

Metroland - Halton Division

Friendship Trail nears completion

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FORT ERIE -- The cement is all poured and it's only a matter of time before the final stretch of the Fort Erie Friendship Trail is open to the public.

"It's almost complete," said Signe Hansen, the town's manager of parks and open space development

Hansen said the last steps until complete are for workers to prune trees and plant vegetation before the trail will be open to the public. The shore wall also needs to be finished and a parking lot at Waverly Beach park needs to be completed.

She said the project was originally planned to be complete by mid- to end-October and so far the schedule is on solid ground. An official opening ceremony will be held next spring.

"It's on time and on budget," said Hansen. "We had very good site supervision and weather, and the contractors stuck to the schedule."

The original design for the entire trail was drafted in 2000 and since that time, work has been completed section by section. The region contributed \$250,000 towards the final stage of the project.

The Friendship Trail not only links the town to trail systems around the region and country -- it also connects the past to the future.

The 16-kilometre trail runs parallel to the north shore of Lake Erie and is the southern link of the Greater Niagara Circle Route, a 150-kilometre multi-use trail system that winds through the Niagara Peninsula. The Friendship Trail is also part of the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail, connecting to Trenton, Ontario, and the 17,000-kilometre Trans-Canada Trail, connecting to Victoria, British Columbia, St. John, Newfoundland and Tuktoyaktuk.

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