



Regional Management Council Development

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Prepared Patrick Connor CAE, OTC Executive Director

About Ontario Trails Council



Mission - promote preservation, development, management and use of recreational trails.

- 4 Years of Growth - Many new or retained memberships
- 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



Hot Provincial Issues - issues common to regions

- Trail development
- Land use/access/NIMBY
- Provincial trail strategy
- User etiquette
- Policy development - insurance
- Transforming public interest in trails into trails support
- Increasing planning and funding for trails



OTC leads the way

- Made changes with PRO/OPA/AMO in tax breaks for municipalities that develop trail
- Made changes in the MFTIP - stay of MPAC adjustments
- Developed RMC's that saw development of trail in Halton Hills, and in completion of Fort Erie - Port Colborne trail
- Got trail as part of municipal assessment process
- Full Participation in Land Use Management Planning - Greenbelt, Pre-Budget, Occupiers Land Act, Line Fences etc.
- Providing Youth Programs through CIAF
- Providing Health-Unit Trails Event Co-ordination Province Wide
- Cooperatively working to complete the TCT trail in Ontario

Regional Management Councils

The Regional Management Council is a trail stakeholder forum, sanctioned at the municipal or regional level that:

- Gets diverse trail stakeholder together
- 3 year plan to consolidate RMC members
- Works within a defined regional areas
- Creates a short list of regional trail problems
- Share solutions, new practices, funding, programs
- Works to sustain all trails
- 29 RMC's active to date



Addressing NIMBY

- Legal Issues - Liability
- Privacy – land use
- Crime, vandalism – land access
- Estimates range from \$2 - \$5 billion dollars in direct and indirect funding
- Saves 1.8B annually in health care
- Tourism in a 1:9 ratio - trails are a positive economic input
- Need to make an argument for planning of such an important infrastructure at the local, regional and provincial levels



Corridor Lands

- Remediation of lands towards greenways
- Controlled by Municipalities or Crown Land Agencies
- 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



Managing Land through Performance Measures

- In 2000, Ontario municipalities began participating in a new program of performance measurement – the first comprehensive program of its kind in North America
- The services selected for the program meet the following criteria:
 - Reflect major expenditure areas for municipalities
 - Reflect areas of provincial-municipal interest
 - Reflect high interest and value to the public
 - Have data that is relatively easy to collect
 - Fall under municipal responsibility
- Requirement to report through Financial Information Return (FIR).



Courtesy Ontario Parks Association

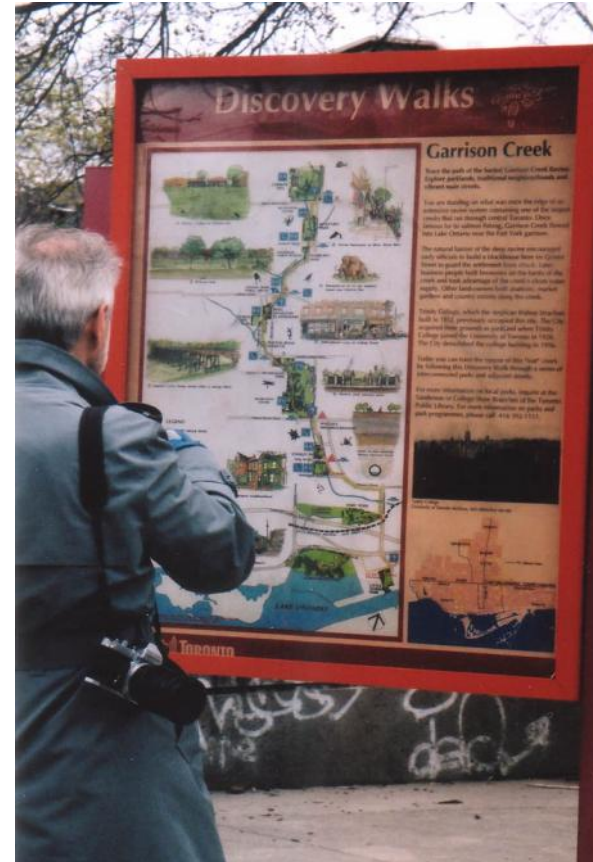
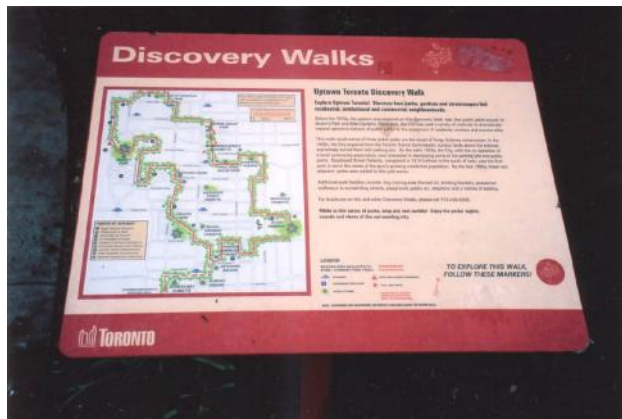
**Our Plans are available for Use by
the Trails Community**

- We have a community development guidebook
- ATV Ontario Community Development template
- OFSC Trails Specifics Manuals
- OTC How to Build Trail Handbooks
- IMBA Trail Building Manuals - and Course
- Bruce Trail Trail Management Manual
- Bruce-Grey County Trails Management Manual



Pedestrian Movement

- Utilitarian – Sidewalks
- Accessibility Friendly?
- Recreational - Trails, Discovery Walks



Courtesy Victor Ford and Associates via OTC 2004 Conference

Discovery Walk, Toronto

Signage and Markings

- User Conflicts Cyclists/Pedestrians/
In-Line Skaters
- Multi-Use/Share the Path
- Directional
- Regulatory
- Information
- Interpretive



Courtesy Victor Ford and Associates via OTC 2004 Conference

Infrastructure Needs

- Wheelchair Friendly
- Road/Railway Crossings
- ODA recommends?
- Bicycle Parking
- Seating Areas



Courtesy Victor Ford and Associates via OTC 2004 Conference

Samples of RMC Success

Local Determination

- *Niagara Region*– involves municipal, Canada Parks, Conservation Area, Community and User groups
- **Outcome** – International Trails Day celebration in Fort Erie 2005, 2006, 2007
- *Near North* – Municipalities of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Gravenhurst, Haliburton; involves user groups, atv, snow clubs, FON, and Health Units, MNR
- **Outcome** - formation of a working group to move trail issues forward– dealing with MTO issues



OTC working throughout Ontario

- Increasing scope of function – 38 communities with RMC's soon
- Sharing Best Practices in trails across regions
- Developing Shared use Pass system to provide local revenues for trail development
- Working with Get Active Now and PRO on trail accessibility standards
- What's next for your area?
- We have a three meeting process to assist in your RMC development



Trails Audit, RMC governance and Trails Management Practices available for your use!