



Cyclists help boost waterways fundraiser

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You could run, walk or hike for the rivers and trails in previous years.

For the first time at the seventh annual Brant Waterways Foundation fundraising race on Sunday, you could also bike for them.

Participation from cyclists boosted the registrations for Run, Cycle, Hike for the River and Trails at Brant Conservation Area by about one-third.

The Brant Cycling Club was involved in both promoting and volunteering at the event.

“We ride the trails so much,” club president Duncan Ross said. “It’s good to give back and and raise some money for the trails.

There were 173 participants in the event – 45 cyclists on the 60-kilometre road loop, 10 cyclists on a 16-kilometre trail ride, 54 runners in the five-kilometre race through Brant Park, 33 runners in a 10-kilometre race, 22 runners for the 16-kilometre trail route and nine hikers.

J.S. Esposito paced the five-km race with a time of 18:42, Michael Petrella was fastest in the 10-km race in a time of 40:07 and Adam Hall took the 16-km loop in a time of 1:10:07.

The cycling options were new to the event this year.

Ross, who also volunteers with the Brant Waterways Foundation, helped create the routes with race organizer Bruce Wells.

It was important to them to showcase the beauty of the trail system as the event was held at Brant Park Conservation Area for the first time. It was previously hosted from Brant’s Crossing in downtown Brantford.

“We are calling the 16-kilometre route our signature route,” Ross said. “It highlights the beauty in Brantford. You’re close to the river and get to glimpse downtown Brantford.”

The route took runners and cyclists from Brant Conservation Area along Oakville Drive and Ballantyne Drive to Lorne Park, where they crossed under the bridge on the trails and looped onto the trail that flanks Grand River Avenue. From there, the route goes through Waterworks Park, past Wilkes Dam and continues by the Brantford Golf and Country Club to Hardy Road. Finally, it brings runners back across the pedestrian crossing into Brant Park.

“People really enjoyed the routes we had,” Ross said.

Volunteers from the Brant Cycling Club also helped pace and navigate the routes for runners.

Funds raised through registration, sponsorship and donations are used for a number of watershed-related projects.

The foundation is currently supporting parking improvements to the popular Hardy Road trail entrance and is looking forward to supporting future projects surrounding the cleanup of Mohawk Lake.

Sean Allen is a reporter at Brant News. Connect with him on twitter @seanard.



Runners set out from the starting line for the 16-kilometre race at the seventh annual Run, Cycle, Hike for the Rivers and Trails on Sunday at Brant Conservation Area.



Runners set out from the starting line for the 10-kilometre race at the seventh annual Run, Cycle, Hike for the Rivers and Trails on Sunday at Brant Conservation Area.