



The Ganaraska News

Linking all clubs of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

WINTER 2022 (January 1 to April 30, 2022)



Key Info for Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Members

Winter is here! Hike schedules to April 30 for most clubs are included in this newsletter. Enjoy the cooler weather, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and stay safe!

Please **renew your membership** for the 2022 hiking year (Jan – Dec) by using our online [membership form](#) or the printed membership form at the end of the newsletter.

Our Glorious Autumn Walks in the Woods Stimulate Body and Mind

By Klaus Beecker

The Bluff Trail in Awenda Provincial Park led us through a hardwood forest that numbered barely 60 years old, populated by second generation trees that succeeded the old growth white pines harvested by the Beck Lumber Company and succeeding enterprises until 1960. Those white pines counted up to 270 years in age, reached up to 75 metres tall and measured up to 2 metres in diameter, all shipped to England during the 1800's to furnish masts and beams for the Royal Navy. The new maples, beeches, oaks and ash now gift us the crimson reds, the yellows and greens during our Canadian autumns and shade the forest floor just enough to allow patches of wild leek to grow in the spring and give us an amazing taste sensation when turned into soup.

The bluff itself winds along the shore of Georgian Bay from Waubaushene to Tobermory and all the length of Lake Huron, reminding us that the post-glacial Lake Nipissing filled the land all the way to the top of the bluff some thousands of years ago and that the top of the bluff marks the original

shoreline. From the Bluff Trail, we see glimpses of the beaches below and of Methodist Point separating Beach 3 on the east and Beach 4 on the west.

During the early 1900's, a Beck sawmill operated on this point, processing the lumber cut from what is now Awenda Provincial Park. We wonder what gave the Point its name. Was it one of the first settlers by that name, was it the site of a Methodist settlement in the midst of a Catholic majority populace? If so, can you imagine the messages of fire and brimstone that rained on a very puzzled Wendat peoples? We can only guess and wander westward, where remnants of numerous Christmas tree plantations still dot the sand dunes stretching to the south and the west. Thunder Beach looms beyond the next westerly point. Wild raspberries and some blueberries dot the countryside, food for the birds and the bears. Be wary of hungry bears in the Fall, when they look for food to fatten up for the winter.

One of our favourite hikes takes us northwards from the end of Fairlane Lake to the Wendat Trail that circles Kettle Lake in Awenda Provincial Park. The Wendat settled here in small villages for centuries, finding fish in the lake and plenty of game in the surrounding forest. Settlers attempted to farm the dry and sandy land during the late 1800 and early 1900's but wisely gave up their subsistence living.

We can still see evidence of these heartbreaking attempts at Brabant Point. On the eastern shoreline trail, some old growth maples still survive, most likely because they were too small to cut during the last of the logging years and have now grown to their present size. Around the trail, on the western loop, the dock welcomes us each time for a "halfway" lunch and perhaps a drink or two to celebrate a birthday and for a rest and time to absorb the solitude of this land.

We walked the "Tracts", pieces of farmland reclaimed by Simcoe County, donated to the County or purchased from the previous owners, named after them, reforested and now managed by the County. The Hutchinson Tract, spread over the beautiful rolling hills of the Oro Moraine of the 7th Line of Oro Medonte surprised us on the trail with old-style stone foundations of a barn, a farmhouse and a root cellar covering the top of one of the hills and a fairly steep hill at that. Our pioneer ancestors had no tractors, no trucks, no front-end loaders, just strong backs, some horses and an ox if they were lucky and buckets of determination to clear the land and haul stones and timbers up those hills.



And on the way home, driving north on the 12th Line of Oro Medonte, the homestead of Sam Steele, he of the fledgling Northwest Mounted Police that marched westwards from Winnipeg during the Riel Rebellion and he that ensured law and order during the Klondike gold rush. We live in a fabulous corner of our land. The trails talk to us.

If you want to see a river rushing downhill over small rapids, flanked by steep banks and winding through gaps in the rolling countryside on its way to Georgian Bay, then join us for our Sturgeon River Forest hikes off Rosemount Road in Waubaushene. You will also see old logging roads and some art that is giving recognition to indigenous culture. The Sturgeon River imitates the Nottawasaga River in Wasaga Provincial Park, both gems and both memorable.

We have accessed the slopes of the south-eastern flank of the Wye Marsh from Subway Road and from the Old Fort Road area. The marsh used to be a lake that silted up with mud from erosion along the banks of the Wye River due to massive deforestation during the logging days. Now the valley serves as a significant and protected wetland. We observe the marsh from high up on the slope. Simple forest trails lead us to logging roads and an abandoned railway bed running the length of the valley.



On the other side of the valley, we walk at the edge of the marsh, towards the Trumpeter Swan monitoring station and if we are lucky, the swans will reward us with a mighty concert, wings flapping with stupendous honking. Wye Marsh volunteers monitor 30% of Ontario's trumpeter swan population. Walking the trails further upstream along the edge of the marsh, chickadees fly close. They have become accustomed to being fed and reward us by eating seeds out of our hand. We feel in touch with nature.

Then there is Tiny Marsh, fed from artesian wells, with its waters controlled by small dykes and sluice gates to ensure that the marsh maintains optimum water levels throughout the year. We can hear loons there at night if we are brave enough to walk the dykes by moonlight. We can see herons, ducks and geese keeping their distance from our spots on the dykes, to remind us that we are intruders, yet they are unable to understand that we are nevertheless helping them to survive. It feels good for us to know that we are helping.

We do break out of our Midland area to enjoy the 4,000 acre Copeland Forest in Oro-Medonte, the Ardagh Hills in Barrie, all of the many Simcoe County Forest tracts, the Port McNicoll rail trail to the Keewatin, thanks to our tireless Capo leader Frieda and her many lieutenants, Simone, Jochen, Kim, Marilyn, Marc, Larry, Edda, Sigi and all of you that have devoted your time lead us on our hikes. Kudos to you all, named or not named, you are keeping the link to nature and its history alive. Thanks to you all.

COVID-19 Protocol and Tips Effective [NOVEMBER 5, 2021](#)

- Participants in scheduled GHTA club hikes must be fully vaccinated.
- Carpooling can occur with 4 people max (incl. the driver) per car, wearing a mask (because of the indoor space and lack of social distancing), windows left cracked open. It is entirely the choice of drivers to allow 4 persons, or fewer if they are not comfortable with 4.
- We count on the honesty of our members with respect to their vaccination status. However, drivers who offer to shuttle participants in their private cars may ask passengers for proof of their vaccination status.
- During the hikes, public health measures continue including maintaining social distance and wearing masks when unable to do so.
- Individuals who do not feel well are asked not to participate in group hikes.

Supporting the Association

Did you know??? - that the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and can issue tax receipts for donations over \$25? You can easily add a donation when renewing your membership or use the same membership form to submit a donation at other times of the year. Or, you can mail a cheque to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc., P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7. Tax receipts are mailed to donors before February 28 the following year.

2022 EXECUTIVE

President: Frieda Baldwin
Secretary: Carol Strickland
Vice President: Sharon Striegl

Treasurer: Simone Latham
Trail and Landowners Relations Director:
John Sloan

2022 CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – Liz Erwin, Susan Lee, John Sloan
Kawartha – Fred Kooy, Tony Tasch, Robert Pope
Mad River – Sharon Striegl
Midland – Marc Vallee, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow
Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal
Oro-Medonte – Christine Cornu, Sue Benjafield, Wayne Lillico
Pine Ridge – Jay Sherwin, James Edwards, John Ambler
Wasaga Beach – Irene Bell, Rob Smith, Lorraine Van Vlymen
Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Neil Runnalls

2022 OFFICERS

Membership Director: Christine Cornu
Badge Officer: Jacquie Van Dyke
GHTA Archivist: Linda Blow
GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: Lorraine Van Vlymen
GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell
QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka

Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Charleyne Hall
Newsletter Editor: Heather Briant
Website: Rob Smith
Social Media Officer: Alana Boulay
Publicity Officer: Vacant
Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner

ASSOCIATION AND CLUB LINKS

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
[Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation)
[Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup)
Barrie: [Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAbarrie)
Mad River: [Facebook.com/GHTAmadriver](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAmadriver)
Midland: [Facebook.com/GHTAmidland](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAmidland)
Orillia: [Facebook.com/GHTAorillia](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAorillia)
Oro-Medonte: [Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte)
Pine Ridge: www.pineridgehikingclub.ca
[Facebook.com/GHTApineridge](https://www.facebook.com/GHTApineridge)
Wilderness: [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

President's Report

By Frieda Baldwin

Most Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association clubs have returned to organized group hikes, while keeping health regulations and Ganaraska protocols (such as fully vaccinated hikers only) in mind. Fingers crossed that we may be over the worst...

This fall, attendance on hikes has certainly ramped up, as have membership renewals and ... believe it or not... donations! We are so appreciative of any contributions, small or large, to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. Tax receipts for donations over \$25 are issued.

On November 17, 2021, the board of directors of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association held its semi-annual board meeting. Here is a bit of an update.

- The mapping committee is expecting to have the new “downloadable/printable” maps ready for launch any time now. The maps will be available free of charge from the website and replace our 2013 Guidebook.
- We have 2 new committees:
 - Risk Management Committee will be reviewing the GHTA's current Risk Management Manual and update it as necessary. This committee may also look into safety, signage, maintenance standards, etc. Their first meeting was held on December 16, 2021.
 - Indigenous Relations Committee will research and advise the board on actions (such as perhaps a Land Acknowledgement) to encourage awareness and education about the significance of Indigenous peoples in the history and culture of the land surrounding the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Their first meeting was held on December 7, 2021.
- The Wilderness Club, in partnership with the Queen Elisabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park staff, installed a floating bridge over Montgomery Creek, earlier this year, which seemed to have been a very welcome success. The bridge has been removed for the winter months to avoid damage from water or ice and will be reinstalled in the spring.
- Job vacancies: While the Publicity Director job remains open, I am happy to announce that Midland club member Mary Skinner has accepted the position of Training Coordinator. Also, we have received advance notice from our Trail & Landowner Director John Sloan that he wishes to resign from his role next spring. After some discussion, we have decided to split his role into 3 separate roles: 1. Trail/Landowner Relations, 2. Mapping Coordinator, 3 Signage Coordinator. Job descriptions have been prepared and are being circulated to our clubs for consideration by their members.

Here are also a few reminders for our members:

Volunteers who do trail maintenance on their club section, and travel more than 25 km one way, can claim reimbursement of mileage. Volunteers who take hiking related courses can also claim reimbursement, sometimes even up to 100%.

When renewing your membership, members acknowledge that they have read and abide by the Assumption of Risk/Waiver posted on our website. Non-members still need to sign a waiver (as we have done in the past) if they are participating in GHTA group hikes.

Hikers are reminded that any photos submitted to the GHTA for the newsletter or club galleries on the website are assumed to have given their consent to be in the picture. If they do not wish to be in the picture, they should remove themselves when group pictures are taken, or let the photographer know.

Have you checked out the What3Words app yet? It's a mobile device app that is great for giving directions for the meeting place of a hike, or in case of emergency. The OPP actually recommend it! Check it out! It also allows you to navigate to that location by using Waze or Google Maps.

And lastly, next spring, we will have to revisit our Bylaws, as expected of us in the new Not For Profit Act for Ontario. Any volunteers interested in helping GHTA or Hike Ontario with this project, please contact me at president@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org.

Enjoy winter hiking, snowshoeing and cross country ski season. Or maybe you are also into fat biking? It does not matter as long you come out and play!



Trail and Landowner Relations Director Report

By John Sloan, Director

Trail Director Report:

Updates to Ondago to show the new side trails in Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area are now released and ready to download. The Welcome message that is displayed on all maps when they are first opened has also been updated so you will want to update all maps you have downloaded to your mobile device to be sure you have the latest version. Ondago is also working on an application to allow us to go on their website and see trail map download activity anytime we want (the access will be for a limited number of people). This feature will also allow us to make some changes ourselves, such as future updates to the common Welcome message as mentioned above.

An order has been placed for a quantity of our logoed blazing markers (2"x6" and 5"x5") but we do not have a delivery date commitment. These will be made available to all clubs when we get them (in limited quantities) to help with our trail maintenance activity.



WE'RE READY! ARE YOU?

When you are ready to return to international hiking, the company you book with is now more important than ever.

Here's why we think you should travel with us:

- We are a small, family-run Canadian company that has been in the hiking business since 1986
- Small group sizes (15-20 guests)
- We personally lead/accompany every trip
- 70% of guests have travelled with us before!
- COVID safety protocols in place for all trips

Our 2022 hiking holidays have been filling up quickly and all that is missing is YOU!

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TICO #50023501 & #50023502

Our initial Risk Management Committee meeting was held on Thursday, December 16. Committee members include Frieda Baldwin, Bill Zeran, Fern Splichal and myself. Our scope and mandate, to be finalized, will be shared in a future newsletter.

Trail Guide Update Project Status:

We have reached an exciting milestone (at the time of writing this report in early December) on this project with a first release of maps from our cartographer being made available for review. All the trail descriptions to accompany the maps have been completed. While there might be some 'tuning' of the maps and trail descriptions still to be done, we are getting close to the completion of this project and our time and energy is shifting to designing how they will be stored and offered on our website.

Landowner Relations Director Report:

Our Wilderness Club leadership team has recently successfully completed discussions with the Black Lake Property Owners Association to formalize the agreement to use the BLPOA foot bridge on the Wilderness section Queen's Corridor trail.

CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

**By Liz Erwin, President and
John Sloan/Sue Lee, Directors**

This fall has been very active with scheduled hikes. It was wonderful to once again to be out with club members. Our hikes have been limited to 15 – 20 members and we certainly saw many members out on the trails. We have continued to schedule hikes on Sundays and Thursdays which are joint hikes with the Orillia club. We also managed to lead a few hikes on Tuesday evenings. Happily, we did manage to hike on the Bruce Trail in the Hockley Valley and the Blue Mountain sections. Thanks to Sue Lee, Director of the Barrie Club, for coordinating and inputting the schedules on the calendar.

As stated in a previous report, we did recruit new leaders and four have been involved in leading hikes. However, the leader recruitment is ongoing and we are continuing to recruit new leaders. Thanks to all the leaders who have continuously led hikes.

Our trail maintenance is also ongoing and there will be some changes made to a couple of trails to ensure safety for our member hikers. As we are now entering colder weather and snow, many of the trail projects will likely be dealt with when the snow recedes. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Dale Hannah, Jeff Haglund and John Sloan for their commitment and coordination in ensuring our trails are safe and maintained.

As we continue on our path back to more normalcy (which I do hope continues), I would like to thank all our members for continuing to support the club during this very trying time. And again, I would like to thank all the health care workers and essential workers, for their time and dedication to assisting in getting us through the last 21 months.



Kawartha

By Fred Kooy, President

First of all, we would like to wish everyone a happy and active holiday season.

We are very excited re: the winter and spring hiking season. Our hike co-ordinators have been very active and many members have volunteered to lead our regularly scheduled hikes. It's been a long time (COVID) since we have had our regular schedule of a weekday (Wednesdays) and a weekend hike each week. I would ask you to review the published schedule to find a broad diversity of hikes in rural as well as in urban areas. Together we will be exploring many of the beautiful trails of Peterborough and Victoria counties.

We do adhere to COVID policies to mitigate risk and will require pre- registration to join a hike. We will be limiting our numbers to 25 hikers per event. We welcome guests to come join us, but priority is given to club members. A detailed email will be sent out prior to the hike providing descriptions/level of difficulty and COVID screening directions.

We will continue to closely monitor COVID restrictions and adapt accordingly based on best advice from our local health unit and the GTHA executive.

Our social committee regrets we were unable to engage our traditional holiday socials due to ongoing COVID restrictions; we hope for better times ahead and look forward to further social gatherings/potluck as conditions improve in future.

We hope you will join us for fun, fellowship and great outdoor exercise during this beautiful winter and early spring seasons.




Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President

Wow! What a great fall we had. Couldn't complain about the weather and, at the Mad River club, we took advantage of that.

We ended the summer with more trail maintenance. Some of our trails needed another really good "haircut" to look great for the winter season and into next spring. The wetter trails always need some TLC. Happy trails, happy hikers.

Of course, couldn't do it without  my fantastic volunteers who came out with equipment in hand and ready to go. Gold stars all around for their help and hard work!

This year, we started bicycling later in the season and it was met with great success. Members enjoyed heading out doing many different trails and this will, for sure, be on the club "marquee" for next year. We also paired with the Midland club and had a few rides where members enjoyed a "refreshment" in some of the local establishments. Lots of fun!!!



We held our first hike leader meeting and potluck at Catherine's home where we put together our winter/spring hike schedule. The meal was delicious and we had a lot of fun with an excellent outcome of our schedule. This winter, we are excited to offer many very interesting hikes in and around this area.

This fall, and with the great weather, we were able to offer 2 hikes per week. Attendance has been great! Many of our trails run along farmer's fields where wild apple trees were loaded with

beautiful fruit and so, of course, knapsacks were being filled for all those potential apple pies and apple crisps that were going to be baked. The Glen Huron Apple Tour was well attended with a lunch break at the Mad River where the owners invited us to sit by the fire and, of course, a stop at the Giffens Market is always a must-do!

We hope to offer other fun winter activities as the season goes on for our members to enjoy. Happy snowshoeing/hiking everyone! See you on the trails.

Midland

Midland Ganaraska Hiking club members have increased during this COVID-19 pandemic to a total of 113 paid up members. Yahoo! (Maybe our new Hiking Shirts helped?) Hiking and outdoor companionship has truly added to these numbers. On some of our outings we had 20+ participants. Weekly emails notify the detail of our hikes. Sign Up registration on the “Team Up” app enables us to have a record for contact tracing and limit numbers of hikers, if parking is limited. Earlier this year, we had to limit group hikes to 5 people, but lately we sometimes had two separate groups of 20.

Wednesday Hikes are also very popular with many happy hikers enjoying our local areas. Thanks to our dedicated leaders who are planning interesting destinations. Locally, the most favourite destinations are the Thompson Forest, Awenda Provincial Park/Kettle Lake, Sturgeon River Forest Loop, Sunnyside Mountain Biking Trails, and the Keewatin Ship Harbour. Kim and Joe also took us to trails near Horseshoe Valley and Jochen lead some hikes in the Barrie/Midhurst area. Our biking and paddling outings will resume next spring. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions have stopped our many enjoyable Social get togethers. We miss that. Please get vaccinated and boosted, so we can again have fun all together!!

Edda Zeitel (Club Communicator)



A dedicated group of Midland Ganaraska Hiking Trail club members has embarked on doing End to End hikes of various sections of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. So far, the group has completed the Midland (14 km) Tiny (27km) and Oro Medonte (18 km) E2E sections and are currently working on the Barrie (50 km) section (or may have completed it by the time you read this!) Congratulations to all!

Save the date of January 16, 2022, when the Midland

Ganaraska Hiking Trail club has some business to take care of. Rumour has it that our club president Marc Vallee will be resigning after having been club president for close to 30 years! He was a very young fella then! Obviously, we are looking for a replacement. Any volunteers? We also hope to fill a number of other positions in the club and will also be offering a Safe Hiker Crash Course that day. All fully vaccinated members are welcome.

Frieda Baldwin (Hike leader and GHTA President)

After completing the maintenance on the Midland Ganaraska section and our new loop in the Tiny Marsh, one thing stands out. We have the best core of volunteers of any organization that I have ever been associated with. Thank you to all who have so diligently helped even during the hot summer months. But don't forget that I will come calling for your help again next spring. It will be fun! I promise!!

Larry Piitz (Trail Coordinator)

Again, many thanks to our volunteer leaders and organizers. We had a great Fall Hiking Season. Looking forward to more beautiful winter and particularly snowshoe outings. Life is good when you belong to the Midland Ganaraska Hiking Group!

Edda Zeitel

Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President

Our club has had a full season with a new 1 hour hike offered by Paul McCreath on Monday mornings. This appeals to anyone wanting to continue hiking but not feeling like the longer outings – great way to have a walk with some old friends – or new friends if you are new to the club and want to try out a walk. He continues with his regular Tuesday morning hikes, 2 hours, somewhere nearby, and some of the regular Tuesday hikers are starting to lead occasionally.

Otherwise our Saturday hikes have continued all season, 3.5 hours, and now are able to go a little further afield (like Bracebridge Resources Center, Awenda Provincial Park) as we are carpooling.

Hike leadership continues to challenge us, especially as health issues have struck a couple of our regular leaders. I am grateful to the leaders we have on board – some have been leading for years, some just starting up. Hopefully we will begin our Leader's Group hikes again in the winter term, so anyone interested in this should contact the President.

I look forward to hiking with the new members – stay tuned for a "new member" event. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas all – and happy winter hiking!





Oro-Medonte

By Christine Cornu, President

We have been blessed with a beautiful fall this year. Since we were once again able to post a hiking schedule, all the hikes have been well attended. People are so happy to be out walking through the forests, smelling the fresh air and watching the leaves turn colour and falling to the ground. Everyone is smiling and happy as we troop along the trails. When we can go for a hike we are content.

As I write this it is still fall and beautiful weather but by the time this newsletter is distributed Ontario will be a different place. White and cold but still so beautiful. I hope COVID will be under control and we can continue hiking, snowshoeing or skiing during these cold winter months. I hope too that Santa brought everyone warm mitts, boots, a hat, long underwear and a very warm snowsuit. You will need it. Just because there is a little snow on the ground is no reason not to come out to play.

I would like to thank our hike leaders and volunteers who have come out time and again to lead and/or maintain the trails for everyone to enjoy. And thank you to our hikers who make Ganaraska such a success. Be happy hike!



Pine Ridge

By Bill Zeran, President

Since September we have been having our regular hikes on every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. For the Winter months of January, February and March our hikes will be on Saturday and Sunday only. In April, we will continue with Wednesday's hike. One of our members has given us a CD on where our approximately 100 hike potentials are located in our area. This certainly helps us on where we will be attending our next hike.

Our normal hike leaders dropped off for the last 18 months but they are now starting to come out again to lead. Our AGM on December 4th was held virtually this year, hoping it will be the last virtual. We are missing our social gatherings. Our Hike Talks usually held the last week in March is still not decided if it will be in person or virtually. This will be decided closer to the date.



One of our Fall Hikes, lots of hills.



This is one of our recent hikes at the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. Such a beautiful property and a beautiful day for nature.

Wasaga Beach

By Irene Bell, President

Early fall saw the club carry out some trail maintenance on McIntyre Creek. The new bridge allowed us access to the original trail on the east

side of the creek and we finished some reblazing further along the trail.

Later in the fall a few of us took the Chi CheeMaun over to Manitoulin Island for a few days of really nice hiking on beaches and boardwalks as well as the famous Cup and Saucer Trail with its marvellous views over the island and the interesting Bridal Veil Falls Trail along the Kagawong River to Mudge Bay.



On a rainy Saturday in late fall, club members turned out for the town's Adopt a Road CleanUp from the trailhead on Veterans Way to the Sports Park at Klondike Road. Then to Tim Hortons for a well deserved hot chocolate after the cleanup.



Wilderness

By Rob Halupka – President

Fall was an active hiking season for the Wilderness Club. There's something about the cooler weather and the change in colours that seems to fire up the urge to put on hiking boots and hit the trails. Newly minted hike leaders Carolyn Humphreys and Laura Dailly launched an ambitious and successful series of hikes, with Tanya Cora stepping up to provide guiding support when Carolyn was laid up with a (what else?) hiking injury that needed time to heal. The "*Sunday Sister Saunter*" hikes started off with an introductory 2 km loop on the Fire Tower Trail but then built up to

an eight-hour 18 km circumnavigation of Sheldon Lake. Despite the name of the hike series, a few intrepid male hikers were undeterred and joined in the fun (taking a cue from Canadian novelist Patrick deWitt, perhaps they could be called The Sisters Brothers?).

On Oct 4th & 5th, Glynn Richardson organized and led a "cross-over" hike from Victoria Bridge to Devil's Lake ably assisted by Jacquie Van Dyke. The group of nine covered some 38 km over the two days, with overnight camping at the Loon Lake midpoint. This trip was especially significant for Wilderness Club member Erica Phillips as it was the final piece of the puzzle for her completing the "End-to-End" requirement for both the Wilderness section and the entire Ganaraska Trail. Well done, Erica!

With regards to the new floating bridge over Montgomery Creek, further improvements were made after the initial installation on Aug 26th when Ontario Parks staff returned to install extenders to the vertical support poles and to attach chicken wire to the walking surface for better traction. The bridge



was tested when the creek rose by one metre after a particularly heavy rainfall ... and we are delighted (and relieved) to report that it performed very well. By all accounts, the bridge has been a great success, with many hikers using it to access the western trails of the Ragged Rapids, Montgomery Creek and High Falls loops. Finally on Nov 5th, there was an excellent turnout of enthusiastic GHTA members who came to assist Parks staff in disassembling the bridge and dragging the segments onto the bank above the high water mark where it will be safe from ice and seasonal flooding over the winter season. The bridge will be put back into service in mid-May next year.



Also during the fall, Neil Runnalls and Glynn Richardson organized work parties into QEII to undertake much needed trail maintenance. In addition to the usual trimming back of the ever-encroaching vegetation, there was a significant amount of

blazing and re-blazing work, including marking side trails with blue paint, refreshing both white and blue blazes, and also some "blacking out" of errant and redundant blazes. Most of the reblazing from white to blue has been completed, the exception being the High Falls loop, which has been postponed until next year.

New Wilderness "End-to-End"

Effective Dec 1, 2021, the Wilderness "End-to-End" requirement has been redefined. E2E hikers must now complete the main **White** trail of the Wilderness section of the Ganaraska Trail that runs from Moore Falls at the eastern end to Sadowa at the western end for a total distance of about 57km. It had become increasingly obvious that we needed to simplify the standard and make it consistent with the other clubs by establishing one continuous trail without added-on loops such as we have had for the past few years. The three main segments comprising the White trail are now as follows:

- 1) Moore Falls to Petticoat Junction (via Scrabble Mountain): 12km;
- 2) Petticoat Junction to Victoria Bridge via the NE arm of the Montgomery Creek loop: 28km;
- 3) Victoria Bridge to Sadowa via Black River Road and Chisholm Trail: 17km.

Note that the first and third segments may also be completed on separate day hikes. For example, you could elect to hike the first segment by starting at Moore Falls, hiking to Petticoat Junction, then taking the Blue side trail to finish at the Devil's Lake trailhead (a car shuttle would bring you back to Moore Falls).

The second segment - the legendary "cross-over" hike - requires at least one night of camping, although it is true that some exceptionally fit and hardy individuals have completed the cross-over in a single long & arduous day...but we do not recommend it. Since the third segment runs along country roads, hikers may arrange a car shuttle to facilitate a day hike.

Please note that hikers who had already started their quest to fulfill the end-to-end requirement under the previous definition may still earn their badge without switching to the new requirement.



experience
The East Coast Trail
with
Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, to and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

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Email: brownrabbitcabins@gmail.com www.brownrabbit.nl.ca

The Ganaraska End-to-End Team

On Saturday, Nov. 27th, Wilderness Club Hike Leaders Dan Myall and Neil Runnalls led the first hike of the 2021/2022 Ganaraska End-to-End Series. The team started off in Port Hope and will complete the Pine Ridge Section of the trail in the coming weeks. In January the team will continue the trek with the Kawartha Section of the trail. The team welcomes new team members as we move on to each new section of the trail. Look for more information on the "End-to-End Series" on the main GHTA Hike Calendar, as well as in the GHTA Wilderness Club page on Facebook. For more information on upcoming hikes feel free to contact Neil Runnalls at neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com

WINTER 2022 HIKE SCHEDULES

Hiker's Code

- Respect private property
- Stay on the trail
- Cross fences using stiles
- Carry out all garbage
- Walk around the edge of fields
- Protect wildlife, trees and shrubs
- Never strip bark from trees
- When hiking on the trail on your own, keep dogs on a leash near farms and where required by law
- Dogs are NOT permitted on group hikes unless otherwise specified

This information is current as per January 1, 2022. Please check with the hike leader, or see the updated hike information on the Google Calendar, registration apps, or email information closer to the time of the planned hike.

All GHTA members are encouraged to take part in any of the hikes, regardless of which club they belong to. The club which is organizing the hike is listed under the date of that hike. Call the leader if the weather is at all questionable in case the outing has been cancelled. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring snacks/drink/lunch. In most cases, the hiking level is indicated as Easy, Moderate, Difficult and, on occasion, Challenging.

Important Notice: Unpaid volunteers conduct events.

Anyone participating in these events, or making use of the trail in any way, does so at their own risk. The Wilderness section should only be hiked with an approved Ganaraska Hiking Trail leader.

During the pandemic, event organizers and hike leaders are encouraged to have their hikers/participants provide contact information. Waivers must be signed by non-members before each hike; members sign a blanket waiver as part of their membership renewal.

BARRIE HIKES

We are continuing to schedule hikes on an ongoing basis for the winter months. Please check the GHTA website calendar regularly to see what hikes are scheduled. COVID-19 protocols will be in place on all hikes and hikers must pre-register for hikes.

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

- Wednesday hikes are 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km and usually rated as easy or moderate.
- Weekend hikes are 3-4 hrs/10-12 km and usually rated as moderate or moderate plus - **please gauge your capabilities.**
- Registration by phone or email is required.
- Participation is limited to 25 hikers unless otherwise noted; where hiker numbers are limited, KHC member registrations will receive priority.
- Hikers must be fully vaccinated as per GHTA.

- Hikers may carpool as per GHTA.
- Hikers to bring hiking gear for winter conditions, snacks/lunch and water as desired and appropriate.
- Occasionally hikes are cancelled or locations change, so check your email or contact the hike leader.

Back-up contacts are:

Wednesday Hikes: Janice 705-874-0194

Weekend/Thursday Hikes: Richard 705-750-1040

Wednesday, January 5 (EASY) 6-7 km

Hetherington Woods

10am: Meet at the corner of University Heights Blvd. and Hetherington Drive. We will walk through the woods along the hydro right of way and do a loop of the trails behind Giant Tiger.

Contact: Sharleen 705-243-1265

Saturday, January 8 (MODERATE+) 12 km

Hogsback Trail and Windy Ridge Conservation Area

10am: Meet at 1115 Mount Horeb Rd, Omemee. Hike the scenic Hogsback ridge and the Windy River forest trails. Breakout at 8 km if desired.

Contact: George 705-927-2924

Wednesday, January 12 (EASY) 6-7 km

Fairburn Road (North of the City)

10am: Meet at the end of Edmison Rd (Go north on Fairburn St to the end and turn left onto Edmison Rd). Depending on conditions, walk or snowshoe the road allowance.

Contact: Janice 705-874-0194

Saturday, January 15 (MODERATE) 10 km

Stony Lake Trails

10am: Meet at 105 Reids Rd., Woodview, ON. Hike trails through forests and meadows. Breakout after 7 km if desired.

Contact: Barb R. 705-760-1974

Wednesday, January 19 (MODERATE) 6-7 km

John Earle Chase Memorial Forest

10 am: Meet at the parking area on Anchor Bay Road about 600m from Lakehurst Road. Hike the trails in rolling topography with some amazing views of Gannon's Narrows and Pigeon Lake. **Contact:** Barb 705-760-1974

Saturday, January 22 (MODERATE+) 12 km

Peterborough Crown Game Preserve

10am: Meet on left (west) side of County Rd 6 about 2 km north of Northey's Bay Rd. Hike scenic wilderness trails through the forest.

Contact: Nick 705-243-1265

Wednesday, January 26 (EASY) 6 km

Bridgenorth Village

10am: Meet in the parking lot for the Chemong Lake Lions Park on the west side of Chemong Rd. just before the village. Walk the roads and pathways through the village.

Contact: Sharon 905-304-1961

Saturday, January 29 (MODERATE) 8 km

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area

10am: Meet at the gate. Hike through the forests of the Limestone Plains Trails.

Contact: Mark 705-874-2133

Wednesday, February 2 (EASY) 6-7 km

Rotary Greenway Trail

10am: Meet at the Rotary Greenway Trail on Auburn Street just north of Parkhill Rd. Walk the trail toward Trent University and back.

Contact: Betty 705-875-2300

Saturday, February 5 (MODERATE) 8 km

Peter's Woods Provincial Park

10am: Meet at McDonald Rd and Caradoc Rd. Hike forest trails and unopened road allowance.

Contact: George 705-927-2924

Wednesday, February 9 (EASY) 6-7 km

Explore The Avenues

10am: Meet in the parking lot at Jackson Park (off Monaghan Rd). Walk city streets through the old west end of Peterborough.

Contact: Barbara 705-957-1825

Saturday, February 12 (MODERATE) 10-12km

Ken Reid Conservation Area

10am: Meet at 277 Kenrei Rd, Lindsay. Hike the diverse forest trails with scenic views and meadows. Breakout at 6-8 km if desired.

Contact: Ken 705-745-9043

Wednesday, February 16 (EASY) 6-7 km

South End Walk

10am: Meet at Lansdowne Place near the southeast entrance of the mall. Walk the side streets of the south end.

Contact: Ken 705-745-9043

Saturday, February 19 (MODERATE) 8 km

Harold Town Conservation Area

10am: Meet at the HTCA parking area on Old Norwood Rd. Hike the mountain biking trails over and around the drumlin.

Contact: Fred 705-559-6436

Wednesday, February 23 (EASY/MOD) 7.5 km

Trent University (Lady Eaton) Drumlin

10am: Meet at the north end of Armour Rd at Nassau Bridge (parking lot by The Cabin). Walk scenic nature trails and enjoy panoramic views from the top of the Lady Eaton Drumlin.

Contact: Fred 705-559-6436

Sunday, February 27 (MODERATE+) 9 km

Woodland Trails

Northumberland County Forest

10am: Meet at the Woodland Trails parking area on the east side of County Rd 45 south of County Rd # 9. Hike the forested hills. Breakout at 7.5 km if desired. Option for an additional 3 km loop at the end for a total of 12 km.

Contact: Nick 705-243-1265

Wednesday, March 2 (EASY) 6-7 km

Little Lake Circuit

10am: Meet at Roger's Cove. Hike the sidewalks and trails around Little Lake.

Contact: Marjorie 705-761-8895

Saturday, March 5 (MODERATE) 14 km

Ganaraska Hiking Trail - KHC Leg #1

10am: Meet where the Trans Canada Trail crosses Crosswind Road. Walk the trail out 7 km and back. Second half to be scheduled in spring.

Contact: Richard 705-750-1040

Wednesday, March 9 (MODERATE) 6-7 km

Jackson Creek Side Trails

10am: Meet in the Jackson Park parking lot (off Monaghan Rd). Enjoy a picturesque walk on the many side trails along Jackson Creek.

Contact: Janice 705-874-0194

Saturday, March 12 (MODERATE) 12 km

Long Sault Conservation Area

10am: Meet at 9293 Woodley Rd, Bowmanville. Hike several trail loops through forests and hills. Breakout at 7-8 km if desired.

Contact: Fred 705-559-6436

Wednesday, March 16 (EASY/MOD) 6 km

Trent Wildlife Sanctuary

10am: Meet at the sanctuary parking lot on University Rd. Walk the many trails through the sanctuary.

Contact: Stephen 705-749-6292

Saturday, March 19 (MODERATE+) 10-12 km

Petroglyphs Provincial Park

10am: Meet at the park gate. Hike park roads and wilderness trails. Parking is limited.

Contact: Nick 705-243-1265

Wednesday, March 23 (EASY) 6-7 km

Historical Walk in East City

10am: Meet at Roger's Cove. Walk the streets of East City with a few stops for historical commentary.

Contact: Ken 705-745-9043

Sunday, March 27 (MODERATE) 12 km

Goodrich-Loomis CA

10am: Meet at 1091-1345 Pinewood School Rd, Codrington. Hike the diverse forest trails along Cold Creek. Breakout at 10 km if desired.

Contact: George 705-927-2924

Wednesday, March 30 (EASY) 5-6 km

Sir Sandford Fleming Trails

10am: Meet at the Wellness Centre Parking Lot (near the ball diamonds). Walk through the grounds and forest area.

Contact: Barbara 705-957-1825

Saturday, April 2 (MODERATE) 12 km

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area

10am: Meet at 4560 Devitt's Rd, Nestleton Station. Hike forest trails with scenic views.

Contact: Janice 705-874-0194

Wednesday, April 6 (EASY) 8 km

Orange Corners /Trestle Bridge

10am: Meet in the parking area on Orange Corners Rd. 100 metres north of Cottingham Rd (or south from Lindsay Rd). Walk the rail trail and enjoy panoramic views from Doube's Trestle Bridge.

Contact: Fred 705-559-6436

Saturday, April 9 (MODERATE+) 12 km

Ferris Provincial Park

10am: Meet at 227 Saskatoon Ave., Campbellford. Hike forest trails and park roads. Includes the Ranney Gorge Suspension Bridge.

Contact: George 705-927-2924

Wednesday, April 13 (EASY) 6 km

Lakefield Trail

10am: Meet at 10:00am at Lakefield Trail and Douro 9th Line. Walk the Lakefield Trail and country roads.

Contact: Richard 705-750-1040

Thursday, April 14 (MODERATE) 10 km

Orono Crown Lands

10am: Meet at the parking lot at Ochonski Road 1.5 km south of Taunton Rd. Hike forest trails.

Contact: Nick 705-243-1265

Wednesday, April 20 (EASY)

Earth Day Clean Up

Details will be provided closer to the event

Sunday, April 24 (MODERATE+) 12 km

Fleetwood Conservation Area

10am: Meet at the west end of Solanum Way west of County Rd #32 (Porter Rd). Hike forest trails and unopened road allowance. Breakout at 8 km if desired.

Contact: Janice 705-874-0194

Wednesday, April 27 (EASY) 6-7 km

Lakefield Area

10am: Meet behind the Lakefield Arena.

Walk trails and roadsides of the town.

Contact: Karin 705-657-8056

Saturday, April 30 (MODERATE+) 13 km

Mount Pleasant West Loop

10am: Hike country roads, unopened road allowance and part of the Hogsback Trail.

Contact: Richard 705-750-1040

Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May or June: Date and details to be confirmed.

MAD RIVER HIKES

ALL HIKERS MUST PRE-REGISTER WITH HIKE LEADER.

In the event that a hike is to be cancelled due to inclement weather, those registered will be contacted by the hike leader prior to 8 a.m. on the day of the hike.

We also ask that hikers wear appropriate footwear for all hikes; ie: snowshoes, crampons (icers) as conditions dictate. Poles are also recommended for more difficult hikes.

For any additional hikes/updates and current information, please refer to the Google Calendar on the Ganaraska website.

Sunday January 9th - 10:00 a.m. New Lowell Conservation Cty Forest

This hike will take us through the campground into a forested area following the New Lowell pond and Coates Creek. We will then snowshoe through the county forest looping around back to our cars.

Pace: Easy. 2-2 1/2 hours

Meet: 2944 Hogback Rd. New Lowell
CONTACT: Sharon Striegl. 705-351-1571

Thursday, January 13th – 10:00 a.m. - Kolapore – Metcalf Rock

Metcalf Rock has some of the most beautiful views in the area. Enjoy the views from the top of the rocks, which look out across the Mitchel Creek Valley, and its complex rock and crevice trail system. It is a popular spot for hikes and caving.

Bring a snack or lunch and water.

Moderate – 8.5 km

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

[Kolapore Uplands Parking Lot - Google Maps](#)

Saturday, January 15th - 10:00 a.m. GLENCAIRN WOODLOT OUTING

Every third Saturday in January, we have invited those who like to C.C. Ski, Sno-Shoe, or hike at this 100 acre woodland, located 9km south of Glencairn on 2nd. Line of Tosorontio - fire route number 6936. The 2nd line dead ends at the 17th. Sideroad running east and west.

Two years ago, we followed forest management advice to do some thinning to promote regeneration. Our 6 km of trails are open, but with many stumps and brush piles. Logging in the 1890's was a major activity in this region, with a historic Rail Trail running logs down to Tioga. Many thousands of acres of Simcoe and Dufferin County Forests border the Laking fence line to the south and west of the back gate. A warm cabin and an outdoor fire place offers nice lunch areas. There are two decent outdoor privies for your comfort. (In Sask. National Parks, they are actually called "comfort stations").

Park near the entrance gate or up on the 2nd.Line. (DO NOT PARK ON THE 17th Sideroad - a 90 degree turn and an unfriendly homeowner!

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl 705-351-1571. Hosts are Jim Laking and his daughter (Lana (Mrs. Don) Johnson).

January 16th - 10:00 a.m.- Bibbulmun Friendship Trail

Pace: Medium - 3 to 4 km/hr

Terrain: Moderate - Some hills and/or some poor footing

Distance: 7 km

Description: We will park at 1st Line E in the Dufferin Hi-Land section.

The 7km figure eight hike will follow the BTC white blazed trail , looping back to the parking lot via the Oliver Creek Side Trail and the Moss Haven Side Trail.

Bring a lunch/snack and water.

CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil 647-203-7565

Driving directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/1rVb7pMsJD5uuT8QA>

January 20th - 10:00 a.m. - Glen Huron to Devil's Glen

This hike begins in the village of Glen Huron and travels up towards the Devils Glen ski resort where we then climb up the escarpment to the look-out and then returning back through the hills of Devils

Glen.

Pace: Moderate

Terrain: Some hills with poor footing.

Meeting Location: Station Street, Glen Huron beside Hamilton's Bros Lumber Yard.

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl: 705-351-1571

January 23rd - 10:00 a.m. - The Pretty River Valley and Standing Rock

The hike begins along the Pretty River and then we continue south on the Bruce Trail up to the Standing Rock Side Trail. We hike along Singhampton Side Trail to the Main Trail and then it's all downhill to the parking lot.

Terrain: Difficult

Distance: 12 km

Meeting Location: Snowmobile parking lot, Pretty River. 549949 Pretty River Road, Nottawa

CONTACT: David Little: 705-606-1077

Thursday, January 27th – 10:00 a.m. - Margaret Paul Side Trail

Lovely peaceful loop. Variation of terrain in the woods and fields.

After the hike, we could share a nice bowl of soup at the Ravenna Country Market.

Easy – 1 ½ - 2 hours

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Margaret+Paull+Side+Trail/@44.4868616,-80.3859587,15.08z/data=!4m8!1m2!2m1!1sbanks,+ontario,+4th+line%2F18th+sideroad!3m4!1s0x882a73cae8a6177b:0x26b813f5598fb5fa!8m2!3d44.4842079!4d-80.386063>

Sunday, January 30th - 10:00 a.m. Brentwood Cty Forest Loop

This hike will take us through a loop through the Simcoe Cty Forest where we will snowshoe through stands of large pine trees.

Meeting location: 6/7 Sideroad north of Sunnidale/Tosorontio Townline.

Pace: Moderate

Terrain: Easy

Distance: 2 - 3 hours.

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl. 705-351-1571

Thursday, February 3rd 10:00 a.m.- 9-Mile Portage to Fort Willow

This is an in and out hike along the 9-mile portage route to Fort Willow. From Fort Willow, we continue on the Ganaraska trail before returning.

Distance: 10 km

Terrain: Easy

Meeting Location: Parking lot on the west side of George Johnson and Seadon Roads.

CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Sunday, February 6th 10:00 a.m. - Wasaga Beach/Notty River

We will meet at the trail head and hike through the trails towards the Nottawasaga River where we will have great views of the oxbow. Lunch will be alongside the river with more great views.

Terrain: Easy with some hills.

Distance: 2-3 hours

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl - 705-351-1571

Thursday, February 10th – 10:00 a.m. - Nottawasaga Lookout

This nature reserve provides representative examples of Niagara Escarpment cliff and ravine habitats, including forested slopes and wetlands. Talus slopes and cave and crevice development are also present.

Bring a snack or lunch and water.

Easy – 2 ½ hours -

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

[Nottawasaga Lookout Provincial Nature Reserve - Google Maps](#)

Parking located at the junction of Osprey Clearview Townline and Grey Road 31

February 13th - 10:00 a.m. -Lavender Noisy River

Pace: Medium - 3 to 4 km/hr

Terrain: Moderate - Some hills and/or some poor footing

Distance: 13 km

Description: We will park at Lavender Cemetery roadside parking about 0.5 km east of Lavender Hill Rd on Mulmur-Nottawasaga TownLine. We will hike from the cemetery over to the start of the Blue Mountain section then up to County Rd 9 and back. This hike offers a variety of terrain, along crevices, through forest, fields and alongside the Noisy River and a beautiful wetland. Bring snacks or lunch

CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil. 647-203-7565

Driving directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/cT2FwFxBL4ga1qrk9>

Thursday, February 17th – 10:00 a.m. - Walters Falls

We will meet on the parking of the Walters Falls Inn. The 5 km loop snowshoe provides an interesting blend of the scenic and the historic along the river and surrounding woods. The second half of the 19th century saw the area develop into a thriving community, built around the waterpower of Walter Creek. At the start, take in the view of the Falls and valley from the observation platform, and then after completing the loop, quench your thirst and have lunch at the Inn.

Easy – 2 hours

CONTACT: Catherine Trembling – 416-655-2021

[Walters Falls Inn - Bing Maps](#)

Sunday, February 20th - The Pretty River Valley north to Look-Out

We park at the Snowmobilers parking lot on Side Road 33/34 Nottawasaga. We hike north on the main Bruce trail with some steep climbs and wonderful views from several look-outs. We return with loops

on Russ/McConnel and Pretty River side trails.

Distance: 10 km

Terrain: Moderate

Meeting Location: 549949 Pretty River Road, Nottawa

CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Thursday, February 24th - 10:00 a.m. Striegl Farm

This hike will take us snowshoeing in and around the farm with a side trail through the bush going up and around the old beaver dam. Time dependent, we will then head into the county forest and loop back.

Meeting Location: 9230 Webster Road, Glencairn

Distance: 2-3 hours.

Pace: Moderate

Terrain: Easy

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl 705-351-1571

Sunday, February 27th – 6:00 p.m. - Moonlight Hike -Loree Forest

****LATE START Time: 6:30 pm****

We will head to Loree Forest and proceed with a two-hour snowshoe hike by moonlight.

Leader and sweep will guide you with a headlamp through a beautiful moonlit forest loop.

After our hike, we could meet at Tim Horton's for a hot chocolate!

Leisurely - 5 km

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir//Loree+Forest+Loree+Forest,+729153+Side+Rd+21,+Clarksburg,+ON+N0H+1J0/@44.5102313,-80.3658756,14.17z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x882a73242c149e01:0x349613dafb2b1f6!2m2!1d-80.3741487!2d44.5130829>

Thursday, March 3rd - 10:00 a.m. Glen Huron Market Loop

This hike will start at the Glen Huron Country Market and follow the trail along the river, looping back around. Lunch will be at the camp ground with seating beside the river.

Pace: Leisurely 2-3 hours

Terrain: Easy

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl 705-351-1571

Sunday, March 6th – 10:00 a.m. - Bibbulmun Track Friendship Trail

In May 2016, a section of the Bruce Trail in the Dufferin Hi-Land was twinned with the Bibbulmun Track in Australia. Below is a map of the Bibbulmun Track Friendship Trail on the Bruce Trail. You'll also find it on our [Bruce Trail Reference Map 20](#).

Bring a snack or lunch and water.

Moderate – 8 km

CONTACT: Catherine Trembling – 416-655-2021

[10 Sideroad & 1st Line E - Google Maps](#)

Thursday, March 10th – 10:00 a.m. - Boyne Valley

We will park on the 1st Line E (km 20.6 of the Dufferin Highland section and commence a loop hike exploring the Boyne Valley Provincial Park.

This hike will combine white and blue blazed trails as well as featuring a great view from Murphy's Pinnacle, some steep ascents/descents, and a lovely river valley.

Bring snowshoes, poles and icers.

Bring a snack or lunch and water, or we could go to Rosemont General store afterwards for pizza, soup and/or sandwiches.

Moderate – 7 km

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Boyne+River+Natural+Science+School/@44.1151638,-80.1413402,13.06z/data=!4m15!1m9!4m8!1m0!1m6!1m2!1s0x882a57969b904cb9:0x4cacd1e74a8aba9e!2sboyne+valley+loop!2m2!1d-80.128901!2d44.111268!3m4!1s0x882a57f0c7f6cb53:0xbe00baa7aaf47664!8m2!3d44.1161134!4d-80.1107749>

Sunday, March 13th - 10:00 a.m. Duncan Loop

We will meet at the Metcalf Parking Lot: 415545 Tenth Line, Ravenna

This is a loop hike with lots of ups and downs and with fine views of Pinnacle Rock and Metcalf Rock.

Distance: 10 km

Terrain: Moderate

CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Thursday, March 17th - 10:00 a.m. Hockley Valley

Pace: Medium - 3 to 4 km/hr

Terrain: Moderate - Some hills and/or some poor footing, Strenuous - Hilly with steep climbs and some poor footing

Distance: 12 km

Description:

We will park in the parking lot east of Hockley Valley Rd. in the Caledon Hills section. Starting on the BTC white blazed trail we will climb and climb until we reach the north end of the Isabel East Side Trail. We will then begin our descent via the Isabel East Side Trail and the Tom East Side Trail before returning to the cars. Bring snacks or lunch.

CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil. 647-203-7565

Driving directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/jfTm5DsLkF3VqvHN6>

Sunday, March 20th - 10:00 a.m. Tiny Marsh

We will meet at the Tiny Marsh parking lot and hike along the trails into the marsh where we will

hopefully view many birds stopping in from their migrations.

This will be a leisurely hike with easy terrain.

Distance: 2-3 hours

Meeting location: 500 Tiny Flos Townline, Elmvale

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl 705-351-1571

Thursday, March 24th - 10:00 a.m. – Harrison Park - Inglis Falls

We will park in Harrison Park in Owen Sound and start hiking towards the spectacular Inglis Falls. On our way back, we will follow the Palisades Side Trail taking us back to Harrison Park. This is a beautiful hike with varied terrain. You can bring snacks and water or, you have the option of having lunch at the Harrison Park Inn Restaurant.

Moderate - 9-10km

CONTACT: Catherine Trembling – 416-655-2021

[Location Map](#)

Sunday, March 27th - 10:00 a.m. Glen Huron to Keyhole

This hike starts from the parking lot south of Hamilton Bros Feed Mill, Glen Huron. We hike the Mad River side-trail to the Ganaraska Cairn and then go south on the Bruce trail passing by several lookouts until we reach the keyhole. We return on the Hamilton Bros side trail before continuing down the hill to Glen Huron.

Distance: 10 km

Terrain: Moderate

CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Thursday, March 31st – 10:00 a.m. - Mono Cliffs

We will drive to Mono Cliffs village and park in the municipal lot behind the Mono Community Centre. This hike features varied terrain, some great views, and hilly sections. Footing is mainly good but rough in places. Poles may be helpful.

Bring a snack or lunch and water and/or we could have lunch at the Mono Cliffs Inn.

Moderate - 10 km

CONTACT: Rosemary Petrie (705) 293-4444

<https://www.google.com/maps/@44.0263878,-80.0740028,17z>

Sunday, April 3rd - 10:00 a.m. Old Second South

This hike starts on Old Second South Sideroad and travels through forests with a few small climbs looping around before heading back to the parking lot.

Moderate: 2-3 hours

Terrain: Easy with some hills

Meeting Location: Parking lot on Old 2nd South, Midhurst , before the railroad tracks.

CONTACT: Sharon Striegl. 705-351-1571

Thursday, April 7th – 10:00 a.m. – Dunedin Valley Nature Preserve

This area covers mixed terrain and provides a chance to experience a variety of habitats. The trail follows along the banks of a tributary of the Noisy River. After crossing Conc. 10, we proceed through some farmers fields to great views

Bring a snack or lunch and water.

Moderate - 12 km

CONTACT: Catherine Trembling - 416-655-2021

[Roadside parking of Bruce Trail](#)

Sunday, April 10th - 10:00 a.m. Glen Huron to Nottawasaga Bluffs and Keyhole

Pace: Medium - 3 to 4 km/hr

Terrain: Moderate - Some hills and/or some poor footing

Distance: 10 km

Description: We will park in Glen Huron near Station St and begin hiking west on the Ganaraska Trail to meet up with the BTC white blazed trail ,from here we head south heading towards the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area. After exploring the Keyhole Side Trail, we will loop around and back to the cars via the white blazed trail and the Betty Carter Side Trail.

Bring a snack or lunch.

CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil. 647-203-7565

Parking: Concession 8 South and Station St.

Driving directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/KS6LwSYdmEh98eUM6>.

Thursday, April 14th 10:00 a.m. - Monument Hill, Wasaga Beach

This is a loop hike with several short steep climbs over the Cranberry cross-country ski trails.

Distance: 9 km

Terrain: Moderate

Parking: 2300 Klondike Park Road, Wasaga Beach

CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Sunday, April 28th - 10:00 a.m. - Pretty River – John Haigh Side Trail

We will drive to the junction of the 2nd Line and the 6th Sideroad, then commence a loop hike through the upper level of the Pretty River Valley Provincial Park. Following the John Haigh side trail, we will snowshoe south to join the white blazed trail.

Bring water and a snack.

Easy - 6km

CONTACT: Catherine Trembling – 416-655-2021

[3 STAGE TRAILS - Google Maps](#)

MIDLAND HIKES

Midland Hikers usually meet at Mountainview Parking Lot, close to County Road 93, Midland, across the Food Basics Store. During this period, weekday hikes will be **Wednesday at 1pm**. For these weekday hikes or snowshoe outings we do not list destinations, as they are decided at random. These hikes are easy to moderate and usually 2 hours long.

Weekend meeting times vary, depending on destination. It is always recommended to contact hike leader for details or changes before the hike, especially alternate detail. Our weekly emails will also notify you of our activities.

Pre-Registration may still apply for some hikes. Only fully vaccinated hikers are invited. Social distancing and mask wearing (when not within 2 m separation or for carpooling) is still required.

Recreational Biking and Canoe/Kayak outings will start again in the spring depending on weather conditions.

SATURDAY January 1, 2022

Annual New Year's day hike/snowshoe

EASY

Meet at 1pm at Midland Food Basics.

Destination to be announced

Contact Marc: 705-527-1967

SUNDAY January 9, 2022

Bass Lake P.P./Langman Conservation 5-6 km.

MODERATE

Meet 12:45 pm at Midland Food Basics or 1:30 pm on line 15 Parking lot at Bass Lake

Parking fees of \$3 -4 apply per car

Contact Joe Davis: 705-279-1518

SATURDAY January 15, 2022

Cross country ski or snowshoe outing at the Laking woodlot.

EASY TO CHALLENGING

An annual winter highlight..Heated cabin and outdoor woodstove for lunch stop and breaks. Suitable for families. Marked trails for cross country skiing. Bring a lunch.

Meet at 8:45 AM at Midland Food Basics, or at 10 AM at the Laking woodlot in Lisle. Details to follow.

Contact Jim Laking 705-722-0512 or Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005 (R) or 705-937-1005 (Cell)

SUNDAY January 16, 2022

Midland GANARASKA Hiking Trail Club Get Together

We will be holding a short business meeting, as well as a Safe Hiker Crash Course, and a snowshoe outing. Meet at 10:30 pm at the Tiny Community Centre. Bring your own lunch and drink. Refreshments will not be served. More detail to come

Contact: Marc 705- 527-1967

SUNDAY January 23, 2022

MODERATE TO CHALLENGING

Ganaraska Hiking Trail: Barrie section (Old Second South to Gill road)

7 km snowshoe hike through lots of valleys and through beautiful county forests.

Meet at 9 am at Midland Food Basics,

or 9:30 on Gill Road/Midhurst at the entrance to the Tiffin Tract

Contact: Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

SATURDAY January 29, 2022

EASY TO MODERATE

Six Mile Lake Provincial Park hike/snowshoe

1pm at Midland Food Basics or 1:30 pm at the Prov Park entrance in Port Severn

Contact: Frieda 705-245-1005

SUNDAY January 30, 2022

EASY

Hike/Snowshoe: Sturgeon River Loop (Rosemount Rd. Waubauskene)

Meet at 1 pm at Midland Food Basics or at Rosemount Rd & hwy 12 at 1:15 pm

Easy 2 hour hike

Contact: Sigi 705-427-6676

SUNDAY February 6, 2022

MODERATE TO CHALLENGING

Moonstone Area Forest Tract 4-5 km

Exact location to be announced

Meet at Midland Food Basics 12:30 pm or at destination at 1 pm

Contact: Kim: 705-327-2033 or 705-828-2033

SUNDAY February 13, 2022

EASY TO MODERATE

Midhurst hike (MNR land behind Simcoe County Admin office)

Meet at 12:15 pm at Midland Food Basics, or 1 pm at the County Admin office on hwy 26, at gazebo 2.

Contact: Jochen 705-728-4359

SATURDAY February 19, 2022

Snowshoe at Copeland Forest

EASY TO MODERATE

9 am at Midland Food Basics or 9:45 am on Ingram Road in the parking lot east of the 4th line of Oro Medonte. Approx.3 hour snowshoe hike. Bring lunch and water

Contact: Frieda 705-245-1005

SUNDAY February 20, 2022

WYE MARSH Area/Ron Jones Rd.

EASY TO MODERATE

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 1 pm.

Contact: Simone 705-209-2526

SUNDAY February 27, 2022

EASY TO MODERATE

Hike/Snowshoe: Cedar Point Forest

Lafontaine area/18th Conc.

Meet at 1 pm at Midland Food Basics, or 1:25 pm in Laurin, Tiny Twp,

at the corner of Cedar Point Road, and 18th Conc. West in Tiny. Contact: Frieda: 705-245-1005

SUNDAY March 6, 2022

MODERATE +

Wyevale Area Farm.

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 12:45pm.

Or 220 Tiny Conc.6 West at 1pm.

Contact: Kim 705-327-2033 or 705-828-2033

SATURDAY March 12, 2022

Hike/Snowshoe around Keewatin Ship Harbour

EASY

Meet at 1 pm at Midland Food Basics or 1:15 pm in Port McNicoll at the Keewatin.

Contact: Edda 705-427-3460

SUNDAY March 20, 2022

EASY

Beach Hike at Stotts Park Tiny Conc. 8

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 1pm.

Contact : Janet 705-527-1967

SUNDAY March 27, 2022

Ardagh Bluffs (Barrie)

Hilly, 6 km. Meet at 1 pm at Midland Food Basics, or 2 pm at the Holly Community Centre, 171 Mapleton Road, Barrie.

Contact: Frieda 705-245-1005

SUNDAY April 3, 2022

EASY

Maurice Woods (Conc. 13 Tiny)

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 1pm

Contact: Klaus 705-533-9900 or Sigi 705-427-6676

SUNDAY April 10, 2022

EASY TO MODERATE

Wright Tract (Orr Lake Area)

Conc. 10. 6-7 km

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 1pm.

Contact Simone: 705-209-2526

Sunday April 17, 2022 (Easter)

Methodist Point hike

MODERATE

Hilly hike on the bluffs overlooking Georgian Bay & Giant's Tomb.

Meet at 1 pm at Midland Food Basics, or 1:30 pm at the top of Methodist Point Road (Tiny).

Contact: Frieda 705-245-1005

Sunday April 24, 2022

MODERATE

Blueberry Plains P.P. Wasaga

Meet at Midland Food Basics at 10 am. Bring Lunch

Contact: Marc 705-527-1967

ORILLIA HIKES

Our usual meeting place is Willow Court Plaza, located at West St. S. and Hwy 12 S. We meet, carpool and leave cars at the far end beyond The Learning Centre. Another common meeting place is Orillia Square Mall, parking in the side lot of Dollar Tree. Frequently, alternate meeting places are offered closer to the trailhead. Notify the hike leader where you plan to meet. Most hikes are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. See the listings for details. Please arrive a few minutes before the time stated. For more information, contact Isabelle at 705-326-8082. Happy hiking! And CHECK THE GOOGLE CALENDAR FOR UPDATES FOR CURRENT LISTINGS, AS WELL AS NEW LISTINGS!

NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION WITH THE HIKE LEADER IS REQUIRED FOR EVERY HIKE THIS WINTER. All hikers must be fully vaccinated. Leaders may limit the number of participants; Ganaraska Hiking Club members will be given preference. **COVID protocols** will be in place: maintain social distance (6 feet), wear masks when distancing is not possible, step 6 feet off the trail when passing/meeting others, carpool with a maximum of 4 non-household persons per vehicle (wearing masks, windows cracked open), and **please stay home if you have symptoms of illness**. Drivers may ask passengers for proof of vaccination status.

Pre-registration must be done by the night before the hike. Provide your full name, phone number, and emergency contact in any message you leave for the hike leader.

Additional Hikes and Updates—Refer to the Google Calendar on the Ganaraska website for current information.

EVERY MONDAY <EASY> 1 hr

Local Snowshoe or Hike

9:00 am (usually): Meet at Willow Court.

Maximum two groups of 10 hikers each.

Must pre-register: Paul 705-325-6001

EVERY TUESDAY <EASY to MODERATE> 2 hr

Local Snowshoe or Hike

9:00 am (usually): Meet at Willow Court.

Expect some hills on most hikes. Maximum two groups of 10 hikers each.

Must pre-register: Paul 705-325-6001

Thursday, January 6 <MODERATE> 3.5 hr

Copeland Forest - Snowshoe/Hike with Icers

10:00 am: Meet at P2 of Copeland Forest off Ingram Road

Follow many of the forest tracks through these iconic woods, with a few hills, for 8 – 10 km. Bring lunch. Maximum 15 hikers.

Must pre-register: Carol – phone 705-325-1065

Saturday, January 8 <MODERATE> 7 km

Simcoe County Forest - Snowshoe / Hike with Icers

10:00 am: Meet at Old Second South parking lot.

Follow the Ganaraska Trail for 4 hours, with a few climbs and crossings. Bring **snowshoes and icers**, poles, lunch and water. Maximum 15 hikers.

Must pre-register: Tito, text 416-624-0133

Thursday, January 13 <EASY> 6 – 8 km

Simcoe Country Forest N. Strachan and Oro Tracts

10:00 am: Meet at “Hydro line” parking lot on south side of Bass Lake Side Road East, between Lines 8 and 7.

Snowshoe or hike on icers along Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club’s trails through these forest tracts. Bring lunch.

Must pre-register: Leslie – phone or text 705-790-3598.

Saturday, January 15 <MODERATE>

Awenda Provincial Park - Cross-Country Ski

9:00 am: Meet at Willow Court –**OR– 10:00 am:** Meet at Awenda pay station.

A stop at Tim Hortons on Hwy 93 could also be arranged for 9:45 am. Cross-country ski on Awenda trails—count on a full day. A fire will be lit in the cabin before we leave to ski a 2-hour loop in the morning. After lunch in the heated cabin, we’ll complete the trails. There is a per-vehicle park fee. Carpooling can be arranged.

Must pre-register: Isobel 705-325-6578

Saturday, January 22 <EASY> 2–2.5 hr

Slessor Tract - Snowshoe

10:00 am: Meet in the municipal lot on Division Road.

Snowshoe through these lovely woods on fairly flat terrain, close to Orillia.

Must pre-register: Isabelle 705-326-8082

Saturday, January 29 <EASY-MODERATE> 3 – 3.5 hr

Jarratt Mountain - Snowshoe

10:00 am: Meet at the foot of “Jarratt Mountain” – i.e. the end of Line 9 south of Horseshoe Valley Road. Snowshoe in mostly forested area with a couple of steep hills, otherwise flat to rolling terrain. Poles an asset to help push up the hills. Bring lunch. Consider carpooling as parking will be limited to a few spots plus roadside. Always good to have icers in car in case the conditions favour icers. Maximum 15 hikers.

Must pre-register: phone Carol 705-325 -1065

Saturday, February 5 <MODERATE to CHALLENGING> 7 km

Cooper’s Falls Trans Canada Trail - Snowshoe / Hike with Icers

10:00 am: Meet at 1400 Cooper’s Falls Road.

There’s a short walk along the road to the trailhead; wear a reflective vest if you prefer. Snowshoe or hike with icers for 4 hours. Bring **snowshoes and icers**, poles, lunch and water. Maximum 15 hikers.

Must pre-register: Tito, text 416-624-0133

Saturday, February 12 <MODERATE>

Bracebridge Resource Management Centre - Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe

9:00 am: Meet at side parking lot of Dollar Tree at Orillia Square Mall **-OR-**

9:45 am: Meet at Bracebridge Resource Management Centre.

Cross-country ski or snowshoe through this lovely area by the Muskoka River. Plan on a full day. Bring lunch and water.

Must pre-register: (Ski) Isobel 705-325-6578 / (Snowshoe) Carol 705-325-1065

Saturday, February 19 <EASY>

Hardy Lake - Snowshoe

9:00 am: Meet at side parking lot of Dollar Tree at Orillia Square Mall **-OR- 9:45 am:** Meet at Hardy Lake PP parking lot approximately 16 km west of Gravenhurst off the north side of Hwy 169.

Snowshoe or hike on icers depending on conditions. Poles an asset. Hike for 3-4 hours approximately 8.5 km around the lake. Bring lunch.

Must pre-register: Leslie – phone or text 705-790-3598.

Saturday, February 26 <MODERATE> 4 hr

Limberlost Forest - Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe

9:00 am: Meet at side parking lot of Dollar Tree at Orillia Square Mall.

Skiing is on trails that are groomed but not track set. Snowshoeing is on hiking trails. Bring lunch and water and dress appropriately for the weather. Due to COVID restrictions, warm-up huts are closed. There are no fees for trail use. Maximum 12 people.

Must pre-register: Bob or Mary 705-330-5107 or 705-330-1904

Saturday, Mar. 5

Destination To Be Decided - Snowshoe

For particulars, check Google Calendar closer to the time, or contact Isobel: 705-325-6578

Saturday, Mar. 12

Destination To Be Decided - Snowshoe

For particulars, check Google Calendar closer to the time, or contact Carol: 705-325-1065

Saturday, Apr. 2 <EASY>

Orillia Rail Trail - Snowshoe/Icers depending on conditions.

10 am. Meet in the rail trail parking lot off James Street, behind Lot 88 Restaurant.

Hike for 2 – 3 hours. Choose a short or longer hike. Watch for early signs of spring in the farm fields and wetlands beside the trail. Bring a snack or lunch and water. Maximum 15 hikers.

Must pre-register: Fern – phone 705-325-2952

Saturday, April 9

Destination to be decided - Snowshoe/hike depending on conditions.

For particulars, check Google Calendar closer to the time, or contact Isobel: 705-325-6578

Saturday, April 16

Destination to be decided - Snowshoe/hike depending on conditions.

For particulars, check Google Calendar closer to the time, or contact Carol: 705-325-1065

Saturday, April 23 <MODERATE to DIFFICULT> 4.5–5 hr

Wilderness near Sheldon Lake

8:30 am: Meet at Willow Court.

Hike in the spring before the blackflies emerge. Hiking boots and poles required; bring lunch and water.

Maximum 12 hikers.

Must pre-register: Bob or Mary 705-330-5107 or 705-330-1904

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Anyone is welcome to join in on any of the following events. Please bring drinking water on all hikes; hiking boots and poles are recommended. Please contact the hike leader **no earlier** than one week before the hike.

COVID-19 precautions are still in place. We require all hikers to be fully vaccinated and to wear a mask while we are assembling for our hike and at the end of the hike before you head back to your car. We must maintain 2 meters separation during the hike. Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

Monday, January 3 EASY 3-4 hours

Penetanguishene Waterfront Trail

10:00 am Meet at the parking lot at Main St (Highway 93) and the waterfront.

See historic points of interest along the Penetanguishene water front. Bring a lunch and water.

Must contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Gerda 705-722-8568

Sunday, January 9

Timber Wolf EASY 2 hours

1:30 pm Meet on Timber Wolf Trail in Snow Valley to hike or snowshoe.

Must contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Sue 705-722-0395

Monday, January 17 MODERATE OR EASY 3-4 hours

Wasaga Nordic & Trail Centre (formerly Blueberry Plains Nordic Centre)

10:00 am Meet at 101 Blueberry Trail, Wasaga Beach. Ski or snowshoe in Wasaga Beach Provincial Park. Bring a lunch and water. There is a park fee.

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Pat 705-733-2078

Sunday, January 23 MODERATE 2 hours

Springwater Park

1:30 pm Meet in the parking lot in Springwater Park to ski, snowshoe or hike. Poles are suggested. There is a fee.

Must contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Pat 705-733-2078

Monday, January 31 MODERATE 3-4 hours

Awenda Provincial Park

10:00 am Meet at Awenda Provincial Park to ski or snowshoe. Bring a lunch and water. There is a park fee

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, February 6 MODERATE 2 hours

Copeland Forest

1:30 pm Meet at the P2 parking lot on Ingram Rd, just east of Line 4 to ski or snowshoe.

Must contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Kim 705-721-0502

Monday, February 14 EASY 3-4 hours

Holland Landing Newmarket Hike

10:00 am Meet in the Nokidaa parking lot on the southeast side of Yonge St (Holland Landing) and Mt. Albert Rd. Icers may be needed for your boots. Bring a lunch and water.

Must contact Gerda 705-722-8568 or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, February 20 MODERATE 2 hours

Scout Valley

1:30 pm Meet in the Scout Valley parking lot on Oro-Medonte Line 15 about 1 km south of Old Barrie Rd to snowshoe.

Must contact Pat 705-733-2078 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, February 28 MODERATE 3-4 hours

Tottenham Circle Trail and Earl Rowe Circle Trail

10:00 am Meet at Tottenham Conservation Area to ski or snowshoe. Lunch at a restaurant in Tottenham or bring your own followed by a ski or snowshoe in Earl Rowe Provincial Park.

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, March 6 MODERATE 2 hours

Line 8 Strachan Tract Loop

1:30 pm Meet in parking lot at #1832 Line 8 N to snowshoe or hike.

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Kim 705-721-0502

Monday, March 21 MODERATE 3 hours

Wasaga Beach

10:00 am Meet at 904 Veteran's Way to snowshoe or hike. Poles are suggested. Bring a lunch and water.

Must contact Pat 705-733-2078 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, March 27 EASY 2 hours

Wilkins Walk

1:30 pm Meet at the trailhead on Walnut Crescent (Big Bay Point Rd to Pine Drive to Walnut Cres). Some hills; trail meanders along Hewitt Creek to Lake Simcoe. Poles are suggested.

Must contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Gerda 705-722-8568

Monday April 4

EASY

3-4 hours

Oak Ridges

10:00 am Meet on Keele St about 1 km south of 16th Sideroad at the stiles. Hike on the Oak Ridges Trail including Lady Eaton and Pellatt Estates. Bring a lunch and water.

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, April 10

EASY

2 hours

Thomas Agnew Nature Reserve and Simcoe County Forest Turnbull Tract

1:30 pm Meet at Fawcett Rd and the Trent Canal in Washago. (Hwy 11, Anchor Dr, Shoreview, Fawcett Rd). Walk along the Trent-Severn Waterway, then hike the Pipsissewa Loop Trail and an adjoining trail through the Simcoe Country Forest Turnbull Tract. Mixed upland forest and ponds.

Must contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Sue 705-722-0395

Monday, April 25

MODERATE

3-4 hours

Creemore Nature Preserve

10:00 am Meet at the corner of Riverside Dr and Concession Road 6 for a short hike on the Ganaraska Trail. We will then drive to the Creemore Nature Preserve on the 6th Concession 1 km south of County Road 9. Bring a lunch and water. Poles are suggested.

Must contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Christine 705-733-3825

PINE RIDGE HIKES

COVID GUIDELINES AS OF PUBLICATION

1. Pre-register for the hike by contacting the Hike Leader.
2. Participants in hikes must be double vaccinated.
3. Carpool only if you are comfortable doing so.
4. During the hikes, public health measures continue, including maintaining social distance and wearing masks when unable to social distance.
5. Individuals who do not feel well are asked not to participate in group hikes.

NOTE:

Hikers Should Arrive At Least 10 Minutes Before The Advertised Hike Departure Time

Ratings for Level of Difficulty

Easy: Well- defined trails and/or roads, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required but trails may be wet.

Moderate: Generally on trails and/or roads; may be hilly with some rough spots or obstacles. Boots and poles are recommended.

Moderate Plus: Generally on trails; rough terrain and/or steep sections and/or long climbs and descents. Boots and poles are highly recommended.

Challenging: Rough terrain, one or more of extensive bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, or rock scrambling. Boots and poles are essential; long pants and long sleeves recommended.

ALSO

1. "Bring a Snack" (generally on hikes under 9 km) indicates that there will be a break of only 5-7 minutes for refreshments. "Bring a lunch" (hikes over 9 km) indicates a longer stop for refreshments (may be shorter in winter).
2. Anyone choosing to leave a hike before the end must be accompanied by another hiker.
3. No dogs are allowed on hikes.

Saturday, January 8 <MODERATE > 10 km

Roseneath Landing Area Line 1.

9:30 am Meet and park at Roseneath Landing Road Line 1. Drive north on Hwy 45 to Roseneath Landing Road, turn west and park on north side of road on Line 1. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Bill at 905 207-2399 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, January 9 <EASY> 5 km

Oak Hills Farm- leisurely guided walk near Bewdley.

9:30 am Meet and park at 4945 Oak Hills Road, Hamilton Township. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: John at 416 998-1292 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, January 15 <EASY> 5 km

Racetrack Road area.

9:30 am Meet and park at the east side of Racetrack Rd., just south of the intersection with Ferguson Rd., Hamilton Township. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Bob at 905 885-1420 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, January 16 < EASY> 12 km

Rural Roads and Trails West of Sylvan Glen.

9:30 am Meet and park on 4th Line, just west of Sylvan Glen. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Hilda at 905 372-2395 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, January 22 < MODERATE > 11 km

Jack Gordon Rd. – almost half off-roads.

9:30 am Meet and park at Jack Gordon Rd., just north of McBride Rd.

Park on the west side, facing south. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Darryl at 905 373-2463 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, January 23 < EASY> 5.5 km

Red Barn, west Port Hope.

9:30 am Meet and park at Home Hardware parking lot, Toronto Rd., Port Hope. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: John at 905 885-5214 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, January 29 < EASY> 5 km

Hazel Bird Nature Preserve

9:30 am Meet and park at Hazel Bird parking lot, 9639 Beavermeadow Rd. East, Baltimore. Bring a snack and a drink. **Contact:** John at 416 998-1292 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, January 30 <MODERATE > 8.5 km

Cornish Hollow Loop.

9:30 am Meet and park at the corner of Cornish Hollow Rd. and Dale Road.

Possible chili lunch at Hilda and Ted's after the hike (if COVID allows). Details to follow. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Hilda at 905 372-2395 or Jan at 905 375-8188 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, February 5 <EASY> 5 km

Northumberland Forest Universal Trail

9:30 am Meet and park at the Carstairs Trailhead on Bowmanton Road between Beagle Club Road and County Road 9. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Stan at 905 885-9310 if you want to attend.

Sunday, February 6 < MODERATE PLUS> 12 km

Creighton's Hill, Haldimand Township.

9:30 am Meet and park at the corner of Shelter Valley Road and Boyle Road, Grafton area. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Lee at 905 376-3468 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, February 12 <MODERATE > 13 km

McBurney's Hill, north of Port Hope.

9:30 am Meet and park at the corner of Barrie Road and 5th Line. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Bill at 905 207-2399 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, February 13 < EASY> 5.5 Km

Oliver's Lane – Forest Hill area, north of Cobourg.

9:30 am Meet and park at the Hwy 45/401 Commuter parking lot, Cobourg. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Hilda at 905 372-2395 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, February 19 < EASY> 6 km

Rural roads west of Canton.

9:30 am Meet and park on the west side of Kellogg Rd., just south of the intersection with 4th Line, Municipality of Port Hope. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Bob at 905 885-1420 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, February 20 < MODERATE PLUS> 11 km

Crossen Road, DeJong Road Loop – primarily township roads with some unmaintained road allowances.

9:30 am Meet and park at Leach Road/ Rose Road intersection. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Jay at 905 396-3895 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, February 26 < MODERATE > 12 km

Waterfront Trail from Bond Head to Samuel Wilmot Nature Area.

9:30 am Meet at Home Hardware parking lot, Toronto Rd., Port Hope.

Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Melissa at 905 375-9033 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, February 27 < EASY> 5 km

Rural Courtice walk.

9:30 am Meet and park at 3452 Courtice Road (Pam and Jim's home) and be led to the parking location 10 minutes further north. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Jim at 905 436-2499 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, March 5 <MODERATE > 12 km

Richardson's Lookout.

9:30 am Meet and park at the corner of Oak Hill Road and Walker Road. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Stan at 905 885-9310 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, March 6 < MODERATE PLUS> 12 km

Millbrook Valley Trails.

9:30 am Meet and park on Zion Rd., just west of 4th Line Theatre. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Lee at 905 376-3468 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, March 12 < EASY> 8 km

Rural roads in west Port Hope.

9:30 am Meet and park at Home Hardware parking lot, Toronto Rd., Port Hope. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Bob at mb.short@sympatico.ca or 905 885-1420 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, March 13 < MODERATE > 13 km

Rural roads east of Precious Corners and north of Dale Road.

9:30 am Meet and park at Racetrack Road, just north of Dale Road. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Hilda at 905 372-2395 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, March 19 <MODERATE > 8 km

Gores Landing.

9:30 am Meet and park at Gores Landing, County Road 18 and Kelly Road. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Bill at 905 207-2399 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, March 20 < MODERATE > 11.5 km

Grafton – Nawautin Shores.

9:30 am Meet and park at Grafton Arena parking lot, off Hwy 2. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Melissa at 905 375-9033 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, March 26 <MODERATE> 14 km

Rural roads southeast of Cold Springs.

9:30 am Meet and park at Cold Springs Memorial Hall (west side of County Road 18 in Cold Springs).

Contact: Stan at 905 885-9310 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, March 27 <EASY> 6 km

Rural roads north of Port Hope – Kellogg Road.

9:30 am Meet and park at the corner of 4th Line and Anderson Rd. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: John at 905 885-5214 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, April 2 <MODERATE> 8 or 16 km

Pat and Jack Founders' Hike.

9:30 am Meet and park at the railway bridge on the 10th Line of Port Hope (west of County Road 10).

Bring a snack/lunch and a drink.

Contact: Stan at 905 885-9310 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, April 3 < MODERATE PLUS> 11 km

Alnwick/Haldimand Township. Township roads and road allowances south of Fenella.

9:30 am Meet and park at Hwy 45/401 Commuter parking lot, Cobourg. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Hilda at 905 372-2395 if you wish to attend.

Wednesday, April 6 < MODERATE > 6 or 11 km

Gilliland Cemetery Loop. Mix of unmaintained and township roads.

9:30 am Meet and park at Jay's, 3023 Meyers Road. Bring a snack/lunch and a drink.

Contact: Jay at 905 396-3895 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, April 9 - Bill

Back roads of Grafton.

9:30 am Meet and park at Fairview Cemetery, Shelter Valley Road. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Bill at 905 207-2399 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, April 10 <EASY> 5 km

Newcastle rural area (new).

9:30 am Meet and park at **TO BE DETERMINED.**

Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Jim at 905 436-2499 if you wish to attend.

Wednesday, April 13 < MODERATE > 8 km

Walker Road and Ganaraska Forest.

9:30 am Meet and park on the north side of Oak Hill Rd., just east of the intersection with Walker Rd., Municipality of Port Hope. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Bob at 905 885-1420 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, April 16 < MODERATE> 13 km

Rural Port Hope – northeast Canton area.

9:30 am Meet at Home Hardware parking lot, Toronto Rd., Port Hope. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Melissa at 905 375-9033 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, April 17 – EASTER SUNDAY – NO HIKE

Wednesday, April 20 <EASY> 6 km

Lakeshore Road, Port Hope area - Haskill Road to Port Britain return.

9:30 am Meet and park on Haskill Rd. Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Dixie at 416 606-1753 if you wish to attend.

Saturday, April 23 < MODERATE > 12 km

Ganaraska Forest.

9:30 am Meet and park on Featherstone Lane, just south of Oak Hills Road, (north-west of Garden Hill).

Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Lee at 905 376-3468 if you wish to attend.

Sunday, April 24 < EASY> 8 km

Rice Lake Conservation Area.

9:30 am Meet and park at the overflow parking lot, south of Bewdley on Rice Lake Drive.

Bring a snack and a drink.

Contact: Jan at 905 375-8188 if you wish to attend.

Wednesday, April 27 <EASY> 2 hours

EARTH WEEK LITTER Pick-Up

9:30 am Meet and park at Home Hardware parking lot, Toronto Rd., Port Hope.

Join Club members in cleaning up the Ganaraska Trail along the Pat/ Jack trail to the Sylvan Glen Conservation Area. Bring work gloves and a drink. Snacks and refreshments afterwards at Stan and Jan's, 111 Bedford St. Port Hope (if COVID allows).

Contact: Stan at 905 885-9310.

Saturday, April 30 < MODERATE > 10 km

Hamilton Township – Percy Rose/ Glen Gavel Loop using country and unmaintained roads.

9:30 am Meet and park on Vic Lightle Rd., opposite the cemetery, just north of Bethel Grove Rd., north of Port Hope. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Contact: Dixie at 416 606-1753 if you wish to attend.

WASAGA BEACH HIKES

Our club is planning hikes on a weekly basis and will connect with club members as hikes are planned. Stay tuned!

WILDERNESS HIKES

More details on hikes and registration can be found on our [Facebook page](#).

Hikes by Cara - Wilderness Club – Grub and Pub Series

Hike#1 - Grub and Pub Series – Thurs. Feb. 10th - Frost Centre

Please join me on **Thursday Feb. 10, 2022** as we explore the trails at the Frost Centre. Afterward you are invited to Zachary's Restaurant in Dorset for lunch.

This is a 6-7.5km challenging hike (trail conditions will determine if we upgrade to the 7.5 distance). Hiking speed approx. 2-2.5 km/hr. depending on the trail conditions Trails are challenging with elevated spots along the edge of St. Nora Lake (can be icy), some climbs and tricky rocky areas. Much of the trail is level however you should be prepared for the difficult bits. Icers/Snowshoes with grips and hiking poles are a must. Spectacular ice falls.

May be done on snowshoes, with icers or hiking boots. A decision can be made at the trail head based on the weather in April.

Bring water/hot drink, snacks, hiking boots, good quality icers, snow-shoes, hiking poles and your big smile. Dress in layers.

Leader: Cara. Meet at 10am. Depart 10:15am.

20130 Highway 35, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J2
(10 min. south of Dorset, 15 min. north of Canarvon)

Park on either side of road – but we will meet on the East side (side with buildings and Nora Lake). Outhouse is on West side. Take care when crossing the highway.



Contact: Cara. 705-854-2115 to RVSP or with any questions. RSVP is required to ensure your spot at the Grub table following the hike.

Hike#2 – Grub and Pub Series- Thurs. March 10th – Ganaraska Trail System – Devils Lake Rd.

Please join me on **Thursday March 10, 2022** as we explore the Ganaraska Trail System near Moore Falls (15 min. drive south of Minden). Afterward you are invited to The Dominion Hotel/Pub in Minden for supper.

This is a 12km advanced and challenging hike. Hiking speed approx. 2-2.5 km/hr. depending on the trail conditions. Hike duration expected to be 5.5 hours. Trails are hilly in spots and part of the hike will be across frozen lakes. This will be adjusted should conditions not be suitable for doing so. Icers/Snowshoes with grips and hiking poles are a must.

The route will take us from Devil's Lake Trailhead to Petticoat Junction via the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, then to the NW corner of Sheldon Lake where we'll stop for a quick lunch break. For the return journey



we'll walk over the ice on Sheldon Lake to the portage trail to Devil's Lake, and finally over the ice on Devil's Lake to the Devil's Lake Trailhead. The first half will test your fitness with vigorous ups & downs, but the second half will be easier walking over the ice.

May be done on snowshoes, with icers or hiking boots. A decision can be made at the trail head based on the weather.

Bring plenty of water/hot drinks, snacks, lunch, hiking boots, good quality icers, snow-shoes, hiking poles and your big smile. Dress in layers.

Leader: Cara. Meet at 8:15am. Depart at 8:30am.

Parking is on Devils Lake Road, just off Deep Bay Road (which runs between Hwy.35 in Moore Falls and Minden)



Contact: Cara 705-854-2115 to RVSP or with any questions.

RSVP is required to ensure your spot at the Grub table following the hike.

Hike#3 – Grub and Pub Series-
Thurs. April 7th - Barnum

Please join me on Thurs. April 7th, 2022 as we explore

the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Afterward you are invited to The Maple Tap & Grill (Haliburton) for lunch.

The hike is an easy - moderate 7km loop. Hiking speed approx. 3km/hr. depending on the trail conditions. May be done on snowshoes or with icers. A decision can be made at the trail head.

Low spots may be icy. Trail is mainly level but one side trail (high ridge) has two steep ascents and descents.

Bring water/hot drink, snacks, hiking boots, good quality icers, snow-shoes, hiking poles and your big smile. Dress in layers. Leader: Cara O. Meet at 10am. Depart 10:15am.

1118 Gould Crossing Rd.,
(OFF GELERT RD, 5KM SE OF HALIBURTON VILLAGE).

GPS co. N 45.0179, W 78.5318.

NOTE OF CAUTION; Google Maps mistakenly calls Gould Crossing Road, Cowan Road. There is a sign on Gelert Road that says Gould Crossing Road. The road to the trailhead is gravel and not regularly maintained and can be rough. Steep climb to parking area near top of hill on right.

Contact: Cara 705-854-2115 to RVSP or with any questions. RSVP is required to ensure your spot at the Grub table following the hike.

Announcing the new Wilderness Club hike series "**Frozen Feral Friends**" with the *Saunter Sisters* (Carolyn, Laura and Tanya).

January - towards High Falls from Chisholm Trail

February - finding Glynn's Pond from Monck Road

March - discovering the Northern boundary from Beer Lake Rd

These "choose-your-own" adventure hikes will start on the fringes of the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, heading towards a specified destination, then returning to the starting point (i.e. out-and-back hikes). While the direction and goal may be fixed, the distance of the journey may be flexed on "the day of" according to weather, trail conditions and progress of the group. These monthly hikes will follow less travelled routes that may not be well blazed...all to say that we will use wayfinding tools to follow tracks and find waypoints.

The hikes will be scheduled for Saturdays or Sundays. Participants can expect a "be prepared" email outlining exactly what to bring in your day pack; snowshoes will likely be required.

Watch the Wilderness Facebook page for details or send us an email wilderness.gha@gmail.com in your subject line **FFFhike** if you are curious.

Winter 2022

Meeting point: To be announced

Direction: To be announced

Rating - Difficult : inclines / declines in the bush, on marked trails with water crossings, barrens and scrambles

Duration - plan for a full day of approx 7h, Pace - 2 - 2.5 km/h, Distance - 10 -15 kilometre

Parking will be on roadway shoulders.

Logistics -

8:00am parking check-in (clothing, water and food essential)

8:15am start

12:00pm lunch and turnback point

4:30pm finish approx eta

GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 1st, 2021

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
BARRIE	79	48	40
INDEPENDENT	16	12	6
KAWARTHA	82	97	77
MAD RIVER	23	17	7
MIDLAND	113	84	67
ORILLIA	78	56	46
ORO-MEDONTE	52	41	34
PINE RIDGE	111	93	97
WASAGA BEACH	78	74	67
WILDERNESS	96	77	41
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	728	599	482
LIFE MEMBERS	33	36	37
MEMBERSHIPS	761	635	519
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	23	28	38
LAND OWNERS	82	90	84
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	866	753	641

Merchandise Order Form

Proudly support the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. by purchasing merchandise listed below or making a donation. Just fill out this order form and mail it with your payment to:

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.
P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Item	Quantity	Price (incl. shipping)	Total
CREST of GHTA logo		5.00	
END TO END BADGE –member price		0.00	
END TO END BADGE – non-member (incl. 1 year membership)		25.00	
SECTION BADGE – Barrie		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Kawartha		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Mad River		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Midland		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Orillia		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Oro Medonte		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Pine Ridge		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Tiny		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wasaga Beach		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness		10.00	
NAME BADGE – please clearly print your name in the field below		8.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

Make cheque payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

Section badges are for hikers who hiked an entire section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.

End to End badges are for hikers who completed all 10 sections.

Name badges include your name, your club’s name and the GHTA logo.

Tax receipts will be issued for amounts of \$25 and over.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____ Email _____

GHTA Membership Form (or register and pay online)

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.
 New Renew Change of address or club affiliation.
Please complete the form and send it with your cheque, payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, to the following address:

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.
P. O. Box 693 Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

NAME(S) _____
SPOUSE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____
HOME TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
SPOUSAL EMAIL (if applicable) _____

Membership (includes family) \$25.00
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

A receipt for a tax deductible charitable donation will be sent by Feb 28 in the next year for donations of \$25 or more.

Printed Newsletter? (you will receive the electronic form automatically)
Yes, mail printed Newsletter ___

Please associate me with the following Ganaraska Trail Club: Midland , Kawartha , Wilderness , Orillia , Barrie , Mad River , Wasaga Beach , Oro-Medonte , Pine Ridge (Port Hope) , Independent

By submitting this form, I certify that I have read Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. Waiver Form (available on the website) in full, and that I agree to be bound by it.

Signature: _____

The Ganaraska News is published three times a year for the members of the Ganaraska Trail Association Inc. and the generous land-owners who permit the trail on their land.

Please send your news, stories, poems and photos via email (NewsletterEditor@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org). Please send either plain text files or Word (.doc or .docx format) files. Digital images should have a minimum of 300 ppi resolution.

Web Addresses: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
info@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
Mailing Address: *Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.*
Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

The GHTA welcomes all donations. Tax receipts for donations over \$25.00 will be issued. Charitable registration #847447414 RR0001
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