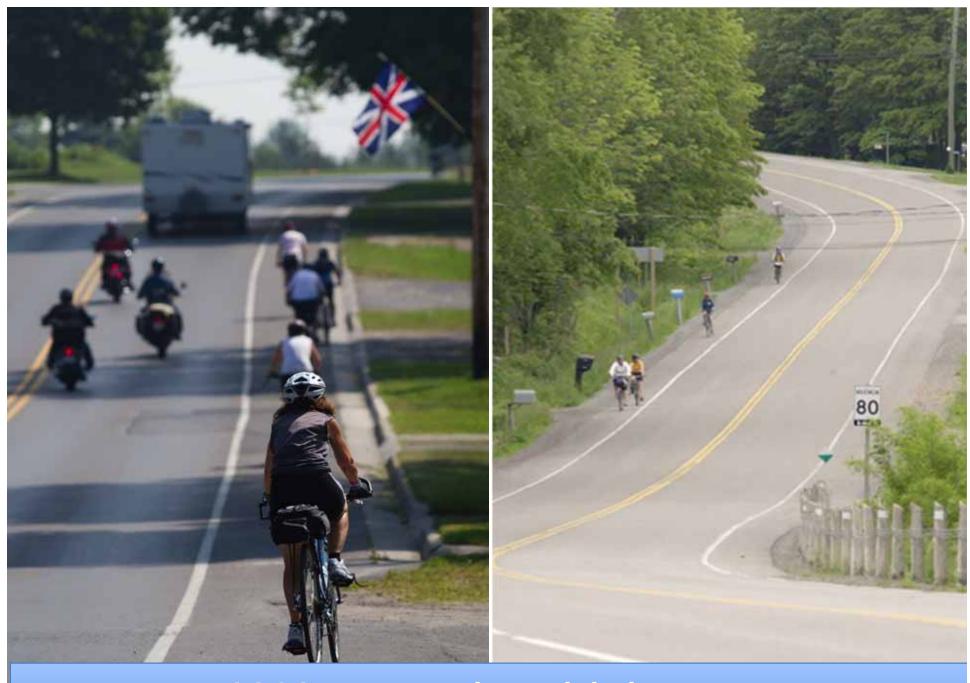




30% dedicated off-road paths



30% quiet residential streets or rural roads



40% secondary highways



27% hamlets, villages and countryside Population under 10,000





40% small towns and villages Population 10,000 to 35,000





27% Cities and towns
Population 40,000 to 200,000



7% Major urban centres Population 500,000 and over













Point Pelee—Southern most tip of Canada





Sugar Beach





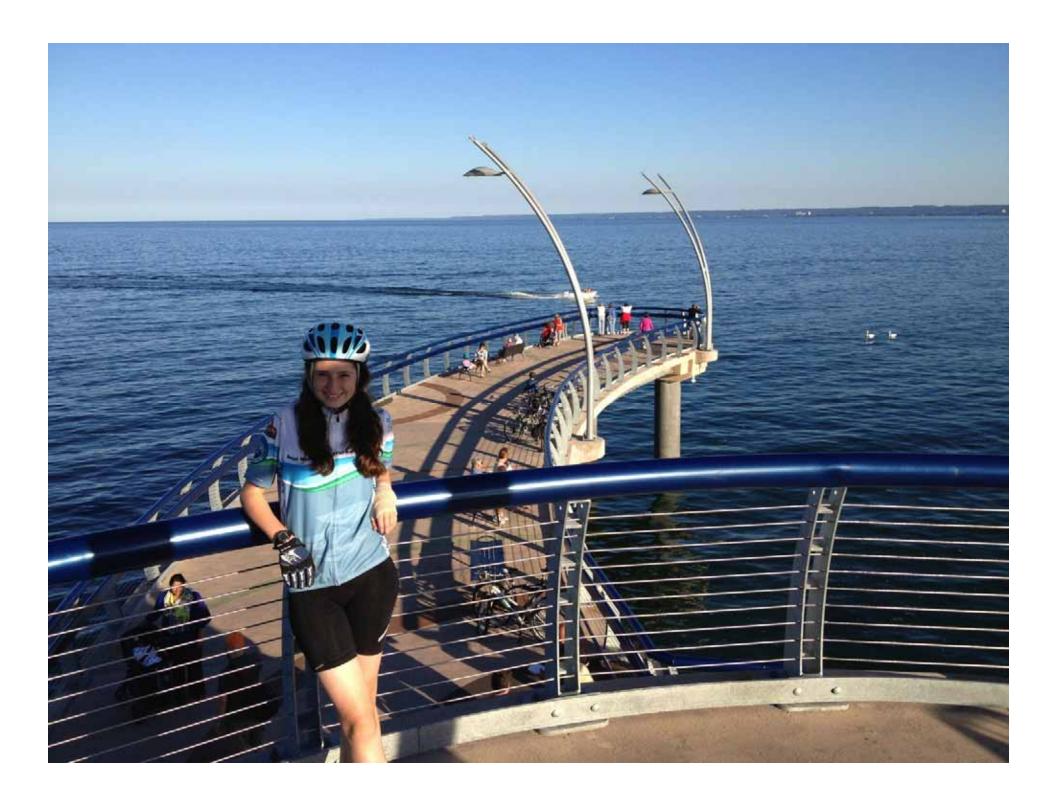
Waterfront Trail east of Prescott



Upper Canada Village







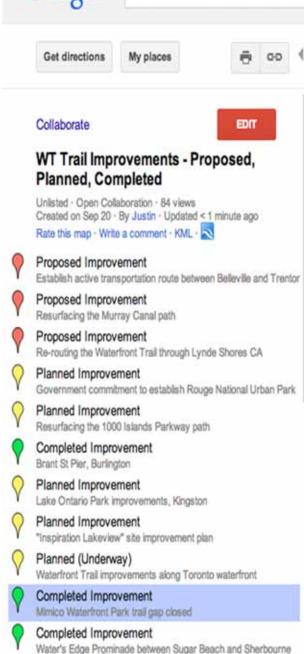
State of the Waterfront Trail 2013 Leading the Movement for Waterfront Regeneration on Ontario's Great Lakes Waterfront Regeneration Trust

Common, Toronto

Planned Improvement (Underway)



Q











Lynde Shores Waterfront Trail

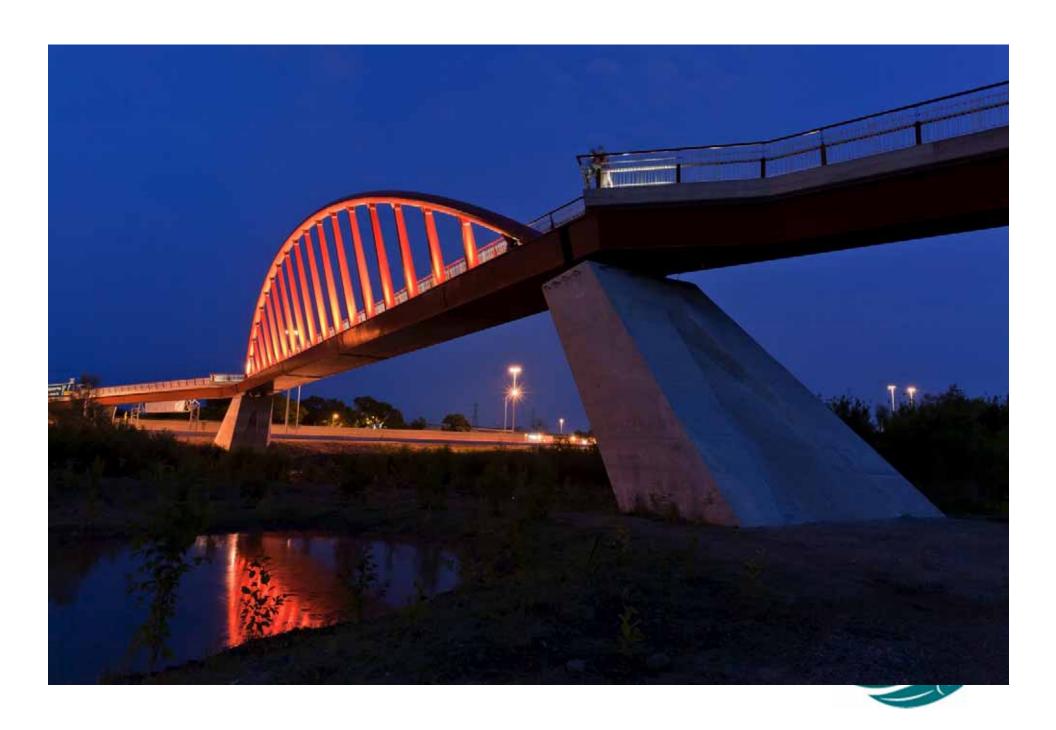
Project investment \$800K Completion: 2015

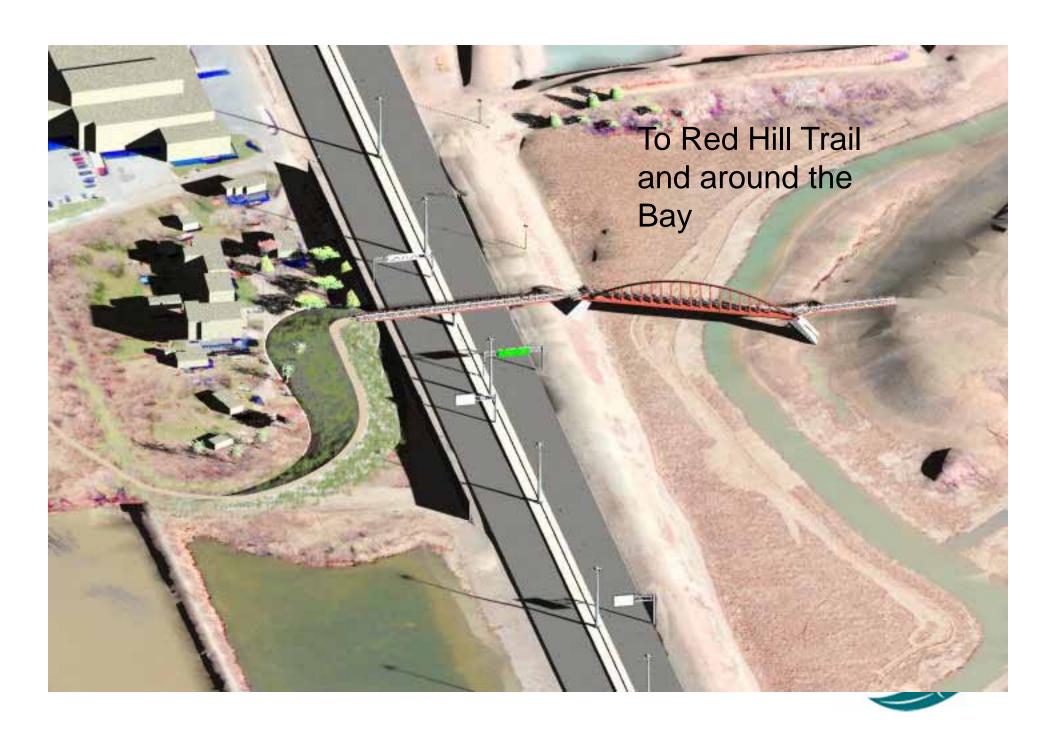
- WRT secures \$600K investment from Province to move the Trail off-road and connect two provincially significant wetlands
- Completes the Waterfront Trail through the Golden Horseshoe by 2015 creating a provincial legacy for the Pan Am Games
- Makes Hamilton to Oshawa family-friendly trail experience
- Offers excellent green, healthy commuting route
- Creates a significant staging area for the Waterfront Trail
 - o Close proximity to GO service
 - o Parking
 - o Washrooms
- In 1990s the lands to the east became part of the Trail after the WRT's work to create a natural buffer for the Lynde Shores Marsh













Queen s Quay 2015



Wave Deck 2015



New International Seaway Bridge--

Approach to Cornwall looking North Expected completion date: Fall 2014





- Directional marker
- 18 by 18 inches
- Directional arrow separate for flexibility
- Installed every 1 km on walkways and every 2.5 km on roadways geared more to cyclists
- Found in Scarborough and Etobicoke





Grands cours d'eau, parcours extraordinaire!

Great Lakes, Great Rivers, Great Trail!















www.waterfronttrail.org









Signage

- One of the biggest comments we receive from the public relates to signage—more important than the gaps to them
- Consistently Signed from Niagara to Quebec
 - Directional and Trail head
 - Signage installed at Quebec Border
 - Connections to VIA Rail Stations (Cobourg, Kingston, Brockville)
 - Welcome Cyclist Signage
- Poorly maintained signs undermine user confidence in the quality of the Trail
- Next priorities-signage directing period to the Trail









Co-designated signage and signs incorporated into municipal programs.

From left to right: Oakville, Essex County, Mississauga, Haldimand County.







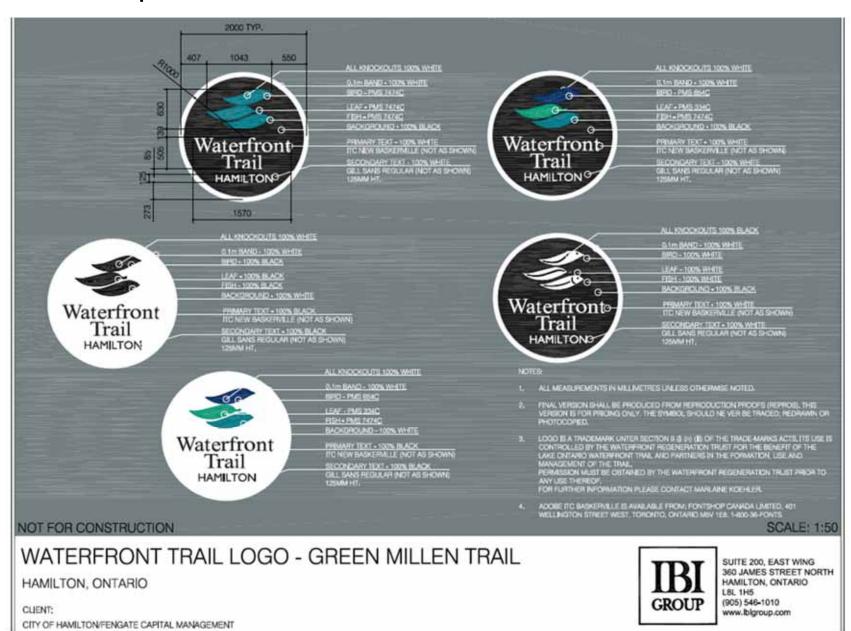


City of Kingston has incorporated the logo (bird, leaf, fish) into its light

City of Pickering has incorporated signage with local mapping.

City of Mississauga has incorporated copper insets of the logo in the Trail by

Proposed road stencils for Trail in Hamilton



Sign Connections

From Union Station to Trail

(Bay Street, Toronto. No longer in place since construction of the Bay Street teamway)

From VIA Station to the Trail (Cobourg)

Sign inter-provincial connections

(the Quebec/Ont. Border)











ABOUT THE TRUST - MAPS - EVENTS - VISITING THE TRAIL - CONNECT WITH THE TRAIL - PARTNER RESOURCE CENTER - DONATE NOW



You are here: Home

WELCOME TO THE WATERFRONT TRAIL

Stretching over 1400km along the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Niagara, Detroit and St. Lawrence Rivers, the Waterfront Trail connects 68 communities and over 405 parks and natural areas including wetlands, forests and beaches. Created to regenerate, celebrate and reconnect people to our Great Lake waterfronts, the Trail has become a well-loved and used recreation, fitness and green transportation amenity and a world-renowned tourism attraction.

The fully signed Trail is a combination of paths (21%), neighbourhood streets (21%), and rural roads (58%). Many urban centers have dedicated paths that are a central features of their waterfronts. Major trails including the Niagara River Path and the St. Lawrence bikeway are part of the Waterfront Trail network. It is largely paved and welcomes all types of nonmotorized recreation including runners, cyclists, walkers, wheelchairs, strollers and rollerbladers.

Established in 1988, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust is the

LATEST FROM THE WATERFRONT TRAIL



Family Friendly Ideas

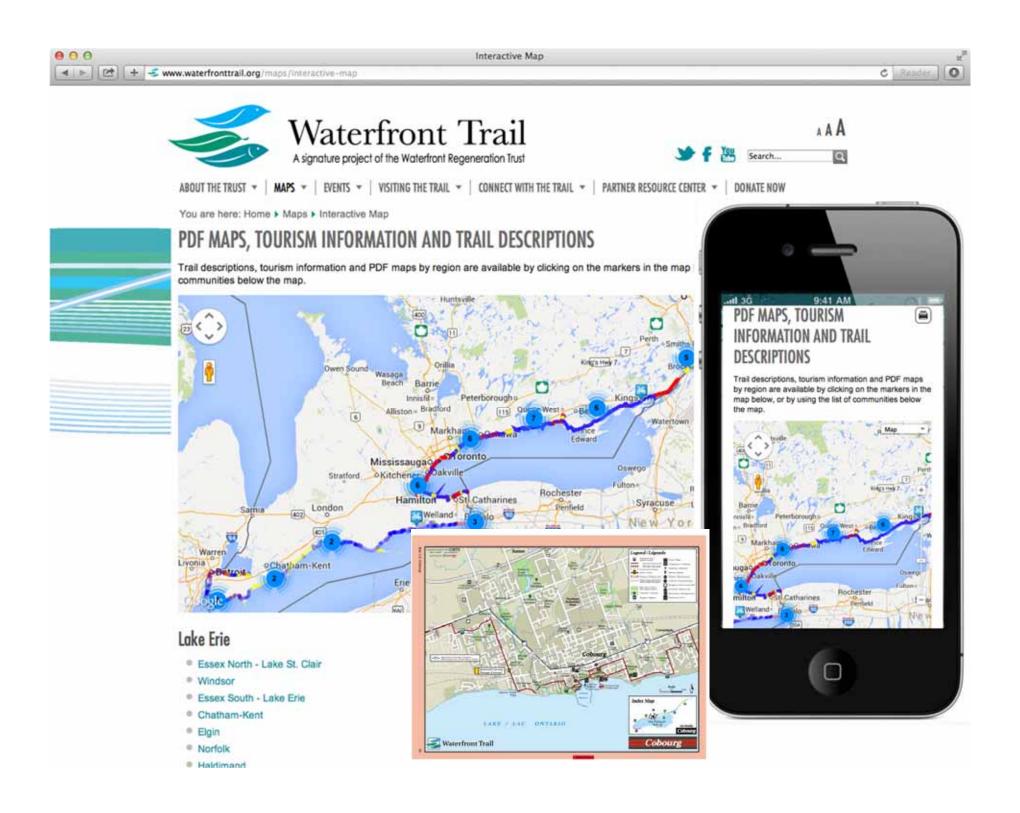
Welcome to Waterfront Trail Adventures family friendly ideas section. We have put together a list of places connected to the trail for the best possible experience. This section is full of ideas suitable for anyone that enjoys parks, trails, and lakeside events.

Click here to read more...



Facebook

Connect with the Waterfront Trail on Facebook to:





ABOUT THE TRUST * MAPS * EVENTS * VISITING THE TRAIL * CONNECT WITH THE TRAIL *

PARTNER RESOURCE CENTER *

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Search...

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You are here: Home > Partner Resource Center > Partner Communication Toolkit

PARTNER COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

The Waterfront Regeneration Trust has assembled a Partner Communication Toolkit. This toolkit is available for download by our community partners to promote the Waterfront Trail. The toolkit can be accessed through our dropbox link. Any other use of the material requires prior permission by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust. Please email info_(at) wrtrust.com if you have any questions.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8iku5fa26zdd2o0/GxZAV9aCMX













CONTACT INFORMATION



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https://www.facebook.com/gwtadventure



https://twitter.com/WaterfrontRT



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Toronto, Ontario M8X 1Y4

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP



SIGN-UP FOR OUR **EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

Sitemap

Waterfront Regeneration Trust 2013 - Website Designed by Akira Studio Ltd.

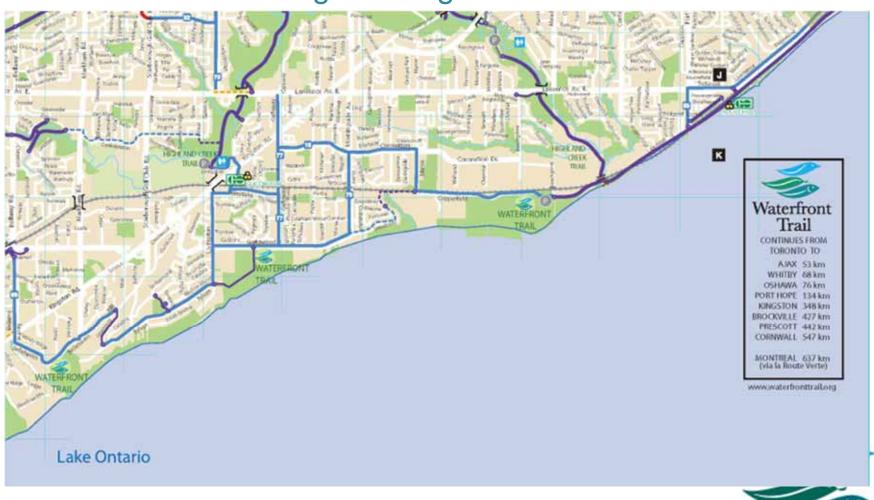
Co-promotion

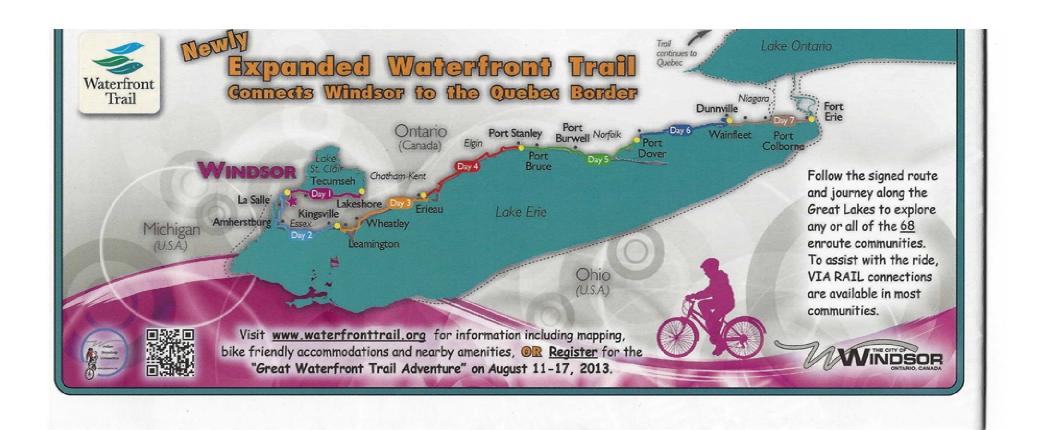
City of Toronto Bike Map Identifies the Trail + provides distances to neighbours and Trail termini



Co-promotion

City of Toronto Bike Map Identifies the Trail + provides distances to neighbouring towns and Trail termini



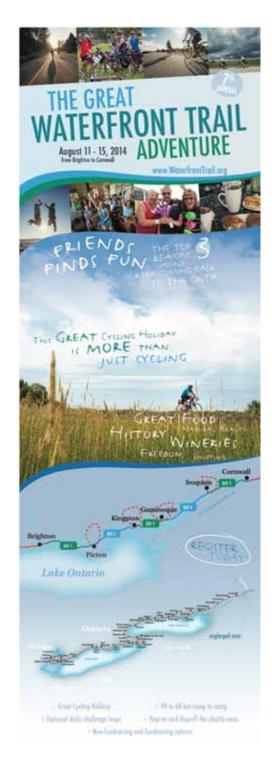




http://www.caasco.com/Auto/Road-Trip.aspx







2014 GWTA

showcasing the

St. Lawrence River Waterfront Trail

- 7th edition
- Annual Family-Friendly 5 day holiday: Mon. Aug. 11 to Fri. Aug. 15
- Lollipop route: 40-60 km camp to camp with optional challenge loops
- Brighton to Cornwall
- 150 to 200 registrants
- Register at <u>www.waterfronttrail.org</u>
- Professional Development



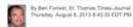
ESSEX COUNTY

Waterfront trail to link Essex County to Fort Erie on Lake Erie bike route



John Scott, a councillor with the town of Essex, is pictured with his bicycle in this 2011 file photo. (DAN JANISSE/ The Windsor Star)

Port Stanley to host hundreds of cyclists on Great Waterfront Trail Adventure





A cyclet makes his way through last year's Great Waterford Trail Adventure. The event is a 600 km inde through Southweste Onland that's scheduled to pass through Port Stanley on Aug. 15. (Submitted photo/Times-Journal)

Media Coverage

- 3.5 M people reached
- Press releases were sent out in January and August
- News stories about the Trail expansion and GWTA appeared on Global News, National Post, local community papers and media outlets.
- Daily Facebook reach of 2,000 to 5,000 unique views during the event
- Almost 200 Facebook shares during the GWTA



2013 Survey Results

- 85% are inspired to take another cycling
- 83% will return to visit a Lake Erie Community
- 93% agreed that the Waterfront Trail is a tourist attraction
- 95% agreed that the Waterfront Trail provided a good Cycling experience
- 95% agreed that the Waterfront Trail is an important part of regenerating our Waterfronts
- 35% signed up as single riders, and 20% had never been on an overnight cycling tour before
- 36% consider themselves recreational cyclists
- 85% of our riders were referred by friends or were previous participants
- 95% had a good or great time!
- Top Priorities for the improvements to the Waterfront Trail: Add paved shoulders (95%), Improve signage (95%), move closer to water's eage (90%)

Great Waterfront Trail Adventure- Spin-off benefits

Catalyst for trail improvements and development

- 53% rate the Trail as "very good" for cycling; 19% "excellent";
 22% "good"
- Showcases new trail projects and connections

Promotes active lifestyles

- 44% have never been on a multi-day tour
- 39% surprised at how far they can ride in one day
- 60% will ride more often as a result of GWTA
- 63% will use the Waterfront Trail more often;
 23% already use the Waterfront Trail

Engages the public in waterfront and sustainability issues

- 81% strongly agree that the Waterfront Trail is important to Lake Ontario's regeneration; 14% agree
- 70% more aware of issues; 60% are more likely to take an active interest

Economic Benefits

- 69% will spend a minimum of one night in a hotel
- 10% spend every night in a hotel
- Daily spending on food approximately \$25-34 plus the meal plan
- 74% spend \$50 on bike equipment











Great Waterfront Trail Adventure

Develops local tourism

- 95% agree that the Waterfront Trail offers wonderful holiday opportunities
- 95% great experience on GWTA will lead them to consider other cycling holidays
- 86% will return to visit communities in the next year
- 48% come from the GTA
- 52% come from outside the GTA
- Creates great word of mouth

Promotions and Media coverage

- Getoutthere Magazine- East and West editions 300,000 nationally.
- Toronto and Montreal Bike Shows
- Outdoor Adventure Show/
- Bike Safety Expo with SRT and CAA (100+ students)
- Promoted extensively on cycling blogs and bulletin boards, cycling shops, fitness clubs
- Local paper and radio coverage excellent (CBC, CFRB, CJSS Cornwall, Toronto Star, CHCH)
- Full page features in the Hamilton Spectator (2011), Toronto Star (2010), Ottawa Citizen (2008, 2009)
- 3.3 M impressions in print media
- RAGNAR—300km, 24 hr team running event coming to the Waterfront Trail June 2014



Honorary Tour Director Councillor John Scott St. Lawrence River Ambassador Councillor Jen Wyman Lake Ontario Ambassador Mayor Parish & Mayor Dave Henderson













THE COURSE

DISTANCES

LEG MAPS

EXCHANGES

DACE BIBLE

This is our first year outside the USA, and we want you to help us extend the Ragnar experience to our neighbors up North. We can't think of a better way to spend the weekend in June than running along the Waterfront Trail and finishing at the famous falls!

The race begins in Cobourg where you and your friends will run along the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario on the Waterfront Trail. As you run,

REGISTER NOW

Regular

\$1520.00







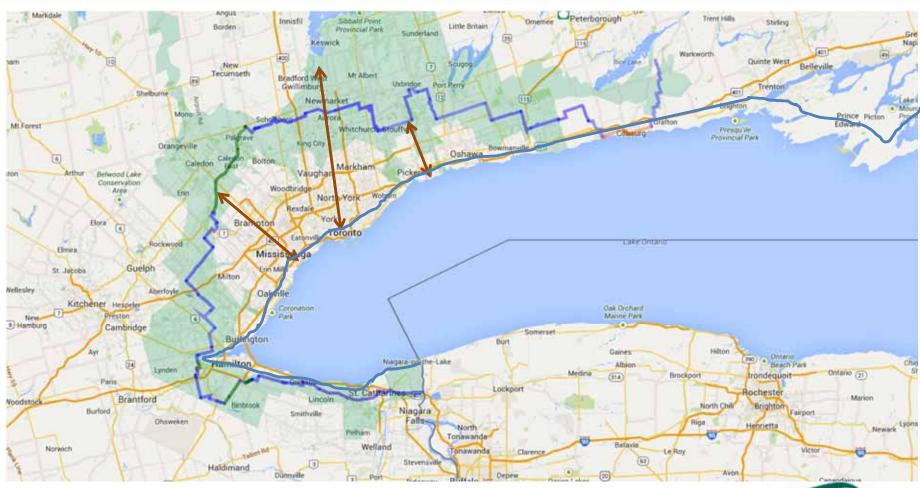


Template for Expansion

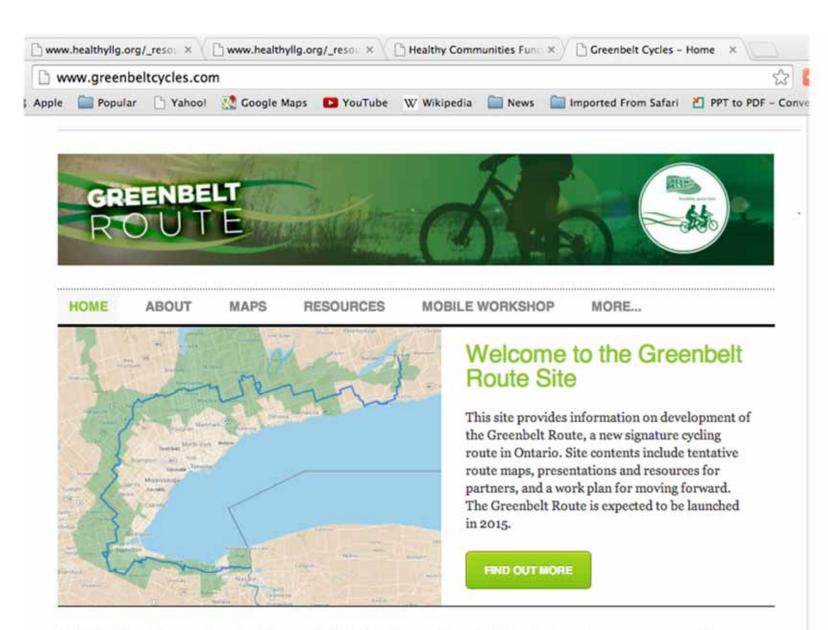
3-4 year workplan

- Goal driven→set a date for launch
- Feasibility study
 - Secure support for concept from land owners
 - Using existing infrastructure
 - Building on local consultation processes
- Field research
- Mapping Workshop-
 - Map the draft route
 - Verify the maps and route during the
 - Begin Approvals process
- Pilot cycling tour & mobile workshop of the route
- Wayfinding workshop
 - Develop wayfinding protocol
- Coordinate trail-wide way-finding program
- Launch a GWTA-style cycling tour of the signed route





7 regions, 22 communities, 470 km



The Waterfront Regeneration Trust has received funding from the Greenbelt Foundation to implement a new cycling route connecting communities throughout the Greenbelt. The project will create a signature provincial cycling route from Northumberland to Niagara using existing infrastructure. It will showcase communities en route, and provide links with urban centers along the Greenbelt as well as connections to Ontario's Waterfront Trail. Cycle tourism development and Welcome Cyclists workshops will be held in collaboration with Transportation Options, and the project will encompass a strong tourism component to draw new cycling visitors to the region.



BUILDING A BICYCLE FRIENDLY ONTARIO

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Ontario By Bike Network

Promoting cycle tourism & certifying bicycle friendly businesses in Ontario



800 + participating locations

- Accommodations
- Food service providers
- Tourist attractions
- Cycling related businesses

26 Regions including

All of Lake Ontario

Waterfront Trail

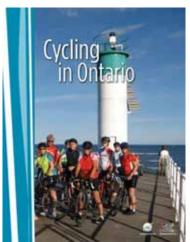
Most regions on Lake Erie

Waterfront Trail

New in 2014 Cycling in Ontario / Le vélo en Ontario Guide











Cycling and Ontario Parks Go Together

- Rentals in 22 Ontario Parks
- Trails within and between parks and local municipalities
 - E.g. Algonquin, Silent Lake, MacGregor Point/Port Elgin; Pinery/Grand Bend
- Lake Ontario North Shore
 - Increasing experience with cyclists many on 2-3 week trips
- Roofed Accommodation
 - Continued growth and new product
- Willing participant in an overall Provincial strategy.
- Can-do attitude of staff: wood delivery, route planning advice







I just wanted to say how much I and my son enjoyed the adventure. I found lots of beautiful communities that I previously did not know about after 17 years of life in Canada. I actually took my whole family back to Rondeau Provincial park for camping last weekend and enjoyed lots of perches!! Thanks again for organizing such a wonderful



Our original plan was for a weekend in Toronto. Because we found the GWTA on the internet, we visited communities we would have never visited, spent a week in Ontario, met great people, and had a great time exploring the waterfront!



We loved this great adventure.... the route, the views, the towns and of course all the organizers, volunteers and bikers!! Thank you to everyone for making this a wonderful and fun experience for us Yanks!! Allison, Rose, Mary





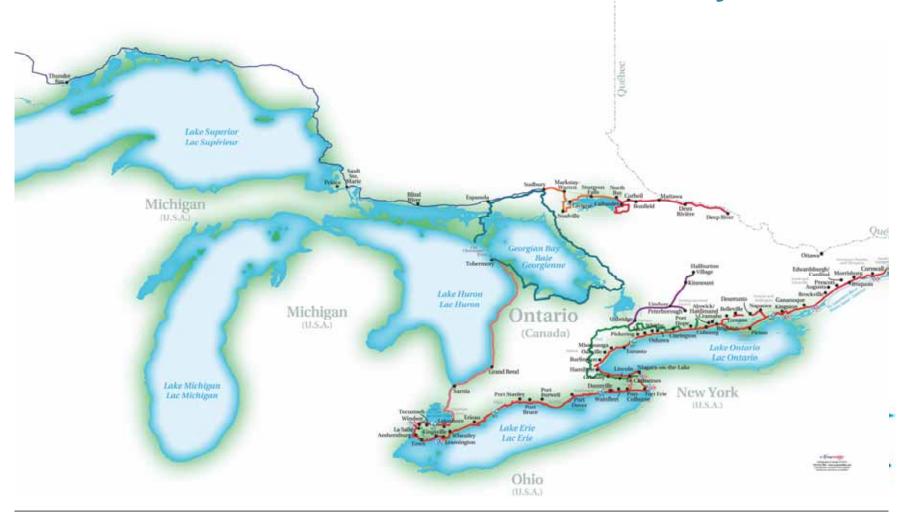
A few weeks ago we went to the bike shop to buy Madi a new bike for a kids triathlon she is competing in July. After some convincing, and the fact that Mummy had never had a new bike, resulted in me leaving with my new bike, and Madi......a bell upgrade! The next day we cycled from Oakville to Burlington, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, so much so that we now want to explore parts of Canada on 2 wheels instead of 4.

Route verte — Phase II Consolidation

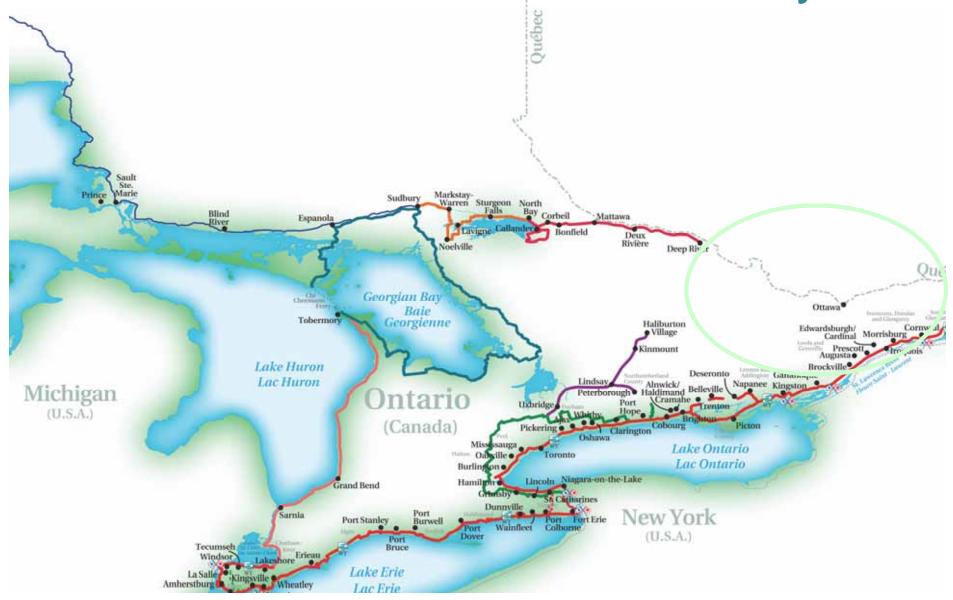




Ontario's Emerging Cycle Tourism Network-Great Waterways



Ontario's Emerging Cycle Tourism Network-Great Waterways



Towards making Ontario a Cycling Destination

- Create a signature route
 - Use existing infrastructure
 - Connect attractions, provincial parks, pleasant stops → together they create an experience
 - Sign it—especially gateways and maintain signage
 - Map it and add the route to all maps, especially tourism
 - Promote it→communities, businesses, taxis, train stations, accommodations and restaurants
 - Develop itineraries → one day, two day
 - Develop loops and connections from the signature route
- Share the Road's Bike Friendly Communities
- Transportation Options → Ontario by Bike





Waterfront Trail

A signature project of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust



Join us for GWTA-- August 2014 Thank you

Contact: Marlaine Koehler mk@wrtrust.com



