

# TRAIL TALK



Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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Summer 2015



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# PRESIDENT'S CHAT

BY WILMA MILLAGE



Isn't it great to be looking forward to the summer hiking season! There will be lots of new hikes to look forward to and new places to explore as our hike leaders are planning their outings that you will find listed in these pages. Brian and I will be giving you an opportunity to hike the new western end of our trail (check the listings). Check out Brian's article on this exciting change

which eliminates over 10km of walking on roads at the western end of the ORMT. This trail change was announced at our recent AGM meeting on April 23rd.

Our meeting was well attended by over 90 ORTA members who enjoyed a presentation by Rick Stronk, Assistant Superintendent of Algonquin Park, who spoke on the wolf population of Ontario. You can check out the awards that were given out to some of our hard working volunteers who were recognized for their efforts over the past years. Particularly significant was a Lifetime Achievement Award to Stan Butcher who has served in many different capacities since he joined in 1996. Read about his history in a separate article included in this issue.

While Stan is "officially" retiring from the ORTA Board (but not from being a hike leader), he is going to be actively pursuing a project on the history of ORTA that will be completed as a special publication for our 25th anniversary which comes up in 2017. As he says "I am going to scour the records and many pictures to trace the story and publish it as part of the celebration." He also says he will be asking for your input in upcoming editions of Trail Talk and at Discovery Nights. I will be seeking your reminiscences and asking for volunteers to edit draft chapters. If you have an interesting anecdote, please make sure you are in touch with Stan.

Other folks leaving the Board are Pat Ward, our Secretary, and Vicky Chan, our Publicity Director. Pat will be replaced by Lissa Dwyer and Vicky by Diane Anderson, a new addition to our Board. Vicky, as you no doubt know was the designer of our new website which became active this past December. She will continue to support it until we find a new webmaster to take over as Hannah Sweet, our previous webmaster also resigned this year when the new website design was implemented. We thank them for their volunteer efforts in support of ORTA's activities.

Recently you have been involved in the conversion of our membership data base. We have acquired new software that will facilitate many tasks such as payments and member records. Eventually members will be able to self-renew membership and pay fees on line. The software will integrate with our accounting software and also save us considerable time and energy as well as postage costs. In addition it will facilitate our record keeping. More details will be available as we work our way through the integration of the software.. Kevin Lowe will continue to push this project forward to completion.

Another busy quarter to look forward to with new trails, new systems, all working well because of the dedicated volunteers who make this organization so successful. Thanks to you all!

# SPRING CLEANING THE YORK REGION FOREST TRACT

BY FRANK ALEXANDER



*Some of the Green Up Clean Up volunteers gather around the skip donated by Miller Waste where much of the garbage ended up. Most are ORTA volunteers. Linda Bradley, Cleanup organizer, is kneeling just to the right of the poster in the centre.*

*Photo credit: Ian Buchanan, York Region Forestry manager*

Twenty seven ORTA members participated in the York Region 'Green Up/Clean Up' of the forest tracts on Saturday, May 9th. This is a new record, up from last year's record of seventeen ORTA Green Up/Clean Up volunteers.

The clean-up is organized by volunteer forest user groups of which ORTA has provided the largest contingent for several years now. Linda Bradley, from the Ontario Trail Riders Association, is the overall organizer. This year's effort was bigger than any before, cleaning twenty York Region Forest tracts of which ORTA did eight. Linda said that the biggest goal is education. She said there was less litter this year so the message is getting out for users and nearby residents to respect the forests. Linda herself has been personally very successful in persuading residents near the forests to minimize litter and to participate in the Green Up/Clean Up.

The ORTA contingent was a very diverse group of hikers, with two young families involved. Ages ranged from four to eighty-one. The ORTA volunteers divided up into six sub-teams to tackle the various parking lots and periphery fence lines where most litter accumulates. Several ORTA members unexpectedly brought other friends or family members which really helped fill the gaps in the forest teams due to some last-minute cancellations. With those extra volunteers plus some sub-teams doing extra assignments, the ORTA team covered everything they wanted to (and then some). The eight York Region Forest tracts included Robinson for the first time ever. Also, we did the Whitchurch Conservation Area north of Robinson which is maintained by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

York Region Forestry was very helpful in providing support for the day, including laying on refreshments for the hungry volunteers at the end of the clean-up. They also provided safety vests and garbage bags for all participants, and took back bags of recyclable garbage to a depot near the YRF offices. Miller Waste donated a truck and crew for the day to go around and pick up full garbage bags. But it was the user groups who did most of the work. All of us felt very satisfied by the end of the day that the Forests are now clean for Spring and summer use, including hiking.

# 2015 ORTA AWARDS

ARTICLES BY PETER SCHAEFER

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD STAN BUTCHER



*Lifetime Award Recipient, Stan Butcher, with Peter Schaefer*

Stan has been an ORTA member since 1996, had been very active in the Aurora Chapter since its formation in the year 2000 which he then represented on the ORTA Board. He became a Vice President on the Executive Committee in 2003. From that time on, his responsibilities within ORTA increased steadily.

Stan served on the Advisory Committee for the Oak Ridges Trail Strategy, initiated by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the result of which became the road map for the optimal trail route and for the sustainability of our trail for future generations.

Stan became President of ORTA in 2004 after Harold Sellers moved on to become Executive Director. When Harold left for B.C. in 2009, Stan's responsibilities within ORTA became even greater. He virtually and, for an interim time officially, became ORTA's Executive Director, in addition to serving as President. It appeared to those of us, serving on the Executive Committee and on the Board, that Stan was potentially becoming our "President for Life".

Finally, in January 2010, I was asked to serve as President so that Stan could, in his new responsibility as Past President, reduce and eventually eliminate the position of the "Interim Executive Director".

After the AGM in April 2012, Stan became the Regional Director for the Western Chapters, but he was still heavily involved on the Executive Committee and helping in any "clean up" of files and past projects.

After retiring from his position as Regional Director and from the Board at this AGM, Stan will continue to get our files and archives in good order and to lead his popular Monday hikes.

"Stan the Man" has earned our sincere gratitude and deserves to be honoured by all of us.

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD DAVID FRANCIS

David Francis has been very closely associated with ORTA for many years. He led ORTA's first planning retreat, I think back in November 1999; he then facilitated our 2005 retreat. He leads many hikes for ORTA and is a valued voice at our hike leader meetings.

Last year, the Board recognized David as an Honorary Member.

At the Hike Ontario Summit in 2011, Hike Ontario presented the Virginia Johnson Award to David Francis for his outstanding service to Hike Ontario over 20 years. David has long been Hike Ontario's first and last word on the certification of hike leaders. He is a past president of Hike Ontario.

David is also a Director with Trails Canada.

This year we wish to recognize David as an OUTSTANDING MEMBER for his long term contribution to ORTA and to the hiking community.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Stan Butcher

### Outstanding Member Award

David Francis

### Commendation Awards

Vicky Chen  
*for Website Design*

Michele Donnelly  
*for Relay Support*

Ronald Ting  
*for Hike Scheduling Support*

Josipa Klostranec  
*for Hike Leading*

Hannah Sweet  
*for her work as Webmaster*

Jerry Wajgensberg  
*for his dedication to "Mood Walk"*

### Trail Builder Award

Bill Patterson

# NEW TRAIL FOR ORTA HIKERS

BY BRIAN MILLAGE

## The western trailhead of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail (ORMT) has moved!



TRCA permission for the transfer was granted within a week with an offer to help build the new map kiosk at our new head of trails site. We will coordinate the map design with the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

From our first meetings with the Bruce Trail Caledon Chapter three weeks had passed and the spring hiking season was fast approaching. Garry Niece, Bob Comfort, and I walked the new route and were impressed by the variety of terrain, woodlands and look-outs that we encountered. Bob created a new GPS map for our route during this outing. The decision was made to act quickly with the trail changes. The task was threefold:

1. Change the former Bruce Trail blue blazes to white between highway 50 (Palgrave Forest) and the main Bruce Trail in Glen Haffy.
2. Change the existing main ORMT white blazes in Palgrave Forest to blue, creating a new ORMT side-trail loop (Map 1 - Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Guidebook)
3. Decommission the former ORMT north of Palgrave Forest (Map 0)

Those of you who started on an end-to-end walk in the last 10 years must have been disappointed that most of the initial 15km were on country roads, not our usual forested tracks. We didn't have any ideas at the time on how we might improve it.

We now have a trail to be truly proud of in Caledon, and we no longer cross the busy 5 lanes of Highway 9.

Every quarter, for many years now, Wilma and I have led hikes on the beautiful trails of the Palgrave Forest near the western end of our trail. Very few leaders ventured to the meeting point of the ORMT and the Bruce Trail, unless they were starting on an end-to-end series. But how were we to change that dislike for the far western section of our trail? There seemed little likelihood of moving the ORMT off the dusty and paved roads – until we started looking at a different meeting point with the Bruce Trail.

When the former main Bruce Trail route was changed to a more westerly location, the link between Palgrave and Glen Haffy C.A. was maintained – but only as a side trail. When Garry Niece, Stan Butcher and I consulted with the Caledon Chapter folks of the Bruce Trail about the possibility of ORTA assuming responsibility for the side trail and converting it to our main ORMT, their response was “we thought you should have done that years ago!” It was no longer part of their optimum route but would be a tremendous improvement for the ORTA trail system. The dream was starting to become a reality.

We were even more enthused when we discovered that almost the entire length of the new route would pass through Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) properties linked by short country road sections. This would avoid future potential breaks in the trail through land-owner changes. Along the new 11km route there is only one private land-owner who generously has allowed a short trail section across their property to avoid a sensitive wetland.

Over a two day period, thanks to a large cadre of ORTA volunteers, the two blazing tasks were accomplished along with the posting of temporary signage at entry points explaining the trail changes. Frank Alexander and I decommissioned the old ORMT blazes north of Palgrave Forest on a subsequent day. Communication of the changes to the Bruce Trail hikers was sent out by Joan Richard, Trail Co-ordinator of the Caledon Chapter. The change in our trail was announced at the AGM, an email advised all ORTA hike leaders, and the map re-route is available as a download on our website.

So spread the word! Check out the trail yourself or watch Trail Talk and the website for new hikes in the area.

### INCREDIBLE PERU, JUNE 15, 2016

An 18 day fantastic journey to the heart of the INCA EMPIRE, CUSCO and the SACRED VALLEY of the INCAS. The world famous INCA TRAIL will lead us to MACHU PICCHU. The UPPER AMAZON RAINFOREST and its incredible fauna is part of the adventure.

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To the north of PERU we will visit the mystical City of CHAN CHAN, and may take a swim in the Pacific.

**WELCOME TO MAGICAL PERU.**

For more information please contact HEINZ at: [905-852-0707](tel:905-852-0707) or E-mail: [alohah@bell.net](mailto:alohah@bell.net) (Tico 50010240)

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

# RUSS BURTON

BY BRIAN MILLAGE



Russ is a longtime resident of Udora, north of Uxbridge and a volunteer wearing many "hats". An avid gardener, Russ has spearheaded local garden clubs and encouraged youth to discover the miracle of growing their own veggies and flowers. For many years the local Scouts/Guides/Rangers were introduced to camping and canoeing as Russ organized outings locally and to Algonquin Park. He also has a business refinishing furniture and has provided many ORTA folks with renewed treasure for their homes.

When you attend the ORTA AGM or Christmas party, there is Russ, permit in hand, volunteering his services, often with Larry Emo assisting, as bartender. He does this as an extension of his work with the Lions who provide bar services as a fundraiser for their organization.

On retirement, Russ has become a downhill skier, a Relay canoeist and cyclist, a long distance hiker – and a dedicated ORTA hike leader. He shares the pre-breakfast hike leading on Saturday mornings in Uxbridge with Joan Taylor and has made his mark as a solid Wednesday hike leader in many locations across the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

Thanks Russ, - a man of many talents and interests.

## MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBER...

# DIANE ANDERSON

We are pleased to welcome a new Board member, Diane Anderson who will serve as our Publicity Director. Diane has been a resident of King City since 1986 and is familiar with King's unique values as a community to live, work and play.

She has been a volunteer committee member of the local skating club for 15 years including acting as President and Executive Member, demonstrating her willingness to give back to the community.

A love of hiking the many local ORTA trails and experiencing the Camino trails in Spain, volunteering to work with ORTA is a great fit.

## ORTA POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

BY BRIAN AND WILMA MILLAGE

For several years now Wilma and I have been conducting public information sessions across the Moraine. We find that many people living only a few kilometers from ORTA trails are unaware of the free natural guided hikes across the beautiful Moraine. We have talked to naturalist groups, new Canadians, school groups and at several library presentations. Stan Butcher has also presented the info in Richmond Hill at two different presentations. The message is "come and enjoy the forest and meadow trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail". Exercise, friendship, relaxation, and health benefits – hike with ORTA. Let us know if there is a group in your area where you think we can represent the trail.

## OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE \*

President *	Wilma Millage	pres@oakridgestrail.org	905-853-2407
Past President *	Peter Schaefer	past-pres@oakridgestrail.org	905-476-0413
Vice-President and Trail Director *	Garry Niece	trails@oakridgestrail.org	905-655-8040
Secretary */ Volunteer Director	Lissa Dwyer	secretary@oakridgestrail.org	905-727-3079
Treasurer *	Kim Agaard	treasurer@oakridgestrail.org	416-726-2045
Regional Director (East and West)*/ Adventure Relay Co-Chair	Brian Millage	uxbridge@oakridgestrail.org	905-853-2407
Regional Director (Central)*/ Whitchurch-Stouffville Chapter	Frank Alexander	ws@oakridgestrail.org	905-640-9637
Publicity Director	Diane Anderson	publicity@oakridgestrail.org	416-587-3085
Membership Director	Kevin Lowe	membership@oakridgestrail.org	905-479-6382
Director at Large/King Chapter Chair	Ed Millar	king@oakridgestrail.org	905-833-5883

### KEY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Aurora Chapter Co-Chair	Bruce Corbett	aurora@oakridgestrail.org	905-727-4011
Aurora Chapter Co-Chair	Teresa Porter	aurora@oakridgestrail.org	905-751-4642
Adventure Relay Co-Chair	Patricia Ward	relay@oakridgestrail.org	416-449-3848
Guidebook	Peter Atfield	guidebook@oakridgestrail.org	905-833-6600
Richmond Hill Chapter Co-Chair/ Hike Coordinator	Malcolm Hann	hikes@oakridgestrail.org	905-477-7290
Northumberland	Tim Lawley	northumberland@oakridgestrail.org	905-377-8134
Trail Talk	Katrina Bin	editor@oakridgestrail.org	
Richmond Hill Chapter Co-Chair/ Webmaster	Vicky Chan	webmaster@oakridgestrail.org	905-508-0622

### ADMINISTRATION

Office Manager	Michele Donnelly	info@oakridgestrail.org	905-833-6600 or 1-877-319-0285
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# TRAIL BITES - ANNINA'S BAKE SHOP

BY BILL PATTERSON



After a hike on the trails in the Township of Uxbridge (Map #5), one of our favourite eateries is Annina's Bake Shop in the hamlet of Goodwood. After parking in either of the two lots, one enters the two story building, checks the chalkboard for the specials of the day or reviews the menu and places one's order at the cash register. Everything is prepared fresh in the kitchen at the back, and it's a struggle to decide from the available choices, knowing how delicious they all are. Soups and salads are served in generous portions and sandwiches and wraps excel. But the real challenge comes in choosing a dessert from the display cases in front of you loaded with pastries of every description from Eccles cakes to butter tarts.

But this isn't just a restaurant and pastry shop. Against the southeasterly wall you will find shelves with bread and buns, and in another area to the west stand freezers with frozen meat pies and fruit pies, and shelves of condiments (hot sauce anyone?) and jams and jellies.

Having placed your order and paid for it, you proceed upstairs where you will find table seating for about 50. Additionally, should you prefer, you may relax in luxury in a lounge with gas fireplace. In short order, the servers will appear with your order, having carried it up the same stairs that you mounted a few moments earlier.

The food is excellent, the service pleasant, the restrooms modern and clean, and who knows, if you sit by the window, you might get to watch the filming of next season's CBC comedy series Schitt's Creek.

**Annina's Bake Shop**  
**300 Highway 47**  
**Goodwood**  
[www.anninasbakeshop.com](http://www.anninasbakeshop.com)



## CHAMPIONS

January 1 - March 31, 2015

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

Bird Studies Canada  
 Elinor Allison  
 Richard Baron  
 Jacky Bramma  
 Margaret Brock  
 Fred Bull  
 Song Choo  
 John H.C. Clarry  
 Monica & John Cocker  
 Harry Dahme

Donna DeBacker  
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 Wendy & Danny Lam  
 Diane LeMottee  
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Marion Warburton  
 Bruce Ward  
 Barbara Williams  
 Andrew Wilton  
 Peggy Wrightson  
 Diane Zieman  
 John Zima

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](http://www.oakridgestrail.org) for more information

# COME EXPLORE FAIRY LAKE

JOIN US MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015



Do you believe in fairies? Fairies have been seen in the fall on Beausoleil Island at Fairy Lake. They are not large, only about six inches tall of the pygmy variety, and very shy. They will not show up on a camera, but can be seen with the naked eye, as long as you are a believer. I am planning an expedition to check out this phenomenon, and invite members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association to join me in this exploration. A boat has been booked for **Monday September 14 at 10:30 am** starting from Honey Harbour in Georgian Bay, for the 30 minute trip to Beausoleil Island weaving in and out of small islets via narrow channels and viewing summer cottages on the way to Chimney Bay landing dock.

Beausoleil Island is also the home of the Massassaga rattlesnake, which is found on the island and has a venomous bite, but since it is very shy, is rarely seen. Physically, Beausoleil Island spans two different regions, the Canadian Shield as well as the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region. Distinctive pink granite and leaning white pines crown the northern section where we will be hiking, with several peeks of Georgian Bay at a number of inlets and beaches. The island is 8 km by 1.5 km wide and boasts two inland lakes.

The Island was an important hunting and fishing ground for native people and an Ojibwa Reserve from 1836 to 1856, before becoming a National Park in 1929. Soak up the sun and the history on this beautiful island hike while we explore its nooks and crannies while scrambling over the 4 billion year old rocks – the oldest on earth. Then a stop for lunch at a picnic table overlooking water, and maybe an end of season swim.

We should see the historic Brebeuf Island Lighthouse, birds and wildlife before catching the ferry back to Honey Harbour at 3.30 pm. For those who are interested, we will be stopping at Port Severn to see the historic locks and grab a bite to eat at Rawley's Restaurant. The price of **\$16.00** covers car parking, park fee and return fare for the ferry to and from the island. **Limited space on the ferry means a first come first served policy and payment in advance is required by August 1, 2015. Contact David Francis to make your booking at david.francis.trails@gmail.com. There will also be a car shuttle from Hwy 9 and Hwy 400 Car Pool at 8.45 am.**



BY DAVID FRANCIS



**Oak Ridges Trail Association**

## NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following new members during our last quarter.  
**JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2015**


Pat Alford	Yingshan Luo	Anthony Wallis
David Bourke	Robert Luxemburger	Tracey Winterton
Stephen Burkart	Ross McArthur	Xiu Yi Yang
Leah Darke	Alan & Anne Morgan	
Catherine Douglas	Mary Muter	
Gillian Harding	Roy O'Neill-Brown	
Margaret Huggett	Janice Quinn	
Happy & Andreas	Dianne Robinson	
Keller	Jennifer Scott	
Ryan Knowler	Dani Shaw	
Hedy Lannois	Bill Snel	

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.



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# ORTA SUMMER 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.
- Dogs: It is the hike leader's decision whether to allow dogs on hikes. If not specified in the hike listing, call the leader beforehand. Many landowners regulate that dogs shall be on leash. ORTA hikers and leaders will adhere to this policy. In all cases, dogs are expected to be well mannered and under strict control by their owners, out of consideration and safety for fellow hikers, other trail users and the environment.
- 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.**

## JULY

**Fri, Jul. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

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

ORTA Map 2; 12+km; 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, Jul. 5, 2015 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)**

15km; Moderate; 4.5hrs.; Moderate pace; T&B, a scenic, hilly forested area along West Duffins Creek, bring food and drinks for lunch at the lookout. Bring proper hike gear. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale. GPS: 43.8865, -79.1628

**John Fuchs, 647-575-9395 (hike day only)**

**Mon, Jul. 6, 2015 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest north (Finnerty SR)**

ORTA Map 1; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Meet at this new start location on the north side of Palgrave Forest. We will shuttle to the NEW WESTERN TRAILHEAD of the ORMT. After a hilly start, the trail is easy forest walking with some very scenic views. Join us for lunch. This is a new ORTA trail. From Palgrave drive north on Hwy 50 for 3.5Km then turn west onto Finnerty SR. Drive 750m. to the Palgrave Forest parking lot on the south side of the road. GPS: 43.960580 , -79.863394

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

**Wed, Jul. 8, 2015 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Brown Hill Tract (Ravenshoe Rd.)**

14+km; Fast; 3+hrs.; Bring water/snacks and lunch. 404 North to Woodbine Ave. North to Ravenshoe Rd. East on Ravenshoe Rd. for 5.3Km. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Ravenshoe Rd. GPS: 44.212050 , -79.377786

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

**Fri, Jul. 10, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)**

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Loop hike some hills Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Sat, Jul. 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**

**Mon, Jul. 13, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)**

ORTA Map 2; 6.5km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Bring snacks and water. There are some steep hills. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option after hike at Pine Farms Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

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

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

ORTA Map 8; 16+km; 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**



**Fri, Jul. 17, 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, -79.3228268

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

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

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Loop hike some hilly sections. No dogs please. 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

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

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

ORTA Map 2; 12+km; 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**

**Mon, Jul. 20, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)**

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Join us for a walk along shady forest trails with moderate hills.

Bring water and a snack for the trail. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us afterwards for a lunch. 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, Jul. 22, 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**

**Fri, Jul. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Lots of 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

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

**Fri, Jul. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)**

10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on some little used trails with some hilly sections. One little used trail with short steep hill at the end. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

**John Fuchs, 647-575-9395 (hike day only)**

**Sat, Jul. 25, 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**

**Mon, Jul. 27, 2015 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail to Mackenzie Wetland (Newmarket Town Hall)**

ORTA Map 3; 7.5km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Bring water and maybe a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Maybe we'll see turtles and other creatures in the Hadley Grange Conservation Reserve. Meet in the parking lot behind the Newmarket Town Hall, 395 Mulock Dr, 0.7km west of Bayview Ave. GPS: 44.0416762, -79.4585222

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

**Wed, Jul. 29, 2015 9:30 AM, Bruce Trail - Mono Cliffs (Mono Centre)**

16+km; Fast; 4+hrs.; Loop walk along sections of Bruce Trail through diverse hilly landscape with many geological features.

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

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

**Wed, Jul. 29, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Humber Trails C. A. (Mill Rd.)**

7+km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; This unmanaged conservation area in King Township is very picturesque, with forest, fields and an open plain at the East Humber River. Trails are not well groomed, some hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the wildflowers and the view. Meet at entrance to Humber Trail on west side of Mill Rd. GPS: 43.903000, -79.612222 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)**

**Fri, Jul. 31, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / 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**

## AUGUST

**Sat, Aug. 1, 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**

### LEGEND

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

CA = conservation area

T&B = there and back hike

YRF - York Regional Forest

TRCA - Toronto & Region Conservation Authority

BT - Bruce Trail Conservancy

PP - Provincial Park

**Select hikes most suitable for your ability:**

Slow 3km/h Fast 5km/h

Moderate 4km/h Very Fast 6km/h

**Mon, Aug. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges (Regatta Ave)**

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; Holiday Monday hike around community trails suitable for families with children and strollers. Bring water and maybe a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at parking lot on the north side of Regatta Ave, west off Yonge St, 4 stop lights north of King Rd. GPS: 43.950968 , -79.459267

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone 416-434-3471 (hike day only)**

**Mon, Aug. 3, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)**

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; We will hike from Eldred King to the nearby Scout Tract with its scenic ponds. Shaded and sandy trails with moderate hills. Bring water and a snack. 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, Aug. 5, 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**

**Wed, Aug. 5, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Cold Creek Conservation Area (Conc. 11)**

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; This is a very picturesque hike with forests, fields and ponds. Some hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the wildflowers and the view. Meet at park entrance east side of Concession 11, 3.5 Km north from King Road. GPS: 43.919444 , -79.706778 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 phone 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)**

**Fri, Aug. 7, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Loop hike some hills Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Sat, Aug. 8, 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, Aug. 8, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 12+km; 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, Aug. 9, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; 14km; Moderate; 4.5hrs.; Loop hike on sandy, forested trails and some little used footpaths. Bring food & drinks for lunch along the trail. There may be some poison ivy. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

**John Fuchs, 647-575-9395 (hike day only)**

**Mon, Aug. 10, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Slow; 3hrs.; A loop around the Seneca College Campus where there are some steep hills and an optional loop around the Millar Side Trail. Brings water and a snack. Dogs are not permitted on the college campus. Lunch option afterwards at Pine Farms. 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 416-434-3471 (hike day only)**

**Wed, Aug. 12, 2015 9:30 AM, Ajax - Greenwood Conservation Area (Greenwood Rd)**

15+km; Fast; 4+hrs.; We will hike north to the Pickering Museum near Hwy #7 and back including some side trails. Bring snacks/lunch and water. Meet at C.A. parking lot. From Westney Rd, go W on Greenwood Rd (3.5 km S of Hwy 7; 1 km N of Taunton Rd), turn left at T-junction; then right, into CA, past gate to main parking lot. GPS: 43.898568, -79.058256

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

**Thu, Aug. 13, 2015 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - Boag Road Trail**

10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; T&B to Holland River. Well mannered dogs welcomed. Meet at the intersection of Leslie St. and Boag Rd. (4.1 km north of Queensville Sd Rd). Road side parking is on Boag Rd. east of the intersection. GPS: 44.175165 , -79.459853

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

**Fri, Aug. 14, 2015 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)**

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

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Sat, Aug. 15, 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, Aug. 17, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville – YRF Hollidge Tract (Hwy 48)**

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Starting from the reopened Hollidge Tract, we will do a loop hike east through the new trails of the former Drysdale Tree Farm and back. Shady forest and open meadow trails. Dogs welcome. Join us for lunch. Meet in parking lot east side of Hwy 48, 3km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.067322 , -79.304117

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

**Wed, Aug. 19, 2015 9:30 AM, Lindsay - Pontypool Fleetwood Creek (Wild Turkey Rd)**

14+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; Three loop hikes depending on time and conditions Take highway 35 and turn east on Ballyduff Road. Meet at the parking area just south of Ballyduff Road, east of Wild Turkey Road. GPS: 44.142627 , -78.621845

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Fri, Aug. 21, 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, -79.3228268

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

**Sat, Aug. 22, 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, Aug. 22, 2015 9:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 12+km; 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**

**Mon, Aug. 24, 2015 9:30 AM, Aurora - NW Aurora Trails - St. Andrew's Loop.**

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Short road sections link town parks and school playing fields. Dogs must be on leash. Bring water and a snack. Optional lunch afterwards. Meet at south end of the parking lot of Aurora Community Centre, south off Aurora Heights Dr., west off Yonge St, 0.6 km north of Wellington St. GPS: 44.003408 , -79.471130

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone 416-434-3471 (hike day only)**

**Wed, Aug. 26, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

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, Aug. 28, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Dainty & Clarke Tract (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Easy walking on generally wide sheltered forest trails. Meet at Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.027923 , -79.319657

**John Fuchs, 647-575-9395 (hike day only)**

**Fri, Aug. 28, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6 / 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, Aug. 29, 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, Aug. 30, 2015 10:00 AM, Vaughan - Woodbridge Boyd Park (Rutherford Rd)**

10km; Slow to moderate; 3hrs.; We will walk north along the Granger Greenway trail for 5km and return the same way. The trail is a flat, gravel path. Running shoes okay. Bring snack or lunch for break at halfway point. No dogs please. Cell on day of hike 416-320-8555. Meet in the Pierre Berton Library parking lot, 350 m. east from the intersection of Islington Avenue and Rutherford Road. GPS: 43.817958 , -79.596205

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

**Mon, Aug. 31, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord/Goodwood/Glasgow (Conc. 3)**

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Meet at the Secord parking lot before doing a short car shuttle to Glasgow. This will allow for a very scenic, slightly hilly hike through forest and meadow back to Secord. Bring water and a snack for the trail. 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**

## SEPTEMBER

**Wed, Sep. 2, 2015 9:30 AM, Scarborough - Highland Creek (Morningside Park)**

17km; Moderate to fast; 4.5hrs.; Loop. A pleasant walk in Scarborough's treed valleys and parks, residential streets of Guildwood and along Lake Ontario shoreline. Bring water and lunch/snacks. Meet at parking lot of Morningside Park in Scarborough. From Hwy 401, S on Morningside Ave, 0.5 km S of Ellesmere Rd. on W side. GPS: 43.781131 , -79.197228

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

**Fri, Sep. 4, 2015 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Lots of 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

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

**Sat, Sep. 5, 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, Sep. 6, 2015 10:00 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)**

ORTA Map 1; 10+km; Slow to moderate; 3hrs.; Nice easy loop in the forest. No dogs please. Beginners welcome. Cell on day of hike 416-320-8555. 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: 43.955354, -79.843260

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

**Sun, Sep. 6, 2015 10:00 AM, Scarborough - Rouge Park (Meadowvale Rd.)**

10km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; Challenging terrain. T&B, hilly, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd-follow signs for the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre. GPS: 43.8190238, -79.1709644

**Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)**

**Mon, Sep. 7, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Brock Tract (Durham Rd. 1 / Brock Rd.)**

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Hike the meadow and forest trails of the Brock and Wilder Tracts with moderate hills. Bring water and a snack for the trail. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot on East side of Brock Rd, 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering Town Line. GPS: 44.000020, -79.127899

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

**Mon, Sep. 7, 2015 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve – (Bathurst St.)**

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; An easy Labour Day there and back hike on a gravelled trail commencing from near the Golf Clubhouse. Open fields have been planted with hundreds of trees to restore this landscape. Pedestrian cross lights get us safely over Yonge Street to visit the beautiful Bond Lake. Suitable for families with children and strollers. Bring water and maybe a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at the Bathurst Glen Golf Club parking lot, east side of Bathurst St. 1.7 km south of King Rd. GPS: 43.926087, -79.476341

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

**Wed, Sep. 9, 2015 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)**

ORTA Map 7; 17km; Fast; 4hrs.; Loops. Varied, hilly terrain. Bring drink & lunch/snacks. Meet at C.A. Parking Lot. Exit 401 at Waverly Rd. Travel North on Regional Rd. #57. Turn right at Regional Rd. #20. Turn left at Woodley Rd. Pay and Display Parking is in effect at a cost of: Max. - \$5/ vehicle/day or \$2/ hour. GPS: 44.049939, -78.741937

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

**Fri, Sep. 11, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Albright Rd.)**

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; We will hike the Al Shaw side trail as well as part of the ORT 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

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Sat, Sep. 12, 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, Sep. 14, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)**

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Hike with us on the forested and hilly trails of Durham Forest.

Bring along water and a snack for the trail. Well mannered dogs are

encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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

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

**Mon, Sep. 14, 2015 10:30 AM, Beausoleil Island – Fairy Lake Trail (Georgian Bay Islands National Park)**

5km; Moderate; 3hrs.; Advance Booking is required. Cost \$16.00 each for Parking, Park Fee and boat ride there and back. Two Hikes 5 and 8 km around northern end of island. Departing at 9 am from Hwy 400 and Hwy 9 Car Pool. Boat departing 10:30 am for scenic trip to island. Bring lunch. Catch boat back at 3.30 pm. Meal stop at Rawley's Restaurant, Port Severn 5 pm. Sign up deadline August 1, 2015 including fees. Limited space on boat so first come first served.

**See article on page 7 for more details.**

Take Hwy #400 north to Port Seven. Turn onto Honey Harbor Rd. (Muskoka Rd. 5) for 13Km. Turn left (west) into DayTripper parking area. GPS: 44.867367, -79.821628

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

**Wed, Sep. 16, 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**

**Fri, Sep. 18, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / 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, Sep. 19, 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, Sep. 20, 2015 10:00 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)**

10km; Moderate; Challenging terrain. T&B, some hills, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale. GPS: 43.8865, -79.1628

**Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)**

**Sun, Sep. 20, 2015 1:30 PM, East Gwillimbury - Holland River Trail (west trailhead)**

6+km; Moderate; 2hrs.; This is a very scenic hike along both sides of the Holland River. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the wildflowers and the view. Meet at the parking lot on SE corner of Yonge St. and Mount Albert Road. GPS: 44.095454, -79.490029 Meet at the parking lot on SE corner of Yonge St. and Mount Albert Road. GPS: 44.095454, -79.490029

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

**Wed, Sep. 23, 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**

**Fri, Sep. 25, 2015 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in the Brock Tract. There are some hilly sections. 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  
**John Fuchs, 647-575-9395 (hike day only)**

**Sat, Sep. 26, 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, Sep. 27, 2015 10:00 AM, Clarington - Ganaraska Forest (Micro Rd)**

ORTA Map 8; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; loop hike to Tower Hill; dress for the weather ; bring water and snacks; hopefully we will see some Fall colours!! ; one long hill. From Hwy 115, exit at Boundary Rd (first exit north of exit to Hwy 35). Go east approx. 1.5 km to meet at Micro Rd. roadside parking. GPS: 44.082972, -78.587273

**Grace Moores, 905-263-4340**

**Sun, Sep. 27, 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. 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**

**Mon, Sep. 28, 2015 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)**

ORTA Map 1; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; We will be hiking the newly designated main and side trails in Palgrave Forest. Bring water and a snack for the trail. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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: 43.955354, -79.843260

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



  
**Rock Island Lodge**  
 Wawa

> B&B: no tv, just wind & waves  
 > Storm Watching & Fall Colours  
 > Painting Lake Superior  
 ^ Taimi Poldmaa ~ Mid October  
 > Gales Photography Workshop  
 ^ Rob Stimpson ~ Oct/Nov

**On Lake Superior**  
 1.800.203.9092  
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**Comfortable Hiking Holidays**

**(416) 445-2628**

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

**OPEN HOUSE**

**You're invited!**

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

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm**

**Crescent School Auditorium  
 2365 Bayview Ave, Toronto**

(1 light north of Lawrence Ave. E on the east side of Bayview)

**FREE PARKING!**

Corfu • Patagonia • Amalfi Coast • Ireland • Iceland  
 Machu Picchu • Israel • Turkey • New Zealand • Japan  
 Camino de Santiago (Spain)

**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!  
 Booking too late means you will not be able to hike into Machu Picchu :-)**

**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.

**This trip is more than halfway sold through already!**

**NEW WEBSITE**

**www.letshike.com**

Fresh new look and way more features, including daily synopsis, status updates, and more.  
**ALL PHOTOS USED ON OUR SITE WERE TAKEN ON ACTUAL TRIPS –**

You may even recognize yourself in one of them!

TICO # 50018498

# THE RACE IS ON!

BY PATRICIA WARD, CO-CHAIR ADVENTURE RELAY COMMITTEE



So make sure your calendar has June 13, 2015 circled! That's the day competitors will be tackling 160km of the Oak Ridges Trail and 100+ ORTA volunteers will be manning 15 checkpoints of our 9th annual Adventure Relay.

Starting at Gore's Landing, approximately 30 teams of Elite and Recreational racers will be dipping their paddles in the water to canoe 8km. From there their teammates will run and bike the trail to arrive at our finish line at Seneca College, King. Our thanks once again to the Herati family and to our NEW HOSTS at the start of the Relay, George and Denise Jones. The tradition continues due to your generosity.

We invite everyone to come out and cheer the teams on. Go to <http://www.oakridgestrail.org/adventure-relay/course/> for the course maps to see where your best vantage point may be and the checkpoint locations so you can see how much fun the volunteers are having. Teams are racing from 8:00 a.m. often into the night.

Can't make race day, well add your support to ORTA's major fundraiser by sponsoring our own team of ORTA members – the Sandspinnners captained by Bob Comfort.

For our Racers: Did you know that the Moraine Adventure Relay is ORTA's main fundraiser? Turn your passion for your sport into protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail by obtaining pledges. We have a number of loyal business sponsors who are donating prizes and merchandise which is used to recognize some of our relay participants who raise more than \$100. Visit our pledge page and get your friends, families and colleagues to sponsor you or your team.

Visit our pledge page and sponsor A Racer, A Team or the Adventure Relay <http://www.oakridgestrail.org/donate/pledge-racer-moraine-adventure-relay/>

## WHO WERE THE WINNERS LAST YEAR?

Corporate:  
Mercedes-Benz Canada  
Captain: Edmond Schmidt

Elite:  
TRCA Racers  
Captain: Mike Bender

Recreational:  
Team Terrain-ed in Vain  
Captain: Colleen Bucholski



Who will be the winners this year?  
Come and join us and share the excitement!!!!



## A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR ORTA MEMBERS

The success of our Relays is very much due to your commitment and involvement prior to and during the big day itself. Your efforts are appreciated.

## 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!

**There will be no Discovery Night in July or August 2015**

**Thursday September 17, 2015**

Guest speaker To Be Announced  
Please check the ORTA Website, closer to the date.

### 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**

## "HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE"

**Provincial Park Day – Friday, July 17, 2015**

When was your last visit to a provincial park? 5, 10, 15 years ago? Provincial Park staff would like you to visit for free this summer to check out their facilities and programmes.

The offer is for day use only – a great chance to take the kids or grandkids or by yourself to enjoy biking, canoeing, fishing or hiking in their managed facilities.

**ENJOY!**

## SUSQUEHANNOCK LODGE and TRAIL CENTRE

Hiking in the Highlands of North Central Pennsylvania



### CANADA DAY June 27-July 4

Celebrate summer and two National Holidays

### 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.

### LABOUR DAY Sept 3-7

### THANKSGIVING Oct 9-12

*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](http://www.execulink.com/~gvincent) or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or [vincent.greg@gmail.com](mailto:vincent.greg@gmail.com)

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



## Blossom Café

### Trail Trekker's Menu

**\$15**

**Chef's Soup/Salad of the Day**

+

**Sandwich**

+

**Cookie/Loaf Cake**

**Tuesday - Saturday**

**11am - 3pm**

**For Reservations, 905-939-8680**

**4681 Lloydtown Aurora Road, Pottageville**

# ORTA AROUND THE WORLD

## EXPLORING TSINGY MOUNTAINS BY FATEMA AMINI



Climbing the "Needles" of Tsingy Mountains in Madagascar was one highlight of my adventure trip to South East Africa in August 2014.

To reach the Tsingys, we canoed for three days on Tsiribihina River in canoes made out of hallowed out tree trunks. Part of the trip was also done by cow-drawn carriages!

The Tsingy Mountains are a spectacular mineral forest created by limestone plateaus that were slowly eroded by rainfall and groundwater to create vertical and horizontal patterns. The word "tsingy" translates to "walking on tiptoes" and with its plethora of limestone "needles", it definitely lives up to the name.

Source: <http://www.travelmadagascar.org>

## HOW AM I GOING TO FIT THIS IN MY SUITCASE....



ORTA Treasurer, Kim Aagaard, recently returned from a trip to British Columbia where he got to spend some time exploring the beautiful Old Growth Forests.

This tree is located in an area called Cathedral Grove in MacMillan Provincial Park (on the road that crosses to the west side of Vancouver Island). The park is a preserve of ancient ("old growth") Douglas Fir trees and this one is over 800 years old.



Oak Ridges Trail  
Association

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Editor: Katrina Bin ([editor@oakridgestrail.org](mailto:editor@oakridgestrail.org))  
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