EASTERN ONTARIO Rail Trail LOOP

ONTARIO'S HIGHLANDS



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, POWERING POSSIBILITY: THE EASTERN ONTARIO RAIL TRAIL LOOP

What is the Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop?

The Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop (EORTL) is a visionary 320-kilometre continuous rail trail under phased development by Renfrew, Lanark, and Frontenac Counties, the Township of Rideau Lakes, the Town of Smiths Falls, and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, and in partnership with Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (RTO11).

This rail trail loop connects portions of the Cataraqui Trail, K&P Trail, and Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT) into a seamless, off-road experience through the Canadian Shield, Frontenac Biosphere Reserve, rolling farmland, and historic rural communities.

The EORTL is being developed as a signature cycling tourism asset, designed to attract high-yield hybrid cyclists from domestic and international markets, support rural economic development, and strengthen trail-friendly communities across Eastern Ontario.

Value of Cycle Tourism & Community Impact

The EORTL follows a proven product development model (OHTO's Ride the Highlands motorcycle program) and is guided by a phased development and market-readiness roadmap that was shaped by the strategic trail tourism assessment and community engagement plan completed by Project Partners in 2024-2025.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

When complete the EORTL is projected to generate an estimated $67.5M in annual visitor spending and $100M in total annual spending from 200,000 high-yield cyclist visits, at an estimated $250-$300 per day.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Loop will benefit communities by becoming the "heart" of the community, attracting new residents, and developing active accessible trails for residential use.

The EORTL is projected to generate more than 200,000 cyclist visits and over $100 million in total economic impact annually when fully developed by 2030.

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Canada

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THE 2030 VISION

By 2030 the Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop will be an export-ready, 320-kilometre signature cycling experience recognized among Canada's top rail trails. It will attract high-yield hybrid cyclists from domestic and international markets for multi-day experiences.

KEY PILLARS OF SUCCESS BY 2030

- **Coordinated Sustainable Governance**
- **Trail Infrastructure Readiness**
- **Community & Cyclist Readiness**
- **Integrated Visitor Experience**
- **Promotion & Market Development**

STAY CONNECTED & GET INVOLVED
Visit the Project Webpage

CONTACT THE RIGHT PERSON

REGION/COMMUNITY	TRAIL SEGMENT(S)	CONTACT INFO
Frontenac County *(Harrowsmith, Sharbot Lake, Sydenham, Verona)*	K&P Trail Cataraqui Trail	**Richard Allen** *Manager of Economic Development* rallen@frontenaccounty.ca 613-548-9400 ext. 330
Lanark County *(Almonte, Carleton Place, Pakenham)*	Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail	**Vanessa Dow** *Tourism & Corporate Communications Coordinator* Vdow@lanarkcounty.ca 613-267-4200 ext. 1701
Renfrew County *(Arnprior, Calabogie, Renfrew)*	Algonquin Trail K&P Trail Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail	**Scott Hamilton** *Economic Development Coordinator* trails@countyofrenfrew.on.ca 613-735-7288 ext. 452
Township of Rideau Lakes *(Chaffeys Lock, Portland)*	Cataraqui Trail	**Marie White** *Economic Development & Cultural Heritage Coordinator* mwhite@rideaulakes.ca 1-800-928-2250 ext. 288
Town of Smiths Falls	Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail Cataraqui Trail	**Jeff Murphy** *Tourism, Arts & Culture Coordinator* jmurphy@smithsfalls.ca 613-283-4124 ext. 1119
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority	Cataraqui Trail	**Tom Beaubiah** *Manager, Conservation Lands* TBeaubiah@crca.ca 613-546-4228 ext. 240
Ontario's Highlands *(RTO11 – Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization)*	EORTL Project Partnership Lead	theloop@ohto.ca