

TRAIL TALK



Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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Fall 2014

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COMING TO THE OAK RIDGE TRAIL SPRING 2015

Looking for the coveted E2E badge – the symbol of hiking honour for hiking trail enthusiasts?



We are putting together an opportunity to hike the complete Oak Ridges Trail from Airport Road in the west to Castleton in the east. In a series of 13 hikes varying in length from 18 to 25 km at a moderate to fast pace we will cover the 270 km End to End.

The first hike will be Monday, April 6th, 2015 and continue every second Monday thereafter. Details for the start and end locations and time will be emailed to each registered participant prior to the hike. Shuttles will be managed by the leader. Due to logistics concerns, there will be a limit of 17 participants.

Upon completion you will receive a certificate, the coveted E2E badge (\$3.00 cost) and mention of your success in Trail Talk. But of course, the true satisfaction comes from the realization of your personal goal — and that is the best reward of all.

For more details and to pre-register contact Malcolm Hann: malcolm.hann@sympatico.ca.

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

BY WILMA MILLAGE

WOW! While I write this, we are now in August and looking forward to the fall season and the beginning of winter. Is time flying as fast for you as it is for me? Every time I turn around it is a month later than it was yesterday! However, we have been having fun this summer and I hope you have too.

We have a wonderful quarter of hiking adventures coming up with a record number of hikes scheduled! There are 103 hikes scheduled for October through December. With a great team of hike leaders volunteering their time we have a greater variety of hikes as well as a larger number than ever before. This quarter Brian co-led a training session at All Saints church in June where four ORTA folks qualified as new leaders. Brian is now a certified hike leader instructor which will make it easier for us to access training for ORTA volunteers who want to join the hike leader ranks. I hope you will be able to get out on some of the trails with them to enjoy our fabulous fall weather and colours.

Make sure you read the article on our most successful Adventure Relay to date. It is through the efforts of so many of our ORTA volunteers that this event is such a highlight for participants while bringing in funding for ORTA administration and projects.

New things happening on the technology front are the implementation of Pay Pal for on-line payment of membership fees which will make it easier for everyone to renew their memberships without having to send in cheques. Thanks to Frank for doing the major work on programming this important advance for ORTA. Vicky, our new Publicity Director is well on the way to having our website updated, so there is lots to look forward to in the next quarter in that area.

While Brian and I were driving through northern Ontario last month on our return from Calgary, we visited the site of one of our new Trail Talk advertisers – Rock Island Lodge located near Wawa. We spoke with the owner while we toured his gorgeous lakeside facility. He is so passionate about the Lake Superior area and all it has to offer in water sports and hiking that we asked if he would be willing to come down to speak at one of our Discovery Night sessions early in the new year. Garry is working at getting those arrangements finalized, so keep a look out for the announcement for this interesting evening.

Hope you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the fall as much as we are.

THANK YOU!

The ORTA Adventure Relay Steering Committee would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to local businesses that have supported us this year:

Blue Heron Books Uxbridge
 Canadian Tire Uxbridge
 East of 48 Stouffville
 Human Kinetics Canada
 Keen Footwear Toronto
 Monika Rothman-Wynn Fitness
 Mountain Equipment Co-op Toronto
 Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
 Oak Ridge Outfitters-The Oaks Aurora
 Rhino's Roadhouse-Bewdley
 Scrambles Restaurant- Foxbridge Golf Club Uxbridge
 Sheena's Kitchen-Schomberg
 Starlight Books Newmarket
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OPEN HOUSE

See photos, hear commentary, learn about new and exciting adventures, maybe even win a door prize!

NEW MYSTERY DESTINATION TO BE REVEALED

Sunday, Sept 7 at 3:30 p.m.
Crescent School Auditorium
2365 Bayview Ave, Toronto

(one light north of Lawrence Ave. East
 on the east side of Bayview)
 Free parking!

Corfu • Patagonia • Kenya • Amalfi Coast (Italy)
 Peru & Machu Picchu • Turkey Ireland • Iceland
 Cuba • Camino de Santiago • Israel

ISRAEL

March 9 to 22, 2015

Fascinating and complex, Israel offers immense diversity. Hike the lush vineyards of the Golan Heights & the deep canyons of the Judean Desert, plus the famed Jesus Trail from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. We shall visit Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada, Bethlehem and Tel Aviv, and although this holiday is not religious by design, we cannot help but be immersed in the dominant role it has played for centuries.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

April 15 to 27, 2015

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 152km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, and we've included many "extras" as part of the tour in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this renown trail.

CORFU, GREECE

May 11 to 23, 2015

This Greek island is the perfect combination of European flare and tranquil sea-side living. Hike to the heavens to visit holy monasteries and trek in shade of ancient olive groves. We promise - you will never tire of the deep, deep blue of the sea that surrounds you. Opa! Limoncello anywhere. Come hike in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and on the posh island of Capri.

ADVENTURE RELAY REPORT

SPLASH... AND DASH

Our thanks to the three corporate teams: Mercedes Benz Canada, Team Mazda and Golder Associates. They made a great contribution to the spirit and financial success of ORTA's major annual fundraiser. The winner in this category was Mercedes Benz Canada who entered for the first time this year.

Yes, this was the eighth annual ORTA fundraiser. – and the Moraine Adventure Relay just keeps getting better! With 35 teams, of which 3 were corporate, and 120 ORTA volunteers, we were all set to again challenge 160 km of the Moraine on Saturday, June 14, 2014. Funds raised from this event go towards hike leader training, trail maintenance, trail head signage and the administration of our volunteer based organization.



The excellent work done by the Organizing Committee and the increased publicity received across the Moraine has created a greater awareness of the services provided by ORTA, such as hike leaders who introduce the public to the benefits of walking and social contact while hiking on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

See you next year!

The Herati and MacDonald families again generously hosted the starting location and provided the pontoon safety boats for the 8km canoe leg from Gore's Landing to Bewdley on Rice Lake. After introductions and the "Parade of Paddlers" led by the Scottish piper, the canoes set off in 3 flights.

Photos: TRCA Racers (left); A member of Mercedes Benz (right); Terrained-in-vain (bottom) | Photo Credit: Robert Alsop

Brian Millage and Patricia Ward, Co-Chairs of the Relay Committee

2014

It was a true "adventure" as wavy conditions on Rice Lake often meant 'paddle, bail – swim' ... as the rescue boat crews got a workout. Luckily the water was warm this year!

ORTA volunteers on safety boats and at the 15 checkpoints made all the difference as they assisted, welcomed, and directed new and repeat competitors throughout the day. The enthusiasm exhibited by the teams was ample reward – but one team leader personally delivered a "Thank You" note to every checkpoint! Thank you all for a great event!

The overall winner for the second year in the Elite division was the TRCA Racer Team, pursued furiously by the Durham Mountain Bike Association Trail Blazers (champions in 4 previous years). The Recreational division winner was Uxbridge's own Terrained -In-Vain.

**MORaine ADVENTURE RELAY
2014**

Donations were received for the following participants:

Team - Durham Housewives,	Judy Carey
Team – Sandspiners	Belinda Hyndman
Eric Bender	Nadia Kelton
Mike Bender	June Lewis
Neil Bender	Carolyn Mancey
Russ Burton	Keely Smith
Bob Comfort	John Vogels

Congratulations!



Photo Credit: Robert Alsop

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

Join us for the Oak Ridges Trail Association's Discovery Night! Enjoy an evening out sharing in interesting worldwide journeys and listening to speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

Catch up on 'off trail' socializing. ORTA members and the public are invited to come along and bring a friend!



Thursday October 16, 2014 Invasive Species in York Region

Invasive Species are the second biggest threat to the earth's biodiversity behind habitat loss. Learn about the most threatening invaders to York Region including the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-horned Beetle, Dog-strangling vine and Japanese Knotweed. Learn why they need to be stopped, and what you can do to help. Presented by Tracey Bowman, York Region Forest, Invasive Species Specialist.

If you have specific questions on this topic, you can submit them in advance and Stacey will try to address them during her presentation. Submit through: gcniece@gmail.com

Thursday November 20, 2014 Turkey Odyssey

Join us for a ramble through ancient history in the land of the Turks. Like walking through a timewarp, you will see the remains of many civilizations blended with modern day living. The geography is unique in many areas. Sip apple tea, as the turks do, while you watch. Presented by Wilma Millage, ORTA President.

There is no Discovery Night in December.

JOIN THE DISCOVERY NIGHT TEAM:

Help us continue to bring fun and informative evenings to ORTA and the community at large. Many hands make light work, as they say. Please lend a hand to secure lively speakers, organize the night's smooth running and keep the Discovery Night tradition active.

Do you or someone you know have a great story to share? You could be an upcoming Discovery Night speaker. Let us know!

When: 7-9 p.m.

Where: Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville (just east of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd, on the north side)

A \$5 contribution is requested at the door to offset expenses. Coffee, tea, juice and cookies served. Please lug-a-mug!

**Questions? Contact Garry Niece: 905-655-8040,
gcniece@gmail.com**

SUSQUEHANNOCK LODGE and TRAIL CENTRE Hiking in the Highlands of North Central Pennsylvania



LABOUR DAY Aug. 27-Sept. 1 2014

The last of full summer hiking – warm days and time to relax on the deck. Stay as few or as many days as you choose.

THANKSGIVING Oct. 11-13 2014

Great walking in the fall colours. Full Thanksgiving dinner.

NEW YEARS Dec.28-Jan. 1, 2015

The Lodge is located in Potter County, Pennsylvania, 2.5 hours south of Buffalo. There is no agriculture or industry in the area, just great trails. Daily hikes of 10 to 15 km are led through hardwood forest, many beside mountain streams. Our lodge provides comfortable accommodation & excellent meals for \$60.00 semi-private or \$70.00 private U.S. per day per person. These outings have proven to be popular with the lodge filling up quickly.

For more information, including driving directions, please see www.execulink.com/~gvincent or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or vincent.greg@gmail.com

For reservations call Carol Szymanik at 1-814-435-2163



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GOLDIE FELDMAN RESERVE - HAPPY VALLEY

BY THOMAS UNRAU, CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN, NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

I've been fortunate to spend my whole serious working life on the trail. While for many of us a hike is a pleasant way to spend a weekend with friends and family, for six seasons I got paid to haul chainsaws into the bush, to swing pulaskis on bench cut trails and to build bridges over wilderness rivers. Anyone who has been to Lake Superior Provincial Park can attest to the majesty that was my office everyday (and over many nights).

When I moved down south and took a job in King City with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, I assumed my days spent on the trail were over. I was trying to move into a career where I could have a bigger positive impact on the natural world than maintaining trails for backpackers. The NCC is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving land in Canada. Through scientific methods we outline areas that represent important areas of biodiversity and target these for protection. We protect 2.7 million acres of land across Canada. This land is now protected forever, and that number is growing. I'm ecstatic to work with the NCC and to play a part in protecting nature in Canada.

Although I thought I was moving away from trails and towards other aspects of conservation, when I got to the Goldie Feldman Reserve Valley Natural Area, north of Vaughn, I found that managing trails in the forest would be one of my main tasks. When I'm not monitoring endangered species or managing invasive plants, like garlic mustard or dog strangling vine, I'm trying to make sense of the trails that we acquired when we bought these properties to protect them. Looking at our maps on my first day, the GPSed trail map looked like a bowl of spaghetti. The trails bring us through some of the largest most intact upland hardwood forests on the moraine. I heard stories of ATVs ripping through walking trails, and saw trail erosion wiping areas clean of vegetation. We want to invite people to the forest, to experience its tranquility and beauty, but without compromising the health of the forest or the lives of endangered species that call the forest home. Continuous, undisturbed forests are important for many species that have relied on these specific 'core' habitats since long before they became scarce on the landscape. And for us non-endangered species, beyond their beauty we experience when we move through them on the trails, intact forests clean our water and air and provide other such 'ecosystem services'.

With this in mind, trails and protection are at times a fine line to tread. I'm sure we've all walked in areas that have been loved to death—areas clearly in need of less traffic or better routed trails. To mitigate some of the problems in the core forest area, we're developing a few kilometers of publicly accessible trails on our outlying Goldie Feldman property. The trails wind through several different forest types and provide a good opportunity to explore the biological and geological features typical of the moraine. I'm excited to have a hand in the

creation of these trails and think they'll have a positive impact on conservation in the region, connecting people with a sustainable experience of the Happy Valley Forest. Although official ORTA hikes will still be led through specified routes in the core forest, we encourage the general public to visit this less sensitive and more sustainably devised trail system.

Having spent many days this summer working on the property that these new trails travel, I can attest that the area is stunning. To be honest, coming from Northern Ontario I expected to be underwhelmed by the forests in the south, but my time on the Feldman trails have provided me with many phenomenal experiences in the forest from working hard on the trail and splashing my face with groundwater freshly sprung from the moraine to lying among wildflowers under an ancient maple tree or introducing city slickers to forest mushrooms on a guided walk. The trails in Goldie Feldman will take you into some special moments, if you're willing to look for them.

The Goldie Feldman Nature Reserve is located at: 4093-17th Sdrd, King Township; west off Weston Rd; park at green farm gates and walk in.



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EAST CROSS FOREST – TRAIL OPENING

BY GARRY NIECE, WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO KAWARTHA
CONSERVATION PUBLISHED MATERIAL



ORTA representatives, John Vogels and Garry Niece at East
Cross Forest -Trail Opening

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area is located in the southeastern area of the Township of Scugog, near the headwaters of the East Cross Creek.

It has a rather checkered and unsavory history. Once locally known as Test Hill, the area, and many nearby properties, suffered negative impacts from off-road motorized

vehicles, dumping (tires, stolen and abandoned vehicles, hazardous waste), beer parties and other illegal activities. Policing was an ongoing concern.

In 2002, to develop a long-term strategy to address these issues, the Township of Scugog established a Task Force composed of many concerned groups and local citizens. In 2005, Kawartha Conservation was given the lead role — to hold title to future properties and manage them as a conservation area. A security group was contracted to patrol the property and enforce the Trespass to Property Act.

Community cleanups began in 2007. Volunteers collected over 60 cubic yards of garbage, a number of abandoned cars and hazardous waste. The next year, volunteers collected 120 cubic yards of garbage, 3 drums of hazardous wastes, 100 tires, 3 old cars and 4 tonnes of scrap metal.

In May 2009, a management plan for a multi-use conservation area was finalized and is currently being implemented. Heavily damaged sections of the land are being restored; rehabilitation and management of land is ongoing to protect groundwater, a variety of plant species, and cold-water fish habitat. Construction of sustainable trails and structures is progressing. The goal is to ensure sensitive ecological features are protected, while providing opportunities for the community to engage in low-impact recreational activities, such as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and environmental education.

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area was officially opened to the public on June 25, 2009. In June 2014, the official opening of additional trails and a second parking lot was held. On a glorious sunny day, representatives from many organizations gathered to commemorate the event—including relevant municipalities, politicians, conservation authorities, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and the Oak Ridges Trail Association. ORTA was represented by Garry Niece, Trail Director, and John Vogels, who lives in the area and is very familiar with the conservation area.

2015 FULLY ESCORTED HIKING TOURS

by Bob Scarfone & Vision Travel Group

NEWFOUNDLAND – July 6 to 18, 2015

We are happy to present our tour of Newfoundland, filled with hiking and sightseeing. Our first four nights will on the west coast to explore Gros Morne and up into L'Anse aux Meadows. We then head to Twillingate for the next four nights to visit "our area" of Newfoundland. Here you will visit some local sites that most tourists will never see. Finally, we are off to St. John's (with a stop in Terra Nova Park) for the final nights of our tour. Tentative cost is **\$2995** plus air fare, approximately \$650

ITALY, THE DOLOMITES –

Sept 18 to Oct 3, 2015

This trip has been going for more than 10 years now and is one of the best value hiking trips anywhere! We will spend two weeks exploring the hiking and cycling trails of the Dolomites, with our home base of Dobbiaco. The tentative cost of this trip is **\$3425** per person, based on double occupancy. Your cost includes air fare from Toronto, transfers in Italy, accommodation with breakfast and dinner daily, local transit pass for two weeks.

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A MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE

As part of ORTA's program to Celebrate Life's Milestones or In Memory of friends or family, the following gifts were received

In Memory of

Joan Burton
of Newmarket

Elinor Patterson
of Montreal



NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following new members during our last quarter.

April 1 - June 30, 2014

Gail Birkett	Lena McDonell
Marianne Broome	Margaret Murphy-Draycott
Gerald Chung	Jurecka Paul
Irene Consack	Halina Przybyszewska
Rebecca Dehmassi	Norine Saldanha
Edmond Ha	Bill Schoenhardt
Meghan Hewton	Gaye & Robert Spence
Sachi Komarasamy	Thomas & Pamela Stack
Enwei Li	Gayle Whitehead
Daniel Ma	Chengni Zheng
David MacDonald	
James Mallon	



CHAMPIONS

April 1, 2014 s - June 30, 2014

Thank you to all donors who have made gifts of \$10 or over to support the ORTA:

Terry & Carlota Alderson
Fatemeh Amini
Richard Baron
Angela Bender
Rick Berry
Gail Birkett
Karen Bulkowski
Stanley Butcher
Dr. Hugh Chambers
Flora Chang
WeiBo Cheng
John Comfort
Ruth Comfort
Derek Cowbourne
Arthur Craig
Judy Dalrymple
Jayne Dawson

Martin & Vicky Earle
Reza Farmand
Joyce Feinberg
Alexandra Forer
Brenda Good Weber
Jean Heys
Isobel Hood
J. Lloyd Hudson
Diane & Bob Hughes
David Hyndman
Christopher Javornik
Margaret & Murray Jelley
Stephen Kamnitzer
Valerie Linton
Susan Liver
Peter Lobraico

Kevin Lowe
Beverley Lunau
Gaye Mas
Lena McDonell
Dian Conners & Jon McPhee
Ed Millar
Margaret Murphy-Draycott
Amelie Parenteau-Comfort
Jurecka Paul
Daniel Pergau
Halina Przybyszewska
Peter Rhodes
Nora Ryan
Hilary Sadler
Gisela Schmidt



Beverley Siydock-Thom
Margery Snider
Gaye & Robert Spence
Thomas & Pamela Stack
Ron & Lynne Stephany
Cathy Taylor
Joan & Robert Taylor
Patricia Ward
Dr. Linda Weber
Alan & Anne Wells

If you would like to make a donation to one of the ORTA Funds, call 905 833-6600 or visit ORTA's website www.oakridgestrail.org for more information

ORTA FALL 2014 HIKE SCHEDULE

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF HIKES LISTED ON THE ORTA WEBSITE, (www.oakridgestrail.org) OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE ADDITIONAL HIKES OR CORRECTIONS ADDED AFTER PRESS TIME.

- Remember that it is your responsibility to dress appropriately! Hat, gloves, gaiters, umbrella, may be needed. Wear sturdy hiking boots appropriate to changing precipitation and temperature; no cotton socks, use a liner sock plus a hiking sock. Dress in layers as conditions can vary widely within a short time or distance. Waterproof boots, jacket and pants recommended. Hiking poles optional.
- Keep these in the car: plastic bags for muddy boots, spare footwear, spare dry/warm clothes.
- Drinks and snacks recommended for all hikes and lunch may be needed for longer ones.
- It is the hike leader's decision whether to allow dogs on hikes. Hikers should call first if the listing is not specific.
- In case of inclement weather, call the hike leader to confirm the hike.
- Be aware that parking areas are public places; refrain from keeping ANY valuables in your car.

HIKERS SHOULD ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE ADVERTISED HIKE TIME.

OCTOBER

Wed, Oct-1, 9:30AM, Hall Tract

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike on sandy, forested trails. We'll hike some little used footpaths. Dress for the weather. Meet at parking area on east side of McCowan Rd, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Wed, Oct-1, 9:30AM, Jokers Hill / Koffler-Bales S.T.

ORTA Map 3; 16km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop. Varied, hilly terrain. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet at Whipper Billy Watson Park, Newmarket; just east of Bathurst St, on Clearmeadow Blvd, first street north of Mulock Dr.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Oct-3, 9:30AM, Brock Tract

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking area on east side of Uxbridge, Conc 6, 5.5 km south of Durham 21 or 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Pickering Town line.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Oct-4, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Oct-4, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Sun, Oct-5, 10:00AM, Rouge Park

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain.

T&B, hilly, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd - follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Sun, Oct-5, 10:00AM, Leskard, Municipality of Clarington

ORTA Map 8; 8.5km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. There and back hike-some hilly terrain; Bring food and water- (and a birthday treat for the leader). Dress for the weather and walking conditions. Meet at 3-way stop in the village of Leskard; From Taunton Rd east, take Leskard Rd north about 4 km to Leskard.

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340

Mon, Oct-6, 9:30AM, Richmond Hill, Richvale Greenway

6.5km; Slow pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. Loop trails - see the recently reopened Mary Dawson Park. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet outside the front entrance of Richmond Hill Central Library, SW corner of Major Mackenzie Dr and Yonge St. Not on an ORTA Map.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Oct-8, 9:30AM, Waterfront Trail

8km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. East on WFT to Cranberry Marsh (swans, ducks etc.), south to pebbled beach, east to Lynde Creek, T&B. Wear sturdy shoes for beach section. Meet at parking lot at south end of Lake Ridge Rd, near Lake Ontario.

Contact: Lynne Bussey at 905-839-8116. Cell 416-262-5895

Wed, Oct-8, 9:30AM, Uxbridge Al Shaw, Clubine, Norton Tracts & the Albright Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 15+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Easy terrain. Hike the infrequently travelled Albright Side Trail. This is a loop hike with some road and minor hills. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet in the parking area on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham

21 at Albright Rd.

Contact: Malcolm Hann at 905-477-7260 (before 10:00pm)

Fri, Oct-10, 9:30AM, Unionville Urban Hike

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop around Toogood & Walden Ponds. No dogs please. Please read parking instructions. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St Unionville north from Carlton Rd, 0.5 km turn west on Toogood Pond to parking.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Oct-11, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161



Sat, Oct-11, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Moderate pace; 4hrs. Easy terrain. We will hike the Eaton Hall and Mary Lake loop and stop at Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with the TBTC. Meet at roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Mina or Mahnoosh at 905-770-9954 or 647-968-4533

Sun, Oct-12, 10:00AM, Brock Tract

ORTA Map 5; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Meet at parking area on the east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sun, Oct-12, 11:00AM, Wasaga Beach Schooner Town Loop Trail

10km; Moderate pace; 4hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop trail around Provincial Park with stunning views of Nottawasaga River and sand dunes. Meet at Schooner Town Parkette, River Rd West, Wasaga Beach, just past McDonalds and over bridge crossing Nottawasaga River.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

Sun, Oct-12, 2:00PM, Uxbridge - Secord-Goodwood Tracts

ORTA Map 5; 6+km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. T&B and loop hike through meadows and forested trails with views of scenic ponds. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Meet at Secord Parking Lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd (Durham 21) in Goodwood on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd.

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726

Mon, Oct-13, 9:30AM, Brock Tract and Wilder Forest

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+ hrs. Easy terrain. Thanksgiving Day hike. Walk with us to enjoy the beautiful fall colours of this area. Scenic meadows and hilltop vistas. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at parking lot east side of Durham #1/Brock Rd, 5 km south of Coppins Corners.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Mon, Oct-13, 9:30AM, Richmond Hill, Elgin Mills Greenway

4.5km; Slow pace; 1.75hrs. Easy terrain. T&B hike on town trail system with some surprising moraine views. Well constructed trail suitable for families with children and strollers with larger wheels. Child-friendly dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Meet in the south parking lot of Elgin West Community Centre, 11099 Bathurst St, 0.8

km north of Elgin Mills Rd. Not on an ORTA Map.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Oct-15, 9:30AM, Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike, hilly, some nice outlooks, no dogs please. Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4 - note the road title changes.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Oct-15, 9:30AM, Glen Major Forest

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Strenuous terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking area on east side of Uxbridge, Conc 6, 5.5 km south of Durham 21 or 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Pickering Town line.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Thu, Oct-16, 7:00PM, Discovery Night in Ballantrae Community Centre

Invasive Species in York Region. For details, check the main Discover Your World box in Trail Talk or on the Website, www.oakridgestrail.org

Fri, Oct-17, 9:30AM, Happy Valley

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Challenging terrain. There and back. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

LEGEND

HIKE TERRAIN: Easy = mostly flat, good footing. Challenging = some hills and/or poor footing Strenuous = hills with steep climbs

CA = conservation area

TRCA - Toronto & Region Conservation Authority

Select hikes most suitable for your ability:

T&B = there and back hike

BT - Bruce Trail Conservancy

Slow 3km/h Fast 5km/h

YRF - York Regional Forest

PP - Provincial Park

Moderate 4km/h Very Fast 6km/h

Fri, Oct-17, 9:30AM, Secord to Glasgow

ORTA Map 4 & 5; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Easy terrain. Short shuttle hike from Secord through Goodwood to Glasgow Tract. Scenic route past ponds and meadows. Moderate hills. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. Dogs are welcome. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at Glasgow parking lot east side of Conc 2, 200 metres south of Webb Rd.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Sat, Oct-18, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Oct-18, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Sun, Oct-19, 10:00AM, Seaton Trail

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain.

T&B, some hills, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Oct-20, 9:30AM, Newmarket, Nokiidaa Trail to Mackenzie Wetland, Aurora

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. T&B trek on the Nokiidaa Trail beside the Holland River to Hadley Grange Conservation Reserve and MacKenzie Wetland. Hopefully viewing waterfowl and turtles. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the parking lot behind the Newmarket Town Hall, 395 Mulock Dr, L3Y 4X7, 0.7 km west of Bayview Ave.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Oct-22, 9:30AM, Skyloft / Crowspass

ORTA Map 5 & 6; 16+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Challenging terrain.

Figure of eight hike. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the west side of Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Houston Rd.

Contact: Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Fri, Oct-24, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hilly. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km. south of Durham 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Fri, Oct-24, 9:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. We'll hike the little

used footpaths in this area. Watch for poison ivy, moderate hills. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sat, Oct-25, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Oct-25, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Moderate pace; 4hrs. Easy terrain. We will hike the Eaton Hall and Mary Lake loop and stop at Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with the TBTC. Meet at roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Mina or Mahnoosh at 905-770-9954 or 647-968-4533

Mon, Oct-27, 9:30AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. Walk scenic streamside and forested trails. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch at Sheena's afterwards. Meet at parking lot east side of Hwy 50, 2 km south of Hwy 9.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Oct-29, 9:30AM, Rouge Park

9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Pretty area, hilly, will take in the Valley Halla mansion. Meet at 1749 Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd - follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Oct-29, 9:30AM, Durham Forest

ORTA Map 5; 11+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hilly. No dogs please. Meet at the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of Conc 7, 1 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Fri, Oct-31, 9:30AM, Secord/Goodwood

ORTA Map 5; 11km; Fast pace; 2.5hrs. T&B, loops. Mixed forested and open trails. Some hills. Meet at Secord parking lot;

HIKE ONTARIO SUMMIT

To all Friends of the Trail,

On behalf of Hike Ontario, the Guelph Hiking Trail Club invites you to take part in the 40th Annual Hike Ontario Summit. Join us on the banks of the Speed River for our kick-off Friday pub night, a dynamic Saturday program, and a Sunday of great hikes on our beautiful trails. Take this opportunity to learn about new hiking initiatives, check out the latest equipment, participate in stimulating workshops, share experiences with hikers from different Ontario clubs, and celebrate HO's 40th birthday!

Mark your calendars! See you in Guelph on Oct 31 - Nov 2!

Dave Culham, President
Guelph Hiking Trail Club
www.guelphhiking.com

2 km south of Goodwood Rd (Rd 21) on Uxbridge Conc 3; then east on Secord Rd.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

NOVEMBER

Sat, Nov-1, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sun, Nov-2, 10:00AM, Rouge Park

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain.

T&B, hilly, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd - follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Sun, Nov-2, 11:00AM, Humber Heritage Trail, Palgrave

10km; Moderate pace; 4hrs. Challenging terrain. Car shuttle to Bolton, then hike back to Palgrave. Meet at Palgrave, Caledon Trailway, Hwy 50.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

Mon, Nov-3, 9:30AM, Aurora, Confederation Park to Keele St, King City

ORTA Map 2 & 3; 8km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hrs. Challenging terrain. Car shuttle for one way trek along the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail through Seneca College King Campus and Aurora's Case Woodlot. Hiking boots recommended, particularly if recent wet weather. Not suitable for dogs. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the parking lot of Confederation Park, Glass Drive - see ORTA Aurora Town Map.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Tue, Nov-4, 9:30AM, North West Quadrant Woodlot, Newmarket

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 1.5hrs. Easy terrain. Loop, Dave Kerwin Trail, Some hills, shallow stream crossing by log or stepping stones. Well mannered dogs welcomed. Meet at Environmental Park parking lot, west side of Woodspring Ave, 1.4 km south of Green Lane W, at Willam Booth Ave intersection, Newmarket.

Contact: Robert Alsop at 905-898-3718, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718

Wed, Nov-5, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Gentle slopes, sandy, boots, water snacks desirable, no dogs please. Meet at first parking lot south of Durham 21, on Conc 7 on the west side.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Nov-5, 9:30AM, Seneca King Campus

ORTA Map 2; Moderate pace; 2hrs. Challenging terrain. A hike through beautiful Seneca grounds with some steep hills. Hiking boots recommended. No dogs are allowed in Seneca. Meet at road side of Keele St at trail marker; 2.8 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Diane & Bob Hughes at 905-833-5908, cell phone on day of hike 416-305-6387

Wed, Nov-5, 9:30AM, Long Sault CA

ORTA Map 7; 17km; Fast pace; 4hrs. Challenging terrain. Loops. Varied, hilly terrain. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet at Long Sault CA. On Durham Rd 57, go 11 km south of Hwy 7A at Blackstock or 17 km north of Hwy 401 at Bowmanville; east 2.5 km on Durham Rd 20; north on Woodley Rd. Paid parking \$4.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Nov-7, 9:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast pace; 10+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking lot on west side of Hwy 48, 2.5km north of Ballantrae.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Nov-8, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Nov-8, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Moderate pace; 4hrs. Easy terrain. We will hike the Eaton Hall and Mary Lake loop and stop at Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with the TBTC. Meet at roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Mina or Mahnoosh at 905-770-9954 or 647-968-4533

Sat, Nov-8, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Sun, Nov-9, 10:00AM, YRF Bendor Graves Tract

8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike with some hilly sections. One little used trail with short steep hill at the end. Meet at parking area at dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sun, Nov-9, 10:00AM, Ganaraska Forest, Municipality of Port Hope

ORTA Map 9; 8km; Moderate pace; 2hrs. There and back hike-some hilly terrain; bring snacks and drinks; dress for the weather. Take Ganaraska Rd (#9) east from Hwy 115 to Garden Hill; go north (left) on County Rd #10 to Pine Grove Ln (2-3 km) (called Wright Rd to the east);go left (west) on Pine Grove Rd to roadside parking.

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340

Sun, Nov-9, 2:00PM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hrs. Easy terrain. East and west loops of Walker Woods. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring water and snacks. Dress for the weather. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of Conc 7, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd (Durham 21).

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726

Mon, Nov-10, 9:30AM, Secord/Goodwood Tracts

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. Walk past scenic ponds, meadows and forest trails. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. Dogs on leash welcome. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at Secord parking lot on Secord Rd, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd east, off Conc 3.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Nov-12, 9:30AM, Duffins Creek West

8km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. South following east shore of Duffins Creek West, east to Duffins Creek. T&B. Meet at parking lot on Conc 3, west off Brock Rd, north of 401, south of Taunton, west of Valley Farm Rd.

Contact: Lynne Bussey at 905-839-8116. Cell 416-262-5895

Wed, Nov-12, 9:30AM, Uxbridge Secord Forest, Albright Side Trial, Norton & Clubine Tracts

ORTA Map 5; 15+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Easy terrain. This will be a figure eight hike with some road and minor hills. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet in the Secord parking lot 2 km south of Goodwood Rd on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd.

Contact: Malcolm Hann at 905-477-7260 (before 10:00pm)

Fri, Nov-14, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5 km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Nov-15, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Nov-15, 9:30AM, Joker's Hill

9km; Moderate pace; 2.5+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop trek around the heavily treed undulating hills of Jokers' Hill and Thornton Bales Conservation Area - optional climb of the 99 Steps. Warm drinks and snacks. Dress for the weather, and bring your icers. Bathurst St, 1 km south of Hwy 9 on west side slip road.

Contact: Fatema Amini at 905-235-6676 or on day of hike 416-616-8780

Sun, Nov-16, 10:00AM, Seaton Trail

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain. T&B, some hills, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks

and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Nov-17, 9:30AM, East Gwillimbury' Green Lane to Newmarket

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow pace; 2.5hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike on Nokiidaa and parallel trails beside the East Branch of the Holland River; see lock basins constructed for the Rogers Canal System and the century old route of the Radial Railway. Hiking boots recommended, particularly if recent wet weather. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the front parking lot on the north side of Green Lane, 1.7 km west of Leslie St. - see the very top right corner of ORTA Map 3.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Nov-19, 9:30AM, Seaton Trail

16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Strenuous terrain. There and back. Meet in the park on the south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Thu, Nov-20, 7:00PM, Discovery Night in Ballantrae Community Centre

Turkish Odyssey by Wilma Millage. For details, please check the main Discover Your World box in Trail Talk or on the website, www.oakridgestrail.org

Fri, Nov-21, 9:30AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Challenging terrain. There and back. Meet at parking area on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21 at Albright Rd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Fri, Nov-21, 9:30 AM, YRF North Tract

8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike with a number of moderate hills. Watch for poison ivy. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5 km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sat, Nov-22, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Nov-22, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Mon, Nov-24, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Durham Forest

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. Join us for a social hike on sheltered forest trails with moderate hills. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot east side of Conc 7, #3789, 1 km south of Goodwood Rd.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Nov-26, 9:30AM, Bendor and Graves

9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike through Bendor and Graves Woodlands, some hills, no dogs please. Meet at parking area at the end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Nov-26, 9:30AM, Glen Major /Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike. Hilly. Meet at parking area on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham 21.

Contact: Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Fri, Nov-28, 9:30AM, Durham Forest/Skyloft

ORTA Map 5; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Hike the recent re-route of the main ORTA trail. Hilly area through mature forests. Bring water and a snack. Dogs welcome. Meet at parking lot, Conc 7, 2.1km south of Goodwood Rd.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Fri, Nov-28, 9:30AM, Seaton Trail

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Challenging terrain. T&B. Hilly. Meet at park in village of Whitevale; west side of bridge, south off Whitevale Rd. Note: Bridge will likely still be closed, so approach from west side (east from York-Durham Rd 30).

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Sat, Nov-29, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Nov-29, 9:30AM, Joker's Hill

9km; Moderate pace; 2.5+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop trek around the heavily treed undulating hills of Jokers' Hill and Thornton Bales Conservation Area - optional climb of the 99 Steps. Warm drinks and snacks. Dress for the weather, and bring your icers. Bathurst St, 1 km south of Hwy 9 on west side slip road.

Contact: Fatema Amini at 905-235-6676 or on day of hike 416-616-8780

Sun, Nov-30, 10:00AM, King City, Seneca College

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hrs. Easy terrain. T&B, we'll hike over to Mary Lake using the main and Millar side trails and return the same way. After we'll go to a nice bakery in the area. No dogs please. Meet at Seneca College MAIN entrance. As you enter Seneca you will see a small parking gate. Park in the lot on the right hand side of this gate. Entrance to Seneca is off Dufferin St, approx 2.5 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Tessa Shelvey at 905-850-1507 (before 9:00PM)

Sun, Nov-30, 11:00AM, Palgrave Conservation Area

ORTA Map 1; 6km; Moderate pace; 3hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike around Palgrave Conservation Area. Meet at Palgrave Conservation Area, Hwy 50, West Side, just north of Palgrave.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

DECEMBER

Mon, Dec-1, 9:30AM, Whitchurch - Stouffville

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. Loops around the Patterson and Clarke Tracts of York Region Forests. Hiking boots recommended. Icers may be required depending on seasonal conditions. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the Dainty Tract parking lot, west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Tue, Dec-2, 9:30AM, Nokiidaa Trail Newmarket, Mulock Dr-St John's Sdrd

ORTA Map 3; 8km; Moderate pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. T&B. Tom Taylor Trail, Mulock Dr, south to St John's Sdrd along East Holland River, through Bailey Ecological Park. Meet at parking lot, east side of Cane Pkwy, 0.4 km north of Mulock Dr, Newmarket.

Contact: Robert Alsop at 905-898-3718, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718

Wed, Dec-3, 9:30AM, Brock Tract

ORTA Map 5; 9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike through pretty area, no dogs please, icers may be required. Meet at parking lot on east side of Conc 6, 5.5 km south of Durham Rd 21, or 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Dec-3, 9:30AM, York Regional Forest Bender and Graves

Moderate pace; 2hrs. Challenging terrain. Forest and meadow trails overlooking deep ravines. Hiking boots recommended; some wet areas. Meet in parking area on Kennedy Rd, 0.6 km north of Davis Dr.

Contact: Diane & Bob Hughes at 905-833-5908, cell phone on day of hike 416-305-6387

Wed, Dec-3, 9:30AM, Rouge Park

16km; Fast pace; 4hrs. Challenging terrain. Loops. Varied, hilly terrain. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet at parking lot by Glen Rouge Campground. Entrance on north side of Kingston Rd (Hwy 2), east of Port Union Rd (Scarborough), west of Altona Rd (Pickering).

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Dec-5, 9:30AM, Eldred King & Scout

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hilly. No dogs please. Meet at Eldred King parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 2.7 km north of Aurora Sdrd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Dec-6, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Dec-6, 9:00AM, Oak Ridges Corridor

11km; Moderate pace; 3hrs. Easy terrain. We will walk along the Oak Ridges side trail until Bathurst St and return to community parking lot. There is a choice of swimming in community pool. Leisure Swim program 1-3 pm Admission for single person: Adult \$3.75 and Seniors \$2.60. Bring swim suit and towel. Meet at Oak Ridges Community Parking Lot, 12895 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill (south parking Lot).

Contact: Mina or Mahnoosh at 905-770-9954 or 647-968-4533

Sat, Dec-6, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Icers are mandatory for this hike. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Sun, Dec-7, 10:00AM, Hall Tract

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Length dependant on the weather. Loop hike on sandy, forested trails. We'll also explore a few little used footpaths. Dress suitably for the weather with icers or snow shoes if the conditions so dictate. Meet at parking area on east side of McCowan Rd, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sun, Dec-7, 10:00AM, Durham Regional Forest and West Walker Loop, Uxbridge Township

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Double loop hike, some hills,-possible drop-out between loops; bring snacks and drinks; dress for the weather - may need icers or snowshoes. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Albright Rd and Conc 6 (south of Hwy 21).

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340

Sun, Dec-7, 2:00PM, YRF Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike through York Region Forest. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Meet at the parking lot west of Hwy 48, 0.7 km north of St. John's Sdrd, or 2.7 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726

Mon, Dec-8, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Walker Tracts

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. 11th Millage Anniversary Hike. Sheltered, winding trails through mature forest. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on trail. We'll bring special treats too. 'Members only' potluck lunch afterwards. Hikers are encouraged to carpool from the Goodwood Hall parking lot. Meet at parking lot Conc 6 and Albright Rd.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Dec-10, 9:30AM, Eldred King & Hall Side trail, Paterson & Dainty Tracts

ORTA Map 4; 13+km; Fast pace; 4hrs. Easy terrain. T&B and loop hike. Mostly a flat hike with some hills. Length of hike will be dependant on weather. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Come prepared for weather with icers / snowshoes. Meet in the parking area 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd.

Contact: Malcolm Hann at 905-477-7260 (before 10:00pm)

Fri, Dec-12, 9:30AM, Brock Tract

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking area on east side of Uxbridge, Conc 6, 5.5 km south of Durham 21 or 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Pickering Town line.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sat, Dec-13, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sun, Dec-14, 10:00AM, Rouge Park

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain. T&B, hilly, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd - follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Sun, Dec-14, 11:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Beautiful mixed forest; loop hike with moderate hills (mostly flat sandy trails); well-mannered dogs (that won't chase deer) and children welcome; bring water and bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Icers are mandatory for this hike. Meet at parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Carolyn Mancey on day of hike at 416-937-1584

Mon, Dec-15, 9:30AM, Richmond Hill

5km; Slow pace; 1.5hrs. Easy terrain. Loop trails around Mill Pond Park to Karindon Park. Hiking boots recommended. Icers may be required depending on seasonal conditions. Not suitable for dogs. Bring drinks. Meet in the parking lot beside the Mill Pond, Mill St, 0.8 km east of Bathurst.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Dec-17, 9:30AM, Hall Tract

9+km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Challenging terrain. Loop hike, some hills, icers or snowshoes, as the weather dictates, required, no dogs please. Meet at the parking lot on McCowan Rd, 1.1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256

Wed, Dec-17, 9:30AM, Walker/Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 14+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Strenuous terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking area on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Fri, Dec-19, 9:30AM, Bendor and Graves

Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Easy terrain. Walk the white pine, spruce and maple forested trails. Bring water and a snack. May need icers depending on weather. Dogs welcome. Meet at end of Kennedy Rd, 1km north of Davis Drive.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Fri, Dec-19, 9:30AM, Langstaff EcoPark, Vaughan

11km; Fast pace; 2.5hrs. Easy terrain. T&B. Pleasant, scenic walk along the Don River, in an urban park setting. Lunch at nearby pub. Meet at Langstaff EcoPark, short distance east of Keele St on south side of Langstaff Rd (north of Hwy 7), in Vaughan.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Sat, Dec-20, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sun, Dec-21, 10:00AM, Dainty, Clark and Paterson Tracts

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Length dependant on the weather. Easy walking on wide sheltered forest trails. Dress suitably for the weather with icers or snow shoes if the conditions so dictate. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of McCowan Rd, 0.5 km south of Aurora Rd.

Contact: John Fuchs at 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Mon, Dec-22, 9:30AM, Eldred King/Scout Tract

ORTA Map 4; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Easy terrain. A loop hike past several ponds on sandy/snow covered forest trails. May need icers or snowshoes. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot on west side of Hwy 48, 2.7 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Dec-24, 9:30AM, Durham Forest

ORTA Map 5; 11+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hilly. Hike or snowshoe. Meet at the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of Conc 7, 1 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161

Sat, Dec-27, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Easy terrain. Loop hike some hills. Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862

Sun, Dec-28, 10:00AM, Seaton Trail

10km; Moderate pace; Challenging terrain.

T&B, some hills, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale.

Contact: Josie Klostranec at 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Dec-29, 9:30AM, Aurora, Sheppard's Bush to Benville Crescent

Town of Aurora; 6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Easy terrain. T&B hike on the ORM and Nokiidaa trails with loops around side trails - a variety of woodlots between urban developments. Hiking boots recommended. Icers may be required depending on seasonal conditions. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the Sheppard's Bush parking lot, Industry St, off Mary St, south of Wellington St.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471

Wed, Dec-31, 8:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5;

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs.

Hilly. Hike or snowshoe. No dogs please.

Meet at parking area on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161


Happy Hiking!

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INTRODUCING JOHN FUCHS- NEW HIKE LEADER

BY BRIAN MILLAGE



John Fuchs and his hike group from the Dainty Clarke hike
Photo Credit: Frank Alexander

Early in June, John Fuchs received his certification as an ORTA/Hike Ontario leader along with Malcolm Hann, Carolyn Mancey and several other candidates. Many of you already know John well as he has participated in ORTA hikes for almost ten years now. John lives in Newmarket but enjoys hiking several times a week in a variety of locations from Hockley Valley to Uxbridge and beyond. John is a traveller who has shared some of his adventures with us through presentations at ORTA Discovery Nights. One of those involved a trip to Morocco where John retraced some family history in areas where his father had served with the French Foreign Legion.

After earning his certification, John wasted no time getting involved as he stepped in to lead for one established leader who was called away unexpectedly. Some of his fellow ORTA hikers made that first hike "interesting" for John, in a good natured way. He met all challenges with a smile. John has decided to lead a series of moderate speed hikes on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail, some of which will be Friday morning outings while others will be on Sundays. I always enjoy hiking with John as he is welcoming, considerate of the needs of his group and has many stories to share. I'm sure you will enjoy his hikes too.

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All ash trees in Ontario are at risk from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect that attacks and kills ash trees. Now is the time to prepare for the potentially devastating impact of EAB. Discover how EAB will affect your forest and what approaches you can take to minimize its impact. Talk with experts and learn about resources on woodlot management at a free workshop offered by York Region in partnership with Forests Ontario. Workshops will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lemonville Community Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville on September 22, and at the Mount Albert Lions Community Centre in East Gwillimbury on October 6. For more information and to register, visit www.york.ca/eab

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ORTA MEMBERS ABROAD



HEATHER COOPER - At last! I've always dreamed of seeing the famous sights of Yosemite, and here I am with both El Capitan and Half Dome in the background. I admit our hectic exploration of mountain roads left no time for actual hiking.