

# STAFF REPORT



To: Council  
From: Adam Dedrick, Director of Recreation & Parks  
Approved by: Trudy Payne, Chief Administrative Officer  
Date: May 25, 2022  
Subject: Provincial Volunteer Representative 2022

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## Origin

Each year the Municipality selects an individual or group to be the recipient of the Provincial Volunteer Representative Award based on a nomination, review, and selection process.

## Recommendation

That Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association as the Municipality of Shelburne Representative Volunteer for the 2022 Provincial Volunteer Awards based on the recommendation of the ad hoc Volunteer Nominations Review Committee.

## Background

Volunteer Week is held annually during the month of April and the Province puts out a call for volunteer awards. The Provincial Volunteer Representative Award is a prestigious award that each municipal unit can select an individual, couple or group to receive. The recipient is recognized at the Provincial Volunteer Awards held in September. They are also recognized at the local volunteer recognition reception also held in September. The Provincial Representative Volunteer Award recognizes an individual, couple, or group of volunteers who has made a significant contribution to, and shown continued support of, the local community. All nominations received are reviewed by an ad hoc review committee and their recommendation is provided to Council.

## Discussion

The Review Committee recommends that the Woodland Multi-Use Trails Association (WMTA) be the recipient of the 2022 Provincial Volunteer Representative Award, representing the Municipality.

Since starting in June 2006, the Woodland Multi-Use Trails Association has constructed and maintained 79 kilometers of trail. Their goal is to complete a connected shared multi use trail across Shelburne County (125.8 kilometers) primarily on abandoned rail bed. This work is more than just trail bed construction as it can include larger scale projects such as bridge replacements and repairs. To carry out this work they have relied on association memberships, fundraising, and the in-kind contributions of their members and trail users for construction and maintenance. They have also acquired funding by utilizing numerous grants and support from local governments.

All of the WMTA trails are now part of the The Great Trail (The Trans Canada Trail) helping create a continuous connected trail around the Western Loop of the province. They annually have between 175-200 members and a board of directors of nine. In addition to trail development they organize recreational events, do litter pickup, and encourage proper trail use through their Etiquette program. The group also works closely with the Shelburne County ATV Association and they are members of the NS Trails Federation.

A highlight of their recent projects was the completion of 15 km of trail in East Jordan, which included the upgrade of five bridges and the replacement of one bridge in 2020. They are currently finishing the construction of a 6.3 km extension of the Jordan Branch Trail and the addition of a trail head that enables the loading/off-loading of off highway vehicles, which they will be celebrating the opening of on June 11<sup>th</sup> at a public event. Most recently, they have offered their assistance to the Dept. of Natural Resources with the refurbishing of the decking and railing of the Clyde River Rail Bridge.

The accomplishments of the Woodland Multi-Use Trails Association are the result of the dedication, commitment, expertise and hard work of their members and the vision of their leaders for a fully connected trail system in Shelburne County.

**Next Steps**

Upon approval, a submission application will be provided to the province naming the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association as the Volunteer Representative for the Municipality.