



Oak
Ridges
Trail
Association

TRAIL TALK



Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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Spring 2014



In this issue:

***Meet an amazing hike leader
Check out checkpoint captains
Spring along the trail***

President's Chat...

By Wilma Millage

I hope you all got through our recent ice storms safely and without incurring too much damage to your self or properties. Here in Newmarket we didn't get hit too hard and didn't even have a flicker in the hydro!

Look for some interesting pictures and a short article on the effects of the storm later on in this edition. Isn't the picture of the Barred Owl that is with this column a great one! Brian and I saw it along the ORMT near Uxbridge and I just had to share it with you. It isn't often you get one of these fellows to sit and pose for you so nicely.



Jacqueline, our editor, has a collaborator for this edition, Katrina Bin. Jacqueline has been our Editor since 2009 and we certainly have appreciated the changes she has brought into the design while she was in charge. Thank you Jacqueline for putting in so much time as a volunteer and for doing such a great job! Our Summer edition will be the first issue by Katrina and I will introduce you to her in the July issue.

Make sure you read the column I wrote on Sheena's Kitchen, located in Schomberg. It is my favourite place to eat along the trail and many of you have heard me rave about the fabulous lemon cake that Sheena makes. I would like to make this column a regular feature in Trail Talk for the future as many of us enjoy a meal after a hike. Please send in your articles on favourite places you have eaten at and we will include one in each edition. If you can include a picture as well that would be great!

Please note information on our upcoming AGM. It will be held at our new office location All Saints Anglican Church in King City on Thursday, April 10. Garry is including information and details in this issue. We will be electing our new Board of Directors and if you are interested in serving on the Board please contact Peter Schaefer.

Judy Comfort wrote a great article for TRCA's "The Woods" publication that I thought you would enjoy reading too. It tells of her lifelong enjoyment along the trails of our region. There are so many interesting things happening along our trail and so many dedicated volunteers doing the work to make them successful. Thanks to all of you who are doing such a great job. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the trails during the summer.

Discover Your World

Join us for the Oak Ridges Trail Association's Discovery Night! Enjoy an evening out to share in interesting worldwide journeys or hear 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 May 15, 2014

South Korea: presented by Amy Wright

Visit South Korean, a land of contradictions. Rugged mountains, pristine beaches, and bustling, cosmopolitan cities which are surrounded by farmland. It is rife with traces of its thousands of years of history. The rugged terrain has gifted the country with some of the most stunning national parks in Asia and hiking is a national past time.

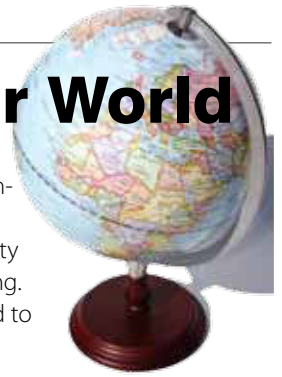
Discovery Nights will resume in September.

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!

Where and When:

7-9 p.m. Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville
(just east of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd, on the north side)
\$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@yahoo.ca



Get Off the Road!

By Judy Gilchrist

We all know that hiking off-road is considerably more appealing than hiking on-road and ORTA's overall trail use probably reflects that preference.

If you know of landowners along the ORTA trail route who might be interested in formalizing access agreements through their properties, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has information available that may help in moving the conversation along.

At the Trust's website you can find information about what a Land Trust is and how conservation easements help us work with other organizations, like ORTA, to secure lands – or access to lands – in perpetuity. The Groombridge property in King Township (Map 1) is a good example of such an arrangement.

Your peaceful, no-road hikes can be expanded right across the Moraine. If you have contact information for specific landowners and wish to share information about the Trust, we can send an information package along and follow up with you or the landowner. Simply call the Trust office at 905-933-3171 or by email at Landtrust@oakridgesmoraine.org

Put more spring in your step by getting off the road!

Baillie BIRDATHON an ORTA Fundraiser – 14th Anniversary

by Diana Piché

After what may have seemed like a rather extreme winter of snow, cold and ice I am looking forward to listening to the symphony of bird song and sharing the trail with you as our forests, meadows and streams wake-up from their winter slumber.



For many years I have enjoyed sharing the natural beauty of the ORMHT, particularly interpretive bird hikes, with fellow hikers. Many of you have joined me on 'bird hikes' and pledged me in the annual Birdathon fundraiser (a Canada-wide event) which I undertake to benefit ORTA. This spring I am once again planning to lead nature hikes and participate in the Birdathon. The Birdathon takes place each May with individuals spending up to 24-hours outdoors identifying as many bird species by sight or sound as possible. I undertake the event along the ORMHT as it provides many wonderful birding opportunities.

I hope you will consider pledging me - either as a flat amount or a rate per species - for the 2014 Birdathon. To pledge please contact me at diana.piche@sympatico.ca or 647-237-4837. In return for your pledge, you will receive:

- \$10 or more, a tax receipt from Bird Studies Canada (BSC); and
- \$35 or more, 4 issues of "BirdWatch Canada" outlining BSC's work, research, conservation issues and volunteer projects.

For more information on Bird Studies Canada please go to their website at www.bsc-eoc.org

As of press time I was unable to set specific dates so if you are interested please contact me for the schedule. The hikes will be slow-moderate paced on Saturdays (morning or afternoon) or Sundays (afternoon only) between early April and mid-June. I will lead hikes in four of the following locations:

- Happy Valley (Map 2) birds, wildflowers and salamanders (~5km)
- Cold Creek Conservation Area (Map 2) explore fields, forests and an enchanted bog (5 - 8 km)
- Millar Side Trail & Eaton Hall Lake (Map 2) birds and wildflowers (3 - 5 km)
- Oak Ridges Corridor Park (Map 3) grassland birds (5 - 8 km)
- Sheppard's Bush (Map 3) birds and wildflowers (4 - 6 km)
- Porritt Tract (Map 4) frogs at dusk (3-5 km)
- Secord Wildlife Area (Map 5) birds, frogs and wildflowers (6 - 8 km)
- Bluebird Trail (Map 8) (3 - 5 km)

From the Rookie Checkpoint Captain's View

Timing is everything. This turned out to be absolutely true for my experience with the Adventure Relay. While the Adventure Relay is as much about finishing in record time, sometimes it's just about finishing at all! It



took me several years to be able to participate as a volunteer and when I did, I had the good fortune to be assigned to Checkpoint #9 under the leadership of the effervescent Linda Tyndall. For two years, I was one of her mighty team who welcomed cyclists over the final two killer hills and waved off runners into the poison ivy shade to the west. Linda's guidance ensured that any hiccups were smoothly calmed, order restored and good times had by all. In preparation for the third year, Linda asked me to captain Checkpoint #9 which was June 2013. All the key reasons for success were achieved because of timing: being familiar with the tricks of our checkpoint, having Linda as part of the team on race day, team members who were experienced and knew the drill, of course, the sunshine helps too!

You Too Can Have This Experience! Join Us by contacting Michele at the ORTA office: 1.877.319.0285 or info@oakridgestrail.org



jtmorris@tbaytel.net
807-472-6309
www.thebearstick.com

Hike With Confidence. Hike With the Bear Stick

What ORTA Hike Leader is an Actress, a Published Poet, and an Accountant?

ORTA hike leaders are often interesting and accomplished people, but it's rare to find one as fascinating as Josie Klostranec. She has overcome poverty, abuse and tragedy to become an actress who performs in Canada and Croatia, a published poet, a tireless community volunteer, and now an ORTA hike leader.

Josie was born in the small village of Lovinac, Croatia (then Yugoslavia) in 1940. While formal education for most children ended at grade 4, Josie managed to get enough jobs to put herself through grades 5 to 8 and then high school. She married young and had a son in Croatia and a daughter later in Canada. Now she has grandchildren - a boy 16yrs. and a girl 20yrs.

In the 1960's Canada would not accept immigrants from communist countries, so Josie and her son moved to France for 2 years before immigrating in 1967. Arriving in Montreal and she cried when she saw the snow - wondering what kind of "promised land" had snow in May!

Speaking fluent French, Josie thrived in Montreal and enrolled in University to study Early Childhood Psychology. However, the family's move to Toronto, derailed her studies. Undaunted, she enrolled in George Brown College to learn English, and then, being better at math than English, bookkeeping and accounting. This served her well, working the next 30 years in accounting for Westinghouse and then Novopharm. She also doubled as the French-English Liaison for Westinghouse's Quebec arm.

From a young age, Josie wrote poetry, though it was not encouraged by the Croatian government or her husband. Once in Canada on her own, she flourished and wrote prolifically. Unlike the humorous side of Josie that we see on the trail, her poetry is serious and sad, with themes of lost love and lost homeland. While she wrote mostly in Croatian, she did write some in English, and had three poems published in an American Anthology of Poetry. She ceased writing, however, after the untimely deaths of her daughter and later her son. In 1990, CHIN Radio in Toronto recognized her as Poet of the Year, and rewarded her with a week in Acapulco. She has been invited to read her poetry at numerous recitals. In Vienna 2013 she received a trophy to mark her contributions to Austria-Croatian Cultural Cooperation, as they celebrated Croatia's acceptance into the European Union.

Another one of Josie's loves is the theatre. Not just attending, but participating! She is a member of "Histerioni", a noted amateur Croatian Theatre group. They put on dramas, comedies, and children's fables all in Croatian, for Toronto's Croatian community. Josie has played many roles, from a courtroom judge to a mushroom in a children's play! Annually, she attends a theatre workshop in Croatia, where she spends her summers. Josie has performed three times in her homeland, when the group was invited to international festivals in Zagreb and other cities.

With her little remaining free time, Josie volunteers at the Scott Mission in Toronto, sorting clothing donations for women and children,



and making up packages of food for the needy. Recently when a manager asked the group of volunteers if there was anyone there "smart enough to do office administration" the group chorused, "Josie!!" After a day of working alone in an office making out tax receipts, Josie had had enough. "If I want to be alone, I can be alone in my condo!" she said, and happily went back to sorting clothes.

In Croatia girls were not encouraged to play soccer, which she loved. So in Canada she happily

played for 14 years with Scarborough United, until she broke her wrist badly and had to stop playing. Looking for something else active, she stumbled upon ORTA, and hiking. She says, "ORTA is a marvelous organization, and I've met so many wonderful people!" She hiked for 5-6 years before becoming a hike leader and now regularly leads Moderate hikes in the Rouge Valley and Seaton Trail areas. A strong and very fit hiker, Josie can hike as fast as ORTA's fastest, but prefers a more moderate pace, and is very sensitive to the capabilities of her "flock." She is also a volunteer Trail Captain, undertaking ORTA trail maintenance twice a year.

It would be remiss to talk about Josie without mentioning her well known, somewhat raunchy sense of humor. On a recent hike she arrived very late. She pulled in to the parking lot just as the impatient hikers were about to leave without her. Anyone else would have said something like, "Sorry, I was caught in traffic." Not Josie. She got out of the car, spread her arms and with a huge grin said, "My lover just wouldn't let me go!!" That's the Josie we know and love! Check out her Sunday hikes and get to know this amazing woman.



Fall Colours & Lake Superior Storms

Gales of November Photography: Rob Stimpson ~ Oct 31 - Nov 3
Painting Lake Superior: Taimi Poldmaa ~ Oct 17 - Oct 20

rockislandlodge.ca

B&B, Wawa, Lake Superior
1-800-203-9092

Spring 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. In winter, keep your icers and snowshoes in the car so you can decide at the hike location if they are needed.

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.

CA = conservation area

T&B = there and back hike

YRF - York Regional Forest

TRCA - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

BT - Bruce Trail Conservancy

PP - provincial park

Select hikes most suitable for your ability and enjoyment. While pace may vary throughout the hike, the following guidelines generally apply:

Slow	3 km/h
Slow-Moderate	3.5 km/h
Moderate	4 km/h
Moderate-Fast	4.5 km/h
Fast	5 km/h

Very Fast 6 km/h
Note: Hike leaders may adjust pace to accommodate weather conditions and footing

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

Wed, Apr-2, 9:30AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; Moderate pace; 2hrs. Winding forested trails, some hills. Meet in parking lot east side of Hwy 50, 2.7 km south of Hwy 9, or just past Millpond north of Palgrave.

Contact: Bob & Diane

Hughes at 905-833-5908.

Cell phone on day of hike

416-305-6387.

Wed, Apr-2, 9:30AM, Rouge Park

16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4hrs. Loops; varied hilly terrain. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet in parking lot, Glen Rouge Campground (Scarborough). Entrance on north side of Kingston Rd (Hwy 2), east of Port Union Rd/Hwy 401 junction; west of Altona Rd (Pickering).

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

Fri, Apr-4, 9:30AM, Hall Eldred King

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike sheltered forest and meadows with some hills. Meet at parking area on east side of Mc-Cowan Rd. 1 km. north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Apr-5, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Join a hike between April 6 through May 22 and be part of the WALK FOR WILDLIFE recognition (as advertized in a national publicity campaign by the Canadian Wildlife Federation)

Sun, Apr-6, 10:00AM, Welsh Tract County Forest 3km; Moderate pace; 2hrs. Exploring the hills and loop trail including the secret pond, swamps and forest. Bring snacks and water. Meet at Tim Horton's in Schomberg at 10 am sharp. Then we will drive 15 minutes north on Hwy 27 to the Welsh Tract. cwf-fcf.org

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

Sun, Apr-6, 2:00PM, YRF Eldred King Woodlands



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Do you need snowshoes or icers?

During winter it is important that hikers adjust to different situations. From October through to March/April variable weather and trail conditions will be encountered. We have to be adequately prepared at all times, regarding footwear in particular, and clothing in general.

Inexperienced hikers often underestimate the effort involved in slogging through snow on trails, without snowshoes. As a result they may tire rapidly, and sometimes have to turn back. In addition, icers (grippers for the bottom of boots) are necessary for personal safety, particularly during the 'shoulder' ends of winter.

Snowshoes and icers should be considered essential equipment. **Note:** Both these items should be put in your vehicle at the start of winter and left there, ready for whatever conditions are found at the trailhead – they don't do any good at home in the garage or basement! Conditions on the trail can vary considerably from your backyard!

Hike leaders will advise which gear is best at the start of each hike, but come prepared for anything. **Leaders reserve the right to refuse hikers who are not adequately equipped.** Those who have not yet acquired snowshoes or icers are encouraged to get advice from a number of our members who have a great deal of experience with these items. They will often have strong opinions about particular models, and indeed can babble on at quite some length, unless restrained. ☺

Of course, snowshoes or icers are not always needed. In all cases wear suitable boots and socks. Also, in general, bring clothing appropriate to the expected temperature, wind, precipitation and sun/cloud conditions. An extra sweater, touque or mitts might prove invaluable.

Continued from page 5

ORTA Map 4; 6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. 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, Apr-7, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Join us for a spring social outing on these beautiful forest trails. Somewhat hilly. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. Meet at parking lot west side of Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21.

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

Wed, Apr-9, 9:30AM, Pickering

7+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. We will be hiking Petticoat Creek Conservation Area. T&B, south to Lake Ontario, shore and west, possible loop. Meet at parking lot on west side Whites Rd, about 5 blocks south of the 401.

Contact: Lynne Bussey at 905-839-8116. Cell day of the hike 416-262-5895 after 8:30 AM.

Wed, Apr-9, 9:30AM, Seaton Hiking Trail

14+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. Depending on conditions. T&B, hilly. Meet in the village of Whitevale at the park on the west side of the river south off Whitevale Rd. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Wed, Apr-9, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Walker Woods/Skyloft

ORTA Map 5 & 6; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Join us as we follow the new ORMT route through Durham Forest and Skyloft Tract to Lakeridge Rd. Scenic but hilly trails. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail. Meet at the parking lot west side of Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21.

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

Thu, Apr-10, 4:00PM, Pre-AGM Hike, King City

ORTA Map 2; 5+km; Moderate pace; 1.5hrs. Seneca/Eaton Hall area. Note: Annual General Meeting afterwards, from 6:00pm. See separate AGM notice. Meet at roadside parking on Keele St, 2.8 km north of King Rd

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Thu, Apr-10, 6:00PM,

Annual General Meeting, King City

For details see separate AGM Notice in this issue. Note change of venue from previous years.

Fri, Apr-11, 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 Rd 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

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

Fri, Apr-11, 9:30AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 7km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. We will hike the Mary Lake, enjoy the Walk For

Wildlife. New members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet at roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Alice Cheng at 416-839-1068.

Sat, Apr-12, 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. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sun, Apr-13, 10:00AM, Ganaraska Forest-East Area

ORTA Map 9; 10km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. There and back; Mostly forest road; some hills. Dress for the weather. May still need icers in the forest! Bring snacks and drinks. Possible lunch in Be-wdley at end of hike. Meet at roadside parking at forest entry-at Woodvale Rd and 9th Line. From Hwy 115 at Kirby, take Regional Rd 9 (Ganaraska Rd) east past Garden Hill to Woodvale Rd; go north (left) to 9th Line roadside parking.

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340.

Mon, Apr-14, 9:30AM, Seaton Hiking Trail

Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Join us on this special river valley hike along the West Duffins Creek. Moderately hilly. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. Meet in the historic village of Whitevale at the park on the west side of the river, south of Whitevale Rd.

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

Wed, Apr-16, 9:30AM, Unionville

Moderate pace; 2hrs. Hike around Toogood Pond and beyond. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St north from Carlton Rd 0.5 km, turn west on Toogood Pond Rd to parking lot.

Contact: Gail Dutchak at 905-737-6675, cell phone on day of hike 647-377-1913.

Wed, Apr-16, 9:30AM, Brock/ Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 14+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Loop hike some hills. 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 Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Apr-19, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Apr-19, 9:30AM, Oak Ridges Corridor

9+km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. We will walk along the Oak



Ridges side trail until Bathurst St and return to community parking lot. There is option to swim 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. Oak Ridges Community Parking Lot, @ 12895 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill.

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

Mon, Apr-21, 9:30AM, Oak Ridges (North Richmond Hill)

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Community trails not shown on our map including a T&B trek on spectacular boardwalks and a loop around park trails where the East Branch of the Humber River is flowing west! Bring drinks and snacks. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. Meet at west end of the parking lot on the north side of Regatta Ave west off Yonge St, 3 stop lights north of King Rd.

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

Wed, Apr-23, 9:30AM, Long Sault

ORTA Map 7; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Loop hike. Hilly Meet at Long Sault CA. Take Durham Rd. 57, 11 km. south of Hwy 7A at Blackstock or 17 km. north of Hwy 401 at Bowmanville to Durham Rd. 20, then east 2.5 km. to Woodyly Rd. then north to parking.

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

Fri, Apr-25, 9:30AM, Eldred King and Scout Tracts

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hilly. No dogs. 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, Apr-26, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. No dogs please. 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.

Mon, Apr-28, 9:30AM, Aurora to Newmarket

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. T&B Trek on the Nokiidaa Trail to the Mackenzie Wetland with a loop through the Aurora Arboretum. (Route may be changed depending on weather.) Bring drinks and snacks. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. Meet at the red doorway at the southeast corner of the Aurora Family Leisure Centre off Industrial Parkway North.

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

Wed, Apr-30, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike. 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.

Fri, May-2, 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 Rd 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Fri, May-2, 9:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Walking for wildlife. Loop hike on sandy, forested trails. Bring water and snacks. No dogs please. Meet at parking lot of west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae.

Contact: Alice Cheng at 416-839-1068.

Sat, May-3, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

experience
The East Coast Trail
with
Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isa.



Phone: 1-709- 334-2208

Fax: 1-709- 334-3601

email: brownrabbitcabins@nf.aibn.com www.brownrabbit.nl.ca

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. No dogs please. 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, May-3, 9:30AM, Happy Valley

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Hike on pleasant forest trails in Humber Source Woods and Love Mountain. Meet at north east corner of Weston Rd and 16th Sdrd, 4 km north of King Rd.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Sat, May-3, 9:30AM, Oak Ridges corridor

9+km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. We will walk along the Oak Ridges side trail until Bathurst St and return to community parking lot. There is option to swim 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. Oak Ridges Community Parking Lot, @ 12895 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill.

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

Sun, May-4, 8:00:AM, Holland Marsh Provincial Wildlife Management Area

6km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Waterfowl viewing. Provincially managed 573 hectare wetland area. Loop hike. On unmaintained trail along dykes. Hiking boots recommended. Location: North of Bradford, east of Hwy 11, on the west side of Holland River. North of Scanlon Creek Con Area. Accessed from end of Bradford West

Continued on page 9

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF AGM

OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2014

All members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association, to take place on Thursday April 10, 2014 in King City. Note **change of venue** from previous years. We look forward to seeing many supporters, hikers and friends on this occasion.

Our guest speaker, **Mark Stabb, Central Ontario Program Manager of the Nature Conservancy of Canada**, is guaranteed to be of interest to everyone.

Mix and mingle beforehand and indulge in light food and refreshments, along with a beer and wine donation bar. Get into the swing of things with a warmup hike prior to the meeting.

Join us and enjoy this opportunity to catch up on your association's activities and meet fellow members. Mark your calendars for what promises to be an interesting and informative evening.

Location

All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele St, King City (just south of King Rd). (Parking at church is limited. Additional parking at King Arena behind church, south from King Rd on Doctors Lane, one street east of Keele St. Walk across Doctors Lane into church property.)

Schedule of Events

4:00pm Pre-AGM hike: See hike schedule in Trail Talk or website for details.

6:00pm Registration, Food & Social. A \$5 contribution is requested, to defray costs.

7:00pm Business part of meeting

8:00pm Guest Presentation

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

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 10, 2014, a minimum of eleven Members are to be elected to serve as Directors for a period of one year. To comply with our Constitution, the following must be observed:

1. To be eligible for election as a Director at the Annual General Meeting of Members, a person must:

- Be a Member in good standing.
- Have confirmed in writing his/her willingness to serve as a Director.

2. Nominations may be made by any Member to the Nominating Committee. Such Nominations shall be:

- In writing.
- Accompanied by the Nominee's confirmation of willingness to serve.
- Received by the Nominating Committee at least five (5) days before the Annual General Meeting.

Please submit nominations by April 5th to the Committee Chair, Peter Schaefer. You may use snail mail addressed to our office or email past-pres@oakridgestrail.org. Naturally we would like to hear from you well before that date so that we can compile a slate of nominees. You may even suggest yourself for a position! Initially, please phone Wilma Millage at (905) 853-2407, or Peter Schaefer at (905) 476-0413.

AWARDS 2013-2014

Each year the Association seeks to honour those Members who have made significant contributions to our advancement and the development of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

The selection is made by the Awards Sub-committee based on nominations from Members and the Awards are presented at the Annual Members' Meeting. There are a few guidelines we follow, such as a person can only be rewarded once for a particular contribution.

Please submit nominations by March 5th to Wilma Millage at (905) 853-2407, or Stan Butcher at (905) 737-3966, or Peter Schaefer, by email to past-pres@oakridgestrail.org or phone (905) 476-0413. We would like to learn in just a few words about the contributions for which the person is being commended. Check our website to see the list of past recipients. The awards are:

Outstanding Member / Member of the Year Award – one award each year presented to the Member who in recent years has done the most to advance the purposes of ORTA.

Commendation Awards – a maximum of 6 are awarded each year to Members who have made specific contributions to the management and development of ORTA and its programs.

Trail Builder Awards – a maximum of 4 are awarded each year to individuals who have made significant contributions to the building and maintenance of the trail.

Lifetime Achievement Award – an occasional award when especially merited. The recipient will be one who has made a significant contribution of his or her time and expertise to the work of ORTA over a sustained period of 5 to 10 years.

END TO END HIKERS

When you have hiked the full length of the Main Trail, you qualify to wear an End-to-End Chevron under your ORTA Badge. If previously you had completed the trail from Palgrave to Gore's Landing, we look forward to hearing from you if you now have hiked the extensions to Mono Mills and Castleton / Warkworth. We will provide a Certificate which acknowledges this achievement. Please send your log to our Hike Co-Ordinator, Malcolm Hann at hikes@oakridgestrail.org or mail it for his attention to our office address.



Oak Ridges Trail Association welcomed
27 new members during our last quarter.
01 Oct 2013 - 31 Dec 2013

Sherrie Adam	Janet Jones	David Short
Henry G. Beben	Julia Jones	Sherry Shrives
Helga Brown	Glen Jones	Jill Snape
Xiu Li Chen	Irene Leung	Kadhim Taki
Joan Christensen	Nancy Lopresti	Jian Ming Tang
Ian Crysler	Andrew Ma	Xiaoqing Tang
Edna Hagerty	Jim McEllistrum	Jentien Vermaat
Ian Hanna	Janice McRae	Xiuli Yang
Kathy Hartnett	Thi-Bich-Van Nguyen	Huang Jie Zheng
Debra Henry	Cathy Scharge	

Continued from page 7

Gwillimbury 11th concession turn left (north); then 1st driveway on the right. Look for ORTA Event sign at this location. Parking lot gate closed. Park on roadside.

Contact: Robert Alsop at 905-898-3718, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718. Viewing tower on site. Bring binoculars.

Sun, May-4, 10:00AM, Earl Rowe Provincial Park

8km; Moderate pace; 3hrs. Loop Trail around lake with one steep hill. Meet at McDonald's in Alliston opposite Canadian Tire. Then a short drive to Earl Rowe.

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

Mon, May-5, 9:30AM, York Regional Forest Bender and Graves

Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Forest and meadow trails overlooking deep ravines. Meet in parking area on Kennedy Rd, 0.6 km north of Davis Dr.

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

Wed, May-7, 9:30AM, Hockley Valley

16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. T&B hike with side trails. Many steep hills through hardwood forest. Meet at the Bruce Trail parking area on the north side of Hockley Rd. Take Airport Rd 7 km north of Hwy 9, then west 6 km on Hockley Rd to parking area.

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

Wed, May-7, 9:30AM, York Regional Forest Bender and Graves

Moderate pace; 2hrs. Forest and meadow trails overlooking deep ravines. Meet in parking area on Kennedy Rd, 0.6 km north of Davis Dr.

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

Fri, May-9, 9:30AM, Brock Track

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike some hills. 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 Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-10, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-10, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Slow to Moderate pace; 4hrs. 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. Roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

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

Sun, May-11, 10:00AM, Township of Scugog-just east of Long Sault C.A.

ORTA Map 7; 9km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Two there and back sections; unopened road allowances and woods; Dress for the weather; bring snacks and drinks. From Hwy 57, go east on Regional Rd 20 to Longsault Rd. (just east of Long Sault C.A.); take Long Sault Rd north (left) for 2+ km to roadside parking.

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340.

Sun, May-11, 2:00PM, Uxbridge - Secord-Goodwood Tracts

ORTA Map 5; 6+km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Join us on Mother's Day

for a 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, May-12, 9:30AM, Aurora

Town of Aurora; 6km; Slow pace; 2hrs. Loops on the ORM, Nokiidaa and Community Trails in Sheppards Bush, Alliance and Vandorf Woodlot and down to Benville Crescent. Depending on seasonal conditions we may see Spring Wildflowers and returning birds. Bring your Field Guide to Wildflowers and camera. Also bring drinks and snacks. Dogs welcome but must be on leash. Lunch option afterwards. Meet at the north Sheppard's Bush parking lot off Mary St/Industrial Pkwy.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966 but, check website - there may be an alternate leader.

Wed, May-14, 9:30AM, Pickering

7+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. We will hike T&B south from Conc 3 following West Duffins creek. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Conc 3, west off of Brock Rd, Pickering.

Contact: Lynne Bussey at 905-839-8116. Cell day of the hike 416-262-5895 after 8:30 AM.

Wed, May-14, 9:30AM, Clubine/Norton & Al Shaw

ORTA Map 5; 15+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. T&B. No dogs please. Meet at parking on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21 at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Thu, May-15, 7:00PM, Discovery Night. Amy Wright in South Korea.

For details, see separate Discovery Night entry in this issue.

Fri, May-16, 9:30AM, Seaton Hiking Trail

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. T&B, hilly. No dogs please. Meet in the village of Whitevale at the park on the west side of the river south off Whitevale Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, May-17, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. No dogs please. 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.

Mon, May-19, 9:30AM, Uxbridge - Brock Tract/Wilder Forest

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Spring flowers may greet us on the meadow and forested trails of this beautiful area. Moderate hills and scenic lookouts. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. Meet at parking lot on east side of Brock Rd, 5 km south of Coppins Corners, 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering Townline.

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

Mon, May-19, 9:30AM, Richmond Hill

5km; Slow pace; 2hrs. Victoria Day

Continued on page 10

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

Continued from page 9

Family Trek T&B alongside Beaver Creek through Spadina and Artisan Parks. Suitable for strollers with larger wheels. If there's been recent rain it may be wet underfoot, so use appropriate footwear. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at northeast parking lot of Bayview Hill Community Centre, junction of Spadina Rd and Weldrick Ave East, 0.8 km south of Major Mackenzie Dr (Not on an ORTA Map.)

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

Wed, May-21, 9:30AM, Richmond Hill

Moderate pace; 2hrs. Hike Jefferson Forest. Meet at Bridgewater Dr which runs south of Stouffville Rd, 0.9 km west of Leslie St and 0.9 km east of Bayview Ave.

Contact: Gail Dutchak at 905-737-6675, cell phone on day of hike 647-377-1913.

Wed, May-21, 9:30AM, ORT Clarington East, including Bluebird Sidetrail

ORTA Map 8; 19km; Moderate to Fast pace; 5hrs. T&B, mainly forested with some road. Meet at roadside parking area, Darlington-Clark town line and Darlington Conc 8.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Fri, May 23, 9:30AM, Happy Valley

ORTA Map 2; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs.

Easy walking. Bring water and a snack. No dog please. Meet at roadside parking, northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd.

Contact: Alice Cheng at 416-839-1068.

Fri, May-23, 9:30AM, Mystery Hike

18-20km; Moderate to Fast pace; 5hrs. Hike will be farther afield, possibly Ganaraska Trail, Bruce Trail or Haliburton Highlands. Register ahead for details of location, time & meeting place.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, Email: gcniece@yahoo.ca, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Sat, May-24, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-24, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Slow to Moderate pace; 4hrs. 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. Roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

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

Mon, May-26, 9:30AM, York Region Forest Hall Tract

ORTA Map 4; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Beautiful forest and meadow

trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. Meet at parking lot east side of McCowan Rd, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

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

Wed, May-28, 9:30AM, Ganaraska Forest, Clarington

ORTA Map 8; 16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4hrs. Loops. Exploring some different tracks, off the regular ORTA route. Bring drinks/snacks/lunch. Meet at roadside parking on Micro Rd at Boundary Rd. From Hwy 115, go east on Boundary Rd (2.5 km north of Hwy 115/35 junction); then 1.5 km to Micro Rd (not labelled on ORTA map).

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

Wed, May-28, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Glasgow/Goodwood Tract

ORTA Map 5; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Scenic loop hike - streams, meadows, forest trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch afterward. Meet at parking lot on east side of Conc 2, 150 m south of Webb Rd.

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

Fri, May-30, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike. 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, May-31, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. No dogs please. 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, Jun-1, 2:00PM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hrs. East and west loops of Walker Woods. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring water and snacks. 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, Jun-2, 9:30AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Join us for a walk through beautiful mixed forest on gently rolling trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after at Sheena's in Schomberg. Meet at Rotary Parking lot east side of Hwy 50, 2 km south of Hwy 9, just north of Palgrave.

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



Tue, Jun-3, 9:30AM, York Regional Forest

ORTA Map 4; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Hike on several side trails and loops in Dainty, Clarke and Patterson Tracts. Meet at parking lot off McCowan Rd on west side, 1 km south of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Wed, Jun-4, 9:30AM, Seneca King Campus

ORTA Map 2; Moderate pace; 2hrs. 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, 2.8 km north of King Rd.

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

Wed, Jun-4, 9:30AM, Jokers Hill / Koffler-Bales S.T.

ORTA Map 3; 16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4hrs. Loops; 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, Jun-6, 9:30AM, Hall/Eldred King

ORTA Map 4; 8+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike on sandy, forested trails. Bring water and snacks. Dress for the weather. Meet at parking area on east side of McCowan Rd, 1 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Alice Cheng at 416-839-1068.

Fri, Jun-6, 9:30AM, Happy Valley

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike some hills. Meet at roadside parking. King 16th Sdrd and Weston Rd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-7, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-7, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Slow to Moderate pace; 4hrs. 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. Roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

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

Sun, Jun-8, 10:00AM, Bluebird side trail and west on the main trail

ORTA Map 8; 9km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. There and back; field and forest; dress for the weather; Bring snacks and drinks. Possible stop at Tyrone Mill after the hike. To meet, take Hwy 115 north to Hwy 35 cut-off; once on Hwy 35, take the first driveway on the left-bear left, PAST the first parking area to a large parking area a little further on.

Contact: Grace at 905-263-4340.

Sun, Jun-8, 10:00AM, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

4km; Moderate pace; 2hrs. Loop trail around lake with several hills. Meet at entrance off 9th Line. Go north from Bradford on Yonge St to 9th Line.

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

Mon, Jun-9, 9:30AM, Pottageville, Township of King

ORTA Map 2; 7km; Slow pace; 2.5hrs. T&B hike on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail through the Happy Valley Forest Tracts. Note: there are some particularly steep hills. Hiking boots recommended. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option after the hike. Meet in the roadside parking at

Continued on page 12

2014 FULLY ESCORTED HIKING TOURS

by Bob Scarfone & Vision 2000 Travel Group

GALAPAGOS — April 18 - 27, 2014

In a relaxed and active manner, you'll snorkel, dive, hike and cycle, and cruise between the multitude of stunning islands in our comfortable dive boat, the 'Pacific' while staying on dry land each night. Highlights of this incredible trip include snorkeling with turtles, rays and tame reef sharks, kayaking in a beautiful calm bay and hiking up an island volcano with one of the largest active calderas in the world. You'll get up close to some of the most intriguing and docile wildlife on the planet, with visits to tortoise breeding grounds and iguana colonies, and even sharing the beach with inquisitive sea lions. We explore amazing lava tunnels, cycle through local townships and learn the mysterious history of Floreana Island. Cost is **\$3499** plus air fare. *There are 6 spots left on this tour.*

NEWFOUNDLAND — June 28 - July 10, 2014

We are happy to present our tour of Newfoundland, filled with hiking, sightseeing and some optional kayaking as well. Our first four nights will be 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. Cost is **\$2945** plus air fare.

ITALY, THE DOLOMITES — September 12 - 27, 2014

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 first week in Dobbiaco, then on to Val Gardena once again for the second week. 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 and the Gardena card for all the gondolas & cable cars in Val Gardena.

For more information and booking:

**Call Bob at 1-800-475-9494 ext 2507
or email bob.scarfone@vision2000.ca**



Vision 2000 Travel Group Ont reg # 500184986 Cameron Dr. Ancaster, ON

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Continued from page 11

Dead End of Conc 7, 2.2 km south of Lloydtown-Aurora Rd.

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

Wed, Jun-11, 9:30AM, Ajax

7+km; Moderate pace; 2+hrs. T&B hike the Lake Ontario shore line, east to the marsh, then south and east along a rocky peninsula. Wear sturdy footwear. Meet at parking lot at foot of Lakeridge Rd near Lake Ontario.

Contact: Lynne Bussey at 905-839-8116. Cell day of the hike 416-262-5895 after 8:30 AM.

Wed, Jun-11, 9:30AM, Seaton Hiking Trail

16+km; Fast pace; 4+hrs. T&B, hilly. No dogs please. Meet in the village of Whitevale at the park on the west side of the river south off Whitevale Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Fri, Jun-13, 9:30AM, Unionville Urban Hike

10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop around Toogood & Walden Ponds. Please read these 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, Jun-14, 12:00AM, Across the breath of The Oak Ridges Moraine

Sun up to Sun down. 8th annual ORTA ADVENTURE RELAY. 160 km relay from Gores Landing to King City.

Mon, Jun-16, 9:30AM, Uxbridge Secord Forest

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Join us on the forest trails as we hunt the elusive flowers on the Orchid Trail. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. Meet at the Secord parking lot 2 km south of Goodwood Rd on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd.

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

Wed, Jun-18, 9:30AM, Uxbridge, Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; Moderate pace; 2.5hrs. Hilly trails with spectacular look-outs. Dogs welcome. Bring a bottle of water and a snack for on the trail and then join us for lunch after. 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: Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Wed, Jun-18, 9:30AM, Walker/Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. Loop hike some hills. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Fri, Jun-20, 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 Rd 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Jun-21, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Join us for breakfast after the hike. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of

A Meaningful Alternative

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

In Memory of Fiona Cowles, of King City



Oak Ridges Trail Association

CHAMPIONS

October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

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

OPP Association	Robert & Linda Hansen
A.K. Aagaard	Gerry Heath
Doreen Allen	Charles Heroux
Dewi & Rolando Angeles	Belinda Higgs
Sue Aspinall	Antonie Howard
Tom & Virginia Atkins	Diane & Bob Hughes
Charles & Janet Atkinson	Judith Jensen
Noel Bain	Mina Kazemnia
Ann Black	Myrla Kilburn
Helmut Bock	Ruth M. & Geoff Kingma
Jim & Sharon Bradley	Barbara J. Kinsley
David Reid Brown	Jonathon Leigh
Helga Brown	Gino & Eda Mancini
Anne-Marie Burrus	Brad McDonald
Lynne Bussey	Karen McMillan
Noel & Judy Carey	Edgar Millar
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Toni Dorey	Joan Taylor
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Madge Ford	Jane Underhill
Audrey Fullerton	Mark Warren
Iris Garel	George & Terry Young
Sally & Thomas Haberer	Dorothy Zajac
Helena Hallett	

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.

Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Jun-21, 9:00AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 13km; Slow to Moderate pace; 4hrs. 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. Roadside parking on Keele St, 3 km north of King Rd.

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

Mon, Jun-23, 9:30AM, Oak Ridges (North Richmond Hill)

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow pace; 2.5hrs. Loop hike around the Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve including new trails in the east section. Hilly terrain. Good hiking shoes or boots recommended, particularly if it's a wet month. Dogs on leash welcome. Consider a swim afterwards in the pool. Bring drinks and a lunch to enjoy the view from the lounge overlooking Lake Wilcox. Meet in south parking lot of Oak Ridges Community Centre, west side of Bayview Ave, 1.5 km north of Stouffville Rd.

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

Wed, Jun-25, 9:30AM, Glen Major/Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hrs. 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, Jun-27, 9:30AM, Kleinburg, William Granger Greenway

14km; Moderate to Fast pace; 3hrs. T&B. Mostly wide hard-packed trail, meandering along open East Humber River valley. We'll pass through the McMichael Gallery property. Lunch in Pub afterwards. Meet in parking lot of William T. Foster Woods; east side of Islington Ave, north of Major MacKenzie Dr, opposite Ecole La Fontaine school.

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

Sat, Jun-28, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Sidetrail

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-28, 10:00AM, Glen Haffy Cons Area

8km; Slow pace; 3hrs. A loop hike exploring the trails in Glen Haffy Park. Scenic views, mostly in the forest. This is a joint hike with the Caledon Hills club.

Admission fee of \$6.50 per person. Bring a lunch. Coffee after nearby. No dogs please. From Hwy 7 go north on Airport Rd to Town of Caledon East, then continue north about 10 km to the main entrance of Glen Haffy, on the right hand side of Airport Rd. We will meet in the main parking lot.

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

Mon, Jun-30, 9:30AM, King, Happy Valley

ORTA Map 2; Slow to Moderate pace; 2+hrs. Join us on this beautiful, streamside trail in King Township. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Bring a bottle of water and snack for the hike. Join us for lunch after. Meet at roadside parking Conc 7, 3 km south of Lloydtown Aurora Rd.

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

Comfortable Hiking Holidays

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IRELAND

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With more shades of green than you can imagine, the **Emerald Isle** lives up to its deserving reputation. From historical Dublin to picturesque Killarney & parts in between, we will take you hiking through some of the most sought-after scenery the country has to offer - and we'll even make a few pub stops along the way!



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Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too!

Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsmen in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?



December Ice Storm and Volunteers

In many areas we are still recovering from the effects of the Dec. 2013 ice storm that coated southern Ontario. Some areas were devastated as treasured trees were brought crashing to the ground, often taking hydro lines with them, while other regions with less accumulation looked like scenes from a crystal wonderland. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail was no different as some parts seemed untouched while others were impassible, but all were icy.

ORTA trail captains quickly started the process of evaluating the damage and prioritizing maintenance outings, some of which may not be completed until spring. The length of our trail creates challenges at times like this- there are over 300km of trail and too few volunteers to survey and manage it effectively. The Central regions of the ORMT are well served by volunteers and an event like the ice storm underlines how important trail volunteers are. Some work in their local area while others are willing to take a day to car pool, work on other parts of the trail with loppers and saws, and enjoy the camaraderie and satisfaction that go with a job well done.

Sometime this year you will see an ORTA volunteer request in your email. Take a minute to consider putting your name on the list, or contact the ORTA office to give back some effort and time, for trail work or other areas of expertise if you can- it will make a big difference as you meet other trail enthusiasts. Join the Team!



Spring Along the Oak Ridges Trail

By The Nature Nut

It feels good to shake winter's cold, ice and snow from our boots and jackets. Who knew the "Polar Vortex" could bring bone-chilling temperatures for so many days? Now that spring is here, we appreciate the greening of the trails and welcome back those animals that hibernated or migrated to warmer places to survive.

It's with anticipation that we head out for walks now. What flowers will be blooming? Did you hear that bird's song? What just hopped off

into the bushes? What kind of bush IS that? And of course, the perennial admonishment: watch out for poison ivy!! Yes, "leaves of three – LET IT BE!". However, there are many friendly plants with three leaves. How do we know which plant bears the dangerous triplets?

Wild strawberry, clover, wood sorrel, wild raspberry, bracken fern, trilliums, young anemones, and young Virginia creeper all may have three leaves. Be serious - are you going to take the time to count each and every leaf on trail-side plants? NOT likely!!! Take the time to learn what poison ivy looks like, and then enjoy your rambles.

The catch is that, unlike the image of the maple leaf on our flag, poison ivy leaves can be quite variable in their appearance. Some have deep lobes, others are slightly toothed, and some have almost completely smooth edges. They can range in colour from light to dark green, sometimes with a reddish sheen. The plant may grow as a vine, as individual low plants or those growing over a meter in height.

What they all have in common is the means of attachment of the leaves to the stem. They grow off the vine or stem alternately as a compound leaf, in groups of three leaflets on a long stem. The middle leaflet almost always has its own short stem while the two side leaflets attach directly – no stems there. The leaves look dark green and waxy with a lighter fuzzy appearance below, although the shininess may disappear for a while after it's rained.

The fruit of poison ivy are small, round berries, translucent and creamy white in colour. The berries may stay on the plant over the winter through the spring. The twigs are nondescript but the plants like to grow in sunnier areas, particularly in sheltered places near fences and stone walls, and along the edges of forests and trails. It can become the predominant ground cover, choking out other plants in the vicinity, or growing as vines up and around supportive trees.

For those unlucky enough to contact the plant, thorough and immediate cleaning with soap is the best treatment. Homeowners are fortunate to have these items close at hand. Out on the trail one must rely on hand sanitizer and wet wipes. If they're in your car's glove compartment back at the trailhead, look for the succulent stems and leaves of jewelweed, also known as touch-me-not. Crush the stems to release the sap, and use a handful to rub on the affected skin. It's not a fail-safe treatment, but will remove a good deal of the urushiol oil that causes the reaction on the skin.

There's no "safe" season when it comes to poison ivy. The twigs and berries contain the oil year-round. I can verify that it's possible to contract poison ivy in the depths of winter, but it's most potent in the summer months. Skin reactions vary from a mild redness to angry, weeping blisters. The best treatment is getting to know this plant, then avoid it. Happy trails!

The Nature Nut is freelance writer Nancy Melcher. Her column appears in "The Uxbridge Cosmos" newspaper. She enjoys observing the natural world in the Trail Capital of Canada, northeast of Toronto. You can ask questions about sightings along your trails at TheNatureNut@bell.net. Her website is www.nancymelcher.ca.



adventure relay

Trails For All Reasons And Seasons

By Judy Comfort, a life-long ORTA member

The EDH (East Duffin Headwaters) has fantastic trails in our area that are planned and maintained by TRCA (Toronto Region CA), Lake Simcoe CA, ORTA (Oak Ridges Trail Association) and DMBA (Durham Mountain Bike Association). I am a life member of ORTA and for many years I have enjoyed group and independent hiking experiences on these trails. Living in the Uxbridge area, I am, of course, more familiar with the local trails, although I often also enjoy the use of the other ORTA trails that are described on the ORTA website (www.oakridgestrail.org). In all 4 seasons there are reasons to partake of the fresh air, scenery, and the wonders of nature found in the woods and meadows of our area.

Every time I do a hike/walk on our ORTA trails, I feel renewed in both body and mind. And I'm not alone, as over 1500 hikers attended 124 hikes in 2012 on the EDH trails. That's over 12,500 extrapolated kilometres in total!! The aims of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and appreciating a unique natural area of the moraine were certainly well achieved by these participants.

Whether skiing or snow-shoeing on the Walker Woods trails, walking alone with a dog on the Al Shaw trail, or exploring a new area in Skyloft, there are always surprises to encounter. You may come across a foundation of a pioneer home, such as the ones Alan McGilliveray talked about at one of our Discovery Nights (Sept-May, third Thursday, 7pm, Ballantrae Community Centre). How exciting to finally discover a pink orchid blooming along the 'orchid trail' of nearby Secord Trail in June. And who used to wear those old boots which now are parked on a bench in Al Shaw? Animal tracks on the newly-fallen snow of early Spring are the inspiration for thoughts of a predator/prey narrative. Joining a 7am early bird hike with leaders Joan Taylor or Russ Burton on a sparkling cold and dark winter morning is a unique way to start the day, and an evening full moon hike with Chris Johnson is a magical way to end one. A more strenuous climb in Glen Major takes you to a superlative view overlooking Lake Ontario and Pickering. You can also enjoy the songs of bluebirds when hiking the Brock tract, where TRCA has established many bird houses throughout the original aggregate gravel pit site, and you would be amazed at the giant holes pecked out by a pileated woodpecker in a standing pine tree. Whether you are a member of ORTA or not, these trails and experiences are available and waiting for you to enjoy in all seasons.

MORAINE ADVENTURE RELAY- JUNE 14, 2014

It is Relay time again - our major annual fundraiser! For the 8th year, ORTA will hold the Moraine Adventure Relay from Rice Lake to King City. Teams of up to 15 racers will canoe; run or cycle a total of 160 km. along the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail (ORMT), from Gore's Landing on Rice Lake to Seneca College, King Campus. This portion of the 300km. ORMT has some spectacular scenery and presents unique challenges to runners and cyclists alike.

Over 100 enthusiastic ORTA members help make this a memorable event every year as teams take up the Challenge of the Moraine. The ORTA Relay Committee invites you to join the excitement and participate:

- Be a checkpoint captain
- Act as a checkpoint volunteer e.g. help with setup/take down; record times; supply refreshments and advice; direct traffic; take photos and cheer on the competitors etc.
- Form a team of your own or join a team and race!

Please contact Michele Donnelly at the ORTA office (905)833-6600.

Not able to be there on the day, then we encourage you to support your Association in its work to help protect the Moraine's vibrant, healthy ecosystem and heritage, while expanding the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail and encouraging responsible land use. Just go to Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/> and enter "Oak Ridges Trail Association" and select the Adventure Relay under the "Fund/Designation tab" to make your donation and receive your charitable donation tax receipt.

Also our 2014 Adventure Relay Brochures and Posters for the event are available from the ORTA office and any assistance you can provide in sharing them with your community would be appreciated.

More Information:

- o Check out our website www.moraineadventure.com
- o 1-905-833-6600 /1-877-319-0285
- o Email: info@oakridgestrail.org
- o Look for us on Facebook – "Moraine Adventure Relay June 14, 2014"

RACE ON! Brian Millage, Pat Ward and the Relay Committee

www.moraineadventure.com



ORTA Around The World!

ORTA members travel far and wide, seeking out new adventures beyond the Moraine. Where have YOU been? And were you wearing an ORTA-branded item?

Submit your photo to editor@oakridgestrail.org with a short tag of where it was taken, when, and a note about the trip to add colour! Full size photos are preferable.

This was taken at the Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica, in November 2013. Highlights of our week long vacation included up close encounters with iguanas and crocodiles on the Tempisque River, Palo Verde, as well as sightings of red-eyed tree frogs, poison dart frogs and three-toed sloths near Arenal. - *Val Nystrom*


Garry Niece spread word of ORTA's Moraine Adventure Relay into the Himalayan Mountains, during a two week trek in the Kingdom of Bhutan, October 2013.




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