



Ontario Trails Council  
Conseil des sentiers de l'Ontario



ONTARIO PARKS ASSOCIATION  
*Protecting Tomorrow Today®*



**hike ontario**  
experience it...one step at a time



# *County Forest Managers Symposium*

October 30, 2007

## About Ontario Trails Council

### Mission – to promote preservation, development, management and use of recreational trails.

- 4 Years of Growth - Many new or retained memberships
- 96 organizational and 20 individual members
- 4 Years of Consolidation - focus on within, processes, governance, sustainability
- 4 Years of Advocacy - prepared many position papers and public comment pieces on trail issues
- Mandate from membership to be lead organization for trail issues in Ontario



## About Ontario Trails Council



### Partnerships:

- Ontario Parks Association - trails infrastructure support and municipal plan review audit of trails
- Parks and Recreation Ontario - programs offered via municipal trails developed.
- Ontario Public Health Educators Association and Provincial Activity Resource Centre - development and support of trails-health theme and event management
- Conservation Ontario - involving planners of use in integrated blue-green trail areas.
- Ministry of Natural Resources - use guidelines and crown land access and Ontario Parks
- Member and New User Groups - direct comment on needs and use of expertise



### Provincial Issues - issues common to members

- Change in lead Ministry
- Provincial trail strategy – Active 2010
- Trail capacity development
- Crumbling trail infrastructure
- Land use
- Land access
- NIMBY
- User etiquette and training
- Policy development – rules and regulations
- Insurance
- Tort Reform





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“As trail operators how do we work collectively between land managers, users, volunteer groups and operators, to resolve trails infrastructure and trail management issues?”

## The Suggested Mechanism

**The Trillium Trail Network will create a sustainable province-wide trail infrastructure that provides trails users with safe, recognizable trails!**



## Network Fundamentals

**Trail Infrastructure:** the TTN is acknowledging the fact that trail infrastructure is necessary to ensure that there are places for trail recreation to take place

**The OTC:** through increases in membership and new strategic partners, involvement in the trails strategy and listening to the needs of members - we recognize that trail operators and users are the best supporters of trail, and more can be achieved through collaborative efforts speaking to our common trail needs.

**With** the Trails Strategy and emerging issues this one voice and unified approach is needed by our sector and appreciated by government more than ever.

**We** are reworking the network through meetings and presentation to ensure sector wide endorsement of the TTN.



## Operating Fundamentals

**Trail Revenue:** In many jurisdictions fees are necessary to sustain trails - provincial parks, conservation areas, municipal areas and programs charge for service delivery or use.



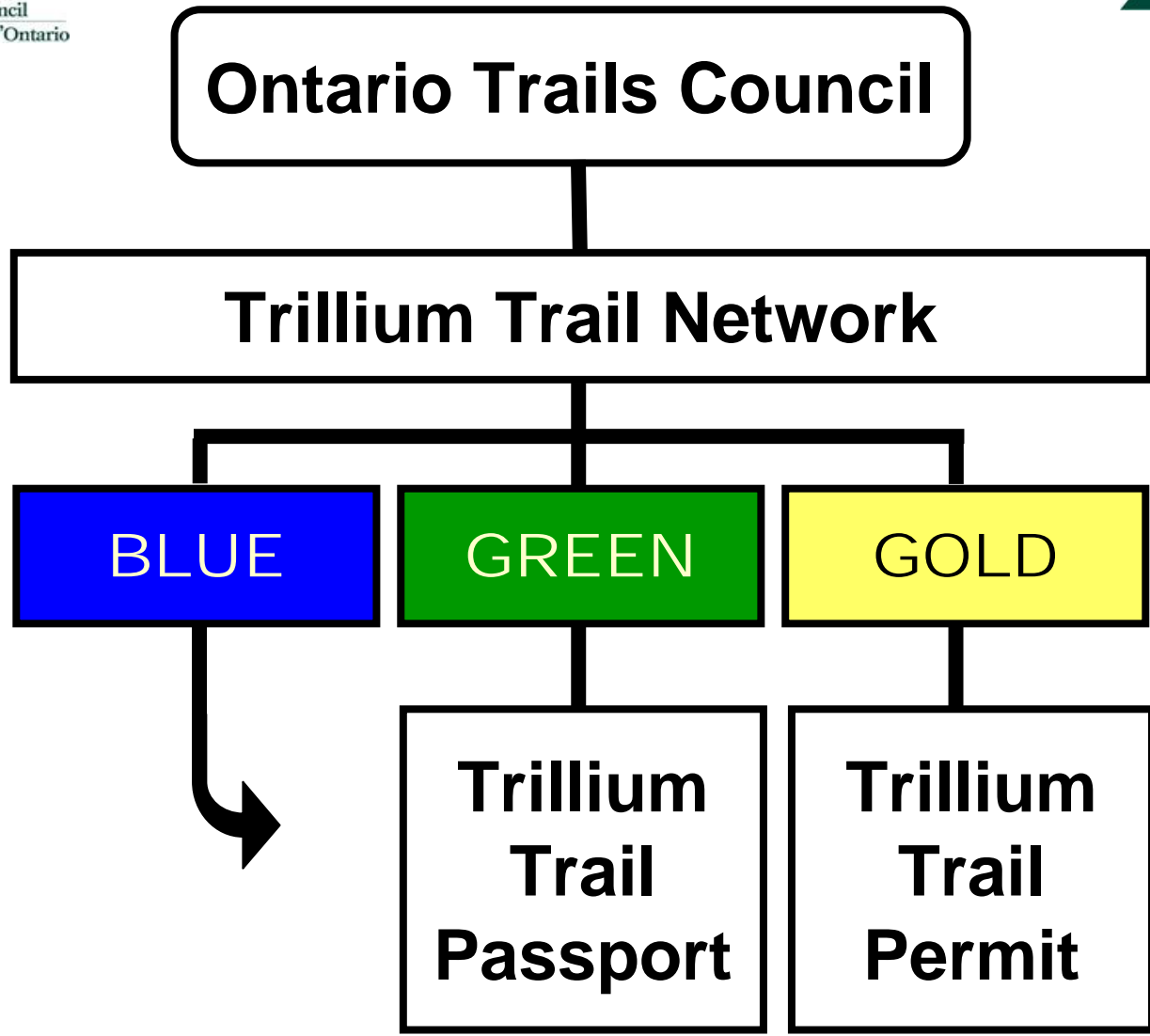
**Trail Expenses:** Escalating operating and maintenance costs, legislative needs, and the development of rules and regulations that work to sustain trails are making allies of all trail organizations

**Trail Resources:** more needed, land, regulation, supervision, maintenance, staff retention, program delivery



**Inclusive Network:** trail based, people align their trail to the infrastructure category that best matches their reality





## TTN Trail Categories



### Urban/Sub-Urban:

- Short Distance
- Walking and Similar
- No Mandatory User Fee
- Single Management Authority

GREEN

### Rural/Wilderness:

- Medium to Long Distance
- Not Primarily Walking
- Mandatory User Fees
- Multiple Management Authority

GOLD

### Water Trails:

- Short to Long Distance
- Canoeing and Kayak
- May/May Not Be User Fees

BLUE

### Primary Promotion of Active 2010 goals on Green and Blue Trails

- Through support of TTN we can create opportunities for Ontarians to become involved in quality sport activities.
- Through the network we can enhance opportunities for Ontarians to participate in daily physical activity.
- TTN will increase the number of Ontarians who value and believe participation in sport and physical activity is an integral and essential part of life in Ontario.



### We see the TTN improving Land Access through Green Trails

- Remediation of lands towards greenways
- Controlled by Municipalities or Crown Land Agencies
- Municipal Plans incorporating trails
- GTA Greenbelt
- Rail to Trail Conversion one method of utilizing brown zones, corridor lines
- Great grade, poor materials
- Hydro Corridors, Ontario Hydro, Ontario Realty Corp. and Municipal Act



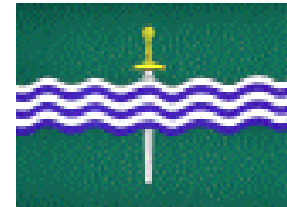
# Land Abuse



## Advantages Training and Security



- Hike Ontario Programs can be shared and promoted as best practices
- OCA/CAO Can-Bike Programs
- Trail Wardens/Hike Leadership Programs
- Off Road Vehicle Act
- TTN Gold Pass/OFSC Permit/EOTA-Trail Permit
- Defined Management Authority
- Training for Use - Youth Programs
- Active 2010 Guidelines Promoted
- Risk Management i.e. Municipal trail review and assessment mechanisms
- Provincial Park/Conservation Authority Police Relations
- SAVE Team

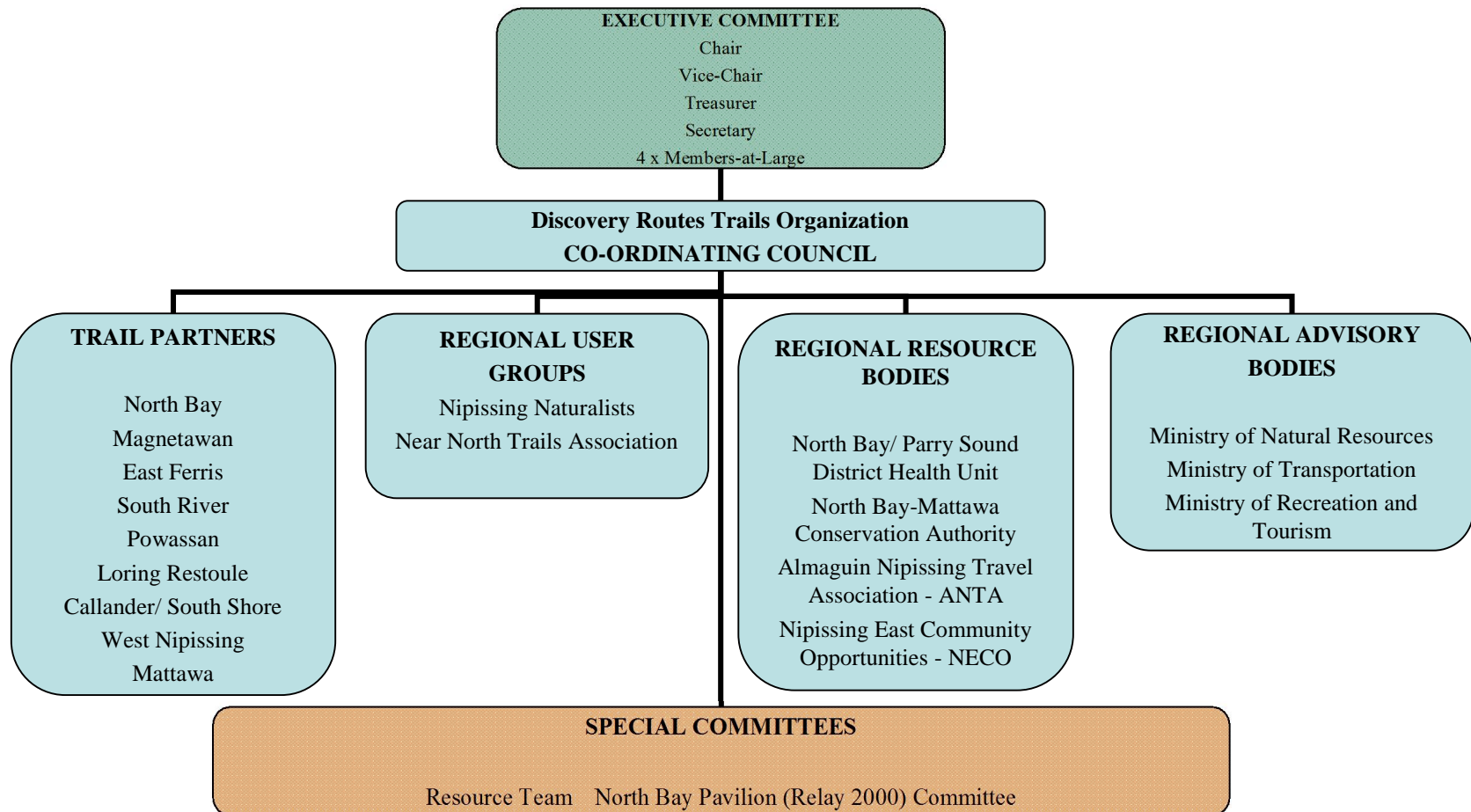


### Mission - work with communities to implement comprehensive trail management

- Get diverse trail managers together
- 4 year plan to consolidate RMC members
- Definition of regional areas
- Create a short list of regional trail problems
- Share solutions, new practices, funding, programs
- Sustain trails
- Create at least 45 RMC's by year end
- Tie into Significant Government Funding – Infrastructure as per provincial budget



# Suggested Committee Structure





## Conclusion

### Next Steps

- Have secured funding from the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership to develop Gold trail (all trail?) funding mechanisms
- Develop an Agreement to revenue sharing processes as happens in trails sector jurisdictions in the USA
- Reconciliation of Gold Trails Members - ATV Ontario, EOTA, OFSC, ON-Trails, Trails Tourism
- Secured the interest of the Ministries of Health Promotion, Tourism and Natural Resources in support of this initiative
- Blue trails presentations given to ORCKA and Ontario Parks
- Participation of Hike Ontario Trail Managers in this process - ORTA, Bruce Trail



### Next Steps – Validation

**Participants MUST agree to complete a unified Go Forward TTN Strategy amongst Managers, Volunteers and Private Sector Marketing organizations via the Trail Category of the TTN Concept, with the input and consideration of the Gold, Green and Blue trail systems.**



## Conclusion

Ontario Trails Council: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)

Ontario Trails Strategy:

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/trails.asp>

Ministry of Tourism:

<http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca/english/tourdiv/research/index.html>

Canadian Urban Institute: <http://www.canurb.com/>

Waterfront Regeneration Trust: [www.trtrust.com](http://www.trtrust.com)

Ministry of Health Promotion: [www.mhp.gov.on.ca](http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca)

Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership: [www.ontariooutdoor.com](http://www.ontariooutdoor.com)

Trans Canada Trail Ontario Economic Impact Study:

[http://www.tctrail.ca/index.php?section\\_id=7&lang=en&text\\_id=5946&](http://www.tctrail.ca/index.php?section_id=7&lang=en&text_id=5946&)