

TRAIL TALK



Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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PRESIDENT'S CHAT

BY WILMA MILLAGE



I am composing this in January while I look out at a light covering of snow on the ground and a temperature of -20 degrees.... It is hard to imagine that you may be reading this on a sunny day in April, perhaps even having seen the first Spring flowers!

I hope you have had a chance to take a look at our wonderful new website that was designed by Vicky Chan, our Publicity Director. She took this project on with great enthusiasm and skill. We had been talking about a redesign for

months and Vicky just came in and made it happen! It is volunteers like her who make things happen in ORTA.

Malcolm Hann worked very closely with Vicky to get the new hike listings set up and we have heard many enthusiastic comments about how well they are working. Most of our hike leaders are finding it easier now to enter the information on their hikes and to add hikes or make changes to information as required. Our hike numbers keep increasing and our enthusiastic team of leaders keep taking us to new places as well as visiting our old favourites.

Our Board held a follow-up meeting to look at the future of ORTA and you can read about what happened there in an article included on page 4 of this issue of Trail Talk. Thanks to all those who participated in this important activity to make sure that ORTA continues to grow and serve the needs of its members in the future.

Kevin Lowe and Frank Alexander continue to work on the new data base for ORTA and we hope it will be coming soon. Now that we can pay for our memberships on-line it would be great if we could also update personal information and retrieve report info more easily. This is a critical information cache that has to be implemented carefully so it is wise to be patient and make sure we implement the right program to serve our needs.

ORTA works well because we have so many interested and talented volunteers making things happen. What skill or talent do you have to offer? We are looking for new Board members to bring their skills and ideas to help us move forward in 2015. Please contact us if you would like to be part of our team.

ORTA AWARDS

2014-2015



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 General 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 16th to Wilma Millage at (905) 853-2407, or Patricia Ward at secretary@oakridgestrail.org or by phone (416) 449-3848, or Peter Schaefer, by email at 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.



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2015

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 16, 2015 in King City.

We look forward to seeing our many supporters, hikers and friends on this occasion. Our feature presentation 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. And why not 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.

Proposed Amendment to Mission Statement

At its meeting on January 24, 2015, the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridges Trail Association agreed to propose to members an amendment to Article II (Objects) of By-Law 1 of the Association at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The new Article II would read:

Article II – Objects

1. *To build and maintain a public hiking trail system on the Oak Ridges Moraine.*
2. *To organize and promote hiking on this trail system and encourage responsible stewardship of the Moraine's natural environment.*

The Board feels that this revised statement of objects ("mission") provides the appropriate focus and clarity to enable and guide the activities of the Association.

Location

All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele St., King City (just south of King Rd)

Schedule of Events

4:00pm Pre-AGM hike, King City

ORTA map 2; 5+ km; moderate pace; 1.5 hrs; Seneca/Eaton Hall area. 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.

6:00pm Registration, Food & Social.

A \$5 contribution is requested to defray costs.

7:00pm Meeting

Please note proposed amendment to Mission Statement

8:00pm Guest Presentation - Wolves of Algonquin Park: by Rick Stronks, Chief Park Naturalist, Algonquin Provincial Park

This illustrated talk will examine the wolves found in Ontario, some current wolf research from Algonquin Park and highlight the largest wolf education program in the world – Algonquin's famous Public Wolf Howls.

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

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 16, 2015, 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:*
 - a) *Be a Member in good standing.*
 - b) *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:*
 - a) *In writing.*
 - b) *Accompanied by the Nominee's confirmation of willingness to serve.*
 - c) *Received by the Nominating Committee at least five (5) days before the Annual General Meeting.*

Please submit nominations by April 11th to the Committee Chair, Peter Schaefer. You may send mail to P.O. Box 28544, Aurora, ON, L4G 6S6 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 Frank Alexander at (905) 640-9637, or Peter Schaefer at (905) 476-0413.

SPOTLIGHT ON... KATHY AND BRIAN CLARK

BY BRIAN MILLAGE



ORTA is fortunate to have many hike leaders with different skills and interests - but all have a love of the outdoors in common.

Kathy and Brian Clark are one of several husband and wife teams who bring varied backgrounds and enthusiasm to the ORTA hike leader group and have been leading ORTA hikes for the past 5 years- how time flies. Both have strong environmental backgrounds while Brian also specializes in Scuba instruction and first aid. Kathy took on the position of Aurora Chapter Chair for a period of time in addition to her busy professional life.

The Clark Team decided to lead slow to moderate speed hikes on alternate Sundays thus providing a hike and social option for a wide variety of both new hikers and the more experienced group.

Kathy and Brian received special recognition for their efforts with a commendation at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Their friendly welcome and consistent support for all levels of hiker have resulted in a steady following on the Oak Ridges Trail. Keep on Trekking!

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BY MICHELE DONNELLY



Your ORTA Board of Directors was hard at work on Saturday January 24th, 2015. As well as the usual business of the Board, they were looking at the challenges that will be faced and opportunities that ORTA can take advantage of over the next few years. Kevin Lowe presented a PowerPoint on a new database system that we may implement to better serve the needs of our membership.

They were also discussing the upcoming 2015-2016 Board membership. If you have skills that you would like to offer to our board with regards to, publicity, database management, chapter committee, membership, or any other areas of expertise, please

contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee - Peter Schaefer, Frank Alexander or Willma Millage.

After the regular business was completed, Kim Aagaard led the team in a discussion of ORTA's mission statement and future activities. Please see the details to the proposed amendment to the mission statement on page 2 in the notice of the AGM.

ANNIVERSARY HIKE & CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY WILMA MILLAGE



It was a bright, sunny, cold day for a hike but we still had close to 60 people join us for our 11th anniversary hike on December 8th. It is a great excuse to all get together and have some fun and that is exactly what we did! After our usual toast and butter tart squares at the 'chapel' we all trekked back to our cars to go on to the ORTA Christmas party at the Goodwood Hall where we were joined by a host of other members who couldn't make it to the hike.

Thanks to Katy and her helpers, the banquet was laid out featuring all the delicious foods that everyone had brought along for the festivities. It seemed that the dessert section was particularly well stocked, including, Ed's famous trifle. And of course there were libations for thirsty hikers served up by Russ.

As usual, Jacky entertained us with one of her original songs - this year was the 12 Hikes of Christmas. It was a fun song and everyone joined in for the usual chorus.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make this such a festive occasion and from Brian and I personally, it was wonderful having so many of you celebrate our wedding day tradition!

ADVENTURE RELAY #9

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015



Hello ORTA Members! Your Adventure Relay Committee has been hard at work since early January planning ways to make our 9th Annual Relay a Racing Success! This year, we are pleased to introduce the new owners of the Relay launch property, George and Denise Jones, who have agreed to host the 2015 Relay. We look forward to our new partnership in continuing the Relay tradition.

Each year with the help of ORTA members the Relay has been bigger and better, with 35 teams last year, and 3 of them at corporate level. The latter is important as this is our major fundraising event of the year and corporate sponsors are major contributors to our volunteer efforts on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail. The funds raised help pay for insurance, leader and first aid training, boardwalks and trail equipment, and our office in King City where Michele is such a valuable and enthusiastic front line representative of ORTA and the Relay.

Circle June 13th on your calendar now so you won't miss the excitement. Note, we have moved from Fathers Day weekend to the 2nd weekend in June. You can get involved at one of the 15 checkpoints as part of a team recording times, providing refreshments, directing traffic and advice and cheering on competitors. Each year over 100 ORTA volunteers help make this the memorable event that provides memories and keeps teams coming back year after year.

You may know a group that would like to form a team - invite them! Perhaps you have a corporate connection - encourage them to support ORTA. Last year Mercedes-Benz Canada, Mazda Canada and Golder Associates all met the Challenge of the Moraine and entered teams. George Schneider and Golder Associates have been enthusiastic supporters for 4 years!

We look forward to sharing the excitement of the event with all of you again this year!

For more information contact Michele Donnelly at the ORTA office (905-833-6600) or by email at info@oakridgestrail.org. She has posters and brochures for distribution. Also, check out the website www.oakridgestrail.org and hit the Adventure Relay link.

RACE ON!

Brian Millage, Pat Ward and your Adventure Relay Committee

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



EASTER Apr. 3-6

Welcome Spring on the trails.

CANADA DAY June 27-July 1

Celebrate summer!

A Summer Walk To Remember, July 2-17

A "circuit" of the Susquehannock Trail System with a FALLING WATER finale. Details on Greg's website.

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 \$70.00 semi-private or \$75.00 private USD per day per person. These outings have proven to be popular with the lodge filling 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

SUNDAY HIKES FOR SLEEPY HEADS

BY HEATHER COOPER

I admit my choice of hikes is partially guided by the start time. One of the great pleasures of retirement is not setting the alarm. Certainly you will never meet me on the Saturday early bird hike. Since Harold Sellers and his Sunday Strolls left town, I'm happy to say I've found some enjoyable replacements.



2:00 PM, and Brian gives out chocolate halfway. What's not to like? The Clarks draw three potential hike routes out of a hat, then repeat them in each season. It's amazing how different the various York Region Forest tracts can seem, using this method. One of their favourites is the February snowshoe hike in Secord/Goodwood. Brian and Kathy also have lots of interesting travel stories to share, and you will be in steady hands under their guidance.

If you'd like a chance to hike in new locations, I'd recommend David Francis' series of hikes. They start at respectable hours like 11:00 AM, or better still, 1:00 PM. David has taken me to places I hadn't visited in years: conservation areas like Scanlon Creek, Glen Haffy and Tottenham, Earl Rowe Provincial Park and Simcoe County forest tracts. David is very active in his own community near Tottenham and it's always interesting to hear what he's involved with. We both enjoy photography along the trail. David is skilled at conveying his hiking enthusiasm to others. I once saw him persuade a reluctant teen to continue by suggesting she lead the whole group. Problem solved. You can learn a lot from David.



A final bonus of Sunday hiking is the chance to meet people who may not be "regulars", including young people, Monday-to-Friday workers, new Canadians and families. The group size tends to be smaller, which affords lots of opportunities to mingle. It's a chance to make new hikers aware of things like Discovery nights, the York Region Forest trail booklets and recommended equipment like icers. You can play a valuable role in making these weekenders feel welcome to ORTA.



If you prefer to enjoy more familiar places, Brian and Kathy Clark lead a great series of Sunday hikes. Start time is a user friendly

See you on Sunday!

photo credits : Heather Cooper



CHAMPIONS

October 1 - December 31, 2014

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

Estate of Fiona Cowles
Ontario Provincial Police Association
Elizabeth Arcon
Noel Bain
Ann Black
Sharon & Jim Bradley
Helga Brown
Anne-Marie Burrus
Stanley G. Butcher
Noel & Judy Carey
Kim Chen

Patricia Chinell
Stephen Cockle
Gail Doehler
Stephen & Mary Dunn
Audrey Fullerton
Gerry Heath
Belinda Higgs
Murray & Margaret Jelley
Judith Jensen
Myrla Kilburn
Gino & Eda Mancini
Brad McDonald

Wilma & Brian Millage
Ruth T. Mori
Barbara Muirhead
Frank Pearce
Bill & Teresa Pressmar
Michael J. Pruss
Tom Rance
Peter Schaefer
Mike Shackelford
Beverley Shave
Mira Shnier
John Smale

Keith L. Smith
Eustrate Tseretopoulos
Jean Williams
Bill Young
George & Terry Young
Dorothy Zajac

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

TRAIL BITES – RHINO’S ROADHOUSE BY KIM AAGAARD



Rhino’s Roadhouse has become a popular landmark on the southernmost end of Rice Lake in the village of Bewdley (ORTA maps 9 and 10), attracting many motorists, hikers, boaters, snowmobilers and motorcyclists since opening in January 1988. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail goes right past its door along the shore road that goes through town and the canoe section of the Adventure Relay finishes on the beach directly across the road from this purveyor of fine pub-grub. (www.rhinosroadhouse.com, open daily from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.)



Should you arrive in Bewdley peckish and thirsty from hiking in the Northumberland area, Rhino’s offers a variety of comestibles for discriminating palates. Meat dishes, pastas, sandwiches, wraps, beer-battered fish and chips, salads and WINGS are examples of menu offerings (look for daily specials on the whiteboard) to be had while enjoying the views across the lake. All sauces and gravies are prepared on site under the supervision of Chef Gary Conroy and the desserts are home-made as well. There is an outdoor patio for use in the summer and the long tenure of attentive wait staff speaks to Rhino’s success with patrons.

The restaurant is licenced and offers four kinds of beer on tap. Thursday is Wing Day and the soon-to-be-published Unofficial ORTA Food Guide will be listing “wings” as a separate (and complete) food group – particularly when accompanied by a flagon of ale.

Ownership of Rhino’s is scheduled to change hands in February and new owner David Austin assured the writer that he wants to continue the restaurant’s tradition of quality fare and good value. (David has an extensive background operating fish and seafood restaurants.) Outgoing owner Heather Spence had considered converting some upstairs space into B&B accommodation. This could be of interest to those planning to explore the area and perhaps Mr. Austin will see these plans to completion. Bon appétit!

The restaurant is licenced and offers four kinds of beer on tap. Thursday is Wing Day and the soon-to-be-published Unofficial ORTA Food Guide will be listing “wings” as a separate (and complete) food group – particularly when accompanied by a flagon of ale.

P.S. Just up the road (Highway #28) in the town of Bailieboro is “Doo Doo’s” – a bakery and café with a tasty selection of butter tarts. It is one of the bakeries featured on the Kawartha/Northumberland Butter Tart Trail. (Now that’s a ‘trail’ that should be in our guidebook!)

NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following new members during our last quarter.
OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2014

Robert Alexander	Lisa Lang	John Pitkin
Claudette Baril	Kai Lui	Salma Rahman
Shirley Bowers	Jenny Ma	Cathryn Rees
David Cardwell	Manet & S. Manning	Weihong Shi
Mario Cerqueira	Sandra Morel	Leonard Wert
Andre Charron	Annabelle Murray	Susanne Williams
Victoria Eckert	Wilson Nancy	Liz & Jay Wolter
Ziao Fang Huang	Rodica Nitu	Yong Liang Zheng
Allan Hutton	Pascale Payne	Jin Xian Zhou
Gwen & Robert Johnstone	Frank Pearce	
	Cherylyn Perry	

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, to 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 SPRING 2015 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.

APRIL

Wed, Apr. 1, 2015 9:30 AM, Scarborough - Rouge Park (Kingston Rd)

16km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loops; varied hilly terrain. Bring snacks/lunch/drinks. Pub stop afterwards. 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). GPS: 43.80489, -79.1372092

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

Wed, Apr. 1, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Cold Creek Conservation Area (Conc. 11)

7+km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Additional hike leader Gail Dutchak. This is a very picturesque conservation area with forests, fields and ponds. Some steep hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet at park entrance east side of Concession 11, 3.5 Km north from King Road. GPS: 43.919444, -79.706778

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Fri, Apr. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; hilly, may be wet, no dogs please Meet in the

parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Apr. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw/Norton/Clubine/Walker Woods (Albright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; West and East Walker Woods loop hike, hilly.

Please note that this is a fast hike. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Albright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.114206

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Apr. 4, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Apr. 4, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sun, Apr. 5, 2015 10:00 AM, New Tecumseth - Earl Row Provincial Park (Alliston)

8km; Moderate; 3hrs.; Exploring the loop trail and lake. One steep hill. Bring snacks and drinks. Meet in the Alliston, McDonalds parking lot on Hwy 89 opposite Canadian Tire. GPS: 44.147678, -79.884863

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

Mon, Apr. 6, 2015 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Mill Pond (Mill St)

7km; Slow; 2.25hrs.; Easy loop hike on a variety of park trails. If recent rain some sections will be muddy. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Dogs welcome but must be on leash. Meet in parking lot beside the Mill Pond, Mill St. 0.8km east of Bathurst. GPS: 43.876041, -79.451533

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

Wed, Apr. 8, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 14+km; Fast; 4hrs.; T&B. We will hike north through Eldred King Woodlands and into both the Scout and Mitchell Tracts. This may be the last chance to use your icers/snowshoes for the season. Bring a snack, water and lunch. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Fri, Apr. 10, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike some hills Meet at

parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009 , -79.101922

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Fri, Apr. 10, 2015 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; 10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on forested trails of Jokers' Hill and Thornton Bales Conservation areas. Some steeper hills (99 steps). Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

John Fuchs, 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sat, Apr. 11, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Apr. 11, 2015 1:30 PM, Vaughan - Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Huntington Road)

7+km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Forest, upland meadows and riverside trails with some fairly steep hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. From Kleinburg go west on Nashville Rd. to Huntington Rd and then go north for 2.5km to the trailhead at the intersection with Kirby Rd. Roadside parking is on Huntington. GPS: 43.860372 , -79.668579

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Sun, Apr. 12, 2015 10:00 AM, Port Hope - Ganaraska Forest - (Woodvale School Rd)

ORTA Map 9; 8+km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; There & back; mostly forest road; some hills; dress for the weather; may still need icers in the forest; bring snacks and drink; Possible lunch in Bewdley at end of hike. From Hwy.115 at Kirby, take Regional Rd. 9 (Ganaraska Rd.) east past Garden Hill, to Woodvale School Rd., go north (left) to 9th Line roadside parking. GPS: 44.088754 , -78.353310

Grace Moores, 905-263-4340

Mon, Apr. 13, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Countryside Preserve (Hwy 47)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Rolling meadow and forest trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at conservation parking lot behind the Wal Mart store at the south end of Uxbridge, off Hwy 47. GPS: 44.088752, -79.132089

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



Wed, Apr. 15, 2015 9:30 AM, Clarington - Clarington East (Darlington-Clarke)

ORTA Map 8; 15km; Moderate to fast; 5hrs.; There and back some road hiking. Meet at road side parking area, Darlington-Clark Town line and Darlington conc. 8. GPS: 44.035838 , -78.682405

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Thu, Apr. 16, 2015 4:00 PM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 6km; Moderate; 1.5hrs.; Pre-AGM Hike. T&B on pretty trail in King Campus of Seneca College.

No dogs please. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

Peter Schaefer, 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004

Thu, Apr. 16, 2015 6:00 PM, ORTA Annual General Meeting - King City

Check separate Notice of AGM, in Trail Talk and Website for details of Location, Agenda and Timings. GPS: 43.927318, -79.527754

Fri, Apr. 17, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Eldred King and Scout tracts loop. Hilly. No dogs please. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Apr. 18, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Apr. 18, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sun, Apr. 19, 2015 2:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 6km; Slow to moderate; 2+hrs.; Loop hike through York Region Forest. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761

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

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

Mon, Apr. 20, 2015 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - North Nokiidaa Trail (Green Lane)

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow; 2hrs.; Easy hike. May be muddy if recent rain. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option at the Maid's Cottage, Newmarket. Dogs welcome. Meet at Rogers Reservoir front parking lot on the north side of Green Lane, 1.7 km west of Leslie St. GPS: 44.079958, -79.452813

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

Wed, Apr. 22, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Fast; 4+hrs.; "4 Tract" loop taking in 4 TRCA Conservation areas. Hilly.

Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922

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

Fri, Apr. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; hilly, no dogs please Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering town line or Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4. GPS: 44.0060802, -79.0692565

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Apr. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; There and back hike some hilly sections Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Apr. 25, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Mon, Apr. 27, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike through easy terrain on sandy trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761

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

Wed, Apr. 29, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. Meet in the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of the 7th Conc. 1 km south of Durham Rd 21. GPS: 44.050009, -79.093841

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Thu, Apr. 30, 2015 9:30 AM, West Gwillimbury - Holland Marsh Provincial Wildlife Management Area (Side Rd. 20)

6km; Slow to moderate; 2+hrs.; Morning waterfowl viewing. Provincially managed 573 hectare wetland area. Loop hike. On unmaintained trail along dykes. Hiking boots recommended.

Take Hwy 11- 5 Km. north from Bradford. Turn east on 11th. Line, after 3.1 Km the road bends to the left and becomes Side Rd. 20. Meet at road side parking, 600 m. north of the bend by the Holland Marsh sign and driveway on the right. GPS: 44.176674, -79.540701

Robert Alsop, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718

MAY**Fri, May. 1, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.322828

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 2, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 2, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sat, May. 2, 2015 1:30 PM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 7+km; Moderate; 2hrs.; We will hike on the ORTA trail and around Love Mountain. Forest and meadows with some hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Sun, May. 3, 2015 10:00 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)

ORTA Map 1; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Exploring the trails of the conservation area. Meet at Palgrave Forest Parking Lot, W side of Hwy 50, 2.2 km S of Hwy 9 or 0.5 km N of Palgrave Village. GPS: 43.948027, -79.833422

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

Mon, May. 4, 2015 9:30 AM, Aurora - Sheppard's Bush (Industry St.)

ORTA Map Aurora; 5km; Slow; An easy hike making loops around Sheppard's Bush and adjoining trails to identify and photograph spring wildflowers; over 20 species seen most years. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Dogs welcome but must be on leash. Lunch option afterwards at Mercury Diner. Meet at C.A. parking lot. Turn east on Mary St. off Industrial Parkway (south of Wellington St), turn south on Industry Street. GPS: 43.998100, -79.455696

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

Wed, May. 6, 2015 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)

ORTA Map 3; 16km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loops; varied hilly terrain. Bring snacks/lunch/drinks. Meet at Whipper Billy Watson Park parking lot on Clearmeadow Blvd, east off Bathurst St, 0.4 km north of Mulock Dr. GPS: 44.0364833, -79.4960489

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

Fri, May. 8, 2015 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)

10km; Fast; 2hrs.; There and back some hilly sections. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale. GPS: 43.8865, -79.1628

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Fri, May. 8, 2015 9:30 AM, Scarborough - Rouge Park (Meadowvale Rd.)

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; will take in the Valley Hala mansion, no dogs please Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd-follow signs for the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre. GPS: 43.8190238, -79.1709644

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Sat, May. 9, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sun, May. 10, 2015 1:30 PM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 6.5km; Slow to moderate; 2+hrs.; Loop hike. Gently rolling forested terrain. Enjoy the early woodland spring flowers. Well-mannered dogs welcomed. Bring water & snacks.

Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.082138, -79.307819
Robert Alsop, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718

Mon, May. 11, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Forest and meadow trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922

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



photo : Heather Cooper

Wed, May. 13, 2015 9:30 AM, Orangeville - Hockley Valley (Hockley Rd)

17+km; Fast; 4.5+hrs.; T&B hike on Bruce Trail in Hockley Valley 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. GPS: 43.972854, -80.055899

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

Fri, May. 15, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw/Norton/Clubine/Walker Woods (Albright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; West and East Walker Woods loop hike, hilly. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Albright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 16, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 16, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sun, May. 17, 2015 10:00 AM, Bowmanville - ORTM - East Long Sault - (Longsault Rd.)

ORTA Map 7; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; two there & back sections; unopened road allowances and woods; bring snacks and drinks; From Hwy. 57, travel east on Regional Rd.20 to Longsault Rd. (east of Woodley Rd). Take Longsault Rd. north (left) for 2+ km. to roadside parking. GPS: 44.066517, -78.718095

Grace Moores, 905-263-4340

Mon, May. 18, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 9km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; We'll hike the little used footpaths in this area, moderate hills, maybe some poison ivy. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761

John Fuchs, 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Mon, May. 18, 2015 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor/Jefferson Forest (Oak Ridges Community Ctr.)

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; Victoria Day hike suitable for families with smaller children and strollers. Dogs on leash welcome. See two beautiful Kettle Lakes and the site of the old powerplant which served the Radial Railway. Bring water and maybe a snack. South parking lot of Oak Ridges Community Centre, west side of Bayview Ave, 1.5 km north of Stouffville Rd. GPS: 43.947384, -79.427794

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

Wed, May. 20, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; 14km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loop hike very hilly Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Wed, May. 20, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8+km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Additional hike leader Gail Dutchak. We will go from Keele St. to Seneca and hike around these beautiful trails. 8km. Optional add on 2 km to Marylake and back at the end. There are some rough and hilly sections in the woods. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Thu, May. 21, 2015 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night: Chile & Bolivia. See separate "Discovery Your World" for details Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, May. 22, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Some hilly sections Meet at the (dead end) on 7th. Conc. 2.8km south of Pottageville from the Lloydtown-Aurora Rd.

NOTE, this point can only be accessed by vehicles coming south on 7th. Conc. GPS: 43.967134 , -79.616811

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Fri, May. 22, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods/Durham Forest Skyloft (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 16km; Moderate; 6hrs.; full day hike, bring lunch for along the trail, no dogs please Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Sat, May. 23, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Mon, May. 25, 2015 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)

ORTA Map 1; 8km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Easy terrain. Walk scenic stream side and forested trails. Bring water and snacks. Well behaved dogs welcome. May need to be on leash for some sections. Meet at Palgrave Forest Parking Lot, W side of Hwy 50, 2.2 km S of Hwy 9 or 0.5 km N of Palgrave Village. GPS: 43.948027, -79.833422

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Wed, May. 27, 2015 9:30 AM, Bolton - Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Castlederg Rd.)

14+km; Fast; 4hrs.; T&B. We will hike south toward Bolton over rolling hills. Bring snacks, water and lunch. North on Hwy 50 from Bolton. Turn west on Castlederg Rd. for 2.1Km. Meet in roadside parking on Castlederg Rd. just west of the bridge. GPS: 43.893973 , -79.792860

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Fri, May. 29, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on mainly narrow footpaths, moderate hills, maybe some poison ivy. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.082138, -79.307819

John Fuchs, 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Fri, May. 29, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. Meet in the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of the 7th Conc. 1 km south of Durham Rd 21. GPS: 44.050009 , -79.093841

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 30, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, May. 30, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Hike in pleasant forest trails in Humber Source Woods and Love Mountain. No dogs please. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Peter Schaefer, 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004

Sun, May. 31, 2015 2:00 PM, Uxbridge - Secord/Goodwood/Glasgow (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; 6km; Slow to moderate; 2+hrs.; Loop and T&B hike. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

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

JUNE**Mon, Jun. 1, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 7.5km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; A steep hill and some rough terrain. A break mid-hike for morning coffee at Pine Farms; the apple orchard. Depending on conditions we may return via the Millar Side Trail which will lengthen the duration. If recent rain there will be muddy sections. Dogs welcome. Bring water. Optional return to Pine Farms for lunch. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

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

Wed, Jun. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, Shelburne - Mono Cliffs (Mono Centre)

14km; Moderate; 4.5hrs.; Loop walk along sections of Bruce Trail through diverse hilly landscape past McCarston's Lake. Bring your lunch & drinks for lunch at the lookout. Meet at the Mono Community Centre parking area, 100m S of Mono Centre. Take Airport Rd 12.7 km north of Hwy 9, then west 6 km on C.R. 8 (Mono Centre Rd) through village of Mono Centre to parking area. GPS: 44.0267861, -80.0720156

John Fuchs, 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Fri, Jun. 5, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike some hills Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009 , -79.101922

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jun. 6, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jun. 6, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sun, Jun. 7, 2015 10:00 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Exploring the trails of this area. Meet at the (dead end) on 7th. Conc. 2.8km south of Pottageville from the Lloydtown-Aurora Rd.

NOTE, this point can only be accessed by vehicles coming south on 7th. Conc. GPS: 43.967134 , -79.616811

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

Sun, Jun. 7, 2015 10:00 AM, Clarington - Bluebird Side Trail (Hwy 35)

ORTA Map 8; 9km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; there & back; field and forest. lots of poison ivy-long pants strongly suggested . Bring snacks and drink. Possible stop at Tyrone Mill after hike. Take Hwy 115 north from Taunton Rd to Hwy 35 cut-off. On Hwy 35 take first road to the left and bear left past first parking area to meet at the large parking area further on. GPS: 44.058762 , -78.624792

Grace Moores, 905-263-4340

Mon, Jun. 8, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord/Goodwood/Glasgow (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on scenic forest and meadow trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

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

Wed, Jun. 10, 2015 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail North - (HWY #7)

15+km; Fast; 4+hrs.; T&B. We will hike south to through Whitevale. Length of this hike will depend on conditions. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Meet in the Seaton Trail Parking lot on the south side of Hwy #7, 1Km east from Green River. GPS: 43.902114 , -79.177021

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Fri, Jun. 12, 2015 9:30 AM, Markham - Unionville Urban Hike (Toogood Pond)

10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike around Toogood and Walden Ponds. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St Unionville north, from Carlton Rd 0.5km turn west on Toogood Pond to parking. GPS: 43.869525 , -79.313331

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Jun. 13, 2015 7:30 AM, Adventure Relay - 160 Km from Gores Landing to King City

160km; 15hrs.; Start from: Gores Landing on the shores of Rice Lake. For further details see 'Adventure Relay' on this web site. GPS: 44.121664 , -78.234188

Sun, Jun. 14, 2015 2:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 5km; Slow to moderate; 2+hrs.; Loop hike through York Region Forest. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

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

Mon, Jun. 15, 2015 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Richvale Greenway (Central Library)

8km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Easy loop hike on municipal trails; some short connections along streets. Dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and a snack. If weather is fine consider bringing a picnic lunch to enjoy in a nearby park. Meet outside the front entrance of Richmond Hill Central Library, SW corner of Major Mackenzie Dr. and Yonge St. GPS: 43.865243, -79.452633

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

Tue, Jun. 16, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Dainty & Clarke Tract (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 9km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Hike on several side trails and loops in Dainty, Clarke and Patterson Tracts. Meet at Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.027923 , -79.319657

Peter Schaefer, 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004

Wed, Jun. 17, 2015 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)

16km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; There and back some hilly sections. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale. GPS: 43.8865, -79.1628

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Fri, Jun. 19, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; There and back hike some hilly sections Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862



Fri, Jun. 19, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on sandy, forested trails and some little used footpaths. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

John Fuchs, 905-868-6795 (hike day only)

Sat, Jun. 20, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jun. 20, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to moderate; 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. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Mina or Mahnoosh, 905-770-9954 or 416 250 7033

Sun, Jun. 21, 2015 10:00 AM, Bolton - Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Castlederg Rd.)

8km; Slow to moderate; 3hrs.; Pretty hike mostly in the forest on variable terrain. We will hike 4km South from Castlederg Rd to Duffy's Lane and re-trace our steps the same way. No dogs please. Coffee after. Bring snacks or lunch to eat on the trail. Park at the west end of the bridge over the Humber River. e-mail inquires mapletrees16@yahoo.ca North on Hwy 50 from Bolton. Turn west on Castlederg Rd. for 2.1km. Meet in roadside parking on Castlederg Rd. just west of the bridge. GPS: 43.893973, -79.792860

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

Mon, Jun. 22, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods/Durham Forest Skyloft (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Join us in this mature, mixed forest for loop hike with moderate hills in the Walker Woods area. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

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

Wed, Jun. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Humber Trails C. A. (Mill Rd.)

7+km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Additional hike leader Gail Dutchak. This unmanaged conservation area in King Township is very picturesque, with forest, fields and an open plain at the East Humber River. Some trails are overgrown, with rough and hilly sections. Meet at entrance to Humber Trail on west side of Mill Rd. GPS: 43.903000, -79.612222

Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)

Wed, Jun. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock/Glen Major/Walker Woods (Conc. 6)

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Fast; 4+hrs.; Loop hike through Glen Major and Walker Woods conservation areas. Hilly. Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922
Bob Comfort, 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Fri, Jun. 26, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw/Norton/Clubine/Walker Woods (Albright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; West and East Walker Woods loop hike, hilly. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Albright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206
Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Fri, Jun. 26, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; hilly, no dogs please Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering town line or Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4. GPS: 44.0060802, -79.0692565
Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Sat, Jun. 27, 2015 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sun, Jun. 28, 2015 1:30 PM, East Gwillimbury- YRF Bendor & Graves (McCowan Rd)

6.5km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Gentle hills, through new north extension. Compare 2011&1949 tree plantations. Possible blue bird sightings. Well mannered dogs welcome. Meet at 17858 McCowan Rd at parking lot on west side 1.3 km north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.101330, -79.338555


Robert Alsop, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718


Tue, Jun. 30, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Hike along Mary Lake and on Pine Farms Side Trail. No dogs please. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Peter Schaefer, 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004







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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 April 16, 2015

For ORTA members. Guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting, King City will be Rick Stronks, Chief Park Naturalist, Algonquin Provincial Park. See separate Notice of AGM, for directions and times

Wolves of Algonquin Park, his illustrated talk, will examine the wolves found in Ontario, some current wolf research from Algonquin Park and highlight the largest wolf education program in the world – Algonquin's famous Public Wolf Howls.

Thursday May 21, 2015 Alaskan Adventure Cruise by Elizabeth Stewart

Come out to experience the Inside Passage and its rainforests, fiords and glaciers; hiking and kayaking; humpback whales and native villages.

June 2015

There is no Discovery Night in June.

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**

Comfortable Hiking Holidays (416) 445-2628

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

KENYA

July 5 to 17, 2015

Have you always wanted to go on a safari but can't see yourself sitting in a jeep all day long, day after day? For active travellers like ourselves, a **walking safari** is the perfect way to get to know Kenya. It really gets you up close & personal with the animals - and there are A LOT of animals to be seen. In addition, there is the natural beauty of the land and the proud heritage of its tribes; we have included many extras as part of our program so that you will have a complete Kenyan experience.

As animal lovers, walking amongst giraffes and zebras is a big draw but we felt that the trip should encompass the culture as well. So we added a lecture by the tour owner (who is from the Kikuyu tribe), a visit to a weaving cooperative, visits to Masai homesteads, a visit to a local elementary school, a visit to a local market (not a tourist market but a regular market where locals would shop), and a tour of a tea plantation.

We are very proud of the program we have put together and this trip has easily become one of our favourites of the year. Take **a walk on the wild side** with us this July; it's one of the coolest months of the year in Kenya!

PERU & MACHU PICCHU

September 12 to 25, 2015

Spend a week exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range. Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps. From the Sacred Valley, journey south to Lake Titicaca for hikes on Uros, Amantani and Taquile islands.

**Do not to delay in making your reservation.
Inca permits must be booked now to ensure we get into Machu Picchu on our desired date!**

TURKEY

October 17 to 28, 2015

Hike in Cappadocia with its secret frescoed churches, underground cities and volcanic tuff sculpted into fairy chimneys. Visit ancient ruins, shop the bazaars of Istanbul and take a history lesson through time. Steeped in tradition and a masterpiece of nature, Turkey will impress you.

CUBA

November 1 to 13, 2015

Forget the resorts and come see the real Cuba! Hike through jungle-like forests, picturesque colonial towns & sugar cane fields. Explore the Viñales Valley, swim in the San Juan River pools & have lunch on a coffee plantation. Get a true feel for what Cuba is really all about – culturally, scenically and historically, and have yourself an experience you will talk about forever.

THE ENCHANTED ISLANDS OF GALAPAGOS

BY JUDY AND BOB COMFORT



In November/December, our trip to the “Enchanted Islands” of Galapagos was another bucket list experience. As a Unesco World Heritage Site, it is a magical place to visit. There are animals which are only found there- 1000 km off the coast of Ecuador-and have been so since prehistoric times. Volcanoes have formed 13 large islands, 6 smaller ones, and many islets, and this archipelago is still under formation. Each island is unique, and we stayed in small family-owned hotels on 4 of them. Getting from one island to another involved a 2 to 3 hour speedboat ride. With our Exodus group from England (7 Brits and 2 Canadians), an Ecuadorian guide, plus a local guide on each island, we were well taken care of.

We had hikes every day in order to explore the flora and fauna where we were staying. We walked among giant tortoises, colonies of sea lions with their pups, and marine and land iguanas. The ocean, an amazing shade of turquoise contrasting with the black lava rocks, volcanic and white sandy beaches, was a playground for us as we snorkeled and swam among sea lions, sting rays, sea turtles, tropical penguins, white-tipped sharks and a huge variety of colourful fish. A must-see was the Blue-Footed Booby!! We also saw frigates, pelicans, flamingos, Darwinian Finches, mocking birds, various warblers and many other endemic birds.

The most spectacular trek was up to and around the Sierra Negra Caldera on Isabela Island. It was a ‘wild camping’ trip for 2 nights. Our tents, sleeping mats, food, water and small duffle bags were carried by porters on horses, and we each had our day packs. The first hike was 17km around the crater rim and across stark lava-strewn landscapes with bizarre volcanic features like steam fumaroles and cacti. The second day hike was a descent into the crater to see the steaming, bright yellow, smelly sulfur deposits. It was hard to imagine this used to be farm fields and forests!

This trip was wonderful! We walked freely among the animals; we learned more about the tortoise named Lonesome George through visits to breeding stations and the Charles Darwin Research Centre; we enjoyed wonderful food, beaches, small towns and spectacular scenery in a wildlife paradise.



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