

COMPILER'S NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My intention was to compile a comprehensive account of the Oak Ridges Trail Association's formation and the development of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail; an archival account more interesting and accessible than dusty files on storage shelves. Formatted as a story well illustrated by pictures. – Yet inexpensive!

There is a wealth of information in ORTA's archives covering the whole period since the initial coming together in 1991 of a group of people with a vision of a trail across the Oak Ridges Moraine. Thus the primary sources of information are:

- Minutes of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors' meetings.
- Annual Reports and Financial Statements.
- ORTA's Directors' Manual.
- Grant Applications and Project Files.
- And in particular, ORTA's quarterly journal - *Trail Talk*.

The digital format I have used to compile this E-Book facilitates inclusion of more detailed accounts and a much larger selection of pictures and charts than could ever be afforded for publication as a conventional printed book.

In the archives are scrapbooks and photo albums which add colour to the story. Unfortunately the best photo prints were often submitted for production of *Trail Talk* and no one asked for their return. So I could only find some as grainy black and white reproductions from *Trail Talk* of the earlier years. A reminder of how affordable printing technology has developed over the 25 years!


Similarly twenty-five years ago there was a dearth of maps showing footpaths and features of the moraine's countryside. ORTA's founders went on foot to discover them and suggest a route for the trail across each municipality. The *Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook* set a new publication standard.

Photos from the pre-digital era are from ORTA's Albums. Tens of thousands of digital photos have been taken during hikes and at other events. I've used some from CD's forwarded by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, from the 2008 Trail Audit by Peter Attfield, and from Harold Sellers' and my own files. Jurgen Frederich, Bill Patterson and Robert Alsop have been "Official Photographers" for the Adventure Relays. Frank Alexander made several annual collections from hikers' photos forwarded to him - it is impossible to be sure who took those. Thus the sources of the photographs I have included are not acknowledged except where I have knowingly gleaned them from other organizations' websites.

I trust I've compiled a balanced account of the Oak Ridges Trail Association's activities and its relationships with its moraine partners and the communities across the moraine. Sometimes I've added a footnote which may be no more than a personal view of a situation. Above all this compilation inevitably reflects my enjoyment of hiking across the moraine with so many different people.

I dedicate this compilation to all the volunteers – too many to name individually - who invested so much of their time and skills in the association and the trail of which we are rightly proud.

Take a Hike, and enjoy!



Stan Butcher
President 2004 – 2009