REPORT TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FROM: Ron Belcourt
Director of Recreation, Parks and Properties

DATE: October 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Permanent Pilgrimage Route to the Martyrs’ Shrine

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- A request has been received from Simcoe County Trails to establish a permanent pilgrimage route to the Martyrs’ Shrine.
- Westerly Route: via Penetanguishene and Elmvale to Barrie
- Connect with southern Ontario where there are already pilgrimages that bring thousands to the Martyrs’ Shrine annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report from the Director of Recreation, Parks and Properties regarding a Permanent Pilgrimage Route to the Martyrs’ Shrine, dated October 21, 2013 be received; and

THAT the Township of Springwater supports the marking of the North Simcoe Rail Trail and Nine Mile Portage Recreational Trail as a permanent Pilgrimage Route to the Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland.

Background

This report is being generated because a request has been received from Simcoe County Trails to establish a permanent pilgrimage route to the Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland, Ontario.

Simcoe County Trails in association with Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland are working to create permanent pilgrimage routes similar to the Camino de Compostella in Spain which attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the world. At present they are envisioning two routes:

- Easterly Route: via Waubaushene, Coldwater and Orillia to Barrie
- Westerly Route: via Penetanguishene and Elmvale to Barrie
To date, the Town of Midland and Town of Penetanguishene have approved marking their trails as a permanent pilgrimage route to Martyrs’ Shrine.

Once established, it is hoped that other regions will also develop a permanent pilgrimage routes to connect with southern Ontario where there are already pilgrimages that bring thousands to the Martyrs’ Shrine annually.

Simcoe County Trails will maintain a $5 million liability insurance policy for the pilgrimage route which will name the Township as an additional insured. The cost of the signage and installation of the signs, as well as the on-going maintenance of the signs will be funded by the Simcoe County Trails.

**Budget Implications**

There are no budget implications with this report

**Guiding Principles**

The above initiative supports Council’s guiding principle of:

1. *Infrastructure, Financial Management & Service Delivery*

(X) Agreement Required

Submitted by: Ron Belcourt, Director of Recreation, Parks and Properties
Approved by: Robert Brindley, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
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