

Energy East Pipeline



energyeastpipeline.com

Good For the Economy & Safe For The Environment. Learn More



LYNDEN ROAD
CANADIAN TIRE
BRANTFORD

Holiday Deals

SALE IN EFFECT
THURS., NOV. 20TH -
WED., NOV. 26TH

BRANTFORD LOCATION ONLY!

CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS

Energy East Pipeline



energyeastpipeline.com

Good For the Economy & Safe For The Environment. Learn More



Comfort for any home, any season.

Save up to **\$1,600.00** on a Lennox® home comfort system. **Get details ▶**

modern heating
BRANTFORD LIMITED

SPORTS

Cycling

Group looking to start Brant Cycling Club



By Brian Smiley, Brantford Expositor
Friday, September 12, 2014 9:40:48 EDT PM



Duncan Ross. (QMI Agency File Photo)

With its extensive trail system, one thing missing from Brantford is a bicycle club.

That appears to be changing.

A local group of six people have started the Brant Cycling Club and it's their intention to have it grow, particularly at the youth level.

"We're very, very serious about the bike park in particular," said Duncan Ross, one of six members of a steering committee that also includes Loren Butler, Katie MacDonald, Rick Weaver, Jeff Kehler, Scott Roswell.

"One of the big initiatives that we're looking at is the Sprockids youth mountain bike program. Really that's where this whole thing developed with me."

Ross started biking about nine years ago and has done many different types of cycling. While meeting up with other like-minded individuals in the community, it was decided that a bike park and trail was something that was lacking in Brantford.

Ross was a big fan of the Sprockids program and the club would like to be able to offer it in 2015. That program teaches children the mountain biking skills they need to ride safely in reaching their full potential.

The group has put together a well-planned proposal that they are taking to various groups in the community to look at the feasibility of moving forward.

One area that the BCC is looking to firm up is a place where a bike park could be built to teach kids to ride the various elements they face while mountain biking.

Right now, the group has a couple of places in mind where they'd like to build that facility -- with an area between the trails and fields at Waterworks Park at the forefront.

"That's one area," said Ross. "We'd love to have that particular spot but we're just looking for any land that's available."

That spot would be ideal because those in the club would be able to train at the park and then use the trail system already in place for longer rides.

"Brantford is blessed with a lot of great trails but there are not really any specific mountain biking trails out there that are built for that purpose and maintained for that purpose," said Ross.

"Those two initiatives are kind of going hand-in-hand right now in that we want to roll out this youth mountain biking program. It doesn't have to be extensive but we need a little land and infrastructure to put together a good quality program."

One of the benefits of having the park at Waterworks is that washrooms, picnic tables, parking and the trails are already in place.

Ross, who along with MacDonald ran a Sprockids program at Waterworks this summer, said he feels there's a demand for a bike park. When the group was formed in the spring, it began with group rides and as many as 30 people joined.

"That kind of showed us there was some potential," he said.

Obviously money is an issue and the group is putting together sponsorship packages for businesses and individuals interested in coming on board. Ross said he is planning on meeting with the Trillium Foundation and said he has touched base with the Brant Waterways Foundation and had conversations with people from the city.

Also, the Grand River Conservation Authority has been contacted since they've been a part of at least one similar project in Guelph.

"Preliminary things at this point in time, however there has been those discussions and the feedback has been phenomenal," said Ross.

"Everybody has been really supportive. This thing has gone so much quicker than what we imagined right off the get-go. We were just thinking lets do something small this year and we'll really get things going the following year -- but things have really taken off.

"We're very encouraged by that."

With a proposed budget of \$250,000, the project obviously has a long way to go. Although a big part of the focus is on kids, Ross and his group aren't limiting the project.

"Definitely," he answered when asked about the possibility of adults taking part in any programs.

"That's where the group rides come in. We want to increase the number of people involved in cycling, whether that's on a recreational level or they want to get out and get some exercise.

"There's a lot of opportunity for us to be able to offer training programs and have a competitive team where like-minded individuals come together and train together."

The club is looking to tentatively have an annual general meeting in February to elect an executive and draft bylaws. It hopes to begin construction on the park in the summer of 2015.

At this point, things are going well but all those involved don't want to move things along too fast.

"Everybody is super excited," said Ross. "We've been going at it all summer and right from the get-go it sort of blew us away how much positive feedback we were getting and how excited everybody has been.

"We need to make sure we're not trying to get too far ahead of ourselves."

Visit the club's Facebook page - Brant Cycling Club - or e-mail brantcyclingclub@gmail.com for more information.

brian.smiley@sunmedia.ca

twitter.com/expbsmiley

Bike Map
onlinemapfinder.com
Get Maps, Directions & Traffic Conditions with Free App!

Reader's comments »

If you already have an account on this newspaper, you can login to the newspaper to add your comments.

By adding a comment on the site, you accept our terms and conditions and our netiquette rules.

Disqus seems to be taking longer than usual. Reload?