

Who We are

Trail organizations, trail users, and interested individuals, along with a variety of local, Provincial and Federal Government agencies came together in 1997 to form the Bruce-Grey Trail Network (BGTN) with the purpose of formalizing a regional trail system for Bruce and Grey Counties. Acting in the capacity of an 'umbrella' organization, the BGTN (a non-profit / charitable organization) will help facilitate and encourage trail development in the two counties.

Mission

The Bruce-Grey Trail Network will plan, advocate, educate, promote and partner in the development of a comprehensive regional trail system in Bruce and Grey Counties.

A Message from the Chairs

A shift in focus.....

The focus of BGTN over the past two years or so has shifted from promotion of trails to provision of resources for trail users and trail managers.

The Board decided that individual trail organizations were far better able to promote those trails than any umbrella organization such as BGTN.

Further, the Board concluded that our new mandate would be to serve our constituents by providing a variety of resources to those trail groups, to individuals and to municipalities interested in developing new trails.

To that end, new Executive Director Ray Gilbert came onboard in mid-2006 and was given direction to develop and expand upon our resource base. In addition, he was directed to explore opportunities to provide new trail-based resources to a wider audience, particularly youth and seniors.

In the following reports, we detail our activities since the June, 2008 Annual General Meeting

*Brian Wessel, Chair
Andrew Beumer, outgoing Chair*

Geocaching Project a Huge Success



"I want to tell you of the success we are having at Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library with the geocaching kits. From the day of the launch, both kits have been out on loan. We have a waiting list of about 15 users, last time I checked. We have taken the decision to shorten the loan period to 1 week (from 3 weeks) so that we can get through the waiting list faster and encourage users to really make good use of the kit when they do have it signed it out. Thank you so much for providing two kits to the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. If your funding should ever permit, we would be delighted to add more geocaching kits to our collection."

(Judy Armstrong, Chief Librarian)

From a very modest pilot project with four GPS units in partnership with Girl Guides and Boy Scouts from Port Elgin, and Scouts from Owen Sound and Chesley, our geocaching project has grown to where we now have more than 40 geocaching kits in circulation or in a lending and training inventory.

Each kit contains a hand-held Global Positioning System, a written explanation of geocaching, a Complete Guide to Geocaching DVD and the Geocaching for Dummies book.

In addition to having systems with the guides and scouts, we placed two kits with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Hanover, following a demonstration that was attended by more than 50.

In August, with continued funding from Grey Bruce Partners in Health, we were able to introduce kits in 15 libraries in Bruce and Grey Counties.

BGTN gave demonstrations to a variety of individuals and groups this summer, from a grandfather in Port Elgin wanting to explore geocaching with his grandsons to the Thornbury Probus Club.

Grey Bruce Partners in Health have this fall provided funding to allow us to expand our "Geocaching in the Libraries" program.

BGTN Board

Executive

Chair: Brian Wessel
Vice-Chair: Ann West
Secretary-Treasurer:
Andrew Beumer

Board Members

Hugh Harris
Al Leach
Bob Lesperance
Helen Risteen
Mike Traynor

Executive Director
Ray Gilbert

2008 Funding

The BGTN Board & Staff gratefully acknowledge 2008 funding:

Day-to-Day Operations

Bruce County: \$8,000
Grey County: \$6,000
Huron-Kinloss: \$750

Special Projects

ATV Initiative
Bruce County: \$12,500

Geocaching Project
Grey Bruce Partners in Health: \$3,200

Significant in-kind support has also been provided by the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

Geocaching continued.....

By the time geocaching season rolls around early next spring, residents and tourists alike will be able to explore geocaching on our vast trail systems by borrowing a geocaching kit, just like a book, from any library branch in Bruce and Grey County.

We are currently exploring the possibility of hosting a major geocaching event next year—possibly a CITO (Cache In-Trash Out) event or an event specially designed for youth and/or seniors.

Call for Volunteers

A working committee of volunteers will be required to ensure the success of any major geocaching event in 2009. A site must be chosen, caches must be assembled, placed and retrieved, registration and refreshment details must be handled, promotion must occur, etc. If you would be willing to work on a committee with the Executive Director to see that such an event is a success, and a credit to the Bruce Grey Trail Network, please email us or give us a call.

ATV Initiative

We continue our work to assist ATV clubs in our area with the development of safe, sustainable and approved trails for ATV riding.

The ATV model prepared for Bruce County has been approved by Council and has been distributed to a variety of municipalities and ATV clubs.

Our main resource provision in this area is now in the area of trail proposal development, liaison between clubs and the Eastern Ontario Trails Association (EOTA) and liaison between clubs and various municipalities regarding such things as land-use agreements and bylaws.

We have contributed to EOTA trail clubs planning sessions, participated in public information sessions in Sauble Beach and Ripley and have provided information on ATV trail development issues to many municipalities, engineering firms, ATV clubs and individuals.

BGTN has been an advocate of user-pay ATV trail systems and was a contributor to the plan that will see a province-wide ATV pass system launched for the 2009 season.

Checking the Website

Our website is frequently updated with new or revised trail information and other resources. It's also an actively-viewed website, as the following statistics for the past six months show.

Since June 1, the site has had more than 45,000 unique visitors and has served up more than 129,000 pages.

Average length of time on the site

"Average length of time" gives an indication of the value of the information people found. From June to December, the average length of time visitors spent on the site was 17 minutes and 30 seconds. Each user visited an average of 2.73 times.

The average number of users per day during the period was 247 and the total time spent by all users on the site was more than 4,100 hours.

Most popular pages on the site

More than 18,000 individual trail profiles were viewed, with the top five being the Bruce County Rail Trail, the Bruce Trail, Cyprus Lake Trails, MacGregor Point Provincial Park trails and Bruce's Caves.

Trail profiles generate more entry points to the web site than any other pages. Almost 10,000 visitors were recorded to the home page alone.

The top 10 most popular general pages were Home, Map, ATV, Hiking, Mountain Biking, Geocaching, Canoe, Rail Trails, Equestrian and Dogsledding.

Origin of visitors on the site

The origin of a visitor is determined by the IP address of the visitor's service provider.

For the past six months, the leading country for traffic was the United States with 49% of total traffic. Second was Canada with 35%, followed by France, Sweden, China, Russia and Germany.

BGTN Contact Information

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