



Georgian Trail
since 1989

Staying on Track!

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Thornbury's Good Samaritan...

by Penny Jerred

Is it the pleasure he derives from seeing nature unspoiled, a need to supplement his enjoyment of walking, or just an overwhelming compulsion to make amends for the carelessness of others? Whatever prompted it, Rudy Chiarandini's self-appointed role as a devoted guardian has been a blessing to all who enjoy the Georgian Trail in Thornbury.

In the spring of 2008, the trail as it passed through newly developed Lora Bay, was littered by the debris of construction. This prompted residents to initiate their first official Earth Day cleanup of the trail and environs, with Rudy eager to participate. That was the first of many years of local Earth Day initiatives to clear the detritus and debris that accumulate each winter to mar the trail's natural beauty.

But living at Lora Bay has not limited his cleanup efforts, nor does the weather – whatever the season, Rudy's walks take him from one end of the Thornbury corridor to the other, and from the highway to the harbour, always with a number of bags. Sadly, among the leaves and early shoots of ferns, violets, trilliums, and the like, Rudy has bent to retrieve a depressing assortment of plastics, beer and pop cans, coffee cups and bottles of all sorts, enough of these in fact to warrant



Rudy Chiarandini in Cortona, Italy



Earth Day cleanup crew at Lora Bay, 2008

periodic trips to local recycling depots (or a deposit into a neighbor's blue box)! He is scrupulous about segregating glass, cans, plastic and paper, a dedicated recycler for sure!! Rudy describes with pride, the time that a young mother on the trail pointed to what he was doing as a wonderful lesson for her two sons.

You may also catch sight of Rudy's car along Hwy 26, as he steps out to pick up some annoying bit of garbage he's spotted while out on another errand. Even in his travels to other countries, Rudy cannot resist the urge to rid any area he walks with wife San, of unwanted trash. While visiting a formal garden in Cortona, Italy, she admonished him for neglecting the scenery because they'd become caught up in clean up!!!

When asked if he suffers from back problems due to all his bending, Rudy assured the writer he exercises rigorously to keep his back in shape. And despite these uncertain times, with everything overshadowed by the threat of Covid19, Rudy continues his walks, always practising social distancing, and ever vigilant for that next bit of unsightly trash. Now that is true dedication to his selfless and much appreciated undertaking!!

Thank you, thank you, Rudy.

Please Donate to the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association

Donations are welcomed and needed to:

- Help with the cost of maintaining the Georgian Trail
- Enhancing the Trail experience for users
- Investing in trail surface improvements and drainage
- Keeping donors and the public informed and updated.

Income tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more. (issued under the charitable organization registration #0813576-56) Our Trail Map and Staying on Track! newsletters are dropped at various locations around Town, however supporters now receive a digital copy of the newsletter by email.

Donate on-line at: www.GeorgianTrail.ca



COVID-19

Georgian Trail users may have noticed the addition of garbage receptacles in some Trail locations in The Blue Mountains. With the Trail more popular than ever as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, the Town receptacles will help us keep it looking its best.



Signs have also been posted asking trail users to respect the 2 m distancing rule. If you are cycling or running, please remember to warn pedestrians of your approach.



Members of the Collingwood/Blue Mountains OPP have been conducting patrols on weekends along the Georgian Trail using All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). They report that Trail users have been adhering to physical distancing and have been happy to see the officers out patrolling. In the case of possible non-compliance with the Emergency Management and Civilian Protection Act (EMCPA), the officers have been instructed to use discretion and education as their approach and to set fines as a last resort. Patrols are continuing using bicycles as well as ATVs.



Georgian Trail Operations Report

by Steve Gorton

Annually, the Town of The Blue Mountains Community Services Dept. generates an Operational Report covering the activities of the 3 municipalities which are jointly responsible for the Georgian Trail. The GC&STA receives a copy of this report and below is a summary of the 2019 submission.

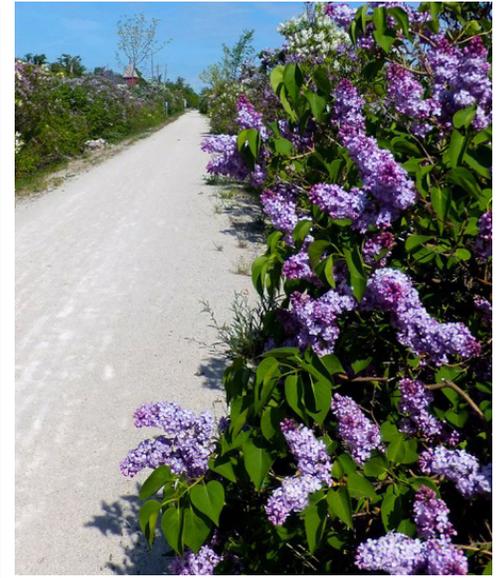
The Municipality of Meaford, which allocated \$10,000 to the trail is responsible for 7.2 km of the trail and completed monthly inspections from May to November. It undertook various maintenance activities including lifting of tree canopies, fixing washouts, refurbishing stone path and collection of garbage.

The Town of The Blue Mountains, responsible for 20.5 km, reported expenses of approximately \$33,000 including nearly \$24,000 for maintenance and repair work. This included top dressing the section from Grey County Road 21 to Old Lakeshore Road and planting 300 seedlings along the section from Georgian Peaks to Hidden lake Road. Removal of ash trees affected by emerald ash borer and dead or hazardous trees was also undertaken. TBM also completed grass cutting, including the Meaford section under contract, noxious weed control and cleaning of bridge decks.

The Town of Collingwood, with 5.3 km of The Georgian Trail within its purview, contributed \$5000 toward the total trail cost. In addition to grass cutting, trimming, dead and hazardous tree removal and routine monthly inspections, work was also undertaken to address flooding issues behind the Balmoral development and Canadian Tire store.

The report points out that all activities are completed with as little environmental impact as possible and that the trail is integral to the Blue Mountains Strategic Plan, the goals of which include creating opportunities for sustainability, ensuring infrastructure is sustainable and supporting healthy lifestyles.

Overall, the Georgian Trail accounted for just over \$48,000 of public funding,



offering a year-round recreational facility for residents and visitors alike. Counters placed during the month of July recorded 4,246 pedestrians and 4,061 cyclists passing Craighleith Depot, and 18,573 pedestrians and 1186 cyclists crossing the trestle bridge in Thornbury. It is hoped that more trail data will be collected in future to provide a more detailed picture of trail usage.

The full report is available at:
www.thebluemountains.ca/document_viewer.cfm?event_doc=3153

The Beginnings of The Georgian Trail

An interesting account of the efforts of Anne Bennett and a group of volunteers to establish the Georgian Trail in the 1980's can be found on the Georgian Trail website. It is written by Helen Bull of Collingwood and included with her permission.

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Your comments and ideas are welcome!

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