



**GUELPH HIKING TRAIL CLUB**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting – Agenda**

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**Date:** December 1, 2022; 7 pm

**Location:** Online

**Total Participants:** TBD

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**Agenda:**

Welcome

Motion to accept minutes of AGM 2021

Reports:

President

Treasurer

Speed River Trail

Radial Line Trail

Kissing Bridge Trail

Hike Ontario

Membership Coordinator

Publicity

Newsletter

Hiking Program

Web Administrator

Social Convenor

Other Business

Elections

Adjourn

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**GUELPH TRAIL CLUB**  
**o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022**  
**Unaudited - see Compilation Engagement Report**

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# George Szczepski Professional Corporation

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## COMPLIATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Management of Guelph Trail Club o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club,

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Guelph Trail Club o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club as at August 31, 2022 and the statement of earnings and net assets for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information and other explanatory information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

I did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Puslinch, Ontario  
October 24, 2022

George Szczepski Professional Corporation  
Authorized to practise public accounting by the  
Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario  
Chartered Accountant

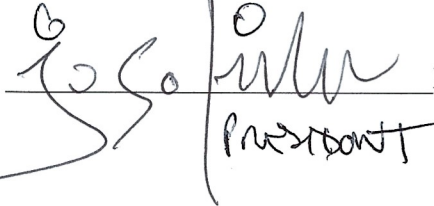
**GUELPH TRAIL CLUB  
o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club**

(Incorporated under the laws of Ontario)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at AUGUST 31, 2022  
(with comparative figures as at 2021)**

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 81,963	\$ 120,642
Grant receivable	8,000	-
Government remittances recoverable	2,759	2,295
Inventory	<u>929</u>	<u>1,110</u>
	<u><u>\$ 93,651</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 124,047</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ -	\$ 77,216
Deferred Memberships 2020	<u>11,670</u>	<u>14,020</u>
	<u>11,670</u>	<u>91,236</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>81,981</u>	<u>32,811</u>
	<u><u>\$ 93,651</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 124,047</u></u>

**APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

 Director  
President

 Director

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

Prepared Without Audit - See Compilation Engagement Report

**GUELPH TRAIL CLUB**  
**o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club**

**STATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND NET ASSETS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022**  
**(with comparative figures for 2021)**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Memberships	\$ 10,805	\$ 6,656
Advertising	1,020	460
Hiking classes	117	-
Donations	<u>89,783</u>	<u>132,104</u>
	<u>101,725</u>	<u>139,220</u>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Badges	89	124
Cost of badges	(119)	(79)
Guidebooks	757	1,941
Cost of guidebooks	(314)	(403)
On line guide books	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>613</u>	<u>1,583</u>
	<u>102,338</u>	<u>140,803</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Bank charges	524	519
Events	2,299	91
Hike leader training	90	-
Insurance	1,906	2,004
Memberships	1,017	595
Office	548	167
Trail maintenance	40,935	121,396
Postage and rental of mail box	184	180
Newsletter printing	2,644	1,099
Publicity	3,021	724
Website	<u>-</u>	<u>3,220</u>
	<u>53,168</u>	<u>129,995</u>
<b>NET EARNINGS</b>	49,170	10,808
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning</b>	<u>32,811</u>	<u>22,003</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, ending</b>	<u><u>\$ 81,981</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 32,811</u></u>

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

Prepared Without Audit - See Compilation Engagement Report

**GUELPH TRAIL CLUB  
o/a Guelph Hiking Trail Club**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AUGUST 31, 2022**

Guelph Trail Club, operating as the Guelph Hiking Trail Club is a not-for-profit company incorporated under the Business Corporations Act of Ontario (1990) and is exempt from income tax under section 149 of the Income Tax Act. The main activities are building and maintaining trails from Cambridge to Limehouse and from Guelph to West Montrose. The club organizes hikes, publishes newsletters and produces a guide book of maps of its trails. The public is welcome to use the trails and participate in the organized hikes.

**1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the balance sheet of Guelph Trail Club as at August 31, 2022 and the income statement for the year then ended is on the historical cost basis, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts payable and accrued liabilities

**2. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Accounts Payable were related to Gosling Bridge and other committed trail development funds, The donations for these items were included in the prior year revenue.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Gosling Bridge	- \$	37,216
Other committed trail development expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>40,000</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 77,216</u>

**3. DEFERRED REVENUE**

Deferred revenue has been received in the current year but will be earned in a future years.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Deferred membership revenue	\$ <u>11,670</u>	\$ <u>14,020</u>
	<u>\$ 11,670</u>	<u>\$ 14,020</u>



**Guelph Hiking Trail Club**

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

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**Date:** November 25, 2021; 7 pm

**Location:** Online

**Total Participants:** 31

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**Agenda:**

Welcome

Motion to accept minutes of AGM 2019 (sent November 18, 2021).

Motion to accept minutes of AGM 2020 (sent November 18, 2021).

Questions from the membership with regards to 2021 reports provided below (a quick verbal summary of the reports will be presented):

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Speed River Trail

Radial Line Trail

Kissing Bridge Trail

Hike Ontario

Membership Coordinator

Publicity

Newsletter

Hiking Program

Web Administrator

Social Convenor

Other Business

New Business

Elections

Adjourn

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*Motion to accept 2019 minutes; moved by Mike Curtis, seconded by Bill Mungall. All in favour.*

*Motion to accept 2020 minutes; moved by Mike Curtis, seconded by Bill Mungall. All in favour.*

**President's Report – John Fisher:**

Welcome everybody to our AGM. As President of our Club it gives me great pleasure to report on what has been a very busy and very successful year for the club despite the confines of a world still heavily constrained by the pandemic.

Our major project this year was to install The Gosling Bridge (formerly known as James St Trail Bridge) on the James St section of the Radial Line Trail. We secured a licence agreement with the University in 2020 and in 2021 we wanted to mitigate an insurance risk and make the trail more accessible for all; a vision shared with our community partners Speed River Cycling Club, Guelph Victors, GORBA and GCAT. Together we secured funds through an April fund raiser and grant requests, got the abutments and bridge installed (only one month late, Thanksgiving, not Labour Day) and had a "Grand Opening" on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>. We invited everybody who had donated to the project to join us for the ribbon cutting and naming of the Gosling Bridge. This was a very important project for enhancing the Club's reputation as an organisation that can work with partners and can deliver on promises and I thank everyone who was involved in it.

Another major success was the City of Guelph's development of the 2021 Guelph Trails Master Plan 2021. We asked for your support of the Club's submission to the Guelph Trails Master Plan update. This was very helpful in the final document.

Key for the club was the recognition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> category of trail building within the city, "Community led, city supported". That has allowed for the establishment of Third Party agreements with delegated authority to the Parks Dept. Specifically we now have trail extensions of the Rapids Side Trail south to Herb Markle Park, of the Speed River Trail to the skate park at Edinburgh and the trail through Marianne's Park that links to the James St section of the Radial Line Trail. We also just added the Wellington Plaza River Trail to that list and are working with the city, community health services and property owners to improve that important link along the Speed River between Royal City Park and downtown.

We had planned on updating our guide book in 2021, but our initial discussions quickly led us to defer that until 2022 and instead develop an "in house" online mapping application that was launched in August. This was another wonderful team accomplishment, but I am going to let Frank Schoenhoeffer describe it in more detail (see "Other Business" section).

We have also increased our social media presence in the community. The Club's Facebook page has nearly 2000 members and Jim Hoare is doing a great job of engaging with Facebook members, answering questions, administering the site and also messaging club news (Norm Salian and Peter Jaspers-Fayer have assisted).

We have a twitter account and are only just beginning to use it. We definitely need help to convey news via this platform in a more immediate fashion. Gayle Jeffery will tell you the improvements she has made to the website.

So, what about 2022 opportunities?

1) We still need to recover from pandemic-related closures on the Radial Line trail. Frank can talk of our efforts there.

2) We are looking to reactivate our hiking schedules. Its only been in the last couple of months that regulations, members and hike leaders have arrived at the same point and are starting to hunger for guided hike opportunities. We want to thank those Hike Leaders who are breaking the ice and getting us going again. We continue to seek somebody from the membership to take over the Hiking Program Coordinator role.

3) We hope to finally install 4 interpretive plaques at our 4 main trailheads in Guelph, Limehouse and Cambridge that I first raised back in 2019.

4) 50th anniversary celebratory events

5) Updating our Guidebook

6) Our next big project. A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary legacy? The G2G link from downtown to Kissing Bridge Trailhead, the restoration of the 1916 Heritage wooden trestle bridge that would link the OR side Trail and Section 1 of the RLT, Stone Rd extension Crane Park bridge?

7) Enhancing the urban trail user's experience.

The city has given us permission to link our trail heads with directional blazes. More thoughts about "placemaking" (part of the 2021 GTMP) and enhancing the urban hikers recreational experience especially on Third Party trails are simmering.

Lastly I want to thank our landowners and our members for your support. I want to particularly thank your executive committee. They have taken the initiative in any number of fronts and have been very supportive of me personally as we lead the Club into somewhat unfamiliar territory and adjust to a post pandemic world.

#### **Vice-President's Report - Lisa Slater:**

This year was spent on an intense learning curve which was accelerated and assisted by taking on the project of updating all job descriptions for the Club. While most are complete a few remain to be submitted.

In addition, we have one outstanding position that is looking for a motivated volunteer in the capacity of Hike Program Coordinator. Anyone interested in learning more about this position and applying for it should contact me at [lisaslater00@gmail.com](mailto:lisaslater00@gmail.com).

#### **Secretary's Report – Leilan Baxter:**

No report is traditionally made by the Secretary.

See Membership Coordinator's report for membership information.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Nick Wenzler:**

See appended financial statement.

#### **Discussion:**

*Jim: Why is the total expenditure more than double the 50k bridge fundraising request? Is there a detailed breakdown? (paraphrased)*

*John: 70-80k for physical bridge, plus permits, engineering studies, Arboretum side trail, so the whole amount of money for the trail improvements is closer to 100k. We do have a list of all the expenditures (detailed) but they are not part of this financial statement.*

*Jim: Where is the rest (over 50k) coming from?*

*John: We did do very well on donations – 30k from federal gov, 40+k from community, 5k from the City, 25k from the University (some for other projects), 15k from Gosling foundation*

*Jim: Is stone dust still happening this year?*

*John: For the approaches to the bridge yes, but not for the rest*

*Jim: I would have thought James st to the bridge could have been done this year if there are funds*

*John: Yes there are lots of improvements to do. It is planned, but we've not got there yet*

Motion to accept Treasurer's report; moved by Nick, seconded by Frank. All in favour.

### **Speed River Trail Coordinator Report – Bill Mungall:**

Thanks to our team of loyal trail captains who have kept the trail in excellent condition: Section 1: Frank Schoenhoeffer (Humane Society to Edinburgh Road) Peter Jaspers-Fayer / Bill Mungall; Section 2: Tannis Sprott and Mark McDowell; Section 3: Paul and Florence White, Eric Pool, Bill Mungall, and Rosemary and Darrin Popescu.

The trail crosses over 23 different landowners' properties (mainly private) in 4 municipalities between Guelph and Cambridge, and we are most grateful for their unstinting support for the trail since its opening in 1973.

Section 1: Thanks to excellent cooperation from the City Parks Dept., Section 1 has been extended some 1.3 km eastward from the former site of the Guelph Humane Society to Edinburgh Road, over riverside lands owned by GRCA, City of Guelph, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, and River Valley Developments. Litter was removed from 3 former campsites on the Woodland Properties land (all well off of our trails), a cooperative effort between the landowner and a dozen GHTC work party volunteers. Mowing was completed for the first time using a mower (that had been donated to the club by one of our members) that was cached in the woods over the mowing season. The 16 foot boardwalk over the Imperial Drain was displaced several times by high flows from thunderstorms but as it was tethered, it was readily re-set onto its footing. Puslinch Township agreed to formally recognize the snowplow turnaround (i.e. our 5 car trailhead parking lot) on Niska Road as a parking area; the challenge now will be to persuade Guelph to continue to plow it out in winter, as Guelph is newly responsible for plowing this section of roadway in Puslinch. Parking is in short supply on Niska, however, in the wake of a new parking bylaw adopted by the Township. One of our members has offered to donate funds for a memorial bench overlooking rapids north of Niska Road, which will replace a previous wooden bench.

Section 2: Several new structures made of recycled lumber (from the City-owned downtown animal hospital) have allowed the trail to be mowed without having to lift the mower over obstacles (also useful for hikers seeking to keep out of the mud!). Our club-owned mower was cached in the woods for this purpose for a second year, until the end of August when the trail closes for the hunting seasons. Parking issues on Puslinch Sideroad 10 North were extensively discussed by Puslinch Council (98% of parkers being dog walkers who were NOT using our trails) which may take us up on our suggestion to move the parking area south some 200m if demand warrants by the spring. The Province's review of the adjacent 123 acre proposed quarry of Lafarge is awaiting groundwater monitoring tests that are being completed

by Guelph. A short and final boardwalk section inland from the river is being completed in Nov. 2021, courtesy of donated recycled lumber, which was canoed up the river to the site from Road 32.

Section 3: A new 300 m sidetrail, dubbed Riverside 2 Sidetrail, was created alongside the river, not far below Road 32. A small bridge was constructed by the Popescus, over outflow from a spring, some 600 m east of Blackbridge Road. Minor boardwalk repairs and extensions were necessitated by heavy trail use during the pandemic. Our cached mower successfully overwintered in the woods for a third time and was again used by the two adjoining trail captains on their sections.

### **Radial Line Trail Coordinator Report – Frank Schoenhoeffer:**

This is my first report to a GHTC AGM, having now completed my first year as Radial Line Trail Coordinator. Thanks to all RLT Trail Captains and Section Leaders for keeping the trail maintained, pruned, blazed, garbage removed, etc. to keep the trail open and safe for hiking!

As part of my learning curve for this job, I worked with John Fisher, Bill Mungall, and Mike Curtis to update and publish onto the Club website, several important policies and documents for trail maintenance work – including the Trail Captain Responsibilities, Trail Inspection Report Template, a Trail Maintenance Liability Waiver (as a separate document from the Hike Waiver), Geocaching Guidelines, Chainsaw Policy, Hazard Response Team, and our Trail Maintenance Equipment List.

Some note-worthy non-routine items for each RLT trail Section:

#### Section 1:

The new James St. bridge was a major achievement, and is addressed in the President's Report.

Work parties on the O.R. Side Trail assisted the Trail Captains with pruning and widening this trail, as well as freshening the blazes, in anticipation of pursuing a license agreement renewal with the Province of Ontario in 2022, to continue using this property.

#### Section 2:

We obtained permission from the City of Guelph Water Services Division to establish a new Side Trail on their property, off Watson Road. It's called the "Dave Hull Side Trail" in honour of long-time volunteer Dave Hull who looked after our main trail on this property for many years. The "grand opening / inaugural hike" event was enjoyed by several members on Nov. 7.

We continue to partner with GORBA on separating and re-routing some sections of trail, to try and keep hikers and bikers on separate trails where feasible.

#### Starkey Hill:

This popular area continues to have extremely many hikers, along with massive amounts of garbage being left at the parking lot. Thanks to Cyndy Washington, Rick Petersen, Albert Schumperli, and Jim Hoare, who continue to handle waste collection at the site. (Also to Ron Bilodeau who performs the same duty at the Smith property.)

#### Section 5:

Remains closed through the Scouts Camp, but in discussions with the Camp Manager we're now becoming hopeful that this may be re-opened soon.

#### Section 6:

The cedar bridges located in the middle of this section were significantly improved recently. The west bridge was replaced entirely, and the east bridge now has deck boards installed on it. Both bridges are now more robust and safer to walk on. Thanks to several GHTC Trail Captains who worked together on these upgrades!

#### Section 8:

No progress on finding an alternate trail route that is not on roads into Limehouse.

#### New Initiatives – Trail signage:

We have installed several diamond signs along some of our trail sections, to help increase community awareness of our Club.



Unfortunately some of these signs were vandalized during the summer.

We are starting to replace our trailhead signs (i.e. the old faded ones) with fresh new signs that are larger and more colourful, and include QR codes for easy access to our Club website.



## **GUELPH RADIAL LINE TRAIL**

Guelph to Limehouse Recreation Trail

**PRIVATE LAND - HIKING PERMITTED  
COURTESY OF LANDOWNER**

**TRAIL USERS' GUIDE**

- Stay on the trail - follow the blazes
- Take nothing but pictures
- Leave nothing but footprints

**USE TRAIL AT OWN RISK**

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**[www.guelphhiking.com](http://www.guelphhiking.com)**  
Membership fees pay for insurance & trail maintenance



Landowners: Thank you so much, as always, to our Landowners for their permission to cross their properties, and their ongoing support of the trail.

And thanks to our Trail Captains, who take the initiative to maintain and keep the trail safe, perform trail audits and in some cases deal directly with the landowners:

Suzanne Gates, Jake Neely, Lynette Stradeski, Steve Mercer, Norm Sailian, Mary Henderson, Brian van Nostrand, Arlene Slocombe, Jim Hoare, Gusti Matei, Phil Kidston, Chris Ferguson, Bob Fanning, Fraser Brown, Sandra Morrill, Trent Myers, and Mike Curtis.

#### **Kissing Bridge Trail Coordinator Report – Mike Curtis:**

As per usual, I once again can state that the Trailway remains popular with walkers, joggers and cyclists. There are usually several cars parked at the side of the Marden Road, or in the Ariss parking lot, while their owners partake of the scenic Trailway. Litter is not usually a problem.

The County of Wellington maintains the verges of the Trailway in Wellington while our Club does so in Waterloo. This summer a trail groomer traversed the entire Trailway to retouch the surface, in order to cut down on growth. Our Club had work groups to cut back the edges of the Trailway and remove fallen trees across the trail.

G2G, under the supervision of Andy Heal provided a bypass to the Katherine Street stairs for a more level approach to Katherine Street.

The KBT Advisory Committee has met three times virtually this year and there have been no major issues to deal with.

Again I thank our section leaders, John Butters, Jane Shifflet, and Terry Spittles for their assistance in maintaining the Trailway.

#### **Hike Ontario Representative Report – Mike Curtis:**

This year's Hike Ontario Summit (AGM) was held virtually, as was the case for many organizations, including our own. Bill Mungall and I represented our Club at the meeting. Hike Ontario continues to facilitate programs for group insurance, Mood Walks and training for both hikers and hike leaders at a reduced level due to the pandemic.

A few of the groups have started to slowly restart a hiking programme, at a reduced level, as indeed we are trying as well, as our hike leaders become more comfortable with leading hikes.

#### **Membership Coordinator Report – Leilan Baxter:**

With the launch of our new website and membership management system in 2018, this role has shifted and now primarily consists of being the initial point of contact for anyone seeking general information on club membership, along with periodic maintenance of membership profiles in our database, in an effort to keep it up to date. I am also usually the one sending out emails seeking volunteers for various activities and events.

Over the last few years we have continued to see steady club growth, and have reached a 6-year high of 407 total memberships.

Membership numbers (current at time of the AGM):

<b>Memberships</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018 (Total)</b>	<b>2019 (Active)</b>	<b>2020 (Active)</b>	<b>2021 (Active)</b>
Individual	87	82	-	-	-	
Family	75	80	-	-	-	
Organization	1	0	-	-	-	
1-year			116	128	148	196
5-year	74	84	79	90	109	168
Lifetime (complimentary)	5	6	6	6	7	6
Courtesy (landowner)			40	40	38	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>407</b>
<i>New Members in Last Year (since last Nov 1)</i>	57	63	95	69	115	163

#### **Publicity Coordinator Report:**

The Publicity Coordinator position is open.

#### **Newsletter Coordinator Report:**

The Newsletter Coordinator position is open.

*Sandra Morrill will fulfill this position beginning in January.*

#### **Hiking Program Coordinator Report – Gayle Jeffery:**

The Hiking Program Coordinator position is currently open.

I would like to thank Ron Cherry for his time serving as the GHTC Hike Coordinator over the past year. As Ron is not available to continue in this position, we are looking for a volunteer to take over. Email Lisa Slater (lisaslater00@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more about what is involved.

When covid protocols prevented GHTC leaders from offering hikes, Ron implemented the offering of self-guided hikes. And between Ron and hike leader Jim Hoare, they created 10 self-guided hikes that provided Google map of trailhead, trail details, printable trail map and files for GPS Tracker. Locations ranged from GHTC trails to Kitchener, Cambridge, St. Jacob's and Fergus trails.

And for those of you that wanted to experience the outdoors in the comfort of your own home, we provided a link to a 26 minute virtual hike of the newly created Arboretum Recreational Side Trail, created and presented by Chris Earley the Arboretum Interpretive Biologist.

With covid protocols restricting the number of hikers on an outing, guided hikes were only offered to GHTC members who were required to register online. The software we use does not allow members to register guests on "members only" hikes. Nor does it allow family members to register. If you wish to register your family member please let the hike leader know or email web\_admin@guelphhiking.com.

The initial August proposed hikes were not well attended but by start of September the number of hikers were close to the maximum limit. And by October, the maximum limit was usually met, with a few hikes having waiting lists.

If you register for a hike but later are not able attend, please cancel your registration so that those on waiting list may register. To cancel a hike registration, login and click on your name, top left on screen. Then select "my event registrations", select hike for cancellation and that will allow you to cancel your registration.

Thanks to Gitta, Tuula and Gayle for their Wednesday morning offerings on GHTC, Guelph, O.R., Ignatius, Guelph Lake and Rockwood conservation trails.

Bill Mungall and Jim Hoare led weekend hikes on GHTC and Guelph trails. Also Bill had some unique offerings in Everton, Paris moraine and Arkell Research station.

Check out the GHTC home page for new upcoming hikes.

#### **Web Administrator Report – Gayle Jeffery:**

New to the website this year is the President's comments/updates section under "About Us" where you can learn about club initiative and get project updates.

With the free GHTC trail section PDFs that show maps and trail descriptions, there are no longer details of RLT and SRT sections under "Our Trails".

Members may email web issues and suggestions by clicking Gayle Jeffery on "Executive" webpage (or [web\\_admin@guelphhiking.com](mailto:web_admin@guelphhiking.com)).

Over the past year 26,000 people have accessed the GHTC website. Of this number 86% were new to the website with the remaining 14% returning users. Three quarters of users were in Canada, about 14% in Indonesia, 5% U.S but nearly every country in the world had a few people accessing our website. As expected Guelph had the highest number of users, followed by Toronto, then Batam Indonesia, Brampton, Kitchener, Hamilton, Waterloo, Cambridge and Halton Hills. Fifty-four % were male (according to Google) and more than half were between 18 and 34 years.

Starkey Hill pages received 17% of web traffic. And the O.R. self-guided hike page, Elements of Design and Self-Guided photo hikes were popular also.

#### **Social Convenor Report – Susan McMillan:**

As the Social Convener, my report is very short as no social events have occurred this year.

I do look forward to planning some things for the upcoming year that will fit in with the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

I ask the membership to please give some thought to what they would be interested in seeing as social events going forward into our next 50 years. Please send me an email directly or through the club.

#### **Other Business:**

Digital Mapping Project (report prepared by Frank Schoenhoeffer)

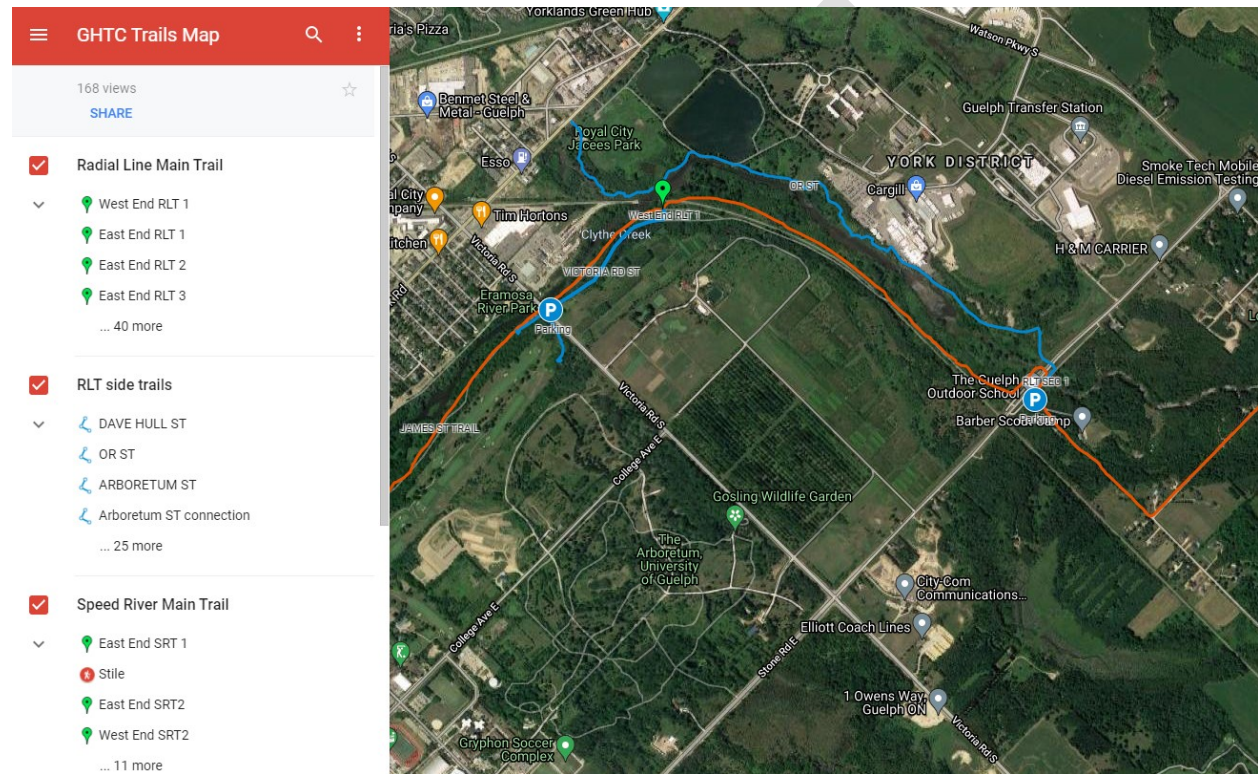
We started in February to think about updating our Club's mapbook (the little orange Handbook), since quite a few re-routes had occurred, as well as significant trail extensions into the City. And could this be a "Special Anniversary Edition" in anticipation of the Club's 50th Anniversary coming up in 2022? But the discussion evolved into a "digital option", noting that several other Hiking Clubs have online map systems



of their trails, and that many hikers these days prefer to hike by their smartphones rather than paper maps.

After exploring options via Ondago, AllTrails, and Google Maps, we realized we could create our own in-house solution. Many thanks to Trail Captain Brian Van Nostrand who had career experience with GPS map systems, and volunteered to GPS all our trails and put them onto a digital mapping system.

Our GHTC trail maps are now available online. You can download a link to this digital map, and then display it on a desktop computer or laptop, as well as on a smartphone. Zoom in to see trail features up close, or zoom out to see a broad section across several concession roads. Bring your smartphone along while hiking, and follow the map as you go.

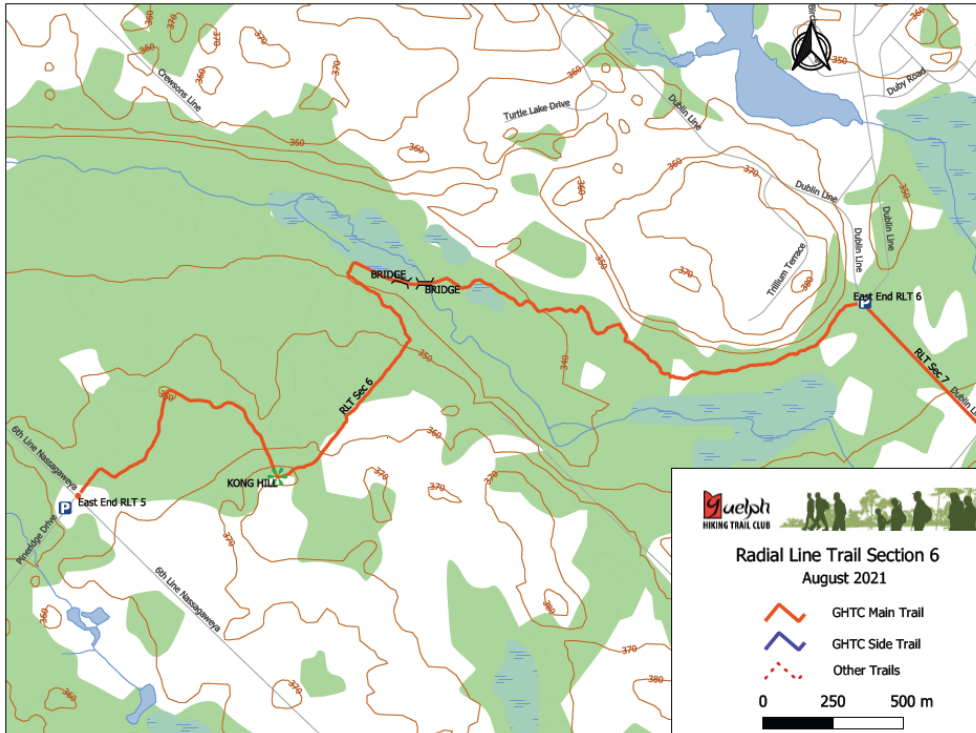


This is a sample screenshot of our digital mapping system. It's based on Google Maps, with our trails overlaid. The entire GHTC trail network can be seen, from the Speed River Trail in Cambridge all the way over to the Radial Line Trail in Limehouse. As well as our Kissing Bridge Trail out to West Montrose. Our Side Trails are shown in blue. And even the "connecting trails" through the City are shown (in purple).

The Menu on the left side shows specific waypoints (green markers), the trail segments (orange and blue segment markers), and other highlights such as bridges, parking areas, etc. Clicking on these reveals more information – similar text descriptions as in our orange Handbook 14th Edition, and updated to our current trail locations and status.

GHTC Members can get the link to this digital map from the "Store" on our Club website.

**Additional product – PDF files** – We've also developed single-page maps, in PDF format, of each Trail section. These are the same "Sections" as described in the GHTC orange Handbook. The corresponding trail description is on the back of each map, so if you print one of these maps at home, double-sided, you'll have a single-sheet map to take for your hike. These PDFs could appeal to hikers who only want to hike a few sections, and don't need or want the entire Handbook.



These can also be ordered from the “Store” on our Club website. Happy hiking in the digital age!

### **New Business/Other Questions:**

*Bob Fanning: Noticed that Royal City Park on south side of river has GHTC blazes*

*John: Yes this is one of the things we worked out with the City. Wayfinding is one of their priorities. We suggested that as an interim solution we can put blazes to link our trails. The City was in favour and we did this. Sparsely for now, but we will see the response. We plan on doing the same all the way out to G2G but that is a bit more tricky.*

### **Slideshow of 2021 photo highlights:**

*Discussion:*

*Gosling Bridge*

*Phil: How was this grand opening advertised (of the Gosling Bridge)?*

*John: Sorry it wasn't sent to members, it was just sent to donors. We didn't do the best at advertising this opening.*

*Dave: There was a story in the Tribune.*

*Trestle Bridge*

*Phil: Was the trestle bridge rail or road?*

*John: Rail. Very heavily built. When you consider we are making it a pedestrian bridge, it should be feasible.*

*Phil: Want to compliment the exec and you John on getting the trails into the centre of town and linking them. I think this is just wonderful and we will be reaping the rewards in higher membership.*

*John: Thanks very much, we think so too. We actually have a meeting next week with the City to identify where to put the plaques.*

## **2021 Elections:**

The following candidates are put forward for election at the 2021 AGM.

President: John Fisher  
Vice President: Lisa Slater  
Secretary: Leilan Baxter  
Treasurer: Nick Wenzler

Additional nominations from the floor?

*Dave Jordan is nominated for the position of President by Laura.*

*Remarks by Dave: I want to see people out hiking of all ages. As of now, I look at the hike calendar and there are no scheduled hikes in the coming year. I referred to the chief medical officer of health, Dr. Moore, and as of now there are no capacity limits or restrictions (for events like hikes). I refer also to the Bruce Trail club. As of now there are no proofs of vaccination required, and only social distancing. I feel that is an oversight and I'd like to correct that by offering myself as president. Everything the club has done is so noteworthy and I appreciate all the hard work. (Paraphrased).*

*Remarks by John: I share Dave's vision of having people of all ages out on the trails. We are really hopeful for that. It's certainly nothing we are restricting people from. For hikes, it's a matter of comfort. We rely on volunteers for hike leaders and they have a right to decide how they want to lead these hikes and we need to listen to that. I hope what we've just shown you is a demonstration of what my leadership and my team has done and that you won't have any second thoughts on voting me back in again.*

Vote:

Votes for John: 17

Votes for Dave: 1

Abstain: 13

*The membership votes in favour of John Fisher for the position of President.*

*The positions of vice-president, secretary, treasurer are passed by acclamation.*

*Discussion:*

*Jim: Perhaps if Dave is interested in the hike program he could apply to be hike coordinator*

*John: Yes certainly if Dave is interested in this he could apply to Lisa*

*Laura: What's involved in being hike leader, why don't we have enough?*

*Bill: Right now it's a question of getting existing leaders out there again. There have not been any courses run for some time. We only run hikes with certified leaders, which involves a 1 day course with a practical test. If we can ever get a room somewhere we can run a course. I have plans to do that sometime in the winter. From my perspective as the coordinator I'd want to see everyone double vaccinated since you*

*spend 5 – 6 hours in a room with people. I think before spring we will offer a course for the members of this club.*

*John: I think we should put together a list of people interested so that Bill knows there are people waiting to be trained. It's a real period of transition and getting people back is hard.*

*Laura: Training can't be virtual?*

*Bill: There's a practical component that has to be done in person.*

*Bob: I think Laura's point is good, and you're right about the practical side. Some of the stuff is in the classroom but it could be a hybrid model where you do training online and then get people together at some point outdoors.*

*Laura: Could be online via zoom, and the practical component out on the trail. So that would eliminate the requirement for a room and for double vaccination. I joined the club a year ago and there have been no hikes, so that's kind of disappointing.*

*Bob: I agree - I have tried to set up some hikes but it hasn't happened for various reasons but now I'm about to set up some more hikes. And I appreciate Dave pointing out that we need to get this going.*

*John: Ok seems like we're all in agreement here.*

Motion to adjourn by Phil, seconded by Frank (8:55 pm).

Minutes recorded by Leilan Baxter, GHTC Secretary.