

RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

From: Jayne Sutherland

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 8:22 AM

To: Alar Soever; Peter Bordignon

Cc: Corrina Giles ; Ryan R. Gibbons; Shawn Everitt; Shawn Carey; Tim Hendry; Chris Fawcett; Peter Dunbar

Subject: Winter Maintenance of Georgian Trail

Dear Mayor and Council
and the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee,
Town of the Blue Mountains:

I want to express my appreciation and thanks for grooming the Georgian trail (at least in my neighbourhood) this winter. It is a new and welcome option for outdoor activities in Thornbury. As you know, the roads can get a little icy for walkers in the winter and although the trail in Cedar Grove Park has been cleared for a number of years, it only provides a short stroll.

And while I count myself as one of the hardy dog walkers that wade through the snow in Bayview Park this time of year (and there are more of us each year), it can be a tough slog especially when the wind is coming out of the north off the Bay. I do realize though, that clearing snow from the waterfront trail in Bayview would be an exercise in futility.

For these reasons, the Georgian Trail is an excellent alternative and I have seen steady usage on the trail from dog walkers, hikers, winter bicyclists and cross country skiers. This is especially relevant now that many of us are stuck at home. We're lucky our environs allow us to get outdoors, something I believe is important for our overall wellbeing, especially now.

However, I think even when the pandemic is finally resolved, that at least parts of the Georgian Trail should be maintained year round. The Town of the Blue Mountains is currently considering a new Leisure Activities Plan and I know Trails rank up near the top as a preferred activity amongst residents and visitors alike. And while trail maintenance has a price, I think you will find a cost/benefit analysis will show that it is well worth it in comparison to other leisure facilities.

Yours truly,

Jayne Sutherland
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