

**STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department**



**REPORT TO: Council**  
**MEETING DATE: May 25, 2009**  
**REPORT NO.: DOR.09.030**  
**SUBJECT: Georgian Trail Resurfacing Proposal**  
**PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation**

## **A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff report DOR.09.030 "Georgian Trail Resurfacing Proposal" for information purposes.

## **B. Background**

At the May 14, 2009 Georgian Trail Board of Management a Resolution was put forth to apply to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Programme for funding to complete the hard surfacing (asphalt pavement) of the entire 34 km trail length, including trail repairs in the Workman's Creek Area in the Municipality of Meaford.

The Georgian Ski & Cycle Association is requested to be the lead applicant for funding through the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Programme (RInC) for repairs and improvements to the Georgian Trail.

As noted in the Georgian Trail Board of Managements minutes of May 14, 2009 as part of the application, the Georgian Trail Board of Management requests an additional financial commitment of \$50,000.00 from the Town as well as an additional \$50,000.00 from the Town of Collingwood and an additional \$25,000.00 from the Municipality of Meaford payable only upon confirmation of RInC funding for the hard surfacing (asphalt pavement) of the Georgian Trail.

Staff has received additional information that clarifies that the Georgian Ski & Cycle Association has agreed to be the lead applicant for the RInC funding for resurfacing of the Georgian Trail with limestone rather than asphalt pavement as well as repairs to the trail in the Workman Creek Area in the Municipality of Meaford. The association also requested the following items to be included in the application for funding:

- Removal of falling trees
- Additional plaques on benches or purchase of new benches

- Electricity and lighting for an existing Gazebo
- Trail markers

The Association also provided comments regarding the hard surfacing (asphalt pavement) of the trail:

- faster snow melting in the winter hindering winter use of the trail by cross country skiers and snowshoeing
- hotter trail surface temperatures is not ideal for dogs
- harder surface is less forgiving for falls
- pavement would give a less rural setting

Staff recommends that remedies of existing drainage issues along the trail should be included in the scope of work prior to any resurfacing project. Staff also recommends that funding be included to rectify the highway 26 crossing of the trail South of Lakeshore. Town Staff has reviewed some options of diverting the trail to Grey Road 2 or Grey Street. These options are to be included in the Highway 26 Traffic Study currently being prepared.

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

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

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

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

Providing Active Transportation options to the Region

### **E. Budget Impact**

Total approximate cost is \$600,000.00.

The Blue Mountains funding portion as proposed in the May 14, 2009, Georgian Trail Board of Management Recommendation.

Additional \$50,000.00 funding of Georgian Trail from The Blue Mountains payable only upon confirmation of RInC funding not projected in 2009 budget.

This item is not included in the 2009 budget and if the Town were to fund \$50,000 then the source of funding could be a Development Charge Reserve Fund.

## **Other Funding**

### **Recreation Infrastructure Canada Programme funding**

1/3 Federal

1/3 Provincial

1/3 Georgian Triangle Board of Management

Town of Collingwood will be requested to provide \$50,000.00 additional funding as well as the Municipality of Meaford will be requested to provide \$25,000.00 additional funding.

## **F. Attached**

- 1) Recommendation and May 14, 2009 Meeting minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

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Signature

For more information, please contact:

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## Attachment 1

Georgian Trail Board of Management

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Date: May 14, 2009

### Recommendation:

**THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Collingwood support the Georgian Ski & Cycle Association application for funding through the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Programme (RInC) for repairs and improvements to the Georgian Trail.**

At its meeting held March 11, 2009, the Georgian Trail Board of Management (GTBM) passed a Resolution to apply to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Programme (RInC) for funding to complete the hard surfacing (asphalt pavement) of the urban areas only of the 34 km trail length, including trail repairs in the Workman's Creek area, restoration of full trail width (3.0 m) estimated at approximately 3.4 kms, granular resurfacing of portions of the trail in rural areas and permanent repair of several areas of annual trail washout.

The Georgian Trail Board of Management has sufficient reserves, with assistance from the Georgian Ski & Cycle Association, to undertake an approximate \$600,000 project based upon 1/3 Federal, 1/3 Provincial, 1/3 GTBM project cost sharing.

The Preliminary Opinion of Cost for the contemplated project is approximately \$1 million which is also the RInC individual project limit. The RInC is available to, among other agencies, incorporated non-profit organisations. As such, the Application will be submitted by the Georgian Trail Ski & Cycle Association on behalf of the Board of Management. If the Application is successful, the Board of Management will administer the contract and manage all financial aspects of the project.

Our understanding is that this Application will not negatively affect any Application that may be submitted by its member organisations for any of its individual projects.

Considering the above, the Georgian Trail Board of Management respectfully requests an additional financial commitment from its member organisations to facilitate leveraging the maximum RInC funding. Specifically, the Georgian Trail Board of Management respectfully requests an additional financial commitment from:

- The Municipality of Meaford in the amount of \$25,000,
- The Town of the Blue Mountains in the amount of \$50,000 and
- The Town of Collingwood in the amount of \$50,000.
- Payable only upon confirmation of RInC funding for the contemplated works described above to the Georgian Trail.

This additional \$125,000 will facilitate the leveraging of \$250,000 in RInC funding thereby providing total funding of approximately \$1 million from all sources.

The following is a link to the RInC Programme Guide for further information  
<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/708.nsf/eng/00017.html>

Respectfully,

Norman Sandberg