

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County helping keep communities connected

Midhurst/ June 4, 2010 – Saturday, June 5 marks International Trails Day, and the County of Simcoe has just the thing for communities looking to stay more connected with their neighbours.

Celebrated each year on the first Saturday in June, International Trails Day is an annual celebration of trails to promote trail development, the use of trails and the healthy lifestyle they encourage. The County recognizes the importance trails can play in not only the health and wellbeing of residents, but in helping generate a feeling of community and togetherness as well.

To ensure the County continues the momentum of a very successful 2009, the Trails Connecting Communities Program entered 2010 with a budget of \$200,000. So far this year, the program has divided \$155,000 among a number of projects:

- **\$30,000** – Bradford West Gwillimbury – Implementation of first section of multi-use trail. The trail will be part of a direct link north to Innisfil.
- **\$20,000** – Clearview Township – Construction of continuation of trail along Barrie-Collingwood railway south towards New Lowell.
- **\$30,000** – Midland – Construction/enhancement of trail link between Midland and Tay Shore Trail.
- **\$15,000** – New Tecumseth – Town-wide trail signage program to enhance connectivity to other County municipalities.
- **\$30,000** – Oro-Medonte Township – Construction of missing trail link between Oro-Med RailTrail and Barrie North Shore Trail. County put approx. \$10,000 into the design of this project in 2009.
- **\$30,000** – Tay Township – Construction of Victoria Harbour Trailhead.

The County is also currently exploring linkages between Midland and Penetanguishene, better access to the Nine Mile Portage and historic Fort Willow in the Township of Springwater, and/or a link from the Tiny Trail westward toward Wasaga Beach.

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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