

Your Guide to Cycling in Huron County

Ontario's West Coast

HURON COUNTY • CANADA

Cycling Guide



www.ontarioswestcoast.ca



Ontario's West Coast

HURON COUNTY • CANADA



Detroit / Windsor Border = 2.5 hours

Sarnia / Port Huron = 45 minutes

Toronto = 2.5 hours

London = 30 minutes

Stratford = 20 minutes

The above driving times are to the boundaries of Huron County at posted speed limits.

Special Thanks for their Contributions to this Guide:

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CYCLING IN HURON COUNTY

...inspires you to cycle!



There are two types of bicycle routes in Huron County, those suited for both road and all-terrain bicycles, and those with conditions suited more specifically for the all-terrain cyclist. The former are paved roads which are excellent for either style of bicycle. The latter are gravel roads suited for all-terrain bicycles. The landscape varies from rolling hills to flat, with the occasional challenging hill. Services are generally separated by a distance of 8 miles/12 km.

In Huron County, cyclists can visit our many historic sites and museums, enjoy an evening or matinee performance at our theatres, explore our numerous specialty shops and art studios, picnic at one of our many parks and conservation areas, swim at some of the best beaches in Ontario, or just enjoy some beautiful rural landscapes!

Most of the outlined routes are designed in such a way that the cyclist can end their trek at the same place as they started. Some routes also have several different alternatives, and cyclists are encouraged to develop their own routes. Several self-guided heritage walking or cycling guides are available for exploring the historic buildings and streetscapes of Goderich, Bayfield and Seaforth. These guides are available at regional visitor centres or by contacting the address or numbers on the back of this brochure. The Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (G.A.R.T) and certain conservation areas also offer excellent off-road cycling opportunities. Details on these areas are outlined in the *Huron County Vacation Guide* and *Hiking Guide*.





Huron County is a vacation destination of charm, culture, beauty and endless possibilities!

Whether you want to relax in the sun on the shores of sparkling Lake Huron, sample five star cuisine at area restaurants, visit one of the many museums and attractions, experience world class theatre, go hiking or fishing, relax at a country inn, motel, campground or bed and breakfast, explore the many antique and specialty shops, cycle the picturesque countryside and heritage streetscapes, go golfing, sailing, snowmobiling or cross country skiing,

Contact the address or number(s) on the back of this brochure and ask for your free copy of the *Huron County Vacation Guide* to assist you in planning your cycling adventure. The *Vacation Guide* outlines all you need to know about vacationing in Huron County.

Track Local Riding!

www.mapmyride.com

Check out these Twitter feeds:

@outsideprojects  @onwestcoast

“Share the Road”

Courtesy + Cooperation = Safer Road for Everyone

www.sharetheroad.ca
How DRIVERS “Share the Road”

1. When Passing: Sometimes we need to slow down and wait for a safe place to pass. Be safe and courteous by allowing at least 3 feet of clearance between your vehicle and all bicycles.
2. Treat a bicycle as you would a slow moving vehicle: Always wait for a safe place to pass.
3. Bicycles are vehicles too! Be alert of all road users at all times. Expect respect.
4. Cars and trucks are vehicles too! Expect respect.
5. Be seen from dusk to dawn - Use lights and reflectors on front and rear of bicycles.

How CYCLISTS “Share the Road”

1. Obey the Law: “Same Roads, Same Rules, Same Rights” Stopping at a STOP sign takes less than 10 seconds. Know and ride by the laws.
2. Ride single file when appropriate: “Single up” before causing vehicles to unnecessarily slow down. Ride in groups of six or less.
3. Always use hand signals: Be seen and let drivers be alert to your intentions by using hand signals. Signaling costs nothing and saves lives.



CIRCUIT ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS: PAVED

LEAVING...



These routes (see map on reverse) are centred around various towns and villages using only paved roads and avoiding Provincial Highways where possible. Each route begins from and returns to a town or village. 'In town' routes are not evident on the map but are described below as "leaving" and "returning".

TOWN/VILLAGE CIRCUITS

These town/village circuits offer short paved road rides. Connecting link roads between these circuit rides can create a longer road ride and a unique cycling holiday – for complete accommodations and dining information, visit: www.ontarioswestcoast.ca

WINGHAM & AREA

The north part of Huron County offers scenic road routes and a chance to explore Wingham and area. Visit the North Huron Museum and the Alice Munro Literary Garden; explore the early days of television and radio in the CKNX gallery. Catch a performance at the Wingham Town Hall Heritage Theatre (www.winghamheritagetheatre.com).

Leaving - Park in downtown Wingham. Begin on Josephine St., heading north, becomes London Rd. (Hwy. #4) to Holmes Line. *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - County Road 7 heading west to Josephine St. (London Road, Hwy. #4); turn south to downtown Wingham to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 35 km (22 miles)

BRUSSELS & AREA

Brussels is a scenic village settled on the bank of the Maitland River; take time to cycle the village streets and enjoy the domestic and commercial architecture from the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Leaving - Park in downtown Brussels. Proceed north on Turnberry St., becomes Brussels Line, Cty. Rd. 12 - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - Heading north on the Brussels Line, Cty. Rd. 12, becomes Turnberry St. to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 26 km (16 miles)*

BLYTH / AUBURN & AREA

In the Blyth area, the cyclist can enjoy beautiful rural landscapes in one of the most agriculturally productive areas in Canada. Blyth is home to the renowned Blyth Festival Theatre so plan ahead during the summer months and catch one of the Festival's many premiere Canadian plays (www.blythfestival.com)

Leaving Blyth - Park in downtown Blyth. Begin on Queen St., heading north, becomes London Rd. (Hwy. #4); to Westfield Rd., turn west; to Donnybrook Line, Cty. Rd. #22, turn south;

Arriving Auburn - to Goderich St. turn west; to King St., turn south, becomes Alma Street; to Maitland Terrace, turn south becomes Base Line; to Hullett-McKillop Rd., turn east

Returning Blyth - To London Rd., (Hwy. #4), turn north, becomes Queen St., to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 34 km (21 miles)

PORT ALBERT & AREA

Port Albert offers a quaint village/cottage community sitting at the mouth of the Nine Mile River; enjoy a public sandy beach access and a unique fish ladder.

Leaving - Park in downtown Port Albert near the General Store and Port Albert Inn (Central Wellington St.). Proceed north of Central Wellington St. to Melbourne St. Turn east up steep hill and becomes Drury Lane to Bluewater Hwy. (#21). Turn north - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - Heading north on Bluewater Hwy. (#21) to London Rd., turn northwest; becomes Central Sydenham St. to Melbourne St., turn east to Central Wellington St.; turn south to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 29 km (18 miles)*

GODERICH TRIATHLON ROUTE - MOST DIFFICULT

Since 1992, the annual August Goderich Triathlon has attracted hundreds of athletes to test their skills at this swimming, cycling and running event. This cycling route has the most challenging elevations in the area, and some great scenery.

Triathlon Cycling Leg - 45km with five good climbs. Event information: www.goderich.ca

Leaving - Park at "Rotary Cove Beach" in Town of Goderich (located at the lakefront's most southerly turnaround). Start! Go north on Cove Rd., becomes West St. hill. Climb West St. and turn north on Wellington St. N. Turn east onto St. Georges Cres. Bear northeast onto St. Vincent St. Jog south onto North St., then east on Trafalgar St. Turn north on Victoria St. N. (Bluewater Hwy. #21) - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - Travelling south on Bluewater Hwy. #21, turn west onto Gloucester Terrace, becomes Caledonia Terrace and swings south onto Waterloo St. N. Turn west onto St. Georges Cres., turn south onto Wellington St., turn west onto West St. and proceed downhill to beach (becomes Cove Rd.). Finish!

Approximate Total Distance = 45 km (28 miles)

GODERICH & AREA

Renowned as the prettiest town in Canada, Goderich and its surrounding area offer some of the best cycling opportunities in Huron County. Explore the historic streets and unique downtown square; or visit the Huron County Museum, the Historic Gao, or Marine Museum; catch a performance at the Livery Theatre (www.thelivery.ca). A cycle along St. Christopher's Cove Road is a pleasant tour of the beach area and the Goderich Harbour is an excellent spot to watch small sailing boats or large lake freighters. *cont'd >*

Leaving - Park on the Square and exit south onto South St. Turn east at Elgin Ave. which becomes Huron Rd., as you head east out of town. After the railroad tracks, turn south at Nairn Dr., swings east, then south onto Orchard Line. - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - Travelling northwest on Londesboro Rd. to CP Line, turn southwest and it becomes Salford Rd. Turn south at Bluewater Hwy (#21). Turn west at second road at top of hill, Gloucester Terrace. At North St. turn south to "the Square" to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 23 km (14 miles)

THE BAYFIELD AREA

There are many things to see and do while cycling in and around the historic Village of Bayfield. Be sure to visit the unique antique shops and boutiques which the village has to offer. Cool down with a swim at one of Bayfield's public beaches or see some of the many Canadian and American pleasure boats at the beautiful marinas on the Bayfield River.

Leaving - In Bayfield, park at Clangregor Square and proceed south on John Avenue. Turn east on Cameron St. Cross the Bluewater Highway (#21) and continue east onto Mill Rd. (#3) towards Varna - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - From Bayfield River Road, turn south on Old River Road. Turn south on Bluewater Highway (#21) across the Bayfield River Bridge and turn immediately west on Short Hill Road. Climb to Bayfield Terrace and turn south onto Bayfield Main St. to Clangregor Square, to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 24 km (15 miles)*

SEAFORTH & AREA - EASIEST

The flat cycling routes in and around Seaforth and Egmondville are excellent roads to view the agricultural communities and farms of Huron County. Seaforth's Heritage Main St. offers dining and shopping opportunities. Egmondville is home to the historic Van Egmond Reserve and House, an interesting place to stop and visit along the way. The Seaforth and Area Museum also provides a look into this area's past.

Leaving - Park in downtown Seaforth and go west on Market St. to Sparling St. Go north on Sparling St. to Goderich St. W. (Hwy. #8). Turn west onto Goderich St. and then turn south onto Harpurhey Rd. Turn north onto Roxboro Line. Cross Goderich St. West (Hwy. #8) and continue north on Roxboro Line - *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - From Front Road, turn north onto Kippen Rd. or Main St. S. and proceed through Egmondville into downtown Seaforth, to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 16 km (10 miles)

ZURICH / DASHWOOD AREA

Cycle from Zurich to Dashwood to enjoy gently rolling pastoral landscape – look for vistas of Lake Huron, to the west. Zurich is famous for its annual Bean Festival, the last Saturday in August. You are close to the Huron Country Playhouse near Grand Bend, consider a matinee or evening performance (www.huroncountryplayhouse.com)

Leaving - Park in Zurich's downtown. Head south on Goshen St., S. as it becomes Goshen Line (Cty. Rd. #2). Go to Dashwood Rd., turn west, becomes Dashwood Main St.

Returning - Go to Centre St. and turn north, becomes Bronson Line. At Zurich-Hensall Rd. turn east, becomes Zurich Main St., to finish

Approximate Total Distance = 21 km (13 miles)

EXETER & AREA

The south part of Huron County offers level road routes for cycling and a chance to explore rich agriculture area. The Town of Exeter offers many restaurants and unique shops along its heritage main street and welcoming accommodations for your visit.

Leaving - Park at the Recreation Centre on 94 Victoria St. in Exeter. Head west on Victoria St. to Main St. (London Rd. #4) heading south to Huron St., turn west.

- *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - From Huron St. head west to Main St. (London Rd. #4), turn north to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 43 km (27 miles)*

CLINTON & AREA LINK CIRCUIT

In the heart of Huron County, Clinton provides a central link to many CIRCUIT ROUTES. While in Clinton, check out the Clinton Racetrack Slots or visit the unique School on Wheels heritage site.

Circuit - Park downtown. Proceed south on Albert St., becomes Victoria St.; to Cutter St., turn southwest; to King St., turn south; to Bayfield Rd., turn southwest; to Parr Line, turn north, becomes Sharpes Creek Line; to Londesboro Rd. (Cty. Rd. #15), turn east; to Base Line (Cty. Rd. #8) turn south; to London Rd. (Hwy. #4), turn south, becomes Albert St., becomes King St., to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 37 km (23 miles)

ONTARIO BICYCLING ROUTE (OBR)

This route is recognized by the Ontario Cycling Association. It represents part of a larger system across Ontario. This route is shown in red on the map. Details and further information can be found at www.ontariocycling.org This route and its alternates will connect the cyclist to attractions in nearby Grand Bend, Stratford and Port Elgin.

LINKING THE TOURS

In addition to town/village circuit routes, this brochure also suggests linking roads (shown in pink on the map) that create a longer tour and perhaps a cycling holiday!

RETURNING...



SELF- GUIDED HERITAGE TOURS

Many towns and villages in Huron County have self-guided Heritage Tours of local Heritage Highlights. Established tours include: Bayfield, Brussels, Goderich & Seaforth. Visit: www.ontarioswestcoast.ca for more information

TOURS, SERVICES & CYCLE CULTURE

360 BIKES 'N BOARDS: 72 Courthouse Square Goderich. Bikes, Scooters, boards, apparel and gear. Phone: 519-524-7171 website: www.360bikesnboards.com

ALL IN BICYCLE CLUB: 36 Main St. at the corner of Goshen St. in Zurich (former Zurich arena). Mountain Bike course, pump track, BMX course (28 foot wide half pipe). Individual, groups and parties welcome. Helmets and bicycles are required and available on site. Open year round (see website for details). \$15.00 per day rate; call for group rates. Phone: 519-236-7203, derek@allinbicycle.com; website: www.allinbicycleclub.com

OUTSIDE PROJECTS: Huron County's only full service bike and board shop nestled in the quaint village of **Bayfield**. We have fully licensed bike mechanics and are a registered dealer for Norco and Scott and over 10 BMX brands. From the recreational rider to the triathlete, custom fitting allows comfort and maximum power output for your ride. All season store that offers outdoor pursuits, year round, including: guided hikes, bikes, or snowshoeing. We carry a wide range of outdoor and athletic apparel such as Scott, Mountain Hardware, LOLE, and Burton. Visit us at 6 Main St. Bayfield, call 519-565-4034 or visit our website at www.outsideprojects.ca

ST JOSEPH COUNTRY STORE AND SPORTS: Corner of Hwy 21 and County Rd. 84. Rentals, sales and service of bicycles and accessories for all ages. Kayak rentals also available. Open May to October - Sun. to Thurs. 7am to 8pm and Sat. 7am to 9pm. 72838 Bluewater Highway, St Joseph, Phone: 519-236-4532.

THE RECYCLER: Funky Furniture and art made from discarded bicycle parts. Each piece is hand crafted into surprising forms that are sometimes functional and sometimes just for fun. Created by artist, Gilbert VandenHeuvel located just outside of Goderich. To schedule a visit, contact us at: gilbert@therecycler.ca or 519-524-0797. To see over 60 designs visit our website: www.therecycler.ca

OTHER CYCLING WEBSITES:

www.bikeontours.on.ca www.ontariocycling.org
www.canadiancycling.com www.ontariotrails.on.ca
www.cyclecanada.com www.randonneursontario.ca
www.cyclingcanada.ca www.safecycling.ca
www.ontariobybike.ca

GROUP RIDES

Weekly from:

- Grand Bend on Mondays
- Bayfield on Wednesdays
- Clinton on Thursdays
- Goderich on Sunday mornings

For more details see: www.outsideprojects.ca

OFF ROAD TRAILS / GRAVEL ROADS

Huron County has an above average number of secondary gravel roads and trails which are easy for all-terrain cycling. The Falls Reserve and Point Farms Provincial Park, north of Goderich, and the Hullett Wildlife Area, north east of Clinton, are three examples of such areas.

WALTON RACEWAY BICYCLE TRAILS: In 2014 Walton raceway is developing bicycle trails and also hosting fundraising events such as the "Wheels of Hope Mountain Bike Challenge" to benefit the Canadian Cancer Society. For more information visit: www.waltonraceway.ca

THE GODERICH TO AUBURN RAIL TRAIL (G.A.R.T) offers an excellent off road cycling experience. In the northern part of the County, cyclists can enjoy off roading on the Wingham Community Trail and converted Canadian Pacific Railway pedestrian bridge.

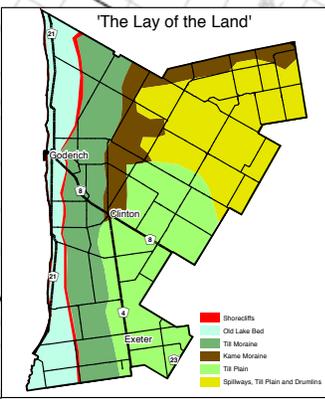
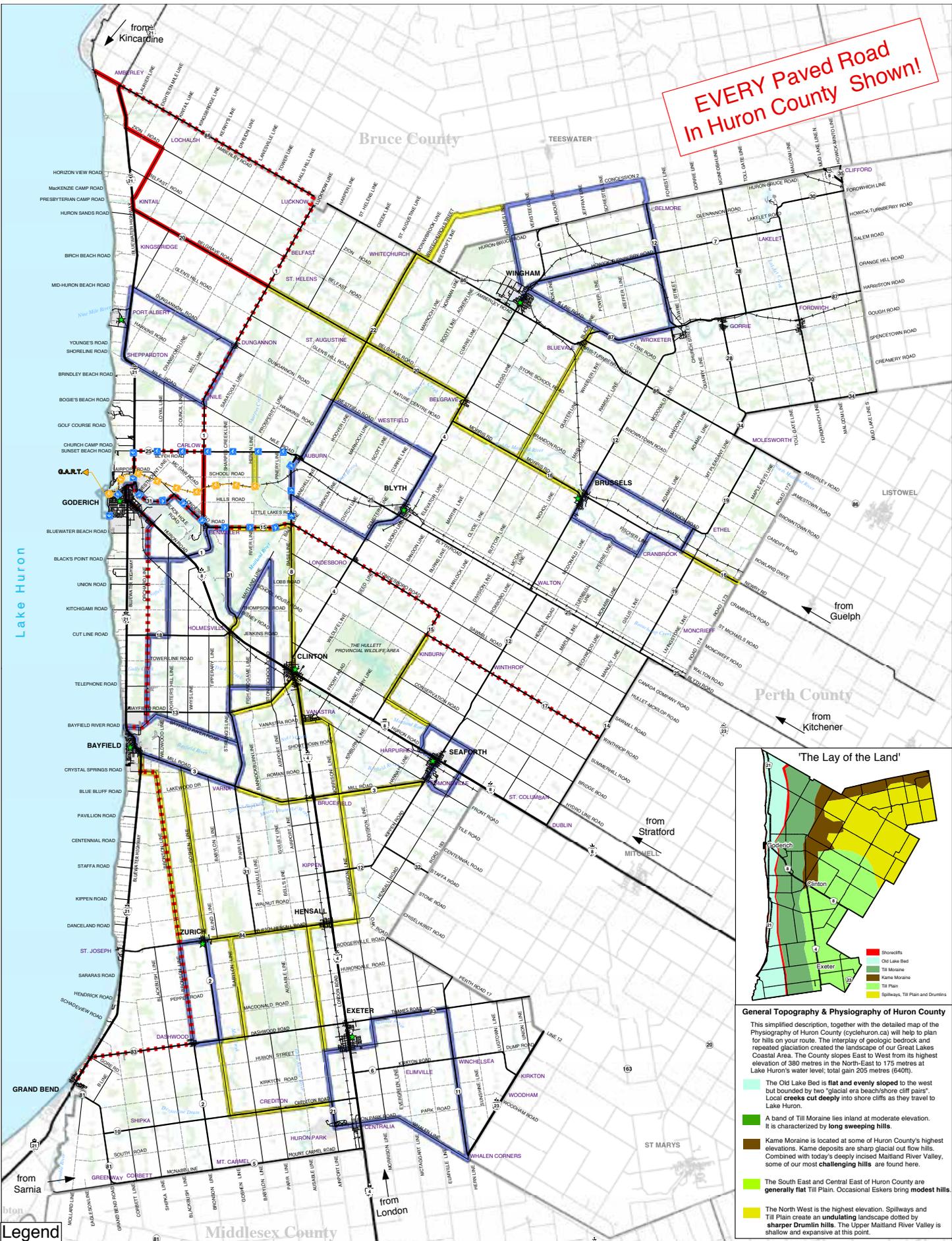
Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (GART)
Length: 12 km / 7.5 miles of level terrain.
Surface: Railbed, natural surface, stone dust.

The Goderich to Auburn Trail, on the abandoned Canadian Pacific Railway, offers cyclists an accessible and safe off-road experience. While on the Rail Trail, cyclists will enjoy the wildlife, trees, wildflowers, and spectacular views of the Maitland River mouth and post-glacial kettle lakes.

Access at the west end of G.A.R.T. can be made at the Goderich Beach (behind the elevators); or at the Menesetung Bridge (wood plank surface) on North Harbour Road in Goderich; or at the east end of G.A.R.T., turn south off County Road #25 at the second sideroad west of Auburn (Heron Line). Other access points are available where the G.A.R.T. intersects with municipal roads. Parking is available at the west end of the Trail. At the east end, the G.A.R.T. ends at the Maitland River. To access Auburn, cycle north on Heron Line to County Road #25 (Blyth Road), then go east for 3.5 km to Auburn.

The Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail links with the renowned Maitland Trail and the Tiger Dunlop Heritage Trail. The [Huron County Hiking Guide](#) is available by contacting the number or e-mail on the back panel of this brochure.

**EVERY Paved Road
In Huron County Shown!**



General Topography & Physiography of Huron County

This simplified description, together with the detailed map of the Physiography of Huron County (cyclehuron.ca) will help to plan for hills on your route. The interplay of geologic bedrock and repeated glaciation created the landscape of our Great Lakes Coastal Area. The County slopes East to West from its highest elevation of 380 metres in the North-East to 175 metres at Lake Huron's water level; total gain 205 metres (640ft).

- The Old Lake Bed is flat and evenly sloped to the west but bounded by two "glacial era beach/shore cliff pairs". Local creeks cut deeply into shore cliffs as they travel to Lake Huron.
- A band of Till Moraine lies inland at moderate elevation. It is characterized by long sweeping hills.
- Kame deposits are located at some of Huron County's highest elevations. Kame deposits are sharp glacial out flow hills. Combined with today's deeply incised Maitland River Valley, some of our most challenging hills are found here.
- The South East and Central East of Huron County are generally flat Till Plain. Occasional Eskers bring modest hills.
- The North West is the highest elevation. Spillways and Till Plain create an undulating landscape dotted by sharper Drumlin Hills. The Upper Maitland River Valley is shallow and expansive at this point.

Legend

- Railway
- Water
- Urban Areas

Huron County Roads

- Provincial Highway: Paved
- County Road: Paved
- Municipal Road: Paved
- Municipal & All Other Designations: Gravel

Paved Circuits & Connecting Links

- Goderich - Auburn Rail Trail (G.A.R.T.)
- Ontario Bicycling Route
- Ontario Bicycling Alternate Route
- Triathlon
- Start/Finish
- Circuit Routes
- Link Routes

* For descriptions of circuit routes, see reverse side.

1:180,000

0 1,875 3,750 7,500 11,250 15,000 Meters

Please Note: Shoulder widths and conditions on paved roads may vary. Vehicular traffic flows away from road to road and cyclists are encouraged to use recognized safety precautions. Provincial Highways and County Roads have high traffic volumes and speed. Cyclists are hereby advised that the cycling routes and public roads outlined in this publication are used at their own risk.

HURON COUNTY