



Thanks to funding provided to Huronia Trails and Greenways by Communities in Action - Active 2010, the County of Simcoe Forest Division, by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and a number of other sponsors, we are seeing much progress in the areas of mapping, trail blazing, promotion of active living, and trail promotion in Simcoe County. Here are some of the highlights:

1. A total of 17 loop trails and 13 linear trails have been mapped and are posted on [www.simcoecountytrails.net](http://www.simcoecountytrails.net).
  - The linear trails are mostly railtrails, or waterfront trails such as in Collingwood, Midland, Orillia, Penetanguishene. A booklet with the 13 maps is scheduled for printing this spring and will be available in local libraries.
  - The loop trails are non-motorized trails, usually in Simcoe County Forests, conservation lands, or provincial parks. They all start and finish in the same place, and are blazed along the way with small vinyl markers, placed on trees or posts, that carry the Simcoe County Trails logo, and a red (main trail) or blue (short cut trail) arrow indicating direction. On some of the trails, the vinyl blazes will over time be replaced with paint blazes (most likely fluorescent green) in an effort to fight vandalism and comply with the County of Simcoe's direction not to use nails in trees. These loop trail maps are also printed in a map book, of which 10,000 were printed in 2006, and which are unfortunately already out of stock. They will be reprinted as funding permits. A geocache has been placed on each of the loop trails to entice families to go and explore the trails and find the treasure!
2. The [www.simcoecountytrails.net](http://www.simcoecountytrails.net) website has been re-designed to include "Trails Experiences", i.e. useful information to encourage new and experienced trail users to explore new trails, new trail activities, who to contact, etc. The new website also has a link to the County of Simcoe's interactive GIS website, which now contains detailed mapping and information on some of the major trails in Simcoe County.
3. Trail Crossing signs have been placed on municipal roads at major trail crossings. One of the signs is a risk management sign which alerts drivers to the fact that there is a trail crossing ahead. The second sign is more of an educational nature, as it provides information on which users can use that particular trail and indicates the exact access point to the trail. Most municipalities in Simcoe County participated in this program.
4. Another major step forward is that the County of Simcoe's 2008 budget includes approval to hire a trail coordinator, who will liaise with municipalities, trail user groups and other stakeholders to coordinate and promote trails and trail use in the county. More details on this will be available at a later time.
5. The Help Trails Grow project is designed to raise funds for trail initiatives, by recycling old vehicles, in partnership with a local recycler, Triple M Auto. Under this program, donors of vehicles can receive a free tow as well as a tax receipt for their donation.

Huronias Trails and Greenways (HTG) was founded in 1992, out of the recommendations of the County of Simcoe's Greenway Study, which focused abandoned railines. Huronia Trails and Greenways works with various user groups, involved in snowmobiling, ATV'ing, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, motorcycling, etc. as well as with various trail building groups, the Simcoe County Health Unit, etc. to promote trail building and trail promotion in Simcoe County. An important focus of the HTG is also the development of the Trans Canada Trail through Simcoe County, of which over 130 km are now open for use.

For more information contact [info@simcoecountytrails.net](mailto:info@simcoecountytrails.net) or call 705-458-4037

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