



The Ganaraska News

Spring/Summer 2023 (May 1 to August 31, 2023)

Hello Members

Spring is here! **Abbreviated** hike schedules to August 31 for most clubs are included in this newsletter, please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the warmth, the beautiful world of nature, and stay safe!

Looking forward to seeing you hike, paddle or bike with us as we enjoy the great outdoors.

Do Badges Motivate the “End to Enders”?

By Carolyn Humphries

I don't get badges? Despite that statement, I've motivated the unmotivatable with badges— teenage girls did ordinary and extraordinarily stuff for a badge. My own kid did things in quest of badges that culminated in a Canada Cord Award, a Girl Guide E2E equivalent. I find myself once again in the company of serial badge seekers “The End to Enders”.

I had the pleasure of really getting to know a few End to Enders over three sections of the Ganaraska Trail (Kawartha, Wilderness and Orillia) with their fearless leaders Neil Runnalls and Dan Myall. The three sections that I joined the team delivered a variety of trail surfaces (rail trail, beaver “bridges”, planted forests and walking across the highway) combined with crazy weather (freezing wind, snow, a rain storm that landed a tornado and tent frost) but left me with no clear “Why do an End to End” answer. So I asked them

Neil and Dan became Wilderness Hike leaders in the fall of 2021 and they basically took on the entire trail.

Neil says... “The Ganaraska Hiking Trail offers up a real “slice” of southern Ontario. You will hike through conservation lands, along the edges of farmers' fields, down country roads, through true wilderness lands and even trek within the limits of small towns. By following this trail, you will see parts of Ontario that most people will never see or experience. “

Dan added... “Mostly it's being with like-minded people enjoying the sights sounds and smells of the great outdoors.”

Marie proudly displays a Bruce Trail End to End badge on her day pack. Faced with my “Why do an End to End” she said...“The goal of 500+km hike is an exciting way of staying mentally and physically healthy. I need the



trail, a long trail, to keep me on the path towards complete health. Once I reach the end, I know I will feel a sense of accomplishment -- a sense that 'I did it! I am healthy! I am my best self!' In fact, I would not put it past myself to hike Ganaraska again -- even if it is just to experience the Wilderness Crossover again. Once the sense of accomplishment is achieved, how do I get that feeling again? Of course, I keep on hiking to the end of another trail."

Galina carries two heavy items when she hikes. One you might expect, a camera but it's the other that caught my attention. She starts every hike with empty garbage bags and ends each with full bags. It gets more impressive when you learn she donates the proceeds from those 100's of beer cans back to the club. Faced with "Why hike End to End" she said...

1. For the bragging rights to my "teeny, weeny Everest". Even with 'easy' end to end trails/sections, there are probably relatively few people who complete these, and so, I feel like I'm in the "elite group of achievers"!
2. For the physical and mental challenge.. There is nothing like a rush of endorphins after completing a challenging hike... muscles ache, cold or wet, but Whew!!!! I made it!!! But if it's a nice and easy hike, or something in between, that's also great.
3. For enjoyment, adventure and exploration. The Ganaraska trail, what a gem! Often I don't even track the distance, I just enjoy. I do bring camera along to document some of these sights.
4. For camaraderie and friendships. I am grateful to everyone who hiked or is hiking along, sharing knowledge, pieces of their lives, their songs, and their stories, and who are ready to lend a helping hand to those who need it, eg to pull me up a cliff (or two or three...) and food.... let's not forget the food!!
5. Oh yah... there are also badges...I have an envelope for them somewhere... actually, I met someone who was making a quilt of all her badges... well.. it(remove) at that time, it was more like a placemat, but that's an idea...



Cita is a very athletic women but definitely not your hiker stereotype. She will hike with a hidden birthday cake, motivate her fellow hikers with a stingingly clear assessment of a situation and then stumble out of a tent with lipstick on. Faced with "Why hike End to End" she said..." I love hiking an end to end hike because;

- there's an adrenaline coming out from me for planning
- new trails always excite me.
- meeting new people or seeing them week after week
- sense of accomplishment.
- I love to be outside in nature.

Teri is exactly my hardcore hiker image, nothing stops efficient forward movement. She is heads up, head clear and usually heading in the right direction. "Why hike End to End" she said...hiking helped me discover places I would not have seen otherwise. It's an addiction. The end of one trail means it's time to start dreaming of a new one. On my own, I can set my own pace; I find peace in the silence; I can immerse myself in nature; I feel empowered. On the other hand, when I hike in a group I have the opportunity to make new friends or to get to know old friends better; I have the opportunity to learn from others; I have others to lean on and I have others to laugh with. However, you hike an end to end offers endless opportunities for new experiences and adventures.

So there you have it... badges are symbolic of personal achievement and serve as unique souvenirs of a good trip, good friends and a reminder of all that the land delivers for your mind, body and soul. It's time to dust off my badges and enjoy the journey they replay. My three section badges will forever be linked to Neil and Dan's 500km adventure.

MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

EXECUTIVE

President: Frieda Baldwin
Secretary: Steve Pogue
Vice President: Vacant

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

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – John Rudnickas, Susan Lee, John Sloan
Kawartha – Stephen Kay, George Boyd
Mad River – Sharon Striegl
Midland – Larry Piitz, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow
Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal
Oro-Medonte – Christine Cornu, Sue Benjafield, Wayne Lilloco
Pine Ridge – Jay Sherwin, John Ambler, Stan Muldoon
Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen (interim), Rob Smith
Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Charleyne Hall

OFFICERS

Membership Director: Christine Cornu
Badge Officer: Jacque Van Dyke
GHTA Archivist: Linda Blow
GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: vacant
GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell
QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka
Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Charleyne Hall

Newsletter Editor/Web Content: Heather Briant
Website: Rob Smith
Social Media Officer: Alana Boulay
Publicity Coordinator: Vacant
Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner
Mapping Coordinator: Steve Broomfield
Signage Coordinator: Vacant

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)
Kawartha: <https://www.facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub/>
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Oro-Medonte: [Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte)
Pine Ridge: www.pineridgehikingclub.ca
Wilderness: [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

Please use Contact Us on the Association Website to send us a message!

President's Report

By Frieda Baldwin

Trusting that all of you had a safe and enjoyable winter, we are now looking forward to warmer days, spring flowers, birds returning and a great hiking season.

I am extremely pleased with the fact that John Sloan, who had retired from his role as Trail Director and Landowner Relations Director, has stepped back up to that role. We do however still have some vacancies, such as Vice President, Hike Ontario Liaison, Publicity Officer and Signage Coordinator. If you have any spare time and would like to see the Ganaraska Hiking Trail thrive, please contact me at president@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org.

At this time, I would like to thank Lorraine Van Vluymen of the Wasaga Beach club for serving as the Hike Ontario Liaison for a few years. Lorraine volunteered to help Hike Ontario with their administration of the Hike Leader certification program, and is currently also serving also as interim president of the Wasaga Beach club.

We currently have 2 very active committees:

Risk Management Committee (John Sloan, Fern Splichal, Bill Zeran and me) are currently looking at updating our Risk Management Plan, and have already published:

- new guidelines for rating the difficulty level of hikes
- new trail maintenance standards
- new Trail Inspection and Trail Maintenance form, with a request to all clubs to fill this in at least on an annual basis.

The RM committee is also asking all clubs to make an inventory of all man-made structures on the trail. The last inventory was done over 10 years ago.

Indigenous Engagement Committee (Carolyn Humphreys, Jay Sherwin, Irene Green and Charleyne Hall) has provided a Land Acknowledgement which they would like members to read at appropriate opportunities (such as on a hike, when hikers are enjoying a particularly nice view). More details from this committee further in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, our association secretary, Steve Pogue is looking into the requirements of the new Not for Profit Act, to which we have to comply in 2024. With his IT background, he is also assisting us with such things as video conferencing, digital storage, etc. And I want to thank his wife Trudy for assisting with some of our website design issues.

This past February, we also had a chance to test out the new Ganaraska Special Event Administrative Support Policy, as we organized a very enjoyable winter getaway for 76 hikers at Killbear Provincial Park. The process worked very well, all financials went through the GHTA books, and we netted about \$1400 profit for the Association.



This year, we are likely also going to see an increase in the building of man-made bridges, since the board approved the building of such last fall.

Since Spring is upon us, I would like to remind all clubs and their volunteers of the importance of keeping our Ganaraska Hiking Trail in good shape, so hikers can have a safe and great experience. There is in my opinion, nothing more rewarding than doing trail maintenance and after the work party, seeing how much we as volunteers improved the trail for all to enjoy.

As for the efforts in the Midland area to close the gap in the Ganaraska Hiking Trail between the Midland and Tiny sections, progress is very slow. The stairs the Township of Tiny was going to build last fall have been delayed to this spring. And while approval for the proposed route from the Town of Penetanguishene is likely imminent, we still have to make a deputation to the Town of Midland to proceed with blazing the trail, since we got approval to do so in 2013, but did not proceed as the other pieces of the new trail route did not materialize until more recently. Let's hope we can close the gap in 2023.

As you may know, we launched a new badge last year for anyone completing 100 hikes in 1 calendar year. After a slow uptake, it seems that the idea really caught on this year. So much so, that we are launching a new 50 Hikes in 1 year badge as well as a 200 Hikes in 1 Year badge. More details further in the newsletter.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and very enjoyable hiking season.

Our Land Acknowledgment: One Year Later

by Carolyn Humphreys, chair | Indigenous Engagement Committee



Late October 2022 the Association adopted a Land Acknowledgment that you can find on our home page. The Indigenous Engagement Committee was also asked to provide recommendations about using the acknowledgment and invited to continue on a path connecting GHTA with First Nations.

We all have good intentions regarding Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. Although taking action may seem difficult, we can find meaning in Land Acknowledgments as a first step. Sharing the Association's Land Acknowledgment along the trail is a good way to start a conversation as we work together towards better understanding. Past truths, while painful for many, must be brought to light so Canadians can make the journey towards reconciliation.

Leaders and members are encouraged to share the Land Acknowledgement on hikes by reading it out loud. The beginning, end or at any point during the hike is a good opportunity to demonstrably support the goals of a shared future for all Canadians. We encourage you to start with the words offered by our hiking club. We will be erecting a limited number of signs along the trail to share the Land Acknowledgment with all trail users.

Wednesday June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day; consider hiking in Petroglyphs Provincial Park or on the

Orillia section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, and be sure to stop at the Mnjikaning Fish Weirs, a sign of which is hidden under the Narrows Bridge.

It's OK to feel awkward about not knowing about Indigenous People and you may even be uncomfortable, start your learning journey by watching [this humorous video](#) and [this helpful video](#).

More can be learned using about Indigenous People [here](#):

Once you feel comfortable, feel free to customize a land acknowledgment to represent you and the land on which you are hiking. Search for your section of the trail [here](#):



Supporting the Association

Did you know??? - that the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and issues 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.

New Badges

By Frieda Baldwin, President

Last year, the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association (GHTA) created a new badge for anyone completing 100 hikes in 1 calendar year on any trail (minimum duration 1 hour). The purpose was to encourage physical and mental health. The uptake was rather slow, due to lack of awareness initially, but it seems to have put the Ganaraska Hiking Trail on the map, and we have seen a dramatic increase in 2023 of individuals challenging themselves to get up to 50, 100, 200 or more hikes in 1 year.

We are therefore pleased to announce that we have created 2 new badges, to complement the "100 Hikes in 1 Year" badge, with a 50 and a 200 Hikes in 1 year badge.

We created the "50 Hikes in 1 Year" badge as it may appeal to children, but also to individuals still working full time, who may only be able to hike on weekends. The "200 Hikes in 1 Year" badge will appeal to those who

know they can challenge themselves to more than 100. I have personally challenged myself to 250 hikes (I am retired!), and as of today, March 31, I am at 65 hikes.

Hikers are encouraged to post their hikes with 1 or more pictures on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Group in Facebook, and tag them with the location and the hashtags of #50hikesin2023, #100hikesin2023 or #200hikesin2023. Check it out... lots of activity!



Hiking in Barbados

By Jay Sherwin, Pine Ridge

In January, my wife spent 10 days in Barbados. We had a lovely time there enjoying the beautiful beaches and countryside, warm breezy weather and the friendly people.

One of the highlights of the trip was a hike with the Barbados Hiking Club. Prior to leaving Canada, I had made inquiries about joining one of their club hikes and was able to do so on Sunday January 22. The Barbados Hiking Club functions similarly to GHTA clubs. They post a schedule of hikes and meet twice each Sunday; once at 6 a.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. for a roughly 3-hour hike. The hikes are conducted at those times to avoid midday heat. I chose to join the 6 a.m. hike which started from a place called Bushy Park, a 45-minute drive from our hotel.

After an anxious drive on poorly signed roads through pre-dawn darkness I arrived at the trail head just in time to catch the pre-hike talk. My first impression as dawn was breaking over the meeting site was the number of hikers. The field where we met was filled with cars and there appeared to be perhaps two hundred people milling about. A woman was addressing the crowd using a bull horn. A few brief words were given, and I was fortunate to catch on that there were three levels of hikes; Stop and Stare, Moderate and Grin 'n' Bear It. I chose the Moderate level and joined a group of approximately 100 hikers.



Starting out from the Trailhead

My second impression was that the hike was a highly social event. People were chatting, laughing and enjoying each other's company. My third impression was, *These people hike Fast...* I had to get into high gear immediately to keep up and was very thankful I had not chosen the Grin 'n' Bear It group. The only break from the fast pace were choke points where everyone had to proceed single file as we trekked up a steep slope or through some dense bush on a narrow track.



Passing through a village



Walking several abreast on a paved countryside road. (Not much concern for oncoming traffic here!!)

We passed through cow pastures, sugarcane fields, small villages, plantation homesteads, jungle-like vegetation and even a cave. Occasionally we had a distant view of the ocean. The footing varied from paved roads to rocky footpaths and the weather from warm sunshine to a heavy shower. In total we hiked 14 kms.



We stopped twice for a short break where some of the hikers engaged good-naturedly in some calisthenics. Most of those in my group appeared to be in their 40s and few appeared to be seniors. The fast pace took its toll on me, and I was happy to see the end point appear. Once back at the trailhead a tail-gate party unfolded. Beer and cold drinks as well as fruit and vegetables were sold. Needless to say, the beer was welcomed by me. If any of you are considering a trip to Barbados, I highly recommend joining a hike with the Barbados Hiking Club.

CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

By John Rudnickas, President

First and foremost, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Liz Erwin, for the great job she has done through the past few years. They have been tough years given the challenges brought on by the Covid pandemic but she persevered and we managed to have some great hikes when we weren't locked down.

I also need to thank our two directors, Susan Lee and John Sloan. Without their commitment to carry on in their roles and support me with all of their experience and expertise I wouldn't have dared to accept the position of president.

One more thank you is due to the new members that have joined our club. It is indeed rewarding to see our numbers keep growing.

In spite of largely returning to pre-pandemic conditions, challenges were still presented this past winter, weather and logging to name a couple. Hiking boots replaced snowshoes on a lot of our outings due to the weather and schedules and routes were impacted by the logging operations in some of our forests. However, our hike leaders rose to these challenges and we have had many successful hikes.



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While we do try to stick to our planned schedule, changes have been and likely

will continue to be required. Thus, we encourage members to always check the calendar on the GHTA web site, or check with an events leader prior to heading out. As well as providing you with further information on logistics, changes to routes and/or cancellations are also posted on the calendar. Sometimes unexpected weather forces us to cancel a hike on very short notice. In such cases, our policy is to provide such information on the calendar by 7:30 on the morning of the hike. As the opportunity presents itself, we may also add events not included in this newsletter and post them on the calendar. Check it regularly, especially during the summer season as you never know what might pop up.

In following the Midland club's lead, we are exploring the option of online signup for our hikes through a link on the calendar. Hopefully this method would make it easier for members to register and to see who else is going and arrange for ride sharing when feasible.

Trail maintenance is always a work in progress and we are very thankful to the members who turned up to give us a hand. We are hopeful to get some significant work done on some of our wet area crossings as the weather settles. We created a diversion on the trail south of Baldwick Lane near the Minesing wetlands in order to skirt an environmentally sensitive area. This appears to have improved our trail as a bonus.

Now it's time to move on to our spring schedule of activities which formally covers the months of May and June. We are continuing with our past practise of having organised hikes on Sundays and Wednesdays along with our Thursday partnered hikes with the Orillia club. We have also included a couple of Tuesday evening "introductory level" hikes. These are short and at an easy level for those that might enjoy a more relaxed outing in the natural environment. So... come on out and join us for some fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie.

Kawartha

By Stephen Kay, President

We currently have 79 members, with 5 of these new members since January 2023. While we did lose members who did not renew for 2023, most of those were inactive members. Given the current total, our Membership is holding up well despite the non-renewals.



Participation in both Wednesday (averaging about 22 hikers) and weekend hikes (averaging about 12 hikers) has been excellent and increasing.

The club held three trail maintenance days in the fall in which eight KHC members participated. Work was done mainly on the trail section north of Monck Road to approximately the top of Corben Lake and some minor work was done south of Monk Road. The most remote part was the trail along the west side of Corben Lake which required a 5 Km hike both ways to reach the 2 km trail portion. To reach this section required the volunteers to drive 80-90 km each way from Peterborough.

As we move away from COVID restrictions, we can anticipate more social events to be planned in the coming year. Recognizing that COVID will remain an issue, these events will consider the need to be careful in any gathering.

The 2023 AGM was held on March 15, 2023. At that meeting an Executive was elected for the 2023-24 year

The Executive includes;

Stephen Kay-President (GHTA Board member)

Mary Smith Secretary/Treasurer

Membership Director-Nick Pratt

Hike Coordinator-Richard Raper

Social Convenor-Betty Labranche

Trail Maintenance- George Boyd (GHTA Board member)

Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President

Well, if that was winter, I guess we had "er". For the most part, it was a very mild and short season and I think this is the first winter I only had to use my snowshoes once or twice. Our club continued to offer 2 hikes per week which were well attended. Again, I have to recognize our hard working hike leaders who make this happen. Thank you to all!

We held a club meeting/social where many topics were covered, including future hikes, trail maintenance and future involvement with the NVCA and their tree planting days. We also congratulated Lynn McIlwaine who has accepted the position of Trail Director. She will be a great asset to the club in this role! Well done Lynn.

We also recognized Catherine Trembling who has been a great asset to the club, both as hike leader and promoting the club/member recruitment. Catherine will be starting a new hiking adventure of her own as she is moving to La Belle Province. She will be greatly missed but we know she will enjoy her new life in Quebec. Enjoy those trails Catherine.



We are looking forward to the upcoming season with new and fun outings for all to enjoy. See you on the trails.

Midland

By Larry Piitz, President

After yet another successful winter of snowshoe hikes we now have a new spring in our much lighter footwear. This past winter, in addition to twice weekly scheduled hikes we were able to take advantage of great winter weather to sneak a few extras.

Highlights include several of our members earning much deserved badges for completing 100 hikes in 1 year. Frieda managed 206. WOW. Also a highlight for me was that we were joined for much of the season by Tamaki a wonderful Japanese exchange student who was studying here. Tamaki has now returned home with a unique Canadian experience - snowshoeing.



Although several of our clubs chose not to run a full summer schedule we here in Midland will continue twice weekly hikes for those who wish to brave the heat and the insects. Wednesdays we will be doing local hikes beginning at 10AM. These are decided on a weekly basis with consideration given to the weather and the wishes of the participants. Weekend hikes are published in this newsletter.

Also on Wednesday mornings Beth Hamer will be organizing paddle outings. For information contact Beth at 705-361-2644.

Friends Who Cycle will also be active again this summer. Info is on the Friends Who Cycle Facebook page. See you on the trails.

Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President

The club has continued to offer 3 outings per week, and maybe thanks to Google Calendar, we often see members from other clubs on our hikes. This is welcome indeed – and inspires us to consider joining the other clubs as well. Overall hike attendance has been reduced this year – especially when compared to the inflated numbers associated with Covid. However, we still see fewer out on our hikes than prior to Covid. We will have the chance to strategize about this at our upcoming annual meeting. We will be sliding into the spring/summer other activities soon – Tito Faria will lead the biking, and Bob Wilson will lead the kayaking.

Meanwhile, a big change is coming in that Paul McCreath, our faithful Tuesday 2 hour hike leader, is stepping down from leading the regular hikes – after approximately 10 years. Huge thanks to Paul for all he has done. He plans to continue to scout/lay snowshoe tracks, though, and come out to hike, and generally be an active member of the club (he’s only 82 years young after all). However, Ann Kivinen will resume her Monday 1 hour easy hikes at the beginning of April – and these are a welcome addition to the schedule.



We’re planning our regular spring cleanup of the eastern end of our section where it runs along country roads in Ramara – this should yield enough money in beer cans to get us coffee and timbits! Speaking of cleaning up – we are still stewarding a section of the beautiful Copeland Forest with regard to Garlic Mustard control – this offers a great chance to immerse ourselves in the sights and sounds of this biodiversely rich environment, while becoming familiar with the trails which can be confusing, for sure.

We have lost another of our retired former keen hikers – Harold Powell passed at the age of 97 – Paul reminisced that he and Harold laid the first trail across the Wilderness section with the aid of snowmobiles – many moons ago. Happy trails, Harold!

As always, a special thanks to all our leaders mentioned above for providing us with such varied hiking opportunities – and to Bob Wilson, our trail maintenance director, and Leslie Raymond, our hikes coordinator.

Oro-Medonte

By **Christine Cornu, President**

In January, twenty-three hikers started off our winter hiking season at Wilkins Walk on a cold, blustery Sunday. It was a great way to bring in the new year. Since then, we have hiked in Copeland Forest, Scout Valley, Bass Lake area, Tiffin Conservation area just to name a few places. We snowshoed/skied in Awenda Provincial Park and the Bracebridge Resource Management Centre. We had a delicious potluck dinner followed by a moonlight walk in Horseshoe Valley. Thank you to Wayne and Holly for once again inviting us into your beautiful home.



As I write this the birds are singing happily as they build their nests. The ground is still bare so there are lots of twigs and reeds they can gather to make a home for their expected young. We too are busy raking, seeding, planting, spring cleaning. There is always so much to do this time of year. No matter how long my list of chores, hiking is on the top.

Our hikes are well attended. Sunday hikes seem the most popular although Monday hikes are picking up again. The Oro-Medonte Club does not hike in July and August but will start up again in September with a hike and get together. Trail maintenance will take place in May and June as well as garlic mustard pulling in Copeland Forest. I sincerely thank everyone who comes out to help on these occasions. I also sincerely thank the hike leaders without whom our club would not be as fun and successful as it is.

I wish everyone a good summer and look forward to seeing you on the trail. Be happy . . . hike!



Pine Ridge

By Jay Sherwin, President

Children of Winter Never Grow Old
Anonymous

The only thing consistent about the weather during the past winter was inconsistency. Throughout the winter, we here in the Pine Ridge Hiking Club area experienced five significant snow events each of which melted away to nothing prior to a subsequent storm. The changing conditions made hike planning a challenge. However, thanks to the dedication of hike leaders, pre-hikes were completed and updated conditions were passed to the membership courtesy of our communications coordinator. As a result, our weekend hikes were generally well attended and only one hike had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. Many new members have been welcomed to our club during the past few months. On one recent hike, 80% of the participants were members who had joined the club within the past 18 months.

A highlight of the winter was a hike to the newly constructed footbridge at km 12 of the GHTA trail. Twenty-nine members attended. A short ceremony was held at the bridge followed by a tailgate party at the trailhead where the property owners, Gord and Judy Austin who granted permission for the club to construct the new bridge on their land were honoured.



Tailgate party following opening ceremony of new footbridge on GHTA trail. Property owners of land at km 12 of GHTA trail, Gord and Judy Austin (facing camera)

In addition to the new bridge at km 12, work continues to replace two bridges over tributaries of the Ganaraska River at km 8 on the GHTA trail. Erosion at the crib box foundations of the existing bridges is threatening the stability of each bridge. A single span bridge constructed of locally harvested cedar logs is being constructed just downstream of the confluence of the two tributaries. Construction of the bridge has been spearheaded by property owners Bill and Penny Harris with several PRHC club members contributing numerous hours of volunteer labour. Completion of the new bridge is expected later this summer. In the meantime, the existing bridges will continue to be used.



New footbridge under construction at km 8 of GHTA trail.

Hikers with the PRHC will have ample opportunities to enjoy the local countryside as hikes of varying length will be offered on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays each week throughout April, May and June. Short evening hikes in Cobourg or Port Hope will be offered every second week through July and August.

Despite PRHC members having limited opportunities to hike abroad over the past three years, the annual tradition of an evening of Hike Talks continued in 2023. Hikes completed in the Tatra Mountains of Poland, The Isles of Scilly and the Amalfi Coast were presented by club members on March 27. A potluck dinner preceded the presentations.

Upcoming activities for the PRHC include a litter clean-up along a portion of the GHTA trail on Earth Day, joining the Canada Day parade in Port Hope and a presentation of the photo exhibition Through the Hiker's Lens at the Port Hope Library in late November.

Although the Ganaraska Forest reopened for recreational activity earlier this year, the section of the GHTA trail from km 31 to km 39 remained off-limits for hiking in order to accommodate cross-country skiing. The section of trail from km 31 to 39 reopened to hikers on April 1st. GHTA members are reminded that only hikers who are on a GHTA club sanctioned hike or are GF members are permitted to use the GF trails without paying a day use fee. At present, the only place to purchase a day pass is at the GF Centre. It is planned to have day use permits available online by April 1st.

Wasaga Beach

By Lorraine van Vlymen, Acting President

The winter hiking has been very successful with the weather largely cooperating and, for the last part of winter, good snow conditions. Snowshoe hiking was down this winter because of fewer days of fresh snow to challenge us. The regular Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon hikes are well attended with an increasing number of new members joining us. We are always looking forward to teaching newcomers to experience the wonders of hiking our trails. We have been



largely focused on local hikes this winter as we have easily accessible scenic forest trails right here in town. As we move into the warmer months, we are planning to venture further afield onto Blue Mountain, and onto the Simcoe and Dufferin County forest trails.



Our regular Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon hikes are usually easy to moderate in difficulty and range from 1.5 to 2 hours. We are adding some longer, more challenging hikes (in the 3-hour range) and will try some new trails as the weather improves. The weekly ambler hikes are continuing as they are very popular for those seeking an easier pace and shorter hike in the local area. Our leaders are an enthusiastic group who are very familiar with the trails and always put safety first. Thanks to all our current hike leaders.

Our club is healthy because of your commitment and interest, and we couldn't do it without you. There will be a concerted effort this spring, to increase the number of leaders, and members with first aid training.

Another objective in the next month or two is a maintenance survey of our trails and some work on improving blazes. A further look will be taken at Ondago to see if it accurately describes and aligns with what is on the ground. An effort will also be made on increasing our photo data base of club hikes and other events.

As we get back to our regular agenda we will be participating in more social activities and greater community outreach. An outdoor 'Welcome to Spring' event, and summer picnic are on the horizon. Participation in community events will include the annual spring roadside cleanup, and main street garden work. It is always a pleasure to spread the word to fellow citizens on the benefits of hiking and enjoying the great outdoors, especially with all the beauty we have right here in our backyard.

I will continue my work on expanding the executive into the new year. Unfortunately, the Wasaga Beach Club currently has a very lean executive, with myself as acting president and Jenny Schimmel as treasurer and membership lead. In the meantime, we will continue to offer the diversity of hiking opportunities that the members appreciate.



Wilderness

By Rob Halupka – President

In 2022, the Wilderness Club delivered over 20 hikes in addition to paddling events and two overnight 'cross-over' hiking trips, completed a reroute of a section of trail, undertook several maintenance hikes, ran an educational clinic on overnight hiking and hosted several social events. Our members also participated in the Winter edition of Hike Haliburton and manned the GHTA booth at the Toronto Outdoor Adventure Show in February. Our first-ever club member survey was launched in March, and we are pleased to report that it was well received with good participation; we will use the feedback to influence how we conduct our various activities and in addressing the interests and preferences of our members. Many of our members reside 2-3 hours' drive from our trails, and these folks typically seek out longer, more rugged adventures. However, we are fortunate to also have fabulous day hike terrain within QEII and in the nearby region.



The Ganaraska End-to-End team led by Neil Runnalls and Dan Myall has been moving steadily northwards from Port Hope, having completed the Pine Ridge, Kawartha, Wilderness, Orillia and Barrie sections. They will soon be finishing the Mad River section and have set their sights on the Wasaga, Oro-Medonte, Midland and Tiny sections of the Ganaraska Trail in the coming spring and summer. You are invited to join Neil and Dan on their quest to complete the trail and make great friends along the way (*my crystal ball tells me that there may be a celebration in the coming months*).

The Wilderness Club held its Annual Meeting via Zoom on March 22nd with 25 participants. We were delighted to have special guests GHTA President Frieda Baldwin and QEII Park Biologist Phil Careless address the group and

bring us up-to-date on initiatives and projects of the GHTA and QEII, respectively.

Of note this year is GHTA's requirement for annual trail inspection reports which we will implement in the coming season. Volunteers will be needed for trail maintenance hikes (trimming undergrowth, refreshing blazes) and we look forward to partnering with Ontario Parks. Trails for day maintenance hikes are accessed from trailheads at Devil's Lake and Moore Falls on the east side of QEII and Victoria Bridge at the west end. Given the difficulty and time involved in accessing the more remote parts of our trail network, we will be arranging (1) a float plane drop off for a party of four at Wolf Lake to tackle the interior White main trail, and (2) a crew to go on an overnight hiking expedition to carry out trail maintenance on the Ragged Rapids-High Falls loop. Finally, Ontario Parks has tentatively circled May 17th as the date to reinstall the floating bridge at the mouth of Montgomery Creek, subject to water levels and availability of Park staff.

Blue Trail Badge for 2024

Attention badge collectors - the Wilderness Club is planning to introduce a new Blue trail badge for members who complete five blue side trails and connecting main trail segments within QEII.

Special Acknowledgement

Wilderness Club member Vlad Jonak is being recognized for his outstanding contribution last fall. Vlad is a long-time Wilderness Club member with an intimate knowledge of the backcountry in QEII and has completed the renowned 'cross-over' hike more times than he can count on his fingers and toes. In 2023, he partnered with El Pesidente (Rob) to guide a group of six hikers on a cross-over hike (*note: the Wilderness Club has a backlog of requests for cross-over hikes, but a limited number of hike leaders*). Vlad then organized a work party to reset and re-blaze the section of trail that was disrupted by a blown beaver dam in 2021.



Wilderness Club Administration

An invitation is hereby extended to all our members to consider taking on roles in the administration of the Wilderness Club. All positions are open for consideration, including President. We need a succession plan and YOU can play a part. While I am prepared to continue serving as *El Presidente*, my 'best before' date is approaching. I am delighted (and much relieved) to confirm that Carolyn Humphreys will carry on as Vice President (she claims 'to like the front row of the back room'); unofficially, she is also our creative director and ensures that everything that needs doing gets done. We could use a little help immediately because our Trail Director and Hike Coordinator positions are vacant and we have more requests for guided crossover hikes than we can deliver. We need more hike leaders - members are invited to qualify by completing Hike Ontario's Certified Hike Leader ("CHL") course and first aid training. Please get in touch if you are interested to find out more.

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Ratings

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Easy	Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots and poles optional. Suitable for beginners.
Moderate	Generally on trail. May be hilly, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots and poles recommended.
Difficult	Rough terrain. May include bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock scrambling. Boots and poles essential, and a high level of fitness. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

*Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2023, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.*

Alaska Hiking
13 Days: June 7, 2024
DOUBLE TBA SINGLE TBA

Newfoundland East Coast Trail
6 Days: July 2, 2023
DOUBLE \$2,695 SINGLE \$3,395

Newfoundland Hiking West
8 Days: July 22, 2023 (Flights Included)
DOUBLE \$5,095 SINGLE \$5,895

Newfoundland Hiking East
8 Days: August 9, 2023
DOUBLE \$3,695 SINGLE \$4,395

Banff Hiking
8 Days: August 20, 2023
DOUBLE \$4,795 SINGLE \$6,295

Saguenay Hiking
8 Days: September 3, 2023
DOUBLE \$4,395 SINGLE \$5,295

Niagara Hiking
5 Days: September 4, 2023
DOUBLE \$1,995 SINGLE \$2,595

P.E.I. Hiking
8 Days: September 9, 2023
DOUBLE \$4,095 SINGLE \$4,895

Québec Eastern Townships
7 Days: September 24, 2023
DOUBLE \$3,795 SINGLE \$4,595

PRICE INCLUDES: Accommodation, meals and highlights as listed on website, all entry fees and passes, local guides and Tour Director. Prices are in Canadian dollars, are per person and include HST.

DeLuxeHiking
Ready for Adventure



SPRING and SUMMER 2023 HIKE SCHEDULES

This information is current as per newsletter publication. Please check with the hike leader, or see the updated hike information on the Google Calendar, registration apps, or email information from your local club closer to the time of the planned hike.

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

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. See the hike rating chart on the prior page.

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.

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.

COVID is still present and still a possible threat, albeit less life-threatening than 2 years ago – so if someone is not well, it is expected that they will not attend a hike.

BARRIE HIKES

Wednesday hikes are between 1.5- 2 hours. Thursday and Sunday hikes are between 3-4 hour (sometimes longer) with a lunch break. Tuesday evening hikes are about 1.5 hrs.

All hikes start at 10:00a.m. except the Tuesday evening that will start at 6:30. Please check the Ganaraska website calendar or check with the hike leader for further information.

Hike schedules

April 30. Tiny Marsh (Easy). Meet at 500 Tiny FlosTownline Elmvale. Contact. Jason Couper @ jasoncouperhikeleader@gmail.com

May 2. North Simcoe Rail Trail. (Easy, introductory level hike) Meet at Midhurst Station Park on Hwy 26 west of Golf Course Rd.

Contact. John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

May 3. Drury Tract (Easy). Meet at the commuter parking lot at Hwy 93 and 11. Contact. Shelagh Blenkarn @ 705-794-6689

May 4. Simcoe County Forest. Line 8-9. (Moderate). Meet at the parking lot on Oro-Medonte Line 8.

Contact. John Sloan@ 705-715-6994

May 7. Copeland Forest (Moderate) Meet at P2 on Ingram Rd. Contact. Jason Couper @ jasoncouperhikeleader@gmail.com.

May 10. Midhurst Tract (moderate) Meet at the Midhurst Community Center parking lot at 74 Doran Rd.

Contact John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

May 11. Big Chute-Pretty Channel (moderate). Meet at 9am at the Old Dollar Store at Orillia Square Mall or 9:15 at the Coldwater commuter parking lot at exit 137 from Hwy 400

Contact Leslie Raymond @ 705-790-3598

May 14. Minesing Wetlands (moderate). Meet at 9:30 at the back parking lot of Canadian Tire North Barrie or at 10:00 at the parking lot on Pinegrove Rd.

Contact. Dale Hannah @ 249-359-7270

May 17. Midhurst Simcoe County Forest (easy). Meet behind the Simcoe County Administration Building.

Contact. Shelagh Blenkarn @ 705-794-6689

May 18. McCrae Lake Conservation Trail (moderate). Meet at 9:15 am at the Coldwater Commuter Parking lot (exit 137 off Hwy.400).

Contact. Leslie Raymond @ 705-790-3598

May 21. Boyne Valley (moderate- difficult). Meet at 8:45 at the rear parking lot of Canadian Tire North Barrie

Contact. Jason Couper @

jasoncouperhikeleader@gmail.com

May 24. Tiny Marsh (easy). Meet at the parking lot at 500 Tiny Flos Townline Elmvale

Contact Liz Erwin @ 705-792-6181

May 28. Long Falls (moderate). Meet at 8:30am at the parking lot behind Canadian Tire North Barrie or at 9:00am from the Coldwater Commuter Parking lot at exit 137

Contact Dale Hannah @ 249-359-7270

May 30. Simcoe County Forest behind Tree Nursery Sports Park (easy, introductory level hike). Meet at 6:30 at the far end of the parking lot behind Springwater Township Offices

Contact. John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

May 31. Sugar Bush Trilliums (moderate). Meet at the trail head on Oro-Medonte Line 6 Sugar Bush Estates.

Contact Liz Erwin @ 705-792-6181

June 1. Gill Rd to Old Second South (moderate). Meet at the parking lot at 1898 Gill Rd. Midhurst

Contact Alana Boulay @ alanab32@outlook.com

June 4. South Copeland Forest (moderate). Meet at P5 just north of Horseshoe Valley Rd on Oro-Medonte Line 5

Contact Leslie Raymond @ 705-790-3598

June 7. Barr Tract (moderate). Meet at the unopened road allowance of Line 1 and Horseshoe Valley Rd opposite Settlers Ghost Golf Club

Contact. Shelagh Blenkarn @ 705-794-6689

June 8. Pretty River:Bruce Trail (moderate to challenging). Meet at 9:00am at the parking lot behind Canadian Tire North Barrie or 9:35 at the Stayner Beer Store Parking lot

Contact John Sloan @705-715-6994

June 11. Oro-Medonte Simcoe County Forest (moderate). Meet at the parking lot at 100 Bass Lake Sideroad North.

Contact. Leslie Raymond @ 705-790-3598

June 14. (moderate). Meet at the parking lot and trail head at Old Second South just south of Horseshoe Valley Rd.

Contact. Liz Erwin@ 705-792-6181

June 15. Copeland Forest P5 (moderate to difficult). Meet at the P5 parking lot on Oro-Medonte Line 5 just north of Horseshoe Valley Rd.

Contact John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

June 18. Duncan Escarpment to Metcalf Rock Loop (moderate to challenging). Meet at 8:45 behind Canadian Tire North Barrie

Contact. Jason Couper @

jasoncouperhikeleader@gmail.com

June 21. Drury Tract (easy). Meet at 9:45 am at the commuter parking lot at Hwy 93 and 11.

Contact Shelagh Blenkarn @ 795-794-6689

June 22. Noisy River (moderate). Meet at the parking lot behind Canadian Tire North Barrie @ 8:45

Contact. Alana Boulay @ alanab32@outlook.com

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

Wednesday hikes are 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km. Weekend hikes are 3-4 hrs/10-12 km (sometimes longer) and usually include a lunch stop

Hikers should arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. Contact the named hike leader for more information.

Back-up contacts are:

- Wednesday Hikes: Janice 705-874-0194
- Weekend Hikes: Richard 705-750-1040

Wednesday, May 3; Fleming College Trails <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Barb R at 705-760-1974

Saturday, May 6; McCrackens Landing/Oatbox Forest <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Barb R. at 705-760-1974

Wednesday, May 10; Kawartha Heights <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 7 km; Contact Mark or Heather at 705-874-2133

Saturday, May 13; GHT Kawartha Leg #2 <MODERATE+> Victoria Junction (km 14.5) to Wagar Road (km 29.9) 10 a.m.; 15.4 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, May 17; Trent Wildlife Sanctuary <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

May Long Weekend – No Hikes Scheduled

Wednesday, May 24; Trent Canal & TCT <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, May 27; Ballyduff Trails <MODERATE +> 10 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, May 31; University Heights Park <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Sharleen at 705-768-0237

Saturday, June 3; GHT Pine Ridge Leg #2 <MODERATE> 10 a.m.; 11.8 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, June 7; Omemee Rail Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Ann at 705-743-5032

Saturday, June 10; Fleetwood Conservation Area <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 14 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Wednesday, June 14; Lakefield Woods <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Saturday, June 17; Orono Crown Lands <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Wednesday, June 21; Harold Town CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, June 24; Peterborough Crown Game Preserve/Blue Mountain <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 8 km; Contact Mark or Heather at 705-874-2133

Wednesday, June 28; Buckhorn <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-8 km; Contact Karin at 705-657-8056

2023 GHT Pine Ridge Section End to End Challenge Hike planning for the 5 Legs of this challenge is well underway with dates for the first two Legs already set as follows:

- April 29 - Leg #1
- June 3 - Leg #2

The remaining 3 legs will be scheduled over the summer and will be available from [Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association - Kawartha Club | Facebook](#). For more information about this Kawartha Club challenge, contact George at 705-927-2924.

MAD RIVER HIKES

More detailed information of hikes below will be posted on the Google calendar. Please register with hike leaders including your emergency contact information. In the event that hikes will be cancelled, registered hikers will be notified the day of prior to 8 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2: Tiny Marsh. 10 a.m. Easy, 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Saturday May 6: NVCA Tree Planting. We are planning on having the tree planting along the Mad River on May 6th from 9am-12pm at 3391 Concession 3 south. This will help stop erosion along the river bank and the Mad River hiking trail. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571 or Laura at 705-424-1479 ext 275 to reserve your spot. lwensink@nvca.on.ca

Tuesday, May 9: Balsam Wetlands. 10 a.m. We shuttle from Glen Huron to County Road 91 parking lot to begin the hike. Moderate - 12 km. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606 1077

Saturday, May 13: Glencairn Woodlot: 10 a.m. 6936 Concession 2 Lisle. Easy/Moderate. 8 km of trails. CONTACT: Lana & Don Johnson 705 730 5686 or 416 998 3410

Tuesday, May 16: Ardagh Bluffs. 10 a.m. Moderate. 2.5-3 hours. Holly Rec Centre. CONTACT: Pat and Pierre: desertelspat@gmail.com Call or text: 705-331-1527

Tuesday, May 23: Kolapore Uplands. 10 a.m. Moderate 9 km. Hiking through maple bush, bridges, boardwalks. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Saturday, May 27: Brentwood/Glencairn Biosphere. 10 a.m. Easy - 3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Tuesday, May 30: Noisy River Provincial Park. 10 a.m. Moderate 10 km. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Saturday, June 3: Wasaga Beach/Notty River: **10:30 a.m.** Easy with some hills. 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Saturday, June 10: Simcoe County Forest. 10 a.m. Moderate - 3 hours. CONTACT: Brenda McDonald: Text 905-724-0128 or email bmcd2454@gmail.com Include name and emergency contact number.

Saturday, June 17: Glen Huron, River Road. 10 a.m. Moderate - 10 km. Car shuttle to start of hike through forests with great views. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Saturday, June 24: Carruthers Conservation Area. 10 a.m. Easy 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

MIDLAND HIKES

Local Wednesday hikes will continue throughout the spring on our usual routine. Meet 10:00AM at Food Basics for a 2 hr. local hike. Locations will be decided based on weather and trail conditions. Notifications will be sent out only if there is a change such as a longer hike or cancellation. Bike and paddle groups are back!

Saturday April 29 Elmvalle Maple Syrup Festival. Meet at Food Basics Midland at 10 AM. Easy. Contact Kim 705 728 2033

Saturday May 6 Coopers Falls Hike Moderate 8 K. Meet at 10 AM at Midland Food Basics or 11 AM Coopers Falls Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday May 13 Trail Maintenance Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sunday May 14 Kolapore Area Hike. 9 AM moderate/difficult. Approx. 10 K Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Saturday May 20 Scout Valley Hike Meet 10:30 AM at Scout Valley. Easy to Moderate. Contact Simone 705 209 2526

Saturday May 27 9 Mile Portage Trail. Moderate. Meet 8:30 AM Food Basics Midland Contact Joe 705 279 1518

Saturday May 3 Sturgeon River Forest 10 AM Easy Contact Simone 705 209 2526

Sunday June 4 Standing Rock Hike. 9:30 AM moderate /difficult. 10 K, Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Saturday June 10 Tiny Marsh.1 PM at Tiny Marsh.
Easy
Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sunday June 11 Trail Maintenance
Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Saturday June 17 Blueberry Farm Hike. Easy. Meet 1 PM Food Basics in Midland.
Contact Edda 705 427 3460

Sat June 17- Mon June 19 Camping Grundy Lake Provincial Park.
Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Sunday June 18 Midhurst hike. Easy to moderate. Meet 10 AM Midland Food Basics or 10:45 AM in Midhurst.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday June 24 Wymbolwood Beach Area Hike. Easy to moderate. Meet 1 PM Food Basics in Midland.
Contact Kim 705 728 2033

Sunday June 25 Tiffin Conservation Area Hike. Easy 6 K. Meet 1 PM Midland Food Basics or 2 PM at Tiffin.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday July 8 Copeland Forest. Easy/moderate. Details to follow
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sunday July 9 Christian Island Hike or Bike.
Contact Kim 705 728 2033

Saturday July 15 Pretty Channel Hike and Swim. Moderate 8 K. Meet 10 AM Midland Food Basics or 10:45 AM at Big Chute.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday July 16 Simpresca Camp. Easy.
Contact Edda 705 427 3460

Friday July 21 Kilbear Shoreline Scramble and Swim. Easy or moderate hike. Meet 9:30 AM Midland Food Basics or 11 AM at Kilbear Provincial Park.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday July 22 Caston Forest Hike 10 AM easy to moderate.

Contact Simone 705 209 2526

Saturday July 29 Midland Ganaraska Hike, south section.
Contact Marilyn 705 527 0256

Saturday Aug 5 Hike Gill Rd to Old 2nd.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Wednesday August 9 Hardy Lake Hike and swim. Moderate 9 K. Meet 10 AM Midland Food Basics or 11 AM at Hardy Lake.
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sunday August 13 Lone Lake Hike. Meet there 10 AM. Moderate to difficult.
Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Saturday August 19 Torrance Barrens Reserve Easy to moderate, approx. 10 km
Meet at 10 AM at Midland Food Basics.
Contact Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sunday August 20 Historic Keewatin Ship. Easy hike around Pt McNicoll harbour. Meet 1 PM Midland Food Basics.
Contact Edda 705 427 3460

Saturday August 26 McCrea Lake 10 AM at McCrea. Moderate to difficult.
Contact Larry 705 529 9141

ORILLIA HIKES

There will be canoeing and kayaking on Tuesdays starting in May and continuing until the middle of September. This is open to members of all clubs. Notices for upcoming paddles will be sent to participants by email. Most paddles will last 4 hours and be 12-18km. We have several experienced leaders who will guide the group to interesting and beautiful places in Simcoe County and southern Muskoka. To join the group contact Bob Wilson at 705-330-1904.

The club will also be cycling on several Thursdays starting in May continuing until July. The rides will be 30-40km, easy to moderate pace. Contact Tito Faria

at 416-624-0133 to register. The rides are posted on the calendar.

EVERY Monday <EASY> 1 hour local hikes 10:00 am; Contact Ann at 705-329-4835

EVERY TUESDAY <EASY> 2 hr Local Hike 9:00 am (usually);

Saturday, May 6; Ragged Rapids <DIFFICULT> 10:00 am; hike 5 hours. Contact Diane Dailly at 705-241-7735

Saturday, May 13; Beaver Valley <MODERATE> 10:00 am ; hike 4-5 hours. Contact Carol 705-238-1905

Saturday May 20; Slessor Tract <EASY> 10:00 am; hike 2.5 hours. Contact Isabelle at 705-321-3631

Saturday, May 27; Montgomery Loop <MODERATE-DIFFICULT> 10:00 am; hike 4-5 hours. Contact Diane Dailly at 705-241-7735

Saturday, June 3; Cooper's Falls <MODERATE> 10:00 am; Hike 4-5 hours. Contact Leslie Raymond at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, June 10; Rugby Estates <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike 3-4 hours. Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Monday, May 8; Mulmur Hills <MODERATE-DIFFICULT> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 4-5 hours; some big hills; bring lunch; Contact Pat or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, May 14; Midhurst<MODERATE>1:30 pm; walk 2 hours; Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, May 29; Mono Cliffs Provincial Park<MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; 8km; bring lunch; Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, June 4; Little Lake Barrie<EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Holly 705-345-7913

Monday, June 12; Pretty Channel/ Big Chute <MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 4 hours; bring lunch; Contact Pat 705-733-2078 or Christine 705-733-3825

Sunday, June 18; Vasey Area Ganaraska Trail <MODERATE> 1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Kim 705-721-0502

PINE RIDGE HIKES

Hikers Should Arrive At Least 10 Minutes Before the Advertised Hike Departure Time. Please check our [website](#) for more hike details.

Wednesday, May 03 <MODERATE> 11 km. Primrose Donkey Sanctuary. Leaving 9:30 am from the Northumberland Forest, Carstairs Tract parking lot on Bowmanton Rd. Contact Cynthia at 416 694 7901

Saturday, May 06 <EASY> 6.5 km. Gleason's Corner Rd. Carpooling and leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Hilda at 905 372 2395

Sunday, May 07 <EASY PLUS> 11.5 km. Nawautin Shores, Grafton. Leaving 9:30 am from the dead-end road beside the Fairview Cemetery, at Shelter Valley Rd and Hwy 2. Contact Darryl at 905 373 2463

Wednesday, May 10 <MODERATE> 10 -15 km. Northumberland Forest, Green Trails. Meet and park at 9:30 am at the Beagle Club Rd parking lot. Contact Jodi at 905 269 5932

Saturday, May 13 <MODERATE> 9 km. Northumberland Forest, Sweet Fern Loop. Meet and park at 9:30 am at the Woodland parking lot on Hwy 45. Contact Jodi at 905 269 5932

Sunday, May 14 <EASY> 8 km. West Port Hope, Rapley Blvd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the bottom of Rapley Blvd (near a park). Contact Jan at 905 375 8188

Wednesday, May 17 <MODERATE PLUS> 12 km. Creighton's Hill. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling possible). Contact Lee at 905 376 3468

Saturday, May 20 <EASY> 6 km. Knoxville Rd-Jamieson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on Knoxville Rd just north of the Sixth Line (across from the cemetery). Contact Karen at 289 356 7366

Sunday, May 21 <EASY> 10 km. Osaca area (Hwy 65). Leaving 9:30 am from the Home Hardware parking lot, Port Hope (carpooling possible). Contact Jan at 905 375 8188

Wednesday, May 24 <EASY to MODERATE> 5, 6 & 10 km. Bonebakker Land Trust Property. Leaving from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot at 9:30 am (carpooling possible). Contact Jay at 905 396 3895

Saturday, May 27 <EASY> 5 km. Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. Meet and park 9:30 am at the Hazel Bird parking lot, 9639 Beavermeadow Rd. East, Baltimore. Contact John at 416 998 1292

Sunday, May 28 <MODERATE> 12 km. Murray Marsh Natural Habitat, Codrington (Hwy 30) Leaving the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot at 9:30 am. Contact Melissa at 905 375 9033

Wednesday, May 31 <MODERATE PLUS> 15 km. Red Cloud Cemetery. Leaving from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot at 9:30 am (carpooling available). Contact Jay at 905 396 3895

Saturday, June 03 <EASY> 7.6 km. Port Hope, Baulch Rd/Haskill Rd. Leaving at 9:30 am from the Port Hope Dog Park parking lot on Baulch Rd. Contact Melissa at 905 375 9033

Sunday, June 04 <EASY> 8 km. Roads and trails east of Sylvan Glen. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Sylvan Glen Conservation Area parking lot. Contact Jan at 905 375 8188

Wednesday, June 07 <EASY PLUS> 8 km. Brand Rd to Port Britain Beach. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on Brand Rd near Lakeshore Rd. Contact Dixie at dixie.allen@ymail.com

Saturday, June 10 <MODERATE> 9.5 km. Centreton area, Newton Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling possible). Contact Bill at 905 207 2399

Sunday, June 11 <MODERATE> 10 km. Northumberland Forest, Green Trail, Dunbar Rd, Oak Ridges trail Leaving 9:30 am from the Beagle Club parking lot. Contact Karen at 289 356 7366

Wednesday, June 14 <MODERATE> 8.0 km. Wicklow area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling possible). Contact Cynthia at 416 694 7901

Saturday, June 17 <EASY PLUS> 5.5 km. Oliver's Lane. Includes a stop for a garden tour at a private residence. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Hilda at 905 372 2395

Sunday, June 18 <MODERATE> 9 km. Oak Heights area, Hogan Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling possible). Contact Darryl at 905 373 2463

Wednesday, June 21 <EASY> 9 or 13 km. Bewdley area south. Leaving from the Home Hardware Port Hope parking lot at 9:30 am. Contact Stan at 289 691 3275

Saturday, June 24 <MODERATE> 10 km. Burnley-Carmel Trail. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling available). Contact Jay at 905 396 3895

Sunday, June 25 <MODERATE> 7.5 km. Northumberland Forest, Black Oak loop. Leaving at 9:30 am from the Woodland parking lot on Hwy 45. Contact Karen at 289 356 7366

Wednesday, June 28 <MODERATE> 10 km. Bethel Grove/Glen Gavel Rd loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on Vic Lightle Rd just north of Bethel Grove Rd. Contact Dixie at dixie.allen@ymail.com

Saturday, Jul 01
Canada Day Parade, Port Hope
Time and details tba

Wednesday, July 05 <EASY> about 5 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk. Monk's Cove. Leaving at 6:00 pm from the front of Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West, Cobourg. Contact Susan at 289 251 3125

Wednesday, July 19 <MODERATE> about 5 km. Port Hope EVENING town walk. Ganaraska River, Monkey Mtn. Leaving from the Port Hope City Hall parking area at 6:00 pm. Contact Jay at 905 396 3895

Wednesday, Aug 02 <EASY> about 5 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk. Coverdale Park. Leaving at 6:00 pm from the front of Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West, Cobourg. Contact Susan at 289 251 3125

Wednesday, Aug 16 <MODERATE> about 5 km. Port Hope EVENING town walk. Downtown East Leaving from the Port Hope City Hall parking area at 6:00 pm. Contact Karen at 289 356 7366

Wednesday, Aug 30 <EASY> about 5 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk. Cobourg Community Garden. Leaving from the Downtown LCBO (63 Albert St), Cobourg at 6:00 pm. Contact Bill at 905 207 2399

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

Please check the Wilderness Club Facebook page for spring/summer hike or the Association calendar for up-to-date information. Hikes are scheduled based on water level and bugs with a minimum of one week of advance notice.

Saturday, May 6 – 9:30 Anson Mountain – King of the Mountain, 15 km Difficult
Cara Oleksuk – 705-854-2115

Sunday, May 7 - 9:00 a.m. Ragged Rapids - Beat the Bugs Trail Maintenance Hike
16 km Difficult/Challenging
Rob Halupka - 416-737-8819

Saturday May 13 – 9:30
Black Creek – Seek the Suckers
10 km Moderate/Difficult
Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

Sunday, May 14
E2E group - Wasaga Section, Moderate Neil Runnalls
neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com for hike details.

Wednesday May 17 – 9:00
Maintenance – replace Montgomery Cr floating bridge, Difficult, Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

Sunday, May 28 E2E group - Oro-Medonte Section (Complete) Moderate Neil Runnalls
neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com for hike details

Sunday, June 11 E2E group- Midland Section
13.7km Moderate Neil Runnalls
neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com for hike details

Sunday, June 11 - 9:00 a.m.
Montgomery Creek - Greet the Bugs Trail
Maintenance Hike 12 km Difficult/Challenging
Rob Halupka - 416-737-8819

Wednesday June 21 -9:30 Paddle – National Indigenous People's Day, Fishog to Crooked Lake
16km Moderate/Difficult Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

Trail Maintenance Tip

Instead of using a paint pot to paint or refresh blazes, fill an empty salad dressing or ketchup bottle with a flip top. Then squeeze a bit of paint onto your brush. It's much cleaner, easier to walk with, carry in your backpack or store between work parties.



GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED MARCH, 2023

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Winter	Fall	Summer
BARRIE	63	69	61
INDEPENDENT	12	14	12
KAWARTHA	76	84	78
MAD RIVER	32	25	22
MIDLAND	104	134	125
ORILLIA	52	78	74
ORO-MEDONTE	43	53	50
PINE RIDGE	110	122	118
WASAGA BEACH	69	79	76
WILDERNESS	67	91	86
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	628	749	702
LIFE MEMBERS	29	30	30
MEMBERSHIPS	657	779	732
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	22	22	23
LAND OWNERS	81	81	83
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	760	882	838

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 GHATA 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	
50/100/200 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE (circle one)		7.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

Prices are under review - check the website for current pricing before placing your order

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.

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 _____

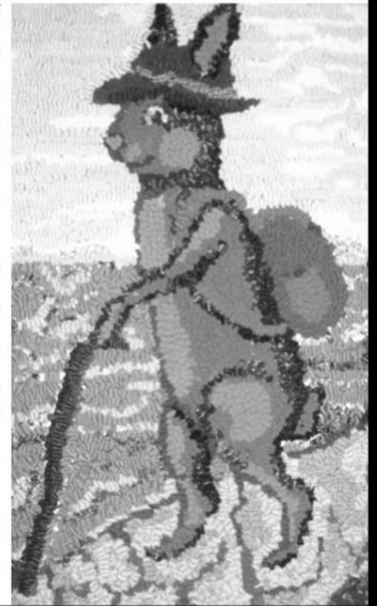
Please associate me with the following Ganaraska Trail Club: Midland ,
 Kawartha , Wilderness , Orillia , Barrie , Mad River , Wasaga
 Beach , Oro-Medonte , Pine Ridge (Port Hope) , Independent

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: _____

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 with
Brown Rabbit Walkabout

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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 submit content by April 1, August 1 and December 1 for upcoming issues.

Please send your news, stories, poems and photos via email (NewsletterEditor@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org). Please use Word or similar
 formats, but not PDF. Digital images should have a minimum of 300 ppi resolution and be JPG or PGN, not PDF.

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
 CANADA PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40031549

The older I get,
the more I regret
all the people I've lost
over the years.

Maybe being
a trail guide
wasn't such a
great idea after all.



The Memeing of Life