

**Full Authority**  
**20 June 2019**  
**Agenda Item: 12**

**North Hastings Trail Board – Cathy Trimble**

***Background***

In 2017, the North Hastings Non-Motorized Trail Committee invited myself to participate on the Committee since the CVCA was a major landholder/operator of trails in North Hastings. This was keenly observed as an opportunity to provide input into the development of a trail network which would promote not only North Hastings, but the CVCA properties for which they were intended. Increasing trail usage would stimulate awareness of natural features, educational opportunities, encourage healthy lifestyles and of course raise public awareness of the CVCA.

This initiative is a significant prospect for the CVCA to partner with another organization to help maintain, improve, and meet objectives for conservation areas like the McGeachie Conservation Area. As such, an MOU was signed with the Committee to proceed with further development of the trails at McGeachie which will also be identified as part of the North Hastings Trail Network.

As Cathy will explain, during the past two years, substantial progress has been made by the Committee, including a plan to secure funding to choose three properties to become pilot projects for the Committee. The McGeachie CA was one of the three chosen (out of over 20+ options) as it was deemed a good project for the Committee to initially become involved with until the capacity and expertise of the Committee has grown.

Improvements will be made for a permanent washroom, improved signage, easily recognizable trailhead, mapping, develop a volunteer base and become a template for future projects. Approximately \$18,000 worth of improvements has been earmarked for McGeachie with plans to make the improvements this fiscal year.

The Committee has also now morphed into a North Hasting Trail Board, which is fully incorporated that will allow for creating a broader network for development, funding opportunities, community involvement and future projects, all the while continuing to strengthen the trail network to aid in economic development of Hastings County. Cathy has already suggested that The Gut CA may be considered for the next round of projects.