CHAPTER NINE

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERS' ACTIVITIES

From the very beginning ORTA flourished as many volunteer hours were invested in publicising the moraine, our proposed trail and recruitment of Members to further these goals. Volunteer Coordinator Peter Attfield's yellow insert in Summer 2000 Trail Talk – see Appendix 9.1 - identified the many volunteers needed for ORTA to further all its perceived opportunities.

Membership Categories and Dues

As recounted in Chapter Two 35 individuals signed up at the Founding Meeting in May 1992 and another 14 (some were couples) joined by October. The annual Membership Fee was set at \$15.00 with a reduced rate of \$10.00 for students. ¹

Questions soon arose, not only internally but also from the insurers: Is a Membership for an individual? What about spouses and children? So, the category of Family Membership was introduced at \$20.00 p.a. There could be only one vote per Membership however many might constitute the family. Similarly only one copy of Trail Talk and other mailings would be sent to each household. Eventually the HO's General Liability Insurers agreed to base their premium on the number of Memberships and not on an estimated total number of people.

In 1999 the option of becoming a Life Membership for a one-time subscription of \$300 was introduced. Apparently initially Life Members were presented with a Certificate at the ensuing AGM – we don't have a sample on file

Effective June 1, 2001 dues were increased: Family \$25.00, Individual \$20.00, and Student \$15.00. In proposing this increase at the AGM the Board explained

¹ Founder Kris Keating was a student at Lakeland University, Peterborough.

Some people were only interested in participating locally and there was discussion in 1993 of Chapter Memberships at a reduced rate. With the proposed Chapters corresponding to single municipalities looking after 15 to 40 km of trail it was decided ORTA would not follow the BTA model as a "Federation of Clubs" each with its own President, Board and finances administering between 40 and 170 km of trail.

that as we succeeded in getting more of the trail onto private land our costs would increase. The additional \$5.00 p.a. per Member would be held in a Land Acquisition Fund.

At the AGM in 2005 the categories of membership as defined in the Constitution were rationalised. At the same time it was realised that membership dues were not covering base operating costs and thus dues were increased so that donations could be directed towards developments. Hence the new schedule:

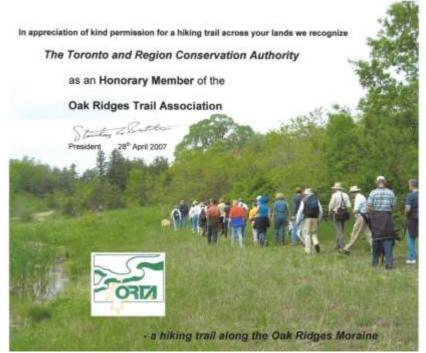
Member \$ 30.00 p.a. (Family or Individual)

Student Member \$ 20.00 p.a.

Life Member \$450.00 (Per couple)

Honorary Member

In 2016 the Annual Membership was increased to \$40.00.



Honorary Members

"A person may become an Honorary Member on appointment by the Directors and shall be exempt from payment of dues."

In 2007 the Board decided that all Landowners should be designated as Honorary Members. See Appendix 5.1.

Each was sent a plaque and asked to nominate a representative to attend Members' meetings; few have exercised this option.

Membership Growth

Sylvia Gilchrist remembers that initially it was one of her duties as Secretary to maintain a list of Members.

Year	Members
1993	49
1994	90
1995	130
1996	281
1997	450
1998	610
1999	786
2000	903

In 1995 Bill Roberts joined the board as Membership Coordinator and set himself the target of doubling Membership by the next AGM. A target which he surpassed with a total of 281 – "give or take 20 or so who have yet to renew."

Membership as Reported at AGM



In 1997 the Constitution was revised to make the Membership Co-ordinator and the Publicity Director members of the Executive Committee alongside the Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President) reflecting the importance of these roles

At the AGM in May 1999 Bill announced "the current membership is 786, 47% of which are Family Memberships." Bill made a tremendous contribution to ORTA; he participated in promotional activities, processed memberships and renewals and maintained the database. Under Bill's stewardship net membership increased by 155 a year. As President Bob Ellison wrote in Spring 2000 Trail Talk: "We hadn't realized what a big job it was until Bill decided to move on to other interests."

At the AGM in 2000 Sharon Emmerson reported the paid Membership currently stood at 903 which, computing from the number of Family Memberships meant ORTA was 1,436 persons strong.

Membership Teams

A team of three was found necessary to continue the work Bill had been doing; Sharon Emmerson as Membership Co-ordinator was assisted by Diane Hughes to collect and process the mail and deal with enquiries and Laura Novikow to maintain the database, issue renewal notices and make labels for Trail Talk.

In 2002 Marilyn Mussel became Membership Coordinator and Charlotte Owen joined the team to handle mailing of packages to new members: A letter of Welcome, an ORTA Crest, a copy of Trail Talk and, if ordered, a Guidebook. *Marilyn and Charlotte*

After Laura Novikow moved away in 2003 Bob Hughes joined the team as technical consultant. He developed the computerised database which allowed items such as membership renewal notices, donation receipts and the Trail Talk mailing list to be generated



automatically. Increasingly communications with members was by e-mail; Elinor Allison took on the task of tracking incorrect email addresses.



Bob became Membership Coordinator in 2004 and diligently fulfilled this time consuming role for a decade, ably supported by Diane. Charlotte Owen took on the task of mailing membership renewal notices.



Bob and Diane Hughes

Membership Dues became eligible for Income Tax Receipts in 2006; whenever possible these were sent by email from the office. Office Manager, Judith Reda also took on the mailing out of New Member packages and Guidebooks in 2007. Dianne Zieman took over tracking email addresses.

In 2011 Judy Comfort undertook phoning inactive members and new Office Manager Michele Donnelly added phoning new members to her duties.

Membership Turnover and Decline

Discussions at board meetings and retreats consistently identified good reasons why our membership ought to grow to at least 1,500. But 903 in fact proved to be our peak membership.

Over the years there has been a consistent and continuing pattern of membership turnover. For example in 2003 it was noted we were gaining 14 new members a month but averaging a loss of 20. A good number of people became Members and were quite active for two or three years or so, getting to know the trail in their locality and participating in activities such as trail maintenance, but then moved on to other interests. ²

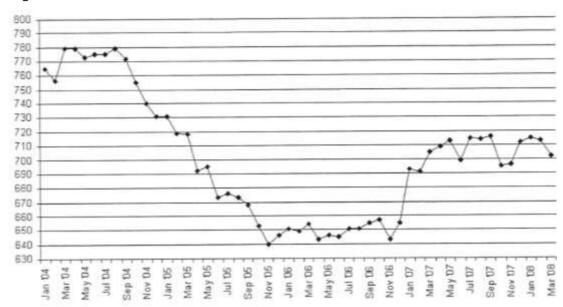
Membership Facts & Figures for March 31, 2001 - 2005

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Total Members	718	779	804	844	855
Breakdown by Membership Type:					
Family	315	367	384	399	431
Individual	377	387	394	425	404
Life Single	23	23	21	18	16
Life Couple	3	1	0	0	0
Student	0	2	5	2	- 4
Breakdown by Chapter:					
Aurora	267	267	294	321	327
Caledon	35	38	27	27	32
Clarington	44	46	37	39	35
Hope/Hamilton	9	12	18	10	8
King	119	119	149	154	153
Northumberland	7	10	7	7	6
Scugog	50	61	47	49	61
Uxbridge	88	116	123	129	131
Whitchurch-Stouffville	99	110	111	106	102

Particularly during 2002 – 2003 there was a strong effort to arrest this trend by a Membership Committee comprising Diane Hughes as Chair, Volunteer Co-ordinator Virginia Johnson and Publicity Director Wilma Backus working with Marilyn Mussel. Volunteers phoned lapsed members; Chapter Chairs received monthly lists of new members so they could be welcomed and their questions addressed; and, Hike Leaders were reminded to talk to non-members on the benefits of joining ORTA. Advice repeated frequently over the years. Each chapter was asked to have a local publicity representative.

² SGB: Others maybe joined as a way to show their support for protection of the moraine but when The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act addressed their concerns they didn't continue with ORTA. They would learn that our association's role is complementary to STORM's and ORMLT's roles – see Chapter Two, pages 206 and 209.

Also membership fluctuates across the seasons, so it's not always easy to immediately detect trends. This can be seen from this graph presented by Bob Hughes in 2008.



Some Members delay renewal until after a third notice, for example the 2012 Membership Database shows there were also 40 Members listed as lapsed – Annual Dues up to three months overdue – not counted, but not yet struck off.

In preparation for the 20^{th} Anniversary Celebrations in April 2012 an additional 500 copies of the special edition of $Trail\ Talk$ and the Financial Appeal were printed with the objective of mailing to former Members. However, this supply was used up mailing to those who had failed to renew during the previous five years . . . indicating an average turnover of 100 Members per annum.

Below is the Membership in later years as reported at the AGMs:

2006	654		2007	712	(Now i	nclude	es Landowners)
2008	703	(including 43	Life Me	embers	and 40	Lando	owners)
2009	685	(including 52	Life Me	embers	and 38	Lando	owners)
2010	677	2011	603		2012	606	(including 58 Life
Membe	ers and	36 Landowne	rs)		2013	615	
2014	602	2015	593		2016	599	2017 591



Administrative Tasks

ORTA is indebted to Bob Ellison who developed a working constitution. Association Officers – President, Secretary and Treasurer, supported by the Past and Vice Presidents – put in a good many hours each year to keep the wheels turning.

Roles such as Trail Talk Editor and Hike Coordinator make demands which must be accomplished at specific dates. Volunteer teams have been regularly called on to undertake tasks such as assembly of Guidebooks, stuffing envelopes for general mail-outs and many more. Sadly we have not been very consistent in engaging volunteers to phone new members and lapsed members.

Volunteers and Chapter Organization - team-orta

ORTA has from the start been a volunteer led association. In Chapters Two, Three and Four the leadership provided by the Directors is evident. But there's even more work to be done at local chapter level. Larger chapters such as Aurora have a formal committee structure; most operate by personal phone calls.

Opposite: a typical team-orta directory - you'll need to zoom in to read it.

Note the Board position of Volunteer Coordinator was vacant; sadly this has often been the case. Effective recruiting and deployment of volunteers is most often the result of one-on-one contacts by Chapter Chairs and conversations during hikes.

A New Database and Membership Team for a New Era

In 2014 Kevin Lowe became Membership Co-ordinator and maintaining the Membership Database was assumed by Office Manager Michele Donnelly. It was time for the system to be updated; Kevin was assisted by Michele and Frank Alexander in selecting and putting to work the *Wild Apricot* management system.

Kevin became President in 2016 and noted: "the lower active membership of 593 . . . is not a cause for great concern as our core membership remains solid."

Sandra Dipietrantonio became the new Membership Co-ordinator.



Trail Maintenance

The exciting work of developing the trail is described in Chapter Five and employed many enthusiastic volunteer hours. Subsequently the trail has to be maintained year over year. Trails Director Ray Matsalla presented guidelines at the AGM in 1996; these require written reports on Trail Inspections Spring and Fall.

Trail Captains are the key to maintenance by taking regular walks through their designated length of trail. Is signage still in place? Is there a need to call for help to deal with treefalls, trimming of foliage, undue littering or vandalism? Most chapters have two or more trail maintenance days when a number of volunteers go out in teams. Particularly important is the maintenance of styles, bridges and boardwalks.

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ORTA does not own the trail property and in some locations other than minor maintenance is done by the landowner – e.g. Conservation Authority, Regional Forestry and Municipal Parks. Trail on private land requires more volunteer effort. King Chapter had a number of volunteers certified to use chain saws. Using powered equipment requires adherence to safety codes of practice.

For roadside clean-ups volunteers are encouraged to wear safety vests.

Norman and Linda repainting blazes



In addition to ORTA Members a number of corporate teams have provided valuable assistance in tasks such as rebuilding boardwalks and major clean-ups.

Public Event Displays

In the chapter on publicity we note the many occasions when volunteers have staffed displays in malls, libraries and at local festivals.

Adventure Relay

This annual fundraiser is of importance to the association as it brings together in one event as many as 100 volunteers - not just on the day but in the training and other lead-up activities which make it so successful.

Hike Leaders

By no means last or least - the hiking program is truly a labour of love by the Hike Leaders. For many leading hikes is their favourite activity even though they have other roles in ORTA.

ORTA Volunteer Awards Scheme

Introduced in 2002 the Volunteer Awards presented at the annual meeting recognize those Members who make outstanding contributions to the association. The selection is made by an Awards Sub-committee (usually the Past President, another Director and a Member not on the Board) based on nominations from Members. The Lifetime Achievement Award was introduced in 2004.

The lists of recipients 2002 to 2017 are in Appendix 9.2. Sadly it will be noticed that some members who made outstanding contributions during the first decade of the association's history had moved on before the scheme was instituted.

The Oak Ridges Trail Association is rightly proud of the accomplishments of its volunteer Members throughout its history.

CHAPTER 9, APPENDIX 9.1 - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To: All members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA)

Re: Volunteer Opportunities

Chapter Nine

ORTA is a VOLUNTEER organization. We need more help to finish building our Trail, to operate our organization, and to help more people discover us. Can YOU help? Listed on both sides of this page are a variety of volunteer opportunities. Some are indoor, some are outdoor. Some are quite independent, others involve teams. Some require just a little time, some require more. Some are ongoing, some are short-term, and some could become ongoing if you enjoy them. We've also listed positions that are presently filled, but that you might be interested in later.

Please pull out this page; put a check beside all the jobs you might be interested in, fill in the personal details at the bottom of the other side; and then return this page to: Peter Attfield, 13236 Bayview Avenue, Oak Ridges, Ontario L4E 3C6. If you prefer, you can give me your information by e-mail (attmack@pathcom.com) or phone (905-773-3935) instead. Once we know that you can help and what you're interested in, we will contact you. (If you're already volunteering with ORTA for something mot on this list, I'd like to find out about that too!)

Even if you're not interested in volunteering, I would still like to hear from you, just so I know that you're not a potential volunteer who simply neglected to return the form! Please phone or e-mail to tell me -just state your name, and that you're not interested in volunteering.

a NO. 11

ď	JOB & TASKS	TYPE OF WORK, SKILLS	OWN TOOLS REQUIRED?	TIME REQUIRED	ON- GOING?	REPORTS TO	NEEDED NOW? (name of any incumbent)
0000				14 day, monthly 14 day, occasional Varies Varies	Yes No Could be No	Chapter Chair Varies Chapter Chair Chap Chair or O'book Corus.	in ? ? We'll call you. Scugog, etc. ?
0000000000	Creative Write short articles about ORTA news, likes and events Write articles about ORTA to submit to media. Write articles about ORTA to submit to media. Write articles about ORTA to submit to media. Photograph the Trail, its landscape & natural features through seasons. (Photos for newsletter, web site, display, slide-show, guidebook) Maintain file of slides and photos; and update ORTA slide-show when necessary. Artist - make sketches, line drawings or cartoons, for use in guidebook and newsletter. Graphic Design - design posters, floers, brochures about ORTA and ORTA events; design badges, signs. Create an attractive poster map of the Oak Ridges Moraine, showing trails. Build a three-dimensional scale model (refer mup) of the Moraine, for display.	Independent Indepen, with consultation. Writing skills Indepen, with consultation. Writing skills Outdoor, independ, photo skills Outdr, independ but social, photo skills Independent, with consultation Independent Artistic Independent, with consultation Design & cartography skills Independ. Model-making or craft skills	No Computer, e-mail No Good camera. Good camera No No Computer, graphic software Computer, graphic software Craft tools	Flexible 4 hrs/moeth Flexible Flexible Flexible Flexible Flexible flexible 1 day/mooth? 7 10 days?	Could be Yes Could be Yes Yes Could be Could be No No	Editor Publicity Director Publicity Director, Editor Publicity Director, Editor Publicity Director, Editor Publicity Director, Editor Publicity Director, etc. Publicity Director, etc. Publicity Director, etc. Peter Attfield	Any time Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Any time
0000	Clerical or "office"-type work Analyze records of hike attendance to see what % of members attend hikes, which hikers haven't joined, etc. Telephone members, e.g., to spread news, follow-up on this survey form, seek volunteers, poll opinions, etc. Telephone recently-lapsed members for each Chapter (and perhaps welcome new members) Distribute media releases by fax and e-mail.	Independent, accuracy Independent Independent Independent, with consultation	No No No Computer, e-mail, fix	2 days? Occasional 2 hrs/second month 2 lirs/month	No Could be Yes Yes	Group Hike Coordinator Varies Chapter Chair Publicity Director	Yes ? In ?, ?, ? Yes
000000	Organizing Mail Coordinator - Collect mail (Aurora), distribute to appropriate people, process memberships to data base. Data Base Manager- maintain membership master data base, faiffil mail orders, produce address labels. Volunteer Coordinator - recruit volunteers; match volunteers to jobs, keep records of both Organize event(s) - e.g., slide-show, guest speaker, family day, clean-up, prenic, wine&cheese, fund-raiser, etc. Assist with organizing event(s) - e.g., finding site, or promotion, or refreshments, or signs, etc. Develop & maintain a list of media contacts (phone & fax numbers, e-mails, and names of contact people)	In consultation In consultation Independent Independ, or with partners or comm With partners or committee Independent	Internet computer, software Internet computer, software Computer useful No No Computer	1-4 hrs/wk ? ? Variable Variable 2 hrs/month	Yes Yes Yes Could be Could be Could be	Membership Director Membership Director Board Varies Varies Publicity Director	No (Diane Hughes) No (Laura Novikow) No (Peter Attheid) Yes ? No
00000	Research Visit & research Mornine hiking destinations -find or make maps; report on directions, access, facilities, etc. Research history or natural features on or near Trail - for Guidebook, newsletter, etc. Research and recommend contents for hike leader first-aid kits, their sources and prices. Research and report on a corporate membership category for ORTA. Research fund-raising merchandise, e.g., shirts, chocolate bars, etc.	Outdoor, independent Independent Independent Independent Independent Indepen or with partners, in consultation Indepen or with partners, in consultation	Car Computer useful No No No	Flexible Flexible 3 days, over time Few days, over time Few days, over time	Yes Could be No No Could be	Peter Attfield Gbook Committee Peter Attfield ? Fund-raising Coord's	Any time Claringtn, Hope-Ham Yes Yes Yes
0000	Web Size Web-Master - update and refine ORTA's web site; convert Trail Talk to haml; take care of technical problems. Web Size Assistant - add hike listings to web size every 3 months Web Size Graphic Designer - help improve appearance of web size. Moderator of web size Bulletin Board - add news items; remove out-dated or inappropriate messages.	Independent, in consultation Independent Independent, in consultation Independent	Internet Internet Internet Internet	40 hours/month 7 7 10 minutes/2 days	Yes Yes ? Yes	Publicity Director Web-Master Web-Master Varies	No (Bob Hughes) No (Cherie Smith) No? (Kevin Smith) No (Peter Attfield)

ď	JOB & TASKS (continued)	TYPE OF WORK, SKILLS	OWN TOOLS REQUIRED?	TIME REQUIRED	GOING?	REPORTS TO	NEEDED NOW? (name of any incumbent)
000	Plan side-trails on public lands adjacent to the ORT. Contact land-owners to find off-road routes for the Trail.	In consultation In consultation	No No	Varies	Could be Preferably	Chapter Chair Chapter Chair	Stouffville? Uxbridge? Sougog. Clarington?
000	Represent ORTA Hike Leaders - lead ORTA hikes, preferably a few each year Lead hikes for community groups (e.g., school, Scouts or Girl Guides) on ORT Speak on a topic you're interested in (e.g., hiking, human or natural history of Trail area) to ORTA members.	Outdoor, social Outdoor, social, knowledgeable Knowledgeable of a relevant topic	No No No	%-1 day, occasional % day, occasional An evening	Yes Yes No	Group Hike Coordy	Any time
00000	Landowner Relations - maintain friendly relations with owners of private lands that Trail passes through Represent ORTA to public agencies that Trail crosses-e.g., York Region Forest, Toronto&Region ConsAuth'y Represent ORTA at Hike Ontario meetings. Represent ORTA at meetings of Nokilda Trail (future trail from Aurora to Holland Landing). Linison with STORM (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine) Coalition, on projects of mutual interest.	Independent, social Knowledgeable of ORTA Knowledgeable of ORTA Knowledgeable of ORTA Knowledgeable of ORTA	No No No No No	7 Occasional Occasional Occasional	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	Chapter Chair Chapter Chair, or Board Board Board Board	Scugog, etc. No (Roy M.7, Tom Rance) No (Fiona Cowles) No (Bill Roberts) Yes
0000	Present ORTA slide-show and talk about ORTA - to community groups. Staff ORTA display at shows and events. Reply to phone calls for ORTA. Reply to e-mails for ORTA, broadcast e-mail news bulletins to members.	Public speaking, know ORTA Knowledgeable of ORTA & Trail Knowledgeable of ORTA Knowledgeable of ORTA	No No No E-mail	Occasional, flexible Occasional, flexible Several times/week Several times/week	Could be Could be Yes Yes	Publicity Director Publicity Director Membership Director Publicity Director	? 7 No (Sharon Emerson) No (Bill Roberts)
	Drive around to re-stock ORTA brochures in trail-aide info boxes and/or at selected stores, or to post posters. Drive around to re-stock Guidebooks at retailers.	Independent Independent	Car Car	Flexible Variable	Yes Yes	Publicity Director Guidebook Committee	Yes Yes
00000	Contact retailers to seek more outlets for Guidebook sales. Contact local and related businesses to seek business listings for Guidebook. Seek spaces for ORTA display in stores, libraries, community centres, malls, etc., and circulate it. Contact related web sites to arrange for reciprocal links with ORTA's web site. Seek small donations, e.g., of prizes, refreshments, nuction items	Independent Independent Independent Independent In consultation	Car Car Car Internet No	Few days Few days, over time Occasional Few days, over time Occasional	Could be No Yes No Could be	Guidebook Committee Guidebook Committee Publicity Director Publicity Director Varies	Yes Yes ? No (H. Sellers, B. Hughes) ?
2	Guidebook Committee - coordinate reprints & distribution, and research, mapping & writing of revisions. Nomination Committee - seek members to run for positions on Board.	Committee Committee	E-mail useful No	Occasional Very occasional	Yes Could be	Board Board	Yes No (Rance, Cowles, Attfield)
	Board of Directors President - plan & chair Board meetings, liaise with Chapter Chairs, appoint committees, spokesperson. Chapter Chairs (9) -coordinate planning, building, maintaining the trail in a particular Chapter. Past President - special projects; liaison with other trail organizations, chair Nominaton Committee. Vice-President - special projects; chair Executive Committee meetings, become President. Secretary - arrange meetings & agendas; take minutes; maintain records. Treasurer - set budger, maintain records, bank accounts, make payments & deposits; provide statements. Membership Coordinator - coordinate processing of memberships and mail. Trail Director - establish standards for construction, maintenance, approve routes, undit trail; arrange training. Pund-Raising Coordinator - formulate policy, prioritize activities, identify sources, raise funds. Publicity Director- maintain media list; create & distribute publicity, coordinate presentations, oversee web site. Trail Talk Editor - edit or write articles, layout; arrange printing, mailing, develop sponsors or advertisers. Group Hike Coordinator - recruit and advise hike leaders, solicit and schedule hikes, maintain records.	Committee, leadership Committee, leadership Committee, leadership Committee	E-mail useful E-mail useful E-mail useful E-mail useful Compt: Emi usefil Compt: Emi usefil E-mail useful Compt: Emi usefil	? ? ? ? ? y up to 8 hrs/month ? ? ? ? ? 10 hrs/month	Yes	Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board Board	No (Bob Ellison) Northamberland (have 8 others No (Tom Rance) No (Harridd Sellers) No (Barry Hammenton) No (Teresa Portier) No (Sharon Emerson) No (Tony Bulasin) No (Diana Piché) No (Martin O'Grady) No (Brian Logan) No (Jill Doble)
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CHAPTER NINE - APPENDIX 9.2

ORTA VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Four types of awards presented at the AGM. A member shall not receive a specific award more than once. (We have reconsidered this to permit a Commendation Award for a contribution in one area and then later in another.) The selection is made by the Awards Sub-committee (usually the Past President, another Director and a Member not on the Board) based on nominations from Members. In recent years the reason for each reward has been detailed on the plaque or certificate.

Lifetime Achievement Award – an occasional award when merited. A superior plaque with the ORTA Logo and the recipient's name. The recipient will be one who has made a significant contribution of his or her time and expertise to the work of the ORTA over a sustained period of 5 to 10 years. An ongoing member of the Board would not be eligible.

2004 Tom Rance.

2007 Robert Ellison

2009 Harold Sellers

2010 Tom Atkins

2011 Fiona Cowles Peter Attfield

2014 Diane and Bob Hughes

2015 Stan Butcher

2016 Ed Millar in appreciation of over fifteen years of dedicated service

2017 Russ Burton - A popular Hike Leader, Adventure Relay Competitor and provider of Bar Service for our Annual Meetings and Christmas Pot-Luck Lunches

Outstanding Member / Member of the Year Award – usually one award each year. A plaque with the ORTA Logo and the recipient's name. Presented to the Member who in the past has done the most to advance the purposes of the ORTA. Continuing members of the Board would not be eligible. (This rule broken in 2009 and 2010!) Recipients:

2000 Fiona Cowles

2001 Peter Attfield

2002 Al Shaw

2003 Bill Roberts

2004 Harold Sellers

2005 Barry Hammerton

2006 Charlie Atkinson and Brian Logan

2007 Gail Morris

2008 Ginny Johnson

2009 Stan Butcher

2010 Tim Lawley

2011 Brian Buckles

2012 Joan Taylor

2013 no award but see Special Presentation below

2014 no award

2015 David Francis

2016 Kim Aagaard in appreciation of his service as Treasurer and Executive Member

2017 Kelly Matthews - Celebrating the fastest ever End-to-End across the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail to raise funds for Seneca College and the Association

2013 Special Presentation of a framed photo to Kim Gavine, retiring Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, in recognition of her work to develop and support the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Strategy and as a volunteer participant in the Adventure Relay

Commendation Awards – a maximum of 6 awarded each year. A framed certificate giving the recipient's name and reason for award. Presented to those Members who have made significant contributions in the past to the ORTA. Recipients:

- 2000 Peter Attfield, Bill Roberts, Tom Atkins, Pauline and Keith Dixie
- 2001 Roy Forrester, Bob Hughes, Brian Logan, Harold Sellers
- 2002 Gary Collins, Jill Doble, Gary Ford, Diane Hughes, Teresa Porter, Eric Worsley
- 2003 Charlie Atkinson, Sylvia Gilchrist, Ray Matsalla, Laura Novikow, John M. Scott, Ralph Shier
- 2004 Rick Patterson, Chris Johnston, Janet Atkinson, Suzanne Summers, Tony Holmes, Peter Bramma
- 2005 Bruce Chambers, Garry Niece. Charlotte Owen, Ginny Johnson, Ed Millar, Marilyn Mussell,
- 2006 Bill Smith
- 2007 Tim Lawley for the UTAP and TAOC Projects
 Joan Taylor for Hike Leadership
 Fiona Cowles for the Guidebook
 Susan Sellers for the Website
 - Wilma Millage for Publicity
 - Peter Schaefer for Trail Director
- 2008 Brian Millage for leadership and team-building Uxbridge Chapter Linda Tyndall for management of our finances Petra Hartwig as Association Secretary Ken Kishibe for recruiting Volunteers & organizing the 2008 AGM Stan Butcher for leadership as President
- 2009 David Wells for dedication and expertise as Editor of Trail Talk
 John Saringer for leadership as Chair of Whitchurch-Scugog Chapter
 Elizabeth Stewart for leadership as Chair of Scugog Chapter
 Bob Comfort for significant contributions to the Adventure Relay
 Diana Smythe for enthusiastic broadening of our Publicity
 Russ Burton for leading a variety of hikes
- 2010 Peter Attfield for expert contributions to the Guidebook
 Rhys Beak for development of the Richmond Hill Chapter
 Fiona Cowles for publication of the 5th Edition of the Guidebook
 Bob Hughes for service on the Executive as Membership Coordinator
 Bill Roberts for communications for Monday and Wednesday Hikers

- 2011 Jean and Dennis Trowse for service as Trail Captains and Adventure Relay Checkpoint Co-ordinators
 Dianne Hughes for Membership Database management
 Audrey Fullerton for much work behind the scenes
 Fatemeh Amini for leading hikes
 Jill Doble as Association Secretary
- 2012 Ruth Patterson in recognition of her significant contributions to publicity in the local media
 Corie Bonnaffon in recognition of her coordination of the Adventure Relay Checkpoints
 Kim Chen in recognition of significant contributions to the development of our hiking program
 Jacqueline Bapooji in recognition of her editorial expertise applied to our Trail Talk
- Diana Smyth in recognition of her leadership of Discovery Nights

 Kim Aagaard for his work in organizing ORTA's financial and regulatory compliance and providing valuable office support Juergen Friedrich for his excellent photography which promotes our Adventure Relay

 Frank Alexander for his tireless support to projects, trail workers and hike leaders everywhere across the ORMT.

 Grace Moores for leading hikes and keeping ORTA alive in Clarington Garry Niece for leadership of the Discovery Night Program
- 2014 Malcolm Hann as Hike Program Co-ordinator
 Brian and Kathy Clark for leading hikes
 Bob and Judy Comfort for their support to many ORTA activities
 Rhys Beak for serving as Chapter Chair, Richmond Hill
 Brian Millage for chairing the Adventure Relay
- Josipa Klostranec recognizing her as a dedicated Hike Leader Hannah Sweet recognizing her contributions as Webmaster Jerry Wajgensberg for his dedication to the Mood Walks program. Michele Donnelly for her enthusiastic support of the Adventure Relay Ronald Ting for his work in administration of the Hike Schedule Vicky Chen for designing our new Website

Commendation Awards continued:

- 2016 Bob Comfort for the system collating Adventure Relay data in real-time
 - Pat Ward for the system collating Adventure Relay data in real-time Audrey Fullerton for distribution of Guidebooks to retail vendors Jacky Bramma for her unique contributions in song at our Christmas parties!
 - Bruce Corbett for keeping the Aurora Chapter together and representing ORTA at meetings regarding Town developments Garry Niece recognizing him as a dedicated Hike Leader John Fuchs recognizing him as a dedicated Hike Leader
- 2017 Bill Morrison Co-Chair of the renewed Scugog Chapter, active in Trail Maintenance and promoting hiking in the region.
 - Bill Pressmar an Octogenarian who continues to enjoy hikes and participation in our activities
 - Lena McDonnel in appreciation of her efforts to secure funding for our new Western Trailhead Kiosk from IBM's Community Grants Program.
 - Monika Rothman for continued service as an Adventure Relay Checkpoint Captain.

Trail Builder Awards – a maximum of 4 awarded each year. A framed certificate giving the recipient's name. Presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the building and maintenance of the trail. Past Recipients:

- 2003 Colin Barnett, Ed Millar, Dennis and Jean Trowse
- 2004 Bob and Judy Comfort, Robert Johnston, Peter Schaefer, Bill Smith
- 2005 Doug Ferguson, Carl Cornell, Sheilagh Crandall, Charlie Atkinson
- 2006 Brian and Wilma Millage, Elizabeth Stewart, Ray Matsalla, Don Lycett
- 2007 Eric Worsley, John Scott, Joye Cornell,
- 2008 Barry Moir, Trail Captain in King Martin Earle of Uxbridge Chapter Elizabeth Elliot as trail captain in Scugog. Dave Hinton for the Bluebird Side Trail in Clarington
- 2009 Noel and Judy Carey, Trail Captains in Uxbridge Chapter
- 2010 David Reid Brown, Trail Captain in Uxbridge Chapter Ed Millar for over a decade of Trail Management in King Chapter Garry Niece for Moraine-wide Trail Developments
- 2011 David Mathias for Trail Management in Whitchurch-Stouffville Chapter Frank Alexander for organization of the Aurora and Whitchurch-
 - Stouffville Chapters
- 2012 Bill Pressmar in recognition of his work as a Trail Captain in Aurora
- 2013 Roy and Katie Holmes in recognition of their work on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail in Uxbridge
- 2014 Len May Bill McCullogh
- 2015 Bill Patterson in recognition of his work on the trails in King
- 2016 Brian Millage for negotiating and implementing the new route to the terminus with the Bruce Trail
- 2017 Dave Whiffen for taking charge of Trail Maintenance in Caledon in particular organizing a group of friends to reconstruct boardwalks in Palgrave Forest.