



**Georgian Trail**  
*since 1989*

# Staying on Track!

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[www.GeorgianTrail.ca](http://www.GeorgianTrail.ca)



*The Georgian Trail at the junction of the Colberry & Eleventh Line trail, now known as the George Christie Trails. This unusual winter there were many days that didn't require the snowshoes or the skis.*

## Trestle Bridge, Thornbury

The Town of The Blue Mountains received approval of a federal grant under the Community 150 Program for \$133,500. Announced last summer, this grant will be matched by the Georgian Trail Board of Management together with funds from the Town of The Blue Mountains to undertake the rehabilitation of the concrete footings of the Trestle Bridge. The contribution from the Board of Management is funded by the three municipalities: Collingwood, The Blue Mountains and Meaford. The cost of the work is projected to be \$400,000. Bid packages have been released and the resulting tenders will be opened in February, with a contract awarded shortly thereafter. The work is to be performed this summer over a six to eight week period. At certain times the Bridge may be closed to the public, but not for extended periods. Associated Engineering, a consulting engineering firm, will supervise the contractor on behalf of the Town.

## Pedestrians and Cyclists Counted

The Board of Management is monitoring the use of the Georgian Trail and with the help of volunteers has installed automatic counters for a period of weeks at different sites, providing a snapshot of how the Trail is used in various locations by date and time. Here is a summary report for select areas:

	JUNE	JULY
Christie Beach Road Crossing	8393	13528
Craigeith Pumping Station	2398	7487
Meaford Trailhead	5049	6666

Two counters were stolen or damaged by vandals. One box at Arrowhead Road was smashed and the counter taken and one sensor was broken at the Trestle Bridge site by a vandal poking a hole in the sensor.

## Highway 26 Crossing

MTO has removed some mature trees along the right of way at the Trail's highway crossing so sight lines have been enhanced.

## Trail behind Home Hardware in Thornbury

Trail straightening was completed in the cedar bush behind the Thornbury Home Hardware.

## Trail Maintenance and Tree Removal

Significant tree removal has been undertaken along the Trail due to the September weather plus ongoing ash tree death. The Board of Management's primary mandate is to be maintain the Trail to consistent standard and to that end staff has made a HD video recording of the entire trail to have a record of the level of maintenance.

## E-Bikes

E-bikes and snowmobile use of the Trail was an on-going topic at the Board of Management in 2015. The Board determined that it would keep its policy of no motorized vehicle use but deferred to the member municipalities to either enforce the prohibition or permit selective use. The Town of Collingwood passed a by-law to allow Pedelec bikes along the Trail within that municipality. Town of The Blue Mountains and Meaford have not proposed a similar by-law.



Spring ice 2015 at Craigeith Provincial Park. The Georgian Trail runs through the park on the North side of Highway 26.

### New Signs

Many old "stop" and "motorized vehicle prohibition" signs have been replaced.

### Snowmobiles

The Board of Management has indicated it would not oppose snowmobile use on small sections of the Trail for a limited period of time, provided the municipality passed a by-law and appropriate notices and safeguards are put in place to protect other trail users.



### 2016 Trail Budget

The 2016 budget was approved at \$60,000, of which \$40,000 is for operations. The Board granted the Town of The Blue Mountains a one-year reprieve on its capital portion of the budget in consideration of its contribution for the Trestle Bridge rehabilitation.

### Donations

Donations are welcomed and needed to help underwrite the costs of maintaining the Georgian Trail, enhancing the trail experience, investing in trail surface improvements and drainage, as well as communicating with donors and the

public. Income tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Donors will receive the *Staying on Track!* newsletter by email.

You can now provide your donation on line by going to [www.GeorgianTrail.ca](http://www.GeorgianTrail.ca). You can still choose to write a cheque and mail it to us along with the form below.

As always, we would love to hear from you and would welcome your participation on the Georgian Cycle & Ski Trail Association's Board of Directors.

### *Staying on Track!*

has been produced by the  
**Georgian Cycle & Ski Trail Association**

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*Your comments and ideas are welcome!*

Please send them to:  
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