

TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

ISSN 1481-5982



SUMMER 2022

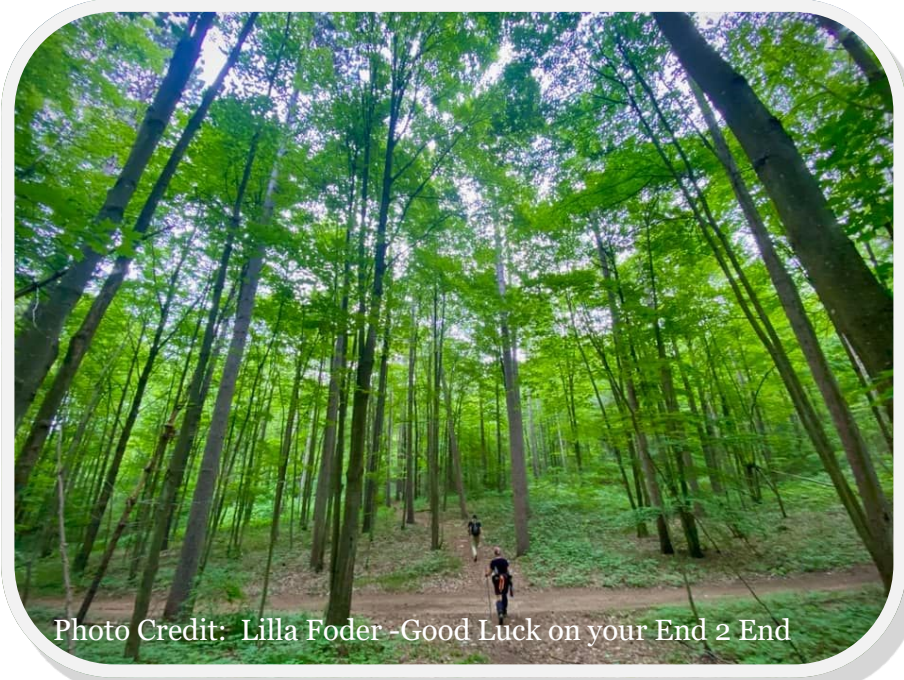


Photo Credit: Lilla Foder -Good Luck on your End 2 End



Photo Credit: Chris Abromonis Aug 2021



Photo Credit: Cheryl Fisher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Dave Tyson Board Member	2
STORM'S New Video Series.....	2
Summer Summary	3
ORTA Around Towns	4
Meet Your New Hike Leaders	5
Congratulations and Celebrations.....	6
Guidebook Retailer Locations.....	7

Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle

BOARD NEWS: We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Tyson as our new Landowner Liaison member of the ORTA Board. Dave has had a wealth of experience dealing with land owners in his previous roles with the Bruce Trail. We welcome him to ORTA and look forward to his management of this important section of our Board responsibilities.



Dave has been a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 1974. He served on the Board of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club for about 20 years including five years as President. He was the Chair of the Land Management Committee of the Board for 15 years and the Club rep. to the Bruce Trail Land Acquisition Committee for about ten years. He was a Trail Captain for 26 years and a hike leader for about ten. In 2019 he retired from all these positions except Trail Captain and then reluctantly gave that up last spring.

Dave is the author of the book, *Trail to the Bruce, the Story of the Building of the Bruce Trail*, which he self-published in 2017 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Trail in June 1967.

Dave is a semi-retired management consultant (human resources) living in downtown Toronto. He has not hiked much on the ORTA but has been cross-country skiing at the Hollidge Tract for about 40 years. However, he expects to be doing more hiking as his daughter and three grandsons live in Stouffville.

STORM (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition) is pleased to launch

Discover the Oak Ridges Moraine

This video series highlights the beauty and ecological function of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Through visual exploration you'll find out how the rain barrel of Ontario works, what the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is, how the moraine can cool the planet, and why residents need to get involved to ensure continued moraine protection.

Links to the 12 videos can be found:

on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/STORMCoalition/>

on instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/savetheoakridgesmoraine/?hl=en>

or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/cuWMudQM7VA>, <https://youtu.be/ohbZ4TPoKN8>

We hope you enjoy all twelve videos as we celebrate 20 years of Oak Ridges Moraine protection, part of Ontario's Greenbelt. The trail is featured throughout the series but highlighted on Episode 12 "[Exploring The Oak Ridges Trail](#)". This stunning video series was filmed by [Sara Cornwaihthe Productions](#).

The Oak Ridges Moraine is the Treaty lands of Alderville First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the traditional Territory of the Huron Wendat Nation, the Haudenosanee and the Metis Nation of Ontario.

With thanks on behalf of STORM Coalition to all the interviewees who shared their knowledge. Our gratitude to all landowners for providing access to moraine lands for filming this series.

Susan Lloyd Swail

A Summer Summary—Derek Cowbourne, Hike Coordinator



I thought it might be appropriate for me to pass on to you a few of the topics that have been raised with me over the last few weeks. So, in no particular order, here goes:

First and perhaps foremost, a very big **thank you** to all the individuals and crews who worked long and hard to clean up the damage from the recent storms and make the trails open and safe again.

A big welcome to our **new Hike Leaders** who completed the Hike Ontario course, run by Kevin Lowe in mid-April: Anna Santarossa, Cheryl & Steve Fisher, Deb Lennon, Greg Jaski, Lynn Tulk, Patti Juffs, and yours truly! Please support the new leaders by joining their hikes.

Regarding joining hikes, with the pandemic not entirely behind us the Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk, COVID safe hiking practices, and full vaccination against Covid-19 or medical exemption remain **required check boxes for hike registration**.

Registration is still by members only, but, if a member wishes to **register a non-member**, they must first contact the hike leader and the non-member's attendance will be at the discretion of the hike leader. Then you can register your guest and the three required registration check boxes apply equally to the non-member.

Late cancellations and registrations for hikes have occurred a few times recently, which is fine, but please remember that, if you need to cancel your registration, you should cancel your registration using the online system, **PLUS If you are cancelling after 6 pm the night before the hike, you need to contact the hike leader to let them know that you have cancelled. Your cancellation will allow a fellow hiker to go.** If you are having difficulty with the on-line system only then contact the administrator by email giving your name and which hike, and the admin for that hike will cancel it for you, **but you still must contact the leader.**

If you are registered for a hike after 6pm the night before the hike, (even if from the waitlist) you must contact the hike leader to let them know that you will be attending, as they may have printed off their Hike Leader List already and will not know you are coming and may leave without you.

We all know that the **tick season** is upon us and I've had a number of hikers tell me that they have found them during a body check after a hike. Please remember that we all have to protect ourselves, wearing the appropriate clothing and using bug repellent. Obviously, it helps if we stay on clear trails and avoid walking through high grass areas, though with the rapid growth of dog strangling vine etc., that is occasionally impossible. It's not only what we wear and how each of us behaves but also where we walk that minimizes our chances of being exposed to ticks. Let's not let ticks stop us from enjoying our hiking, but also let's remember to do our body checks afterwards.

You may have noticed that some hike leaders are adding a "**what3words**" location in their hike descriptions. What3words is a UK developed application (there's a free app for iOS and Android devices) that has given every 3m square in the world a unique three-word address.

The words are randomly assigned to each square and will always stay the same. It is not intended to replace GPS but to make it simpler to describe or find a specific location. It is used by an increasing number of first responder and emergency service agencies in Canada and around the world. However, it is not without its drawbacks. For example, my recent Greenwood CA hike meeting location was "///startles.budged.probe", but if I had mistakenly posted "///startle.budged.probe" (i.e. dropped the plural s) then that would be in central Angola, Africa, making it a little more difficult for ORTA members to join the hike!



I hope everyone has a wonderful summer with lots of hikes!

Derek



Photo Credit: Taraneh Amini

AROUND TOWN WITH ORTA



< Set up crew and shift #1: Daniela, Deb & Jody

Scott talking ORTA>



AURORA STREET FESTIVAL JUNE 5, 2022



< Neil spreading the word

Final shift with Michael & Lissa >



MARKHAM VILLAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL June 18, 2022



It was a windy day for the Markham Village Music Festival. So windy in fact that organizer Nancy Barrett and her team Tina, Jess, Scott, Caroline, Anne, Gail, Adeline and Daniel couldn't put up the ORTA flag or tent canopy! No matter, she led the volunteers in showcasing the benefits of joining ORTA.

<Scott and Caroline ready for the crowds



Cheryl & Steve Fisher



Becoming a Hike Leader one day is something my husband Steve and I have talked about for a long time.

We have been members of ORTA on and off for over 25 years, but consistently since 2017 as more time allowed. We enjoy Spring, Autumn and especially Winter hiking as a new resolve made 5 years ago, to “embrace winter” started something great, that we didn’t even know existed!

Although generally a fast walker, the ORTA hikes I prefer are a slow-moderate pace, they are more social, and they allow for a

few photographs to be taken, which I enjoy.

Hikes I lead will be smaller groups and average around 7km over two hours, but having picnics or lunch somewhere after, to me makes the hike even more enjoyable! Steve and I mostly, plan to lead hikes together as a team. We like to explore new trails, but also enjoy those that are familiar.

I look forward to witnessing, the wonder of nature with other members, in the years to come.



Greg Jaski

Hi, I am a recently retired teacher that finally has the time to join weekday hikes. Bob Comfort and Judy Pergau introduced me to ORTA over twenty years ago. While I am a life member of ORTA, until my retirement I have only joined the odd hike during holidays. I am certified as a hike leader with both Hike Ontario and the Outdoor Council of Canada. I have been heavily involved with the York Region District School Board’s Outdoor Education community through leading nature hikes at the regional outdoor education Eco-camp and with school-based groups of children and educators. I am a certified canoe tripper with ORCA (Ontario Recreational Canoe Association). I am also a life member of ON Nature, Ontario Field Ornithologists, and Birds Canada.



In 1991 my wife and I did our first big hike when we tackled the West Coast Trail. I have since hiked in the many other locations in Canada including the following: the Chilcotans, BC; Pagnirtung, NU; Jasper, Banff, AB; and lots of day hikes in parks in many of the provinces. Out of the country, I have hiked in Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, Peru and the US.

I really enjoy nature watching and, in particular, bird watching. I have spent many hours volunteering for the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Bird Studies Canada, ON Nature etc... participating in their citizen science programs such as the Land Stewardship Program, The Marsh Monitoring Program, The Breeding Bird Atlas of Ontario, Project Feederwatch, and the Christmas Bird Count. While I enjoy participating in moderate to fast hikes I would like to lead some slow to moderate hikes that incorporate nature watching (flora and fauna).

I am looking forward to seeing you out on the trail.

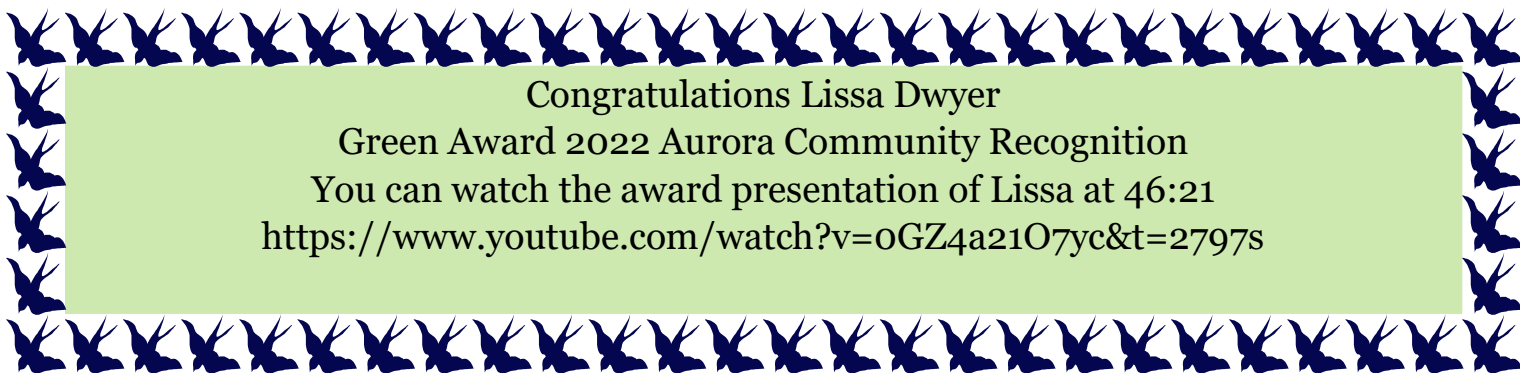


Congratulations to Kim Gavine on your recent retirement from Conservation Ontario. Your presence within the conservation arena will be missed.

Kim can be seen in Episode 6 of the [STORM Discover the Oak Ridges Moraine Episode 6 - YouTube](#) series, (read STORM article on page 2)

Thank you Kim for all your conservation efforts for ORTA and the Oak Ridges Moraine. We will see you out on the trails soon. All the best in your new endeavours.

All the best to Celia Klemenz and John Frechette, members of ORTA since 2003 on your move to Nova Scotia. Many have enjoyed your photography and news coverage over the years. Enjoy exploring new trails and making new pathways in NS!



Congratulations Lissa Dwyer

Green Award 2022 Aurora Community Recognition

You can watch the award presentation of Lissa at 46:21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGZ4a21O7yc&t=2797s>

MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES

As part of ORTA's program to Celebrate Life's Milestones

or in Memory of friends or family,

gifts were received.



30 Years Across The Moraine Trail! 2022 is our year to celebrate a milestone anniversary. Thank you for your donations. <https://oakridgestrail.org/donate/>

"Thanks for keeping the main and side trails blazed, and for all the work you do."

Anonymous donation via Canada Helps

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The ORMT Guidebook is available online or at the following retailers :

Blue Heron Books, Uxbridge 905-852-4282 <https://blueheronbooks.com/>

Books Galore & More, Port Perry 905-985-8645 <http://booksgaloreportperry.com/>

Forster's Book Garden, Bolton, 905-951-1501 <https://www.forstersbookgarden.ca/>

Furby House Books, Port Hope, 905-885-7296 <https://furbyhousebooks.com/>

Running Free, Markham 905-477-7871

Trail Hub, Uxbridge 289-8521008 <https://trailhubboutique.ca>

Wild Birds Unlimited, Newmarket 905-868-9696 <https://newmarket.wbu.com/>

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