

**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure & Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** September 14, 2010  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR.10.49  
**SUBJECT:** Georgian Trail Maintenance and Board of Management Agreement  
**PREPARED BY:** Shawn Everitt  
 Director of Recreation

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.10.49 “Georgian Trail Maintenance and Board of Management Agreement”; and

THAT Council direct Staff to communicate with the Georgian Trail Board of Management, The Municipality of Meaford and Town of Collingwood to initiate the development of a consistent standard of Trail maintenance as well as the development of a three way agreement for the long term operations and maintenance of the Georgian trail; and

THAT Council direct Staff to develop a work plan and proposal for the Town to maintain the section of the Georgian Trail within The Blue Mountains for Councils review and approval; and

THAT Council direct Staff to provide funding allotments in future Parks and Trails preliminary Operational and Capital Budgets for maintenance of Georgian Trail.

**B. Background**

Since the establishment of the Georgian Trail in 1991 the operations and maintenance of the trail has been overseen by the Georgian Trail Board of Management. The agreement for the Georgian Trail expires December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. The existing agreement is essentially based on the construction of the overall trail.

The need to develop a renewed agreement with the existing three way partnership is essential, however it is recommended by staff that the agreement be developed in a more operational and maintenance basis.

In 2007, The Blue Mountains adopted the Town of Collingwood’s Trail standards Policy, this policy is widely used by municipalities because of its in depth nature as well as its acceptance of upper tier Ministries.

The Georgian Trail is an optimum high use trail system that staff is consistently trying to link side trails with to provide links and loops that offer many distance variations for all users.

The Trail requires significant maintenance that includes cutting back of trees, shrubs, brush, and vegetation to regain a minimum of 3 meter obstruction free pathway. In a number of areas clearance of the path is under 1.5 meters. Other key maintenance includes a variety of drainage repairs and repair of bridge structures as outlined in the July 2010 Pedestrian Bridge Inspections completed by C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd. Town Staff have scheduled Town Parks Staff and equipment for the month of November to provide tree clearing and grubbing of Georgian Trail areas within the Blue Mountains Sections. These works will include trial use of existing Town flail mower equipment to re-establish the desired 3 meter obstruction free pathway as well as a minimum of 12 foot canopy.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

Georgian Trail and its linking trails provide optimum Active Transportation opportunities.

### **E. Budget Impact**

Efficient use of existing Georgian Trail Budgeting

Proposed budgeting for Georgian Trail Capital

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2011 | \$13,500.00 |
| 2012 | \$13,750.00 |
| 2013 | \$14,000.00 |
| 2014 | \$14,250.00 |
| 2015 | \$14,500.00 |

### **F. Attached**

None at this time

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

For more information, please contact:

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