

TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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Winter 2018



Photos: Top Left: Heather Clark Cooper; Top Right: Beverly Ellenbogen; Middle & Bottom Right: Bob Hughes

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As our 25th anniversary year comes to a close there is much for ORTA and its members to be proud of. Many of you took part in the events to celebrate our anniversary. Many 25-in-25 awards were handed out. Attendance at our Rendezvous was strong.

While we have numerous reasons to celebrate there is still more work to be done. As I reported to you earlier, your board has been working with the folks at IBM Canada's community outreach to assist us in developing a new long-range plan to guide our organization through the coming years. We have benefitted greatly from their guidance and expertise and hope to unveil our new plan to you in the months to follow.

There are concerns to be addressed and resolved: funding to ensure our sustainability over the long haul; Maintenance of our trail in both the eastern and western peripheries where we have few active members, and competition for members with a growing number of "meet up" groups who, because they do not maintain the trail and incur costs to do so, charge little or no membership fees; Questions to be answered too with respect to the expansion of rapid transit in the Yonge Street corridor and the widening of Hwy 400 with the resulting impact on the trail.

The Oak Ridges Trail Association has reached the commendable milestone of 25 years as a voice for hiking and the moraine. It is our plan to be around for another 25 and longer. We can use help from our members in achieving this goal. The phrase "Many hands make light work" holds very true here and we can use your assistance. Consider volunteering in some manner to support your organization. Email me at pres@oakridgestrail.org and we can talk about the many opportunities available.

On another note, wearing my hike leader instructor hat, I plan to offer a training session likely in mid April. This is a great opportunity to take your hiking a little further. ORTA can always use more committed hike leaders. Contact me at the email above for additional details.

I look forward to seeing and talking with all of you out on the trail.

Kevin Lowe, President

Comfortable Hiking Holidays (416) 445-2628

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

NORTHERN LIGHTS NORWAY

February 14 to 24, 2018

A full itinerary of adventure like cross-country skiing, dog-sledding & snowmobiling plus Mother Nature's lightshow - the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). Home base is Tromso - one of the best places in the world to see the NORTHERN LIGHTS!

Also visit the capital, Oslo for some cultural exploration.
Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.

THE "CAMINO", SPAIN

April 28 to May 10, 2018

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 160km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, including many "extras" in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this famous trail.

CANADIAN MARITIMES ROAD TRIP

June 21 to July 3, 2018

Experience the world's highest tides at the Hopewell Rocks in NB; meet Anne of Green Gables and build sandcastles in PEI; celebrate Canada Day in Halifax, NS. Plus lots more activities from cycling to hiking, and you could eat lobster every day of this trip if you tried!

Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.

MACHU PICCHU, PERU

September 14 to 26, 2018

Explore 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!** (No camping - all accommodations are in hotel and lodges.)

NEW ZEALAND

November 6 to 25, 2018

This New Zealand trip is a "legend" in our company history and is always regarded as a guest favourite, and we do New Zealand proud. Enjoy a full itinerary of hiking and sightseeing throughout the North and South Islands, including the Tongariro Crossing, the Abel Tasman Coastal Walk and the famed Milford Track.

TICO # 50018498

IBM VOLUNTEERS ON THE OAK RIDGES MORAINE TRAIL

Brian Millage



We have many retired IBM employees as ORTA members, but recently we were joined by current employees as they donated their time and energy to the community. Under the direction of Dave Robitaille and Farida and Fariha, a considerable group assembled on a cloudy day in October to work on improving the trails in the Secord Forest and the Goodwood Tract of TRCA. Three groups set off with ORTA trail captains, loppers in hand, to widen trails and remove fallen trees and branches. A fourth group set about the heavier task of transporting materials by wheelbarrow to repair several damaged boardwalks through the wetlands of Secord before winter sets in. With mission completed, much of the group descended on Annina's Restaurant for warm coffee and a delicious lunch as we discussed future trail developments and co-operation.

Our thanks to IBM and the volunteers for their enthusiasm and support of our trail efforts.



Photos: Lena McDonell



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



NEW YEAR'S Dec. 28 - Jan 1, 2018

Enjoy New Year's on the trails and by the fireplace.
 Full turkey New Year's dinner.

EASTER March 30 - April 2, 2018

Welcome spring on the trails and a Polish Easter Dinner.

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, \$75.00 private-double occupancy, \$90.00 private-single occupancy, 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 hikevincent.wordpress.com or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or vincent.greg@gmail.com

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

HIKING IN NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Greg Vincent

My love affair with hiking in North Central Pennsylvania started in the late 1970s when a group of hiking friends were looking for a new area to hike. Trevor Stock of the Toronto BTC led us on a three long weekend backpacking adventure. We hiked the entire length of the Susquehannock Trail System, 120 km, over one hiking season. This is what most of us had been looking for. A continuous marked trail through hardwood forests, Maple, Oak and Black Cherry, beside mountain streams, no roads and one very small town, Cross Fork, which had a bar - a bonus to thirsty hikers! All of us were working stiffs and we wanted a wilderness experience not too far from southern Ontario. With the Susquehannock State Forest only 2.5 hrs south of Buffalo, this area fit the bill!

Now that we had the area, we wanted a place to stay, have our meals and relax after a day hike. Ron Mouck pulled into just about the only accommodation along Route 6 between Coudersport and Galeton, PA, the Susquehannock Lodge. It was exactly what we were looking for! Great food, good rooms, fireplace and a south-facing deck. Here was a place we could hike from, cross country ski and snow shoe from! Over the years, many bring bikes or rent them and cycle the Pine Creek Trail. A new dam now has a lake for us to swim in.

As a long-time hike leader for the Toronto BTC I thought that other hikers may enjoy this area and for many years now I have been leading hikes in this area. The West Rim of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon is a favorite. New Year's features a full turkey dinner and a men vs women Trivial Pursuit; Easter a full Polish Easter dinner; Canada Day with long daylight and time on the deck; Labour Day, relaxing at the end of Summer; Canadian Thanksgiving, the most popular time, good tree colours, hiking and Thanksgiving dinner.

ORTA Rendezvous 25 — Sunday, October 1, 2017

Brian Millage

In the fur trade days in Canada, the "Rendezvous" was the annual meeting of east and west fur traders at Fort William (west end of Lake Superior) for the exchange of furs collected over the winter and to trade goods for the next year. The wild party lasted for days. Well, the ORTA Rendezvous wasn't as wild but it sure was a celebration, and a success. Four main hikes were held on the beautiful trails of Uxbridge, from slow/moderate to moderate and fast with about 70 hikers trekking the forest trails- thank you leaders for your leadership. Then the party began at the nearby Goodwood Community Centre where even more ORTA members attended with food in hand for the potluck supper- what a feast! Thanks to Carol Fraser and her setup team for getting the hall and food ready and Russ Burton for the permits and tending bar.

As with the Anniversary and Christmas hike and potluck, this gave members, active hikers or not, a chance to meet, greet and catch up on the past year(s) while enjoying good food and drink and viewing pictures and videos of ORTA hikers and activities from this and previous years. A few of you even recognized yourselves from 10,15 or even 25 years ago- haven't changed a bit? Thanks to ORTA photographers like Bob, Bill, Frank, Heather, Paul and others who have captured our images with ORTA over the years.



Another special part of this 25th ORTA Anniversary celebration was the awarding of End2End badges and a dozen more of the coveted "25 Hike" badges by Wilma. Thirty-eight ORTA hikers have earned this award - so far. Will we continue the Rendezvous in future years? The consensus has been that this may be the beginning of a new ORTA tradition- see you next year at the RENDEZVOUS!

Keep on Trekking.

adventure relay

Saturday
June 9, 2018

traversing the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail

Race On For Adventure- 2018

Brian and Michele, Relay Co-Chairs

Set your calendars for the Saturday, June 9, 2018 Adventure Relay. This has been ORTA's largest annual fundraiser for over a decade as it brings more than 400 competitors and 100 plus ORTA members together for an exciting day of Adventure Racing on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE CHANGES!

In addition to the Full 160-km Adventure Relay from Rice Lake to King City, there will be a Half Relay of 80 km from Hwy12/Purple Woods C.A., along the same Moraine trail. Both will follow the same route and finish at Seneca College, King Campus. With the Full Relay starting at 8 a.m., teams of 15 will canoe, run and cycle. The Half Relay, with teams of up to 7, will run and cycle half the distance and will start shortly after noon. This change should serve two purposes. It will be a good entry level for new teams and it will certainly provide more action for the many ORTA volunteers staffing the last 7 checkpoints through the afternoon and evening.

After many years of helping direct the activities of the Relay organizing committee, Corie, Pat and Judy have decided to step down but will continue to assist in other functions for the Relay. Our sincerest thanks for all their enthusiasm and ideas. Many of you, the ORTA Relay checkpoint volunteers, have been involved for just as long — would you like a challenge? Consider joining the organizing team and help with publicity or volunteer contact or signage in addition to participating on the day of the race at a checkpoint. Do contact Michele at the ORTA office or one of the Relay Committee staff if you can help.

Our thanks also go to George and Denise Jones and Mike and Sarah Herati of Gore's Landing for their many years of hosting the Relay start and providing the safety boats for the canoe race. Once again we look forward to the Scottish piper leading the Parade of Paddlers on the shore of Rice Lake. Then the sound of the horn and the Race is On!



Photos: Bill Patterson

NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following individual and family memberships during our last quarter, July – September 2017

Jon Akelaitis	Peter Miasek
Lyle Brown	Robert Orav
Brian D. Burr	Gail Ozols
Mack Chiu	Robin Persaud
Joseph Fenwick	James Searle
Krisann Graf	Michael Smith
Dave Griffith	Tamara Stuhr
Marita Jones	Georgi Tsikarisvili
Tracie Kennedy	Ronald Wilson
Zana Maksimovic	Paddy Wong
Neil McGeachy	Nerissa Yee
Tracy McNaught	



Oak Ridges Trail Association

CHAMPIONS

July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017

Thank you to all donors who have made donations of \$10.00 or more

David Bourke	Wilma & Brian Millage
Anne-Marie Burrus	Sylvia Morris
Cambiam Inc.	Marie Nawrocki
Peter Coates	Garry Niece & Grace Stanley
John Comfort	Bill & Teresa Pressmar
Vic & Sandra Davis	Michael J. Pruss
Michele & Michael Donnelly	Susan Sellers
Toni & Tom Dorey	Tessa Shelvey
Lawrence Gelberg	Kin Po Sui
Jean Heys	Keith L. Smith
Levi Strauss	Joan Watson

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

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

The Oak Ridges Trail Association has been recognized by various members and companies that offer corporate matching gift programs. In the past this has included, Bell Canada, IBM Canada, Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss and Company, Ontario Provincial Police, RBC, TD Bank, Telus Corporation, and yet there are hundreds more that may have a similar program in place.

Companies take their corporate social responsibilities seriously and actively look for ways to be good for the planet, their communities, and also to help their employees become good citizens. The option discussed here is the employee matching gift program. Companies do this by matching donations to registered charities and non-profits that their employees support. Please check the link below to see whether YOUR company already has a matching gift program in place. If not, perhaps it's time to ask the company to start one.

<https://tinyurl.com/orta-matching-gift>

All member dues and donations qualify for the charitable donation tax credit which may help to reduce your income tax liability.

A MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE

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

Diana Cornell (Joye)

Judith Ann Dalrymple (Judy)

William John Young (Bill)

Please remember ORTA if you have someone special to remember or an event to celebrate.



Meet Your New Hike Leader, Bill Patterson

Bill Patterson, inherited a love of the outdoors and particularly forests, from his father, who was a registered professional forester. This love led to summer jobs as a Junior Ranger and compassman on a timber cruising party (government job—they fly you in to remote lakes in the boreal forest and leave you for a week to trek through the bush counting trees), and retracing the survey of Discovery Claim on Bonanza Creek in the Yukon, and then to an early career in surveying. The last led to tramping the wilds of Canada from the (then) Queen Charlotte Islands to the northern end of Baffin Island to a stint in Newfoundland and eventually to a position as a Measurement Engineer/Assistant Resident Engineer in the United Arab Emirates.

Bill and wife Kathy first joined ORTA in 2000, and although they took the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) training, sponsored by ORTA, and gathered the data for assessment of parts of the Trail, and although Bill assisted with some maintenance work, their first participation in ORTA hikes was upon their respective retirements, Bill in 2012 and Kathy in 2014. With their respective retirements, they became fixtures on the slow-to-moderate Monday morning hikes led by Brian and Wilma alternating with Stan Butcher.

When Brian and Wilma started their slow-to-moderate End-2-End series in September 2015, Bill and Kathy joined, but a year later had missed 5 and 6 of the hikes due to grandparenting duties and illness, so Bill began leading unofficial make-up hikes to complete their own missed sections and to help others who had also missed sections.

Upon Stan’s move to Waterdown, Bill was one of several hikers who responded to the loss by obtaining his Hike Ontario leaders’ certification on April 22nd, 2017, thereby “legitimizing” the next make-up hike two days later. As a leader, Bill’s goal is to help fill in holes in the Monday slow-to-moderate schedule, to lead hikes on lesser frequented trails, and to explore new routes.

2018 HIKING TOURS

**Cornwall & Cotswolds
Hiking Tour – 13 Days**

Hiking in Wales – 13 Days

Hiking in Scotland – 13 Days

Newfoundland Hiking Tour – 10 Days

Scottish Borders Hiking Tour – 16 Days

Vermont Hiking Tour – 5 Days

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50009377

ORTA WINTER 2017 HIKE SCHEDULE

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF HIKES LISTED ON THE ORTA WEBSITE. 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.
- Winter Months: Late fall, winter and early spring are characterized by variable and unpredictable weather and trail conditions, in particular ice and snow. Conditions on the trail will often vary significantly from those outside your front door. For hiker and group safety, based on trail conditions, hike leaders may require participants to use icers or snowshoes to participate in the hike. If concerned, contact hike leader beforehand.
- 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.

Mon, Jan. 1, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a holiday hike to welcome in the New Year. Easy, forested trails in the Hall and Clarke Tracts. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.042433, -79.323129

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

Wed, Jan. 3, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 14+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Exact distance & time dependent on trail & weather conditions. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Bring drink, snacks/lunch. 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

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

Fri, Jan. 5, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 11+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike Walker Woods east and beyond. Distance will depend on conditions. Icers or snowshoes a must. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Jan. 6, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Jan. 6, 2018 10:30 AM, Vaughan - Kortright Centre (Pine Valley Drive).

8km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Nice winter hike on trails around the Kortright Centre. Admission fee applies. We will gather in the main parking lot. Note: Bring icers, snack and water. e-mail tjshelvey@yahoo.com West side of Pine Valley Dr., 1.2Km south from Major Mackenzie Dr. W, Follow the long driveway into the park until it ends at the meeting place in the main parking lot. GPS: 43.829281, -79.584065

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Sun, Jan. 7, 2018 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

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

Mon, Jan. 8, 2018 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Moderate hills forested trails. Dogs welcome. Lunch after. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

Noel Bain, 905 470 8425, cell on hike day 647 261 6095

Wed, Jan. 10, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; 12-16 km. depending on conditions. Hike or snowshoe T&B with side trails. Hilly. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

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

Fri, Jan. 12, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Snowshoe or hike in Glen Major very hilly section. 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, Jan. 13, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Be prepared for winter conditions. 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, Jan. 13, 2018 2:00 PM, Leader's Choice Hike

Moderate; 2hrs.; Hike the Wilder Forest and Wildlife Area. Meet at the parking lot, 3km south of Coppin's Corners, 2499 Brock Rd., Uxbridge. Use the Pleasure Valley entry. Hike through majestic forest with some challenging hills. Possible snowshoe hike? If not reflected elsewhere in this information, contact the hike leader for the meeting place and trek details. GPS: 0, 0

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

Sun, Jan. 14, 2018 1:00 PM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Icers mandatory. We will go from Keele St. to Seneca and through the forest trails to the lake. There are some rough and hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the view. 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)

Mon, Jan. 15, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; We will be hiking on scenic, forested trails and we are hoping it will be snowshoe weather. 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, Jan. 17, 2018 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)

14+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; There and back very hilly icers or snowshoes with crampons are mandatory or you will not be

allowed to hike 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

Thu, Jan. 18, 2018 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Join us to hear Daniela Bezede who will be sharing her hiking adventures in Chile & Patagonia. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Jan. 19, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes a must. 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, Jan. 20, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Jan. 21, 2018 10:00 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need Icers or snowshoes. Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

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

Mon, Jan. 22, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; forested, moderate hills. dogs welcome. Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

Noel Bain, 905 470 8425, cell on hike day 647 261 6095

Wed, Jan. 24, 2018 9:30 AM, Ajax - Greenwood Conservation Area North (Conc. 5)

Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; T&B hike north along the Duffins Creek to the Pickering Village Museum @ Hwy #7. The trail encounters some minor hills along the way to the museum. We will return to the cars by a different winding trail rout. The hike length and duration will depend on the weather. Bring a snack and a drink. Come prepared for weather with icers / snowshoes. Meet in the parking area on the north side of Pickering Conc. #5, 2.4Km east from Brock Road. GPS: 43.908763, -79.068708

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

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

Fri, Jan. 26, 2018 9:30 AM, Leader's Choice Hike

10km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Markham. Flat trails. Parking lot at 7277-14 Ave. Take Reesor Rd (south from hwy #7 or north from Steeles Ave), west on 14 Ave, south at first driveway with house numbers. Be prepared for winter conditions, with snowshoes and icers as may be required. If not reflected elsewhere in this information, contact the hike leader for the meeting place and trek details. GPS: 0, 0

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

Sat, Jan. 27, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Be prepared for winter conditions. 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, Jan. 27, 2018 2:00 PM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; Moderate; 2hrs.; A scenic forest hike to the Skyloft Tract with some moderate hills. Let's hope for snowshoe weather. 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

Mon, Jan. 29, 2018 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest north (Finnerty SR)

ORTA Map 1; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Forested trails with moderate hills will be where we hike today. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Take Hwy 50 south 0.8km from Hwy 9 and 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, Jan. 31, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. icers or snowshoes a must. 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

FEBRUARY

Fri, Feb. 2, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; We will hike Eldred King, Scout and Mitchel Tracts. Ices or snowshoes a must. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.0604749881, -79.3080759980

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 3, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Feb. 4, 2018 10:00 AM, Markham - Unionville Urban Hike (Toogood Pond)

10km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St Unionville north, from Carlton Rd 0.5km turn west on Toogood Pond to parking. GPS: 43.872670, -79.314465

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

Sun, Feb. 4, 2018 1:00 PM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Davis Dr.)

6km; Moderate; 3hrs.; Linear hike along Holland River. Bring Icers Meet in the Seniors Meeting Place parking lot, opposite the GO Station on Davis Drive. GPS: 44.059826, -79.459241

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

Mon, Feb. 5, 2018 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Forested moderate hills. Dogs welcome. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

Noel Bain, 905 470 8425, cell on hike day 647 261 6095

Wed, Feb. 7, 2018 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 14+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loops. Varied, hilly terrain. Exact distance & time dependent on trail & weather conditions. Bring drink & lunch/snacks. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. 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, Feb. 9, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Allbright Rd.)

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

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 10, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Feb. 10, 2018 2:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hollidge Tract (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; Moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a winter hike in the forest at the Hollidge Tract. Mostly wide, level trails. Hopefully, there will be enough snow to use snowshoes. 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

Mon, Feb. 12, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract
 ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; We will be enjoying wide forest trails with few hills on this hike. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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
Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Feb. 14, 2018 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor - (Old Colony Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; 9+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; From the meeting place we will take a circular route along forest trails through the Jefferson Forest. There are some hills. Come prepared for the weather (icers/show shoes). Bring a drink and snack. The length of the hike will be dependant on the weather. No dogs please. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Old Colony Rd. 550m. west from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.938785, -79.435619

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

Thu, Feb. 15, 2018 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; All Pace of Canoe North Adventures will be sharing his experiences on canoe trips in Northern Canada. Many ORTA members have participated in these outings over the years and this is your opportunity to share the excitement. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Feb. 16, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike or snowshoe in the Brock tract 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, Feb. 17, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Be prepared for winter conditions. 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, Feb. 18, 2018 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

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

Mon, Feb. 19, 2018 12:00 AM, Family Day holiday

No hikes have been scheduled at the time of TT publication, but be sure to check the calendar on-line closer to the date. If you aren't computer savvy, now is the opportunity for a new adventure. Visit your local library, and one of the staff will be happy to take you to a computer, show you how to begin, launch a browser, and type in the URL (that's Universal Resource Locator, a.k.a. Web address) "www.oakridgestrail.org/hikes/hike-calendar-schedule" (without the quotes). Then your guide will show you how to "scroll" down the

page a bit where you'll see a block calendar. After a couple of seconds, hikes will appear in the calendar boxes, and clicking on one brings up a description to the right of the calendar. Your taxes are paying for the service, so why not use it? GPS: 0, 0

Wed, Feb. 21, 2018 9:30 AM, Lindsay - Pontypool Fleetwood Creek (Solanum Way)

10+km; Moderate to fast; 3+hrs.; Loop hike or snowshoe. 10-12km depends on conditions. Drive north on CR32/Porter Rd. from Hwy 115 for 3 km or south on CR32/Porter Rd. from Hwy 7A for 4.3 km. Then west on Solanum Way for 1 km to roadside parking. GPS: 44.13673, -78.58596

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Fri, Feb. 23, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 11+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike Walker Woods east and beyond. Distance will depend on conditions. Icers or snowshoes a must. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 24, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Feb. 24, 2018 10:00 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor Park - Bathurst Glen GC - (Bathurst St.)

6km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Easy winter hike along a flat trail. We will hike to Bond Lake and return the same way. e-mail inquiries to tjshelvey@yahoo.com. No dogs please. Meet in the parking lot of the Bathurst glen Golf Course at 12481 Bathurst St. 1.3Km south from King Rd. or 1.1Km north from Jefferson SR. GPS: 43.926150, -79.478202

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Sun, Feb. 25, 2018 1:00 PM, King - Cold Creek Conservation Area (Conc. 11)

7km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Icers mandatory. Snowshoes if you wish - if conditions are right. 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 view. 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)

Mon, Feb. 26, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a winter walk along sheltered forest trails with moderate hills. 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, Feb. 28, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Allbright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; 12-16 km. depending on conditions. Loop hike through Walker Woods and Glen Major. Icers or snowshoes, as required. Hilly. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Allbright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206

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

MARCH

Fri, Mar. 2, 2018 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate to fast; 3hrs.; Loop hike some hills lunch after hike at Pine Orchard. Icers or snowshoes may be required. Meet at the (dead end) on 7th. Conc. 2.8km south of Pottagville 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

Sat, Mar. 3, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Be prepared for winter conditions. 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, Mar. 4, 2018 10:00 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need Icers or snowshoes. Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

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

Sun, Mar. 4, 2018 1:00 PM, New Tecumseth - Beeton Forest -10th. Sideroad

5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop Hike around Beeton Forest. Bring Icers Directions to meeting place: from Hwy 9 go north on 10th Sideroad for 8.3Km to the junction with 7th. Line. Or from Beeton, go south on 10th Sideroad to 7th Line. GPS: 44.066997, -79.778579

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

Mon, Mar. 5, 2018 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Slow to moderate; Well-behaved dogs welcome. Traction devices will likely be mandatory. Snowshoes as appropriate. We'll hike westerly along the ORMT following the (unopened) 16th SR road allowance and through Humber Source Woods, thence further westerly before returning to our vehicles. Lunch option following. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. NOTE: For 12 months from the fall of 2017 this meeting place is NOT accessible from the east via 16th SR due to reconstruction of the Hwy 400 overpass GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Bill Patterson, 905-833-0391, cell phone on day of hike 289-380-0002

Wed, Mar. 7, 2018 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail North - (HWY #7)

14+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Exact distance & time dependent on trail & weather conditions. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Bring drink, snacks/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

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

Fri, Mar. 9, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes a must. 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, Mar. 10, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Mar. 11, 2018 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Slow to moderate; 3hrs.; Nice winter hike mostly in the woods. Pretty view of Mary Lake. Lunch after the hike at Rockford's Bar and Grill (King City). RSVP if coming for lunch by e-mail to tjshelvey@yahoo.com. Note: Daylight savings time begins today. Don't forget to change your clock! Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Mon, Mar. 12, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Countryside Preserve (Hwy 47)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; For this March Break hike we encourage you to bring your kids or grandchildren along for a hike on these level forest and meadow trails in the town of Uxbridge. 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, Mar. 14, 2018 9:30 AM, Leader's Choice Hike

9km; Moderate to fast; Whit-Stouffville - SCOUT TRACT. Today we will circle around several Scout tract trails. Come prepared for the weather including icers and/or snowshoes. The length of the hike will be dependent on the weather. Directions to the meeting place: from Ballantrae, drive north on Hwy 48 for 3.3Km and turn west onto Cherry Street. In 2Km. turn north onto McCowan Road. The meeting place is in 400m. in road side parking on the west side of McCowan Rd. at the main entrance to the Scout Tract. NOTE: McCowan Rd. dead ends south from the junction with Cherry St. GPS: 44.0649979,7932.8751. In case of heavy snow during the week prior to the hike contact the leader as the meeting place (road side

parking) may need to be altered. If not reflected elsewhere in this information, contact the hike leader for the meeting place and trek details. GPS: 0, 0

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

Thu, Mar. 15, 2018 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; David and Ann Love will take us on a tour of the many public trails in the magnificent Happy Valley Forest situated in King Township. This is one of the favourite hiking areas along our trail. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1 km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Mar. 16, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike or snowshoe in the Brock tract 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, Mar. 17, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Mar. 18, 2018 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 and icers. 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)

Sun, Mar. 18, 2018 1:00 PM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)

ORTA Map 1; 7km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Icers mandatory if conditions are still icy. Moderate hills in this beautiful forested area with ponds and meadows. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the view. 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

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

Mon, Mar. 19, 2018 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Loop hike through the Seneca College property and around Lake Seneca. Traction devices will likely be mandatory, snowshoes optional as conditions warrant. Lunch option following the hike. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Bill Patterson, 905-833-0391, cell phone on day of hike 289-380-0002

Wed, Mar. 21, 2018 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Allbright Rd.)

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

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Fri, Mar. 23, 2018 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Hilly. Ices or snowshoes. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.042433, -79.323129

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 24, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. 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, Mar. 26, 2018 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; We will be walking on sheltered forest trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

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

Wed, Mar. 28, 2018 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; Loop hike. Hilly. Snowshoes or icers as required. 12-16 km. depending on conditions. 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

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

Fri, Mar. 30, 2018 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)

ORTA Map 3; 10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; Loops; varied hilly terrain. Exact distance & time dependent on weather & trail conditions. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. 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

Sat, Mar. 31, 2018 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Be prepared for winter conditions. 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

York-Simcoe Naturalists Free Public Lectures Winter Evenings 2018

Tue. Dec .12, 2017
Photo Arts Club of Newmarket
Bruce Carmody & Jim Spurgeon

Nature through the lens:
what camera clubs do
& how to approach
the subject of "nature"

Tue. Mar. 13, 2018
Ontario Nature's Emma Horrigan
Citizen Science Programs &
the Reptile & Amphibian Atlas

Tue. Jan. 9, 2018
YSN members
Doug Jagger
& Ken Vogan

The American
Four Corners - An
Ecological Journey

Tue. Feb. 13, 2018
Lori McLean from the
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation
Authority

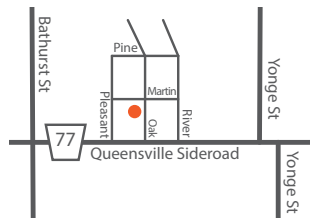
Creating Wonderful
Wetlands -
Considerations
for Success



Cultivating an appreciation of nature through learning and action

All meetings start at 7:30 pm

20 Oak Ave. River Drive Park
Community Centre
East Gwillimbury



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ORTA AROUND THE WORLD: BACKPACKING IN THE GRAND CANYON

by Heinz Nitschke

To backpack in to the Grand Canyon is hard to describe. Basically, when starting the hike, the Grand Canyon is an upside-down mountain, since instead of going up, it goes down and down and further down. For many people this is harder than going up. As you go down, the temperature is going up and could soon reach 40 C or more. Water on the trail is almost non-existent, and if you find some, better fill up every container available. This is one of the reasons why backpacking in summer months is out of the question.

A trail permit is always needed but is hard to come by for some reason. The right shoes are of upmost importance. The trails are sometimes very steep with loose stones on them and rarely is there any shade to stay out of the burning sun. Had it not been for the incredible scenery, I would simply call it a burning hot hell hole.

As we got lower and lower in to the canyon, our hike leader missed the first camp ground and after some extra gruelling hours we

ended up at the second one. For some people the first blisters appeared and needed to be looked after. Everyone was totally beat but sleep did not come easily because of the heat.

Also, as soon as darkness came, millions of little critters started a concert of incredible intensity, which lasted throughout the night. Next morning, breakfast, and then off into the heat. On the Tonto Plateau, trails are almost non-existent since very few people ever hike down here. The ground is mostly level there, with shrubs full of thorns, and soon legs were bleeding. The Colorado River runs another 1000 feet below, and we did not see the river till the 5th day or so when we crossed a hanging bridge to the other side on our way to the camp ground at the Phantom Ranch, the lowest point. To beat the sun and the heat, we mostly started out in the dark, with our small flashlights, and ate very little. During the daytime hikes there was no shade to be found anywhere. I know that everyone lost some weight. Some also lost some skin on their feet, especially those with nice, expensive hiking boots.

We finally arrived at the Phantom Ranch camp ground in the afternoon of the 7th hiking day. One lady was in such bad shape with blisters that we, as well as the park ranger who came to check our trail permits, recommended that she fly out by helicopter. He told us that the lightest and cheapest runners are best because of the heat build-up in shoes, which causes blisters. Some mentioned the need for ankle support but the ranger suggested the canyon was not the place to hike if one requires ankle support.

That night I didn't put up my tent and just slept on the camping table, it was simply too hot. We left the camp for the canyon rim again by about 4 am to beat the greatest heat. It took me 4 gruelling hours to get up to the rim, though it is not uncommon to take 10 or more hours.

Crazy as I am, I went back a few more times and learned that it is also not a good idea to hike with a walking pole. One lady who trusted her walking pole, fell about 30 feet when the pole slipped off the edge of the trail.

Another interesting thing about hiking in the Grand Canyon is that when it rains above the Canyon, no rain will ever get down to the river level. The rising heat out of the Canyon simply evaporates the rain halfway down. Would I do it again? Just ask me! I'm only in my seventies, I may have a few years left.

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

Open to members and the general public, come join us for the Oak Ridges Trail Association's Discovery Night! Enjoy this series of speakers on world-wide journeys, fascinating nature stories, adventure treks and other stories on a wide variety of subjects.

It's also an opportunity to get together with your ORTA friends and catch up on 'off trail' socializing and what is happening in our organization. Come along and bring a friend to enjoy these pleasant evenings.

Presentations take place in the Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Rd. A \$5 fee covers the presentation, coffee, juice and cookies.



Thursday, January 18, 2018

Explore Chile and Patagonia with one of our favourite traveler, Daniela Bezedo.

Thursday, February 15, 2018

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