

# Hunters Bay Trail to cross under narrows bridge

BY ROLAND CILLIERS

It's taken more than a decade, but the Hunter's Bay Trail is getting an extension.

A \$37,550 addition was approved for the 2016 municipal budget to fund an addition to the trail that would take it from Orchard Park along the bay, under the narrows bridge and over to Aspdin Road. The total cost of the project, which includes a new portion of floating dock along Hunter's Bay, is projected to cost over \$500,000 but due to outside funding the town will only be covering roughly 10 per cent of that.

At past meetings, councillors had questioned whether this was an expense the council should be taking on at this point.

Don McCormick, a longtime advocate of the trail extension, spoke in support of the expense during a recent public meeting held on the issue.

"If you have had an item in mind you really wanted for the last 12 years and the weekend flyer comes out

and there it is 90 per cent off. I don't care how broke you are, you and I are going to be lined up waiting for the store to open," said McCormick.

The Hunter's Bay Trail is one section of the 52 kilometres of the Trans Canada Trail in the area. For years, despite attempts by several groups, the trail has been discontinuous.

The proposed trail extension will add nearly three kilometres to the trail including about 750 metres along the waterfront.

"This is part of the longest recreational trail in the world and for 12 years we got stymied because the Ontario Ministry of transportation would not allow us into the Highway 11 corridor so we could take the trail from Orchard park along the other side of Hunters Bay under the narrows bridges so we could get over on Aspdin road," said McCormick.

On Aug. 13, an announcement is planned to formally announce an \$85,000 contribution by the District of Muskoka in support of the extension.

# Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group hosts first Take Back the Trail event to reclaim public spaces

BY LISA GILLAN

The Hunter's Bay Trail in Huntsville has become a symbol of women's rights and the centre of a campaign to end violence against women.

"About seven years ago a woman was assaulted on this trail and it made this trail very unsafe for many women to go on it alone. We had talked about trying to find a place that would represent or symbolize all public spaces for women to be safe in, so that's why we chose this trail," said Lynn Huizer, chair of the Muskoka Women's Advocacy Groups fundraising committee. "And it's a beautiful trail and right in the heart of our area."

On Sunday, Aug. 9, about 50 people gathered at the Avery Beach entrance to the Hunter's Bay Trail, for the first Take Back the Trail event. Participants raised pledges in support of Chrysalis shelter and the MWAG transi-

tional home in Huntsville, as well as Interval House in Bracebridge.

"Today's event is much more than just about raising money. It's really about raising awareness of violence against women. And we've chosen this beautiful trail as a symbol of all public spaces and the right of everyone to feel safe while using them," Huizer said.

Huntsville Mayor Scott Aitchison, who helped build Chrysalis, was on hand for the opening ceremony.

"It never ceases to amaze me that we need facilities and places like Chrysalis and Interval House. It's a tragic circumstance in our society, but I think events like today are important to make people aware that violence does still exist and that we need to make sure that violence has ended," he said to the group.

Local artist Terry Gill was among those walking the trail in support of the event. "You know

I feel sorry, this is a great trail but it really is tough for women. I don't know what the answer is. I was thinking about maybe having volunteers, like male volunteers that would have T-shirts on and be come out at different times just to, I don't know, just to monitor things. Shame it has to be that way," he said.

Close to \$4,000 was raised through a combination of pledges and a barbecue held at the event.

"The money will really go toward the operation of the two shelters and the one transitional house. So, you know, funding has remained stable, or has not risen, while cost of living has gone up. And we're running essentially three houses, so the costs keep going up. So it's really to supplement the operating costs of those shelters," Huizer said.

The day also featured music by local artists Joanne Kilbourne and Karen May.



**PUBLIC SPACE PROPONENTS:** (Left to right) Carling and Helena Renwick head out for a walk to support an end to violence on Hunter's Bay Trail on Sunday, Aug. 9. (Photo by Lisa Gillan)

## ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

**Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.**

**Learn more. Have your say.**

**Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:**

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

**An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:**

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton) Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing) All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$20 Increase of \$26  Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

**Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.**

### THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

### BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

### LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice). You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

### ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

### PRIVACY

*If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.*

*This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).*



Ontario

Ontario Energy Board  
Commission de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario