



The Ganaraska News

Linking all clubs of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

Winter 2023 (January 1 to April 30, 2023)



Hello members, winter is here! **Abbreviated** hike schedules to April 30 for most clubs are included in this newsletter, please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the crisp snow, the beautiful world of nature, and stay safe!

Annual memberships in the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. expire on December 31, 2022. The easiest way to renew is online at our [website](#) and pay by credit card or from your Paypal account, if you have one. Click on the "Become a Member" link on the above website's home page. Or, if you prefer, send a cheque using the [membership renewal form](#) linked here or at the back of this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you hike, snowshoe, cross country ski, paddle or bike with us again in 2023.

Considering a Wilderness Crossover Hike? Read On!

By Kate Kostandoff

"You were very slow; after lunch you got faster." Initially I was a little affronted by this blunt assessment of our group by one of the leaders on our recent crossover hike in the Queen Elizabeth Wildlands. By the end of the experience I had greater empathy for this man. A seasoned hiker who has spent countless hours along this trail, he took on the responsibility of leading 6 hikers across the 38 K that make up the hike from Victoria Bridge to Devil's Lake. With the hike now in my rearview mirror, I can understand his terse assessment; it's likely he was very concerned about our ability to complete the hike!

Are you contemplating overnight hiking in the Wildlands? There is much to recommend. You will be awed by the beauty of the landscape and the enveloping quiet that comes from being in a vast space largely untouched by humans. [The Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands](#) is 33,505 hectares of rugged territory rich in biodiversity and beauty. Over 100 kilometers of the Ganaraska Trail lie within its boundaries. This article includes some suggestions to keep your safety and success top of mind as you consider your hike.

You might begin with a self assessment. What experiences have you had? What are your skills?

My hiking friends, Chris, Di, Ruth and I are experienced day hikers—together we have completed an end to end of the Bruce Trail. Some of us have hiked the West and the East Coast Trails in Canada and in Patagonia, New Zealand, France and other locales around the world. All of us had done canoe camping and experienced portaging canoes and bags. None of us had done overnight backpacking in a few years.

Ranging in age from 60 - 69 we are active and enthusiastic. My friends even practiced carrying heavy packs in advance of the hike. Still, we were not prepared for the difficulty of the crossover hike. We each had to dig into our reserves of energy and determination (not to mention our supply of ibuprofen and tylenol) to meet the challenge.

We were joined on our hike in late September by two other women, Annie and Maria, who, it was clear, had much more overnight backpacking experience. They were quick, able hikers who, we imagine, could have gone at twice the speed we managed. Our guides were the laconic yet generous Vlad Jonak, with years of backpack hiking experience from Nepal and Spain to the QEI park, and the fearless president of the Ganaraska Wilderness section and gifted raconteur, Rob Halupka. Rob is an experienced hiker having done trips in Europe and Newfoundland. He has also hiked in Pukaskwa National Park along Lake Superior. It was Rob's recitation of *The Cremation of Sam McGee* and *The Shooting of Dan McGrew* that provided our campfire entertainment — in addition to singing, fuelled by rations of rum, beer and wine.

It took a bit of time for us to gel as a group of eight, but we most certainly did bond. The faster hikers were compelled to slow down a bit, the slower hikers pushed on and we each encouraged the other. With glorious, if chilly weather, the colours were spectacular. It was an epic experience.

What surprised us?

The considerable physical demands. Nothing compares to the reality of carrying 30+ pounds on your back while traversing challenging territory. We would strongly recommend that hikers meet the suggested requirement of hiking 10 - 12K with full packs, in advance of undertaking a wilderness hike — then consider whether you could sustain this effort for another two days. Including some elevation would also be a good idea.

Pack your bag in advance and weigh it; then consider removing every single thing you don't absolutely require. Sharing items can reduce weight. Although we had a team first aid kit and comb, next time we would share heavier items such as a towel, sunscreen, and phone charger.

The ruggedness of the terrain. Without experienced guides and access to GPS, our hike would have been impossible. We were surprised by the amount of bushwhacking involved in places. Protecting faces and eyes while stumbling over roots can add time to the journey (which can mean taking longer to reach the camp spot for the night).

Crossing beaver dams, a unique aspect of this park, can be challenging. Each of us had our balance tested as we traversed the connecting paths. Poles were definitely required and, on occasion, long sticks had to be found to assist in safe passage across hastily reconstructed sections (thank you Rob and Vlad).

The unpredictability of the weather. It was cold! Although we didn't anticipate hot summer nights in late September, we were a bit thrown by the frost that greeted us after our first chilly night out. While every hiker knows the benefits of layering, having a good night's sleep might just mean wearing every item in your bag.

Maria and Annie came prepared with an [emergency blanket](#) and put it under their thermarests and sleeping bags to provide an extra layer between tired bodies and cold earth. This was a great tip.



The need to invest in good equipment. Having up to date equipment typically means having less weight to carry. Newer tents, backpacks and sleeping bags are ultralight and may be worth the investment if you are planning to make overnight backpacking a habit.

My older, borrowed water filter system was not up to the job of filtering bog water and became plugged. Investing in a new system might have been a good idea. And finally, I can attest to the fact that mesh hiking boots, however comfortable and highly rated, are no match for the fens and bush of the QEII. Consider your footwear carefully.

At the end of our 72-hour hike we were laughing as we said our goodbyes. We hugged and promised to share photos of our adventure. We thanked Vlad heartily for without him we would have been lost. We thanked Rob for his humour and trail maintenance and left with insight into his role as president of the Wilderness Section. Finding the balance between sharing the beauty of this special place with eager hikers while ensuring their safety is difficult. Your first stop in planning a hike should be to arrange a chat with Rob or another member of the Wilderness Club.

This adventure is an experience I will never forget—for the camaraderie, the diversity of its unparalleled landscape and for the ways it challenged me. I wish you success on your crossover journey.



MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

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President: Frieda Baldwin

Secretary: Steve Pogue

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Simone Latham

Trail/Landowners Relations Director: John Sloan (interim)

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – Liz Erwin, Susan Lee, John Sloan

Kawartha – Stephen Kay

Mad River – Sharon Striegl

Midland – Larry Piitz, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow

Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal

Oro-Medonte – Christine Cornu, Sue Benjafield, Wayne Lillico

Pine Ridge – Jay Sherwin, John Ambler, Stan Muldoon

Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen (interim), Rob Smith

Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Charleyne Hall

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Badge Officer: Jacquie Van Dyke

GHTA Archivist: Linda Blow

GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: vacant

GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell

QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka

Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Charleyne Hall

Newsletter Editor/Web Content: Heather Briant

Website: Rob Smith

Social Media Officer: Alana Boulay

Publicity Coordinator: Vacant

Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner

Mapping Coordinator: Steve Broomfield

Signage Coordinator: Vacant

ASSOCIATION AND CLUB LINKS

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org

Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation

Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup

Barrie: Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie

Mad River: Facebook.com/GHTAmadriverr

Midland: Facebook.com/GHTAmidland

Orillia: Facebook.com/GHTAorillia

Oro-Medonte: Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte

Pine Ridge: www.pineridgehikingclub.ca

Facebook.com/GHTApineridge

Wilderness: Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness

President's Report

By Frieda Baldwin

By Frieda Baldwin

After a rather slow summer, since we are all too busy hiking, the fall has been very productive, especially in preparation of the October 29, 2022 Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association (GHTA) board meeting, when the following was approved:

- Increased mileage reimbursement rate for trail maintenance, board meetings, etc. to the government rate, which is currently \$0.61/km.
- GHTA will pay for the rental of a float plane to undertake trail maintenance in the central part of the Wilderness section out of GHTA Trail Maintenance funds. This work party has been postponed to 2023.
- The wording of the Land Acknowledgement which was brought forward by the Indigenous Engagement Committee.
- A special event admin policy to facilitate the administration and especially collection and disbursement of funds

Unfortunately, we have recently received some resignations due to other time commitments, but I wanted to thank Neil Runnalls, Trail and Landowner Relations Director, for his good intentions to help the GHTA, as well as Dani Shaw, who had offered to help with our Signage requirements.

As a result, we now have vacancies for: Trail & Landowner Relations Director (a critical role), Vice president (this position has been vacant since the AGM), Signage Coordinator (to design GHTA logoed signage and order/track inventory), and Publicity Coordinator. If interested in any of these roles, please contact me at president@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org.

On the topic of Trail Maintenance, I would like to reiterate the importance of keeping our Ganaraska Hiking Trail in good shape, so hikers can have a safe and enjoyable experience. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with this effort. I would also like to ask clubs to document their maintenance efforts, in case we need these records for legal purposes.

In my own area, I am spearheading the effort to close the gap in the Ganaraska Hiking Trail between the Midland and Tiny sections. Much progress is being made in Tiny Township where the township is building a set of stairs to accommodate hikers coming down a steep hillside. We are also making progress in Midland and Penetanguishene, but the municipal elections have slowed this process down. Let's hope we can close the gap in 2023.

And lastly, I would like to congratulate all hikers who took up our "100 Hikes in 2022 challenge" and earned their "100 hikes in 1 year badge". Well done! Perhaps others will take up the challenge in 2023. Personally, I completed my 100 hikes by May of 2022, and by the time you read this, I should have completed 200 hikes in 2022. Being retired certainly made it possible to spend a lot of time hiking.

In closing, I wish you all a healthy and happy 2023, with some great hiking opportunities and hopefully also a great season of winter activities.

Thank You Bob and Lois

A HUGE thank you to Bob & Lois Marshall, of the Oro Medonte Ganaraska Hiking Trail club, who recently donated a 45 acre wooded property at 130 Marshall Rd in Tiny Township (just south west of Midland) to the Huronia Land Conservancy. This property was originally owned by Bob's grandfather.



The Marshall Nature Preserve is found in the Wye River watershed and forms part of a corridor of habitat linking the Midland Little Lake Provincially Significant Wetland with the Lalligan Lake Life Science ANSI. A number of ecosites are contained within the property's boundary.

Property donations as well as financial contributions are what enable the Huronia Land Conservancy to continue to protect valuable wildlife habitat, as well as support essential biodiversity for plants and animals alike.

For more information on this property and the Huronia Land Conservancy, go to <http://www.huronialandconservancy.ca/protected.html>. Thank you Bob & Lois for your generous donations, which will benefit many generations to come.

Supporting the Association

Did you know??? - that the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and can issue tax receipts for donations over \$25?

You can easily add a donation when renewing your membership or use the same membership form to submit a donation at other times of the year. Or, you can mail a cheque to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc., P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7. Tax receipts are mailed to donors before February 28 the following year.

GHTA Indigenous Engagement Committee delivers Land Acknowledgment

In late 2021, the GHTA board directed the Indigenous Engagement Committee to produce a Land Acknowledgement for the Association. The Land Acknowledgment below was approved at the October 2022 board meeting. It represents good intentions, information at a point in time and healthy collaboration, that said there is more work ahead as we continue on the path of reconciliation.

The Indigenous Engagement Committee represents several clubs and membership has included; **PineRidge** Stan Muldoon (inaugural chair), Jay Sherwin, **Wilderness** Carolyn Humphreys (current chair), Charleyne Hall, Steve Broomfield, **Orillia** Irene Green, **Barrie** Liz Erwin and **Midland** Susan Cote. The committee conducted independent research, consulted widely, including a pro-bono review by Plenty Canada and met several times throughout the year to create the Land Acknowledgement.

Association members can expect to find the Land Acknowledgment and resources for learning about First Nation's connection to the lands along and adjacent to our trail on the GHTA website and Trail Guide beginning in 2023. If you'd like to share your feedback, join the committee or have ideas please contact Carolyn Humphreys, Chair - Indigenous Engagement Committee chumpboat@gmail.com

GHTA Land Acknowledgment 2023

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledges and honours that the 500 km Ganaraska Hiking Trail passes through the traditional and territorial lands of the Anishinaabek, Wendat-Huron, and Haudenosaunee nations. Over the millennia, these nations provided stewardship of the lands and lived sustainably in a relationship of long-lasting respect and balanced connections with the land, which became an integral part of their identities.

The Association also acknowledges that some of the practices and policies of settlement on Indigenous lands did not and presently do not adhere to a sustainable and respectful relationship with the natural environment. In addition, we recognize that the resolution of land and treaty claims by Indigenous nations is necessary for healing and establishing a close and harmonious relationship with Indigenous peoples.

As hikers, Association members are privileged to walk the same paths, enjoy the same vistas, and tread upon the same rocky outcrops as Indigenous peoples have done prior to and since settlement. We are grateful to Indigenous peoples for their caretaking of the land, which was mutually beneficial to themselves and all lifeforms within the environment.

Sharing the experience of enjoying the landscape, and its flora and fauna with past and present Indigenous generations, challenges hiking members to be leaders in practicing respectful and sustainable use of the natural environment. Learning to live with respect for our natural world is a step toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



Short Form (suitable for starting hike lead personalized acknowledgments)

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association acknowledges that the Ganaraska Hiking Trail passes through the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Wendat-Huron, and Haudenosaunee nations. The hiking Association also acknowledges that some practices of settlement on lands were not conducted with the attitude of respect for the natural environment, that was characteristic of Indigenous people's relationship with land, water, sky, flora and fauna. Hiking offers opportunities to connect meaningfully with the natural environment. Reconciliation with our natural surroundings in the form of learning to live with respect for nature, is a step toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



New Bridge for Pine Ridge Trail Section By Hilda Van Netten

The Ganaraska Trail follows a former railway between the 4th and 5th lines of Hope Township. Most of the trail is pretty well level, but there is one spot where the railway crossed a creek. The old trestle bridge had been taken out years ago and hikers needed to navigate two sagging, slippery cedar logs to get across that creek. There was a 25' horizontal cedar tree *next to the logs* for holding on to. To make matters worse, the trail down to the bridge and up the other side was steep and treacherous.

On December 2, 2022, life got easier for trail hikers and dog walkers. Five Pine Ridge Hiking Club members installed a new 20' bridge a short distance downstream from the old crossing. Both access trails were moved and hand-shovelled to be easier to traverse. Congratulations to Jimmy Edwards, Stan Muldoon, Jay Sherwin, John Ambler and bridge designer, Ted Van Netten.



CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

By Liz Erwin, President

Sue Lee and John Sloan, Club Directors

The Barrie Club has had a successful fall hiking season with many new members coming out to hike. As we enter into the winter season our hikes will be mostly snowshoeing hikes and I am sure that our members are looking forward to attending the snowshoe hikes and keeping fit during the winter months. Our winter hikes will begin in January and continue unto April. We will continue to schedule our hikes on Sundays and Wednesdays and the scheduling on Thursdays well be coordinated by the Orillia Club.

We are continuing to have new members join the Barrie club which is a wonderful asset to our hiking club.

Trail Maintenance is a continuing priority and we are very fortunate to have had many new members join the maintenance team to assist in keeping the trails clean and safe for our hikers. Thank you to those who have joined the team. Best wishes to everyone as we enter the Christmas season. Have a wonderful Holiday season and a Happy new year.



Kawartha

By Stephen Kay, President

It has been wonderful to be hiking with few restrictions and to have had such excellent fall weather. Our attendance at hikes has returned to pre Covid levels and in many cases exceeded that. Thanks go to out to all the Kawartha Club executive and volunteers who keep our club active and engaged.

One of the interesting features of the fall hikes is seeing the extensive damage done by the May 21st storm. With all the leaves gone on trees, it is much easier to see the damage done. In some areas it looks like logging crew has cut a swath of trees along the trails.

The weather has been great for the fall hikes which have been well attended. The fall schedule included a hike or two which were in locations new to the club which were very much enjoyed by the participants.

Nine hikers completed the 2022 GHTA Kawartha Section end to end challenge (almost 80 km) in October. There were some grueling hikes over the spring and summer with bugs and hot humid weather. Our final leg was completed in October on a wonderful fall day. Congratulations to all the hikers who completed this challenge!

We have a full schedule of winter hikes and are hoping for enough snow so that snowshoes will be needed for at least a few of these outings.

Our Facebook Page is being well used by club members and others and is up to 99 followers. Members appreciate being able to access the hike schedule as well as enjoy reading the posts and seeing the picture for our hikes.

Eight KHC members participated in one or more of three trail maintenance days. Twelve long person days of maintenance including driving time, hiking time (to trail to be maintained) and actual maintenance time. About 3.5 km of trail maintenance was completed on Leg #5 as well as minor adjustments to trail markers elsewhere on the trail. The maintained trail includes the most remote 2 km of the trail along the west side of Corben Lake which required a 5 km hike in and 5 km out just to get to it! Work included clearing most deadfall manageable with hand tools, removing branches encroaching on trail or were making markers hard to see, rerouting the trail around large fallen trees, and adding or adjusting trail markers for visibility. This required driving about 80 to 90 km each way (from Peterborough).

Future Trail Maintenance Required:

- Leg #5 - Buller Road (Km 74.0) east and south to north end of the long beaver dam (Km 71.0)
- Leg #4 - Ski Trail Parking Lot (Km 63.6) south to bush trail (Km 59.2)

The club is planning a March AGM/luncheon to elect the 2023/2024 executive.

Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President

Wow!! Can you say "vivid"? What a gorgeous fall. You have to admit, the leaf colouring this year was spectacular and our club members took advantage of it attending our fall hikes. Thanks to our dedicated hike leaders, we were able to schedule two hikes per week; which meant twice the spectacular viewings!



Speaking of members, our membership numbers are on the rise, and it's really great to see all the new faces coming out to join in on the fun! Woo-hoo!

This year, we got a helping hand with trail maintenance, namely in the Glencairn section. We joined forces with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and with our fantastic club volunteers, we managed to clear this trail! It was hard work but we now have a nice trail to enjoy!

And I have to send out a huge thank you to our Mad River member, Barb Yeo, for her substantial donation to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association! Another Woo-Hoo!!! The donation will come in handy for all things "Ganaraska"!

So, here's to a great winter of hiking, snowshoeing and skiing. Hopefully, Santa will be bringing everyone warm hats, mitts, and long underwear so that you can come out and play! See you on the trails.



Midland

By Larry Piitz, President

Now that this Fall's spectacular colour show has ended, the members of the Midland Hiking Club are eagerly looking forward to a Winter of equally enjoyable vistas as we snowshoe through our forest and wetland trails.

Our club continues to grow as we have recently added several new members and are eager to take them on our Winter adventures along with our more seasoned (old??) hikers. A thank you to all of our hike leaders who not only organized our fall adventures (we were not too lost) but have also stepped up once again to put together a Winter Schedule that features a great variety of hikes. We have included both easy snowshoe outings and some more challenging day long outings.

Progress is still being made on closing the gap between the Tay Trail and the Tiny Trail. Hope to report the final closing of that loop soon. See you on the trail.

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very well organized, and I found the mix of hiking with some
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Denise P. (Amalfi 2022)

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Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President

Our fall hikes are well underway as I write this newsletter article. We are so fortunate to have our leaders who contribute so much to the club. Week after week they lead all kinds of hikes – from the Monday morning 1 hour rambles led by Ann Kivinen, to the Tuesday morning 2 hour hikes led by Paul McCreath, to the Thursday hikes led by Orillia or Barrie leaders, to the Saturday hikes led by our faithful eight or so leaders, augmented by “guest” leaders from Barrie. Many thanks to you all and special thanks to our hike coordinator, Leslie Raymond! With such a large number of regular hikes on offer, we have a constant need to develop new leaders, and I’m hopeful that we can do that over the coming season.

Carpooling is gradually coming back following the abatement in Covid restrictions, and this is good for our socialization as well as the environment. We are sensitive to the wishes of those carpooling though, and if desired by participants, riders will wear masks.



Our “stomping” grounds include some of the Simcoe County Forests which have been forested recently. This is part of the ongoing forest management program which has done a brilliant job of sustaining the forests, so we are grateful to be able to use the trails when they are not under logging operations, and respectful of the need to stay away from tracts that are being actively forested. Recently Paul, Tim, and Melina found a new way through the Turnbull Tract after most of the trails in there had been seriously disrupted by logging. Koodos to you three!

Thanks as well to Bob Wilson for directing and doing a lot of our trail maintenance – and that covers 69 km. And finally thanks to all our members who come out and hike – without you there wouldn’t be a point in doing all this! Let’s see more of you out, more often!!!

We aim to have a club meeting early in the new year – so club members stay tuned! Meanwhile, dig those snowshoes out, and check the Google Calendar and the Newsletter listings for upcoming hikes.

One post script – Liz Ritchey, an 86 year old hiker who has hiked with the club for more than 30 years, even after moving to Virginia, when she summered at her Washago cottage. She joined Ann Kivinen's Monday walks this past year – we just learned of her passing. Farewell, Liz.

Oro-Medonte

By Christine Cornu, President

As I write this report it is trying to snow and that puts me in mind of skiing and snowshoeing and hiking in the woods in a winter wonderland!

After the summer we started hiking again with our first hike in the Ardagh Bluffs followed by a corn/wiener roast. Lots of fun and so good to see familiar faces again. Another hike was in the Duntroon area where again we were blessed with beautiful weather. First we hiked to the Kiln and then on the trail to Standing Rock. We climbed through the caves and crevices and felt good afterwards because it gets to be more of a challenge every time we hike there.. 😊



There isn't a more beautiful time to be out hiking! Unfortunately some of our hikes were cancelled because of the weather. We hiked the Trout Hollow Trail in the Meaford area. There were many fishermen standing quietly in the river trying to catch fish for their dinner. A very interesting hike on both sides of the river. There is so much history in that area.

There was a water surge in Copeland Forest creating a major washout of a small section of the Oro-Medonte Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Luckily there was only a tiny section that we needed to re-route. It did not take long for The Ministry of Natural Resources to come to Copeland and fix the road along with the other damage that was done there.

We have completed the winter 2023 schedule. Along with hiking we will snowshoe and cross-country ski. We are planning to have an AGM meeting /pot luck in the spring of 2023.

Our membership numbers are steady but our attendance for Monday hikes has been down this fall. Sunday hikes are still very popular. We have great hike leaders who without them we would not be able to make hiking as successful as it is. I cannot thank these leaders enough. We have some members who have completed their 100 Hikes in a year. Way to go!

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and happy hiking in 2023.

Pine Ridge

By Jay Sherwin, President

*Along the line of smoky hills, the crimson forest stands
And all the day, a blue jay calls, throughout the autumn lands
Indian Summer by William Wilfred Campbell*

Predominantly clear skies, above normal temperatures and spectacular canopies of brilliant-colored trees made the autumn of 2022 a very enjoyable hiking season. Hikes were conducted Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from early September to the end of November. Hikes were generally well attended with numbers ranging from 6 – 25 participants.

During the fall season, volunteers from the PRHC have taken part in work bees to repair the bridge at km 8 on the GHTA trail. The bridge is on private property and the work bees have been organized by the property owner.



Cribbing for the footbridge has been affected by erosion and new cribbing is being constructed.

The Central section of the Ganaraska Forest remains closed at the time of writing of this report. No date has been set for reopening of the Central Forest as work to remove trees damaged by the derecho windstorm that occurred in May has not yet been completed. The area affected is from km 31.1 to km 39.7. PRHC volunteers have blazed a bypass trail past this closed section. The bypass trail follows Municipality of Port Hope 10th line road allowance west from km 31.1 to the Coldsprings Road and then north on Coldsprings Road to km 39.7. The bypass is marked with blue blazing.

Highlights of the fall hiking schedule were a tour of the Black Oak Savanna at Alderville led by the savanna restoration program coordinator and a social gathering for chilli and cider following one of the hikes in early November.

Several club members spent four days from October 18 – 21 hiking in Frontenac Park. Although the weather during that period was less than ideal for hiking, those who took part made the best of it and enjoyed the experience so much, that most have booked themselves in for another expedition in October 2023.

A photo exhibit Through the Hikers Lens was on display at the Port Hope Public Library from November 19th to December 4th. The exhibit featured photographs taken by PRHC members on hiking excursions locally and from around the globe.

The PRHC Annual General Meeting was held Saturday December 3rd. The guest speaker at the AGM was Chief Dave Mowatt of the Alderville First Nation.

The hiking schedule for the winter will be Saturdays and Sundays throughout January and February and Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in March.

Wasaga Beach

By Lorraine van Vlymen, Acting President

We had a very busy hiking schedule this fall. Wasaga Beach Club continues to offer a range of hikes from challenging to easy each week. Our regular Wednesday morning hikes are usually moderate in difficulty and range from 1.5 to 2 hours with most hikes focused on Wasaga Beach's wonderful landscapes, the beach, the forest and dunes of the provincial park, various creek and wetland areas as well as the river. A few hikes are very challenging and in the 2 plus hour range. We also have weekly ambler hikes, for those seeking an easier pace and shorter hike in the local area. Hikes are led by a number of leaders, some of which have taken training in hike leadership or first aid. Thanks to all our current hike leaders, Bill, Sarina, Irene, Candy, Phil, Bridget, John, Gord, and Brigitte. Keep up the good work. Your dedication and enthusiasm inspires everyone. We are already talking about club plans for the new year. Snowshoe hikes will commence shortly and this year we offer some longer hikes in new locations which will be quite exciting.

We started to get back to some social activities this fall with participation in the Wasaga Beach Santa Claus Parade. It is always a lot of fun to spread our healthy hiking message and to connect to the community. We had great coverage on the local news. We also had a Christmas lunch which was well attended by the membership. This was beautifully organized by Sarina and Ellie. Thank you to the organizers for putting both events together.



I will continue my work on expanding the executive into the new year. Unfortunately, the Wasaga Beach Club currently has a very lean executive, with myself as acting president and Jenny Schimmel as treasurer and membership lead. In the meantime, we will continue to offer the diversity of hiking opportunities that the members appreciate.

Wilderness

By Rob Halupka – President

Wilderness hiking activity took off with the arrival of cooler temperatures and autumn colours in the fall season. Kudos to all the hike leaders, and special mention goes to Cara Oleksuk and her popular "Grub & Pub" series of hikes. Congrats to Jeremy Graham and Alex Cebynski for completing Certified Hike Leader and First Aid/CPR/AED training.

The End-to-End crew led by Neil Runnalls and Dan Myall continued their bimonthly hikes, to date having completed the Pine Ridge, Kawartha, Wilderness and Orillia sections of the Gananaska Trail. The team has moved on to the Barrie section and expect to put the finishing touches on their E2E journey by June of 2023.

On Sept 21st, Carolyn Humphreys launched our first ever on-line overnight hiking clinic with a panel of experts featuring Park Biologist Phil Careless and Wilderness members Jacquie Van Dyke and Lisa Boulay. The primary objective was to help hikers prepare for the challenging "cross-over" hike from Victoria Bridge to Devil's Lake trailhead. Feedback from about 30 attendees was very favourable. Thanks to Charleyne Hall for behind-the-scenes support on the Zoom call.

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the popular annual Hike Haliburton event returned with a flourish in September. The Wilderness Club contributed by organizing "An Audience with the Queen" hike from Moore Falls to Devil's Lake trailhead along the Queen's Corridor on Sept 24th, with Rob Halupka as hike leader and Carolyn as Sweep.

Two guided Wilderness groups tackled the iconic and challenging "Cross-Over" hike this fall, including a crew of eight led by Vladimir Jonak & Rob on Sept 28/29/30 and the E2E group of nine guided by Neil, Carolyn & Dan on Oct 1/2/3. It is noteworthy that these folks represent a broad diversity of hikers some of whom had never camped overnight before, yet they all prevailed and completed the trek in high spirits. Both teams hiked from Victoria Falls on the west to Devil's Lake trailhead



on the east over three days and two nights, enjoying glorious warm (+15 degrees) blue sky weather by day while coping with sub-zero temperatures at night. Trail conditions were generally good, although it was necessary to run a reroute around the blown-out beaver dam opposite campsite #12. Congratulations go to intrepid first time cross-over hikers Annie Bruggers, Chris Webster, Diane Atkins, Kate Kostandoff, Maria Romme and Ruth Patterson in the first group, and to Ahmed Mukhi, Cita Wong, Galina Szapleti, Laura DeRae, Marie Thomas and Teri Tworzyanski in the second E2E group...including hike leader Neil. Three cheers for Teri who has now completed the entire Gananaska Trail! Don't miss Kate's special article and Ruth's epic poem describing their experiences on the cross-over hike in this newsletter.

Trail maintenance was conducted at both the eastern and western sections of QEII, with Cara, Carolyn, Charleyne, Laura Foglia, Mary Hosick, Derek Cox, Iaroslav Strasevici wielding scythes, loppers, paint brushes and

hammers to spruce up our trails. In late October, Vlad, Steve Broomfield and Rob went on an overnight hiking mission at the west end of QEII to lay out a 1km bypass necessitated by the blown beaver dam; maps will need to be updated to reflect the altered route. The planned float plane trip to fly a team of four volunteers to Wolf Lake for much-needed trail maintenance in the interior of QEII was cancelled due to unfavourable weather and will be rescheduled to next year. Also, reblazing of the High Falls loop (from white to blue) was not completed this year and so will be deferred to 2023.

On Nov 9th, Ontario Parks staff Leith Slykhuis, Phil Careless and Glynn Richardson assisted by Carolyn and her helpful neighbour Stuart Simpson pulled the floating bridge from Montgomery Creek and heaved it up onto the far bank, safely out of reach of ice and high water for the winter season.

Rob and Carolyn met with Park Superintendent Mike Cappello and Assistant Park Superintendent Jennifer Mizell on Nov 10th. Mike and Jennifer started their new positions this spring and we were pleased to meet with them, renew our connections and discuss topics of mutual interest.

The Wilderness Club's Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 22nd, 2023.

The Crossing of Beaver Dams

after Robert W. Service

By Ruth Patterson

There are strange things done in the name of fun
But the strangest of them all
Was the "Crossover Hike"—you've not seen the like—
That eight troopers completed this fall!
Led by Rob and Vlad, twin engines they had,
Joined by Annie, Maria and Kate.
Diane and Christine were both super keen
And Ruth was their last hiking mate.

On the Ganaraska Trail, many a hiker has failed to tackle this Wilderness part
But these ones were tough and crazy enough: "These obstacles we'll outsmart!"
"Pack light", said Vlad. "Or you'll be very sad, when you hoist that "beast" on your back!
You'll see that I'm right, as deep in the night, sore muscles your sleep will attack!"

They weighed each damn pack, stuffed dried food in a sack (to hang in a tree far from bear!)
"Don't worry!" said Rob, "It's part of my job, to keep you away from its' lair"
That first fall day, while bushwhacking away, they encountered their first rushing river.
"Just jump!" Vlad said. One by one, they were led through the marshes and swamps of the beaver.



That first night, some froze from their nose to their toes; it seemed nothing could keep out the chill.

Kate woke up in the night and gave Di such a fright: “I can’t do this!!” Di said: “Yes, you will!!” Some were so well prepared, they weren’t even scared when the temperature dipped below zero.

Others shivered and quaked and questioned their fate, while Rob’s Scotch nips made him a hero.



The sky was so bright that—by moon and starlight—Chris left her tent for a stroll.

In the first rays of dawn, her eyes darkly shone: “23 dams remains our goal!”

Lack of sleep made them haggard, but not one was a laggard—Maria/Annie were always ahead.

They clicked poles together, in morn’s frosty weather: “38 K, we’ll do it!” was said.



Vlad said “You’re too slow, we’ve a long way to go! Could you pick up the pace just a bit?”

They sang songs and they tried, but those “beasts” broke their stride: though exhausted, they vowed ne’er to quit.

Their eyes did behold orange, yellow and gold—leaves and trees, bluebird skies and some geese.

To keep their hearts light on that last frigid night, Rob told jokes and all were at peace.



Just like Sam McGee, they all yearned to be free of the cold and the cramps and the damp.

But the thunderbox was high, almost up to the sky; so upwards they still had to tramp.

Second night, no-one froze. Some slept in their clothes: warm gloves, down jackets, wool hats.

Tylenol pills soothed all aches and ills –for those without warm sleeping mats.

These hikers yawned, as the last day dawned, but ahead was just one more feat...
More magical bogs, fens and beaver dam logs to conquer in late summer's heat.
They had to be wheedled to thread the needle, climbing cliff tops with birches entwined;
Popped out on the road, now divested of loads, this team left but memories behind.



There are strange things done in the name of fun,
But the strangest of them all
Was the “Crossover Hike”—you’ve not seen the like—
That eight troopers completed this fall!
Led by Rob and Vlad, twin engines they had,
Joined by Annie, Maria and Kate.
Diane and Christine were both super keen
And Ruth was their last hiking mate.

Note: The phrase “There are strange things done” comes from the iconic Canadian poem “The Cremation of Sam McGee” by Robert W. Service



Elevate your adventure.

Let's hike in 2023!

- Banff Hiking**
8 Days – July, August
- Hike P.E.I.**
8 Days – June, July, September
- Newfoundland Hiking East**
8 Days – August
- Newfoundland Hiking West**
8 Days – July
- Québec Eastern Townships**
7 Days – September
- Saguenay Hiking**
8 Days – August
- Sneak Peak**
- Nfld East Coast Trail**
6 Days – July
- Sault Ste. Marie**
6 Days – August, September
- Alaska Hiking**
13 Days – May

We combine real hiking, cultural experiences, and comfortable accommodations with transportation logistics taken care of.

Be sure to join our e-newsletter and stay up-to-date on all things hiking!

For more information, contact your local travel professional, call **1-888-716-5523** or visit **deluxehiking.com**.

DeLuxeHiking.com
Ready for Adventure

Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2023, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.



DIFFICULTY RATING FOR HIKES

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Easy	Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots and poles optional. Suitable for beginners.
Moderate	Generally on trail. May be hilly, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots and poles recommended.
Difficult	Rough terrain. May include bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock scrambling. Boots and poles essential, and a high level of fitness. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

WINTER 2023 HIKE SCHEDULES

Hiker's Code

- Respect private property
- Stay on the trail
- Cross fences using stiles
- Carry out all garbage
- Walk around the edge of fields
- Protect wildlife, trees and shrubs
- Never strip bark from trees
- When hiking on the trail on your own, keep dogs on a leash near farms and where required by law
- Dogs are NOT permitted on group hikes unless otherwise specified

This information is current as per newsletter publication. Please check with the hike leader, or see the updated hike information on the Google Calendar, registration apps, or email information from your local club closer to the time of the planned hike.

All GHTA members are encouraged to take part in any of the hikes, regardless of which club they belong to. The club which is organizing the hike is listed under the date of that hike. Call the leader if the weather is at all questionable in case the outing has been cancelled. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring snacks/drink/lunch. See the hike rating chart on the prior page.

Important Notice: Unpaid volunteers conduct events. Anyone participating in these events, or making use of the trail in any way, does so at their own risk. The Wilderness section should only be hiked with an approved Ganaraska Hiking Trail leader.

COVID-19 Protocol and Tips - Effective March 11, 2022

- Vaccines are no longer mandated;
- Hikes are available to non-members, with the requirement that they complete the GHTA Inc. waiver every time they hike.

COVID is still present and still a possible threat, albeit less life-threatening than 2 years ago – so if someone is not well, it is expected that they will not attend a hike.

BARRIE HIKES

The Barrie Club hikes are scheduled on Sundays and Wednesdays until the end of April. Thursday hikes are scheduled with the Orillia Hiking Club and these schedules will be on the GHTA Calendar.

If a hike has to be cancelled due to weather warnings or other issues, this will be posted on the GHTA website calendar by 7:30 am the day of the hike. All scheduled hikes listed below will also be posted on the GHTA website calendar and will contain much more detailed and important information regarding each hike. Therefore, please check the calendar to obtain important information and to also check for any hikes that may be added. The times listed are hike start times, please arrive early 15 – 10 minutes prior to the start time and be ready to hike.

Wednesday Jan. 4th. Ardagh Bluffs. Moderate hike. Approximately 2-hour hike. Meet at 10 am in the parking lot at the Peggy Hill Community Centre (formerly known as the Holly Rec Centre). Contact Tanya MacLean at (705) 716-1899 to register.

Sunday Jan. 8th. Ganaraska trails off Gill Rd. Moderate hike. Approximately 3;3.5 hours. Meet at 10 am at Gill Road parking lot. Please John Rudnickas at 416 248-1690 (phone or text)

Wednesday Jan. 11th. Snowshoe in Simcoe County Forest. Meet behind the County building on Hwy 26 at 10am. Moderate hike for 2 hours. Contact Shelagh Blenkarn at shelaghb@rogers.com

Sunday Jan. 15th. Copeland Forest (P2). Moderate snowshoe hike approximately 4 hours. Meet at 10 am Copeland Forest P2 parking lot (from Breen's Lumber on Ingram Road). Contact John Sloan by phone or text at 705-715-6994

Wednesday Jan. 18th Hickling tract. Moderate hike. Meet at 10 am at Hickling recreational trail parking lot on Snow Valley Road. Contact John Rudnickas 416 248-1690 (phone or text),

Sunday Jan. 22nd Off trail snowshoe through Kolapore Uplands. Meet at 9:30 am at the Leaders cottage. Address to be sent to registered hikes. Please register with Gary Norton by calling or texting at (416) 918-5050

Wednesday Jan. 25. Snowshoe Drury Tract. Easy terrain, 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Meet at the commuter parking lot at Hwy 400 and Hwy 93 at 10 am. Contact Shelagh Blenkarn at shelaghb@rogers.com

Wednesday Feb. 1 Ardagh Bluffs. Meet at 10 am at Peggy Hill Community Centre. Moderate Hike. Contact Tony Peckham at tonypeckham@hotmail.com

Sunday Feb. 5th Museum Tract and Springwater Park. Easy hike approximately 3-3.5 hours. Meet at 10 am at far end of Simcoe County Museum parking lot. Contact John Rudnickas 416 248-1690 (phone or text).

Wednesday Feb. 8th Long snowshoe hike through the Kolapore Uplands of the Bruce trail. Meet at 9:30 at Kolapore parking lot. Preregister with Gary Norton by calling or texting at (416) 918-5050

Sunday Feb. 12th Pinegrove Road towards Minesing Wetlands. Moderate hike. Meet at 10am. Contact John Sloan by phone or text at 705-715-6994

Wednesday Feb. 15th Gary Moderate snowshoe of about 12 K. Members only. To preregister or ask questions please contact Gary Norton by calling or texting at (416) 918-5050.

Sunday Feb. 19 Old Second South. Moderate hike. Meet at 10 am at Old Second South parking lot south of Horseshoe Valley Road. Contact Tony Peckham at tonypeckham@hotmail.com.

Wednesday Feb. 22nd. Ganaraska and local trails in Midhurst. Moderate hike 1.5 to 2 hours. Meet at 10 am at Midhurst Community Centre on Doran Road. Contact John Rudnickas 416 248-1690 (phone or text)

Sunday Feb. 26th Copeland Forest P5. Moderate snowshoe approximately 4 hours. Meet at 10 am at Copeland Forest P5 parking lot. Contact John Sloan by calling or texting at 705-715-6994

Wednesday Mar. 1st Snowshoe Simcoe County Forest. Moderate hike for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Meet behind the Simcoe County Building on Hwy 26 at 10 am. Contact Shelagh Blenkarn at shelaghb@rogers.com

Sunday Mar. 5, Awenda Provincial Park. Moderate trail combining Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing. Meet at 9 am behind the Canadian Tire Store on Bayfield Street to carpool. Contact Tony Peckham at tonypeckham@hotmail.com.

Wednesday Mar. 8th Museum tract and Springwater Park. Easy hike, 1.5-2 hours. Meet at 10 am at the far end of the Simcoe County Museum parking lot. Contact John Rudnickas by phone or text at 416 248 1690.

Sunday Mar.12 Simcoe County Forest - Bass Lake Sideroad and Line 7N
Moderate hike or snowshoe approximately 4 hours. Meet at 10 am from the logging parking lot at 100 Bass Lake Sideroad (north side). Contact John Sloan by text or calling at 705-715-6994

Wednesday Mar. 15th Ganaraska trail between the 8th and 9th lines. Moderate hike. Meet at 10 am at the parking lot off of line 8. Contact Tony Peckham at tonypeckham@hotmail.com

Sunday Mar. 19th Museum and Hickling tracts. Moderate hike 3-3.5 hrs. Meet at 10 am at Simcoe County Museum Parking lot. Snowshoes or icers depending on conditions. Phone or text John Rudnickas at 416 248 1690.

Wednesday Mar. 22nd. 9 Mile Portage through Fort willow. Easy hike. Meet at 10 am at parking lot on west side of George Johnston Rd opposite Seadon Rd. Contact Tony Peckham at tonypeckham@hotmail.com

Sunday Mar. 26th Simcoe County Forest between Lines 8 & 9 in Oro-Medonte. **Moderate** hike or snowshoe approximately 3.5 hours. Meet at 10 am at

County Forest parking lot on Line 8N. Contact John Sloan 705-715-6994 (call or text)

Wednesday Mar. 29th Tiny Marsh. Easy hike. Meet at 10 am 500 Tiny Flos Townline parking lot. Contact Tony Peckham at tonepeckham@hotmail.com

Sunday April 2nd Gananaska trail northwest of Hwy 26 and CR27. Moderate hike 3-3.5 hours. Meet at 10 am at the Simcoe County District School Board parking lot on the north side of Hwy 26 west of CR27. Contact: John Rudnickas 416 248-1690 (phone or text)

Wednesday April 12th Simcoe County Forest, Midhurst. Approximately 2-hour easy hike. Meet at 10 am in the NE parking lot of the Simcoe County School Board Building. Contact Tanya MacLean at 705-716-1899 to preregister.

Sunday April 16th Moderate uphill walk on the Bruce Trail Pretty River. Meet at 9:30 at the Snow drifters parking lot on the pretty river Valley Road. Please reregister with Gary Norton by phone or test at (416) 918=5050.

Wednesday April 19th GHATA trail off Gill Rd. Moderate hike for 1.5-2hours. Meet at 10 am at the parking area west off Gill Rd. Contact John Rudnickas at 416 248-1690 by phone or text.

Sunday April 23 Simcoe County Forest between Lines 8 & 7 in Oro Medonte. Moderate hike or snowshoe approximately 3-3.5 hours. Meet at 10 am at Simcoe County Forest parking lot on Line 8N. Contact John Sloan 705-715-6994 (call or text).

Wednesday Aril 26th 7th of Oro and the Bass Lake Road. 2 hours easy hike. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of the Bass Lake Road just pass the 7th of Oro. Contact Shelagh Blenkarn at shelaghb@rogers.com

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

- Wednesday hikes are usually 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km.
- Weekend hikes are 3-4 hrs/10-12 km (sometimes longer) and usually include a lunch stop.
- Contact the named hike leader for more info. Back-up contacts are:
 - Wednesday Hikes: Janice 705-874-0194
 - Weekend Hikes: Richard 705-750-1040

Wednesday, January 4; Warsaw Caves <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Slade at 705-875-1099

Saturday, January 7; Peterborough North End Rail Trails <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, January 11; Lakefield Area <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, January 14; Northumberland County Forest - Woodland Trails <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 9-12 km; Contact Slade at 705-875-1099

Wednesday, January 18; Emerald Isle <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Mary at 705-292-8776

Saturday, January 21; Hogsback Trail/Windy Ridge CA <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 9-12 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, January 25; Young's Point CA <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Saturday, January 28; Millbrook Valley Trails <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Wednesday, February 1; Bridgenorth Trail <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Sharleen at 705-243-1265

Saturday, February 4; Peter's Woods PP <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 8 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, February 8; Neighbourhood Woods + Jackson Creek Trail <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, February 11; Long Sault CA <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Slade at 705-875-1099

Wednesday, February 15; East City Historical Walk <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Ken at 705-745-9043

Saturday, February 18; John Earle Chase Property <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 8-10 km; Contact: George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, February 22; Lakefield Woods <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Saturday, February 25; Peterborough Wilderness <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 10-14 km; Contact Marjorie at 705-761-8895

Wednesday, March 1; Jackson Creek Side Trails <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, March 4; Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, March 8; Peterborough South End <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Marjorie at 705-761-8895

Saturday, March 11; Trans Canada Trail - Hastings Area (west) <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 11 km; Contact: Slade at 705-875-1099

Wednesday, March 15; Little Lake Circuit + AGM <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, March 18; Ferris PP <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 8-12 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, March 22; Buckhorn <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 7 km; Contact Karin at 705-657-8056

Saturday, March 25; Durham East Cross Forest <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Wednesday, March 29; Parkway Trail <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Saturday, April 1; Bewdley Area Ramble <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 12-14 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, April 5; Christie Bentham Wetlands <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 5-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, April 8; Easter Weekend - no hike

Wednesday, April 12; Rotary Trail <Easy> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Barb J at 705-957-1825

Saturday, April 15; GHT Kawartha Leg #1 <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 15 km; Contact Slade at 705-875-1099

Wednesday, April 19; East City & North to Trent Woods <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Roxanne at 705-652-1292

Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day); To Be Determined Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, April 26; John Earle Chase Memorial Forest <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Gord at 705-657-8056

Saturday, April 29; GHT Pine Ridge Section Leg #1 <Moderate> 10:00 a.m.; 13 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

MAD RIVER HIKES

In the event that a hike is to be cancelled due to inclement weather, those registered will be contacted by the hike leader prior to 8 a.m. on the day of the hike.

For additional hikes/updates and current information, please refer to the Google Calendar on the Ganaraska Website. Our fun hikes will keep everyone warm and toasty on a cold winter's day. Bring your snacks, lunch, icers, snowshoes, poles and smiles.

Saturday, January 7th: Glen Huron Apple Orchard Snowshoe, 55 Station St. Clearview, 10 a.m. Moderate. 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Tuesday, January 10th: Springwater Provincial Park. Parking at Simcoe County Museum, 10 a.m. Moderate, 3 hrs. CONTACT: Brenda McDonald 905-724-0128

Saturday, January 14th: Ardagh Bluffs, 171 Mapleton Ave, Barrie, Holly Rec Centre. 10 a.m., Moderate. CONTACT: Pat and Pierre; 705-331-1527

Tuesday, January 17th: Balsam Wetlands; Bruce Trail parking lot, County road 91, 850 m west of Concession 10. We hike along pine forest and return; distance 10 km. Terrain: Moderate. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Saturday, January 21st: 10 a.m. Easy to moderate. Snow shoe / Cross Country Skiing @ Laking Woods, 6936 Concession Rd 2, Lisle. Heated cabin, outdoor wood stove, marked trails throughout the 100 acres. Parking outside the gate is available just off of the curve where Concession 2 ends & turns to the 17th Side Road. There is room for about 10 cars so car pooling is encouraged. Bring lunch. CONTACT: Lana and Don 705-730-5686

Tuesday, January 24th: Dunedin Valley Nature Preserve. 6/7 sideroad, concession 10, Dunedin. Mixed terrain and a variety of habitats. 10 a.m. Moderate. 6 km. CONTACT: Catherine Trembling. 416-655-2021

Saturday, January 28th: Big Chute/Pretty Channel. 10 a.m. Moderate to difficult. 8-10 km. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Tuesday, January 31st: Simcoe County Forest, Midhurst. 10 a.m. Moderate. CONTACT: Brenda McDonald. 705-724-0128

Saturday, February 4th: 9-Mile Portage to Fort Willow, George Johnson and Seadon Roads. 10 a.m. Easy. 10 km. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Tuesday, February 7th: Singhampton Caves/Standing Rock. 10 a.m. Moderate. 10 km. CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil 647-203-7565

Saturday, February 11th: Awenda Provincial Park. Snowshoe in the park with hopefully a warm shelter for lunch. There is a per-car entrance fee, so carpooling is recommended. 10 a.m. Easy. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Tuesday, February 14th: John Haigh Side Trail: Loop hike with great views. Gibraltar, 2nd line and 6th sideroad. CONTACT: Catherine Trembling. 416-655-2021

Saturday, February 18th: Simcoe County Forest, Midhurst. Moderate. 10 a.m. 3 hrs. CONTACT: Brenda MacDonald 905-724-0128

Tuesday, February 21st: New Lowell Conservation Cty Forest. 2894 Hogback Road. Moderate. 2-3 hours. Loop hike through forest and trail. CONTACT: Sharon - 705-351-1571

Saturday, February 25th: Lavender Noisy River. 10 a.m. Moderate. 13 km. CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil 647-203-7565

Tuesday, February 28th: Black Ash Creek to Shipyards Berm. 10 a.m. Easy, 11 km. Start Collingwood Home Hardware and hike to Black Ash Creek climbing the berm with a view of the town. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Saturday, March 4th: Kolapore Uplands. 10 a.m. Moderate. 6 km Loop trail near Blue Mountains. CONTACT: Catherine Trembling. 416-655-2021

Tuesday, March 7th: Springwater Provincial Park: Parking at Simcoe County Museum, 10 a.m. Moderate, 3 hrs. CONTACT: Brenda McDonald 905-724-0128

Saturday, March 11th: Glen Huron/Nottawasaga Bluffs Loop. 10 a.m. Moderate. 14 km. Start at Glen Huron, Station Street heading to Devils Glen trail and Ganaraska Trail. CONTACT: David Little. 705-606-1077

Tuesday, March 14th: Wasaga Beach/Notty River. NOTE: 10:30 A.M. Easy with some hills. 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Saturday, March 18th: Lavender Noisy River. 10 a.m. Moderate. 13 km. CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil 647-203-7565

Tuesday, March 21st: Mono Cliffs. 10 a.m., Parking behind Recreational Centre. Varied terrain with great views. Moderate - 10 km. CONTACT: Catherine Trembling. 416-655-2021

Saturday, March 25th: Tiny Marsh. 10 a.m. Easy. 2-3 hours. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Tuesday, March 28th: Singhampton Caves/Standing Rock 10 a.m. Moderate. 10 km. CONTACT: Anhong MacNeil 647-203-7565

Saturday, April 1st: Monument Hill, Wasaga Beach. 10 a.m. We start at 2300 Klondike Park Road and hike this loop over cross-country ski trails. Moderate 9 km. CONTACT: David Little 705-606-1077

Tuesday, April 4th: Big Chute/Pretty Channel. 10 a.m. Moderate to difficult. 8-10 km. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

Saturday, April 8th: Simcoe County Forest, Midhurst. Moderate, 3 hrs. CONTACT: Brenda MacDonald 905-724-0128

Tuesday, April 11th: 1449 Old 2nd South. 10 a.m. Moderate 9 km. CONTACT: Sharon 705-351-1571

MIDLAND HIKES

Wednesday

Local Wednesday hikes will continue throughout the winter on our usual routine.

Meet 1:00PM at Food Basics for a 2 hr. local hike. Locations will be decided based on weather and trail conditions. Notifications will be sent out only if there is a change such as a longer hike or cancelation. Bike and paddle groups will be back in the spring!

Jan 7/23 (Sat.) Scout Valley 10:00AM Easy – Moderate. Meet Tim Horton's Westridge Orillia or Food Basics 9:30 AM. Contact Kim 705-828-2033

Jan 14/23 (Sat.) Copeland Forest 10:00AM Easy-Moderate. Contact Frieda 705-245-1005

Jan 15/23 (Sun) Flos Conc. 7 1:00PM Easy Moderate Meet Food Basics Midland. Contact Marc 705-527-1967

Jan 21/23 (Sat) Laking Woodlot – Lisle 8:45 AM Easy Moderate. This is a joint outing with the Mad River Club Full day. Bring Lunch. Contact Frieda 705-245-1005

Jan 28/23 (Sat) Methodist Point 1:00PM Moderate Contact Rose 705-321-0747

Feb 4/23 This week is our annual Killbear Lodge trip. At this time there are still openings for the lodge and you will be given an opportunity to fill these. Local hike TBD.

Feb 11/23 (Sat) Matchedash Conservation Area 1:15 PM Easy Moderate 1309 Lawson Line Coldwater or Food Basics 12:45 Contact Kim 705-828-2033

Feb 19/23 (Sun) Simcoe County Forest Conc. 6 Tiny 1:00PM Easy Contact Rose 705-321-0747

Feb 25/23 (Sat) Pretty Channel 10:00 AM Moderate Contact Frieda 705-245-1005 Bring Lunch

March 4/23 (Sat) Minesing Swamp – Angus 10:00 AM Moderate Contact Frieda 705-245-1005 Bring Lunch

March 5/23 (Sun) Keewatin Harbour 1:00PM Easy
Contact Edda 705-427-3460

March 11/23 (Sat) Breedon Tract-Oro Moraine 1:15 PM Moderate Meet Parking lot Line 8 Oro-Medonte near Old Barrie Rd Or Food Basics 12:45 Contact Joe 705-279-1518

March 18/23 (Sat) Tiny Beaches Ice Formations 1:00PM Easy Contact Edda 705-427-3460

March 19/23 (Sun) Orr Lake 1:00PM Easy Moderate Contact Marc 705-527-1967

March 25/23 (Sat) Dorion Forest 1:00 PM Easy Moderate Contact Larry 705-529-9141

April 2/23 (Sun) Machadash Bay 1:00PM Easy Contact Marc 705-527-1967

April 8/23 (Sat) Kettles Lake 1:00 PM Easy Contact Rose 705-321-0747

April 15/23 (Sat) Tay Point Midland 1:00PM Easy Contact Edda 705-427 3460

April 22/23 (Sun) Long Falls 10:00 AM Moderate-Difficult Contact Larry 705-529-9141 Bring Lunch

April 29/23 (Sat) 9 Mile Portage and Lookout Barrie 10:00AM Moderate Contact Frieda 507-245-1005

ORILLIA HIKES

A frequent meeting place is Willow Court Plaza, 575 West St S and Hwy 12 S; we meet, carpool and leave cars at the far end, beyond The Learning Centre. Another meeting spot is Orillia Square Mall, parking in the side lot of Dollar Tree. Often, alternate meeting places are offered closer to the trailhead, for those coming from other directions. Once the risk of COVID transmission is minimal, carpooling is strongly encouraged as the environmentally responsible mode of travel.

Pre-registration is required: notify the hike leader where you plan to meet and leave a phone number and emergency contact. Please arrive a few minutes before the time stated. For more information, contact Isabelle at 705-326-8082. Check the Google Calendar

on the Ganaraska website for updates and new listings. Happy Hiking!

EVERY TUESDAY <EASY> 2 hr Local Hike 9:00 am (usually): Meeting place is usually Willow Court. Monday evening, must contact: Paul 705-325-6001 (in case of weather-related change in plans)

Thursday Jan 5; Bass Lake Sideroad East <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 705-790-3598 (text or call)

Saturday, Jan 7; 8th Line N Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe 3 hours. Contact Mary rmwilson23@hotmail.ca

Thursday Jan 12; Bass Lake Sideroad, Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday, Jan 14; Woods Tract <EASY> 1:00 pm; snowshoe 2 hours. Contact Isabelle 705-326-8082

Thursday Jan 19; Old Second S. <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Tito at 416-624-0133

Saturday Jan 21; Slessor Tract <EASY> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 2.5 - 3 hours. Contact Fern at 705-619-2952

Thursday Jan 26; Bass Lake Sideroad, Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday, Jan 28; Bracebridge <MODERATE> 9:00 am; snowshoe or X-country ski for 4 hours. Contact Isobel for snowshoe 705-325-6578 or Carol for ski 705-325-1065

Thursday Feb 2; Springwater Park (Museum parking) <EASY> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Alana at 705-796-0732 (text or call)

Saturday, Feb 4; 8th Line N Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe 3 hours. Contact Mary rmwilson23@hotmail.ca

Thursday Feb 9; Hardy Lake <MODERATE> 9:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday, Feb 11; Awenda <MODERATE> 9:00 am; snowshoe or X-country ski for 4 hours. Contact Isobel for snowshoe 705-325-6578 or Carol for ski 705-325-1065

Thursday Feb 16; TBD

Saturday, Feb 18; Bass Lake Sideroad E, Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Diane at 705-241-7735

Thursday Feb 23; McCrae Lake <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday, Feb 25; Bass Lake PP <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe or X-country ski for 4 hours. Contact Isobel for snowshoe 705-325-6578 or Carol for ski 705-325-1065

Thursday Mar 2; Simcoe County Forest (Education Centre) <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3/12 - 4 hours. Contact Alana at 705-796-0732 (text or call)

Saturday, Mar 4; 8th Line N Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe 3 hours. Contact Mary rmwilson23@hotmail.ca

Thursday Mar 9; Coopers Falls <MODERATE-DIFFICULT> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Diane at 705-241-7735

Saturday Mar 11; TBD

Thursday Mar 16; TBD

Saturday, March 18; 8th Line N Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe 3 - 4 hours. Contact Carol 705-325-1065

Thursday Mar 23; Copeland Forest, P5 <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday Mar 25; TBD

Thursday Mar 30; TBD

Saturday, April 1; Copeland Oro <EASY-MODERATE> 9:30 am; hike 3 - 4 hours. Contact Carol 705-325-1065

Thursday Apr 6; Old Second S. <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Alana at 705-796-0732 (text or call)

Saturday April 8; TBD

Thursday Apr 13; Bass Lake Sideroad Oro <MODERATE> 10:00 am; snowshoe/hike 3 1/2 - 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Thursday April 20; TBD

Saturday April 22; TBD

Thursday Apr 27; Old Second South <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike 4 hours. Contact Leslie at lraymond@rogers.com or 790-3598

Saturday April 29; TBD

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Sunday, Jan 8; Wilkins Walk<EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours. Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Kim 705-721-0502

Monday, Jan 16; Penetanguishene Waterfront Trail<EASY>meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 3-4 hours; bring lunch. Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Holly 705-345-7913

Sunday, Jan 22; Midhurst<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours. Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

Monday, Jan 30; Awenda Provincial Park<MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; bring lunch; park fee; cross country skiing in the morning, snowshoeing in the afternoon; 3-4 hours. Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, Feb 5; Scout Valley<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours. Contact Pat or Pierre 705-733-2078

Monday, Feb 13; Wasaga Nordic & Trail Centre<MODERATE-EASY>10:00 am; 3-4 hours; ski or snowshoe; bring lunch; park fee; Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Kim 705-721-0502

Sunday, Feb 19; Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

Monday, Feb 27; Bracebridge Resource Management Centre<MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; cross country ski 4 hours; Contact Pat or Pierre 705-733-2078

Monday, Mar 6; Potluck Supper and Moonlight Snowshoe<EASY>5:30 pm; Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Holly 705-345-7913 by Saturday March 4

Sunday, Mar 12; Line 7 and Bass Lake Road<MODERATE>1:30 pm; snowshoe 2 hours; Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Wayne 705-718-0143

Monday, Mar 20; Earl Rowe Circle Trail<MODERATE>meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 3-4 hours; bring lunch; Contact Pat or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, Mar 26; Tiffin Conservation Area>MODERATE-EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, Apr 3; Muskoka Waterfalls Tour<EASY>meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; 3-4 hours; some walking; bring lunch; Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Wayne 705-718-0143

Sunday, Apr 16; Tiny Marsh<EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Holly 705-345-7913

Monday, Apr 24; Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper; 5:30; Bring own plate, cutlery, mug and a main course, salad or dessert to feed 8. Supper at 5:30, business meeting, guest speaker – Joseph Cinanni,(history of Fort Willow and 9 mile Portage); Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, Apr 30; Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

PINE RIDGE HIKES

Hikers Should Arrive At Least 10 Minutes Before the Advertised Hike Departure Time. Please check our [website](#) for more hike details.

Saturday, Jan 07, Crossen Rd <MODERATE PLUS> 11 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895

Sunday, Jan 08, Northumberland Forest <MODERATE> 10 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jodi at 905-269-5932

Saturday, Jan 14, Rural Port Hope <EASY> 12 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot Contact Bill at 905-207-2399

Sunday, Jan 15, Canton area <MODERATE> 8.6 km. Meet and park on the 4th Line east of the former Canton United Church Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395

Saturday, Jan 21, Cornish Hollow <EASY> 8 km Out and back hike. 9:30 am Meet and park on Cornish Hollow Rd near Dale Rd. Contact Jan at 905-375-8188

Sunday, Jan 22, Harwood Rd <MODERATE > 11.4 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at the Ball's Mill parking lot on Harwood Rd. (about 0.6 km north of Hwy 45). Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Saturday, Jan 28, McColl farm area. <EASY> 5 km. Further details near the hike date. Contact Jim 905-436-2499

Sunday, Jan 29, Creighton's Hill <MODERATE PLUS> 12 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

Saturday, Feb 04, Bewdley area South <EASY> 8.5 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot. Contact Bill at 905-207-2399

Sunday, Feb 05, Eastern Area of Rural Port Hope <MODERATE> 11.5 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot Contact Susan at 289-251-3125

Saturday, Feb 11, Racetrack Rd area <EASY> 7.5 km. 9:30 am meet and park on Racetrack Rd near Dale Rd. Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395

Sunday, Feb 12, Camborne area <MODERATE> 10 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Williamson Rd just north of Bickle Hill Rd. Contact Heather at 416-457-8730

Saturday, Feb 18, Woodland section of North'd Forest, Sweet Fern Loop <MODERATE> 9 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jodi at 905-269-5932

Sunday, Feb 19, Bonebakker Nature Reserve <MODERATE> 5 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895

Saturday, Feb 25, Oak Hills Farm, <EASY> 5 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at 4945 Oak Hills Rd (0.8 km north of Oak Ridges Dr). Contact John at 416-998-1292

Sunday, Feb 26, Morton Rd/Canning Rd area, <MODERATE> 11 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Jamieson Rd near Kennedy Rd. Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

Saturday, Mar 04, West Port Hope area, <EASY> 8 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at the south end of Rapley Blvd (or on Rapley Blvd beside the park). Contact Jan at 905-375-8188

Sunday, Mar 05, Alnwick Hill Rd/Bowmanton Rd area, <MODERATE> 9 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895

Saturday, Mar 11, Bewdley area West, <MODERATE> 13 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at the Bewdley overflow parking lot. (Entrance opposite Cavan Rd). Contact Susan at 289-251-3125

Sunday, Mar 12, Barrie Rd area north of Port Hope <EASY> 8.5 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on the south side of the 4th Line where the road takes a sharp bend. Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Saturday, Mar 18, Kinglet Trail, <EASY> 6 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Bowmanton Rd; near Bates Rd. Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395

Sunday, Mar 19, Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, <EASY> 5 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at the Hazel Bird parking lot, 9639 Beavermeadow Rd E. Contact John at 416-998-1292

Saturday, Mar 25, Rural roads northeast of Wicklow, <EASY PLUS> 12.5 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot. Contact Bill at 905-207-2399

Sunday, Mar 26, Crooked Creek area, Newtonville <EASY> 5 km. Further details near the hike date. Contact Jim 905-436-2499

Saturday, Apr 01, Woodland tract, North'd Forest, Sweet Fern <MODERATE> 9 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895

Sunday, Apr 02, Osaca south area, <MODERATE> 8.3 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Runnals Rd, about 1.3 km north of the 4th Line. Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Wednesday, Apr 05, Rural roads southeast of Cold Springs, <MODERATE> 14 km, 9:30 am Meet and park at the Cold Springs Memorial Hall (west side of County Rd 18). Contact Stan at 905-885-9310

Saturday, Apr 08, Bethel Grove Rd/Glen Gavel Rd Loop, <MODERATE> 10 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Vic Lightle Rd, opposite the cemetery. Contact Dixie at dixie.allen@ymail.com

Sunday, Apr 09 EASTER – NO HIKE

Wednesday, Apr 12, Millbrook Trails, <MODERATE> 12 km. 9:30 am Meet at the trailhead – Zion Rd (4th Line) just west of the 4th Line Theatre. Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

Saturday, Apr 15, McBurney's Hill, north of Port Hope, <MODERATE> 13 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot. Contact Bill at 905-207-2399

Sunday, Apr 16, Vernonville and Harnden Workshop <EASY> 7.5 km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Highland View Dr near Telephone Rd. (northeast of Grafton). Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395

Wednesday, Apr 19, EARTH WEEK, LITTER PICK-UP, <EASY> 2 hours. 9:30 am Meet at the Home Hardware parking lot, Port Hope. Contact Stan at 905-885-9310

Saturday, Apr 22, Pat and Jack, Founders' Hike <MODERATE> 8 or 16 km. 9:30 am Meet at the Home Hardware parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Stan at 905-885-9310

Sunday, Apr 23, Jamieson Rd, <EASY PLUS>, 6 km. 9:30 am Leaving from the Home Hardware parking lot. Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Wednesday, Apr 26, Baltimore area, Community Centre Rd, <MODERATE> 9.5 km. 9:30 am Leaving from Home Hardware P.H. parking lot. Contact Tom at 416-561-7587

Saturday, Apr 29, Wicklow Beach to Lakeport, <EASY> 10 km. 9:30 am Meet and park at Wicklow Beach Boat-launch parking lot. Contact Jan at 905-375-8188

Sunday, Apr 30, Racetrack Rd area, <MODERATE> 7-10km. 9:30 am Meet and park on Leach Rd near Rose Rd. Contact Jen at 905-372-0083

WASAGA BEACH HIKES

Our club is planning hikes on a weekly basis and will connect with club members as hikes are planned. Stay tuned!

WILDERNESS HIKES

More details on hikes, meeting spots and registration can be found on our Facebook page. Grub and Hub means we will enjoy food and drink at a local establishment after the outing.

E2E enthusiast please take note that hike leaders Dan Myall and Neil Runnalls are taking a break from the Ganaraska Trail until spring. They are winter hiking

every other Sunday on the Oak Ridges Trail; for specific dates and locations watch the Wilderness Club Facebook event postings. Wilderness club members will receive direct emails.

The Wilderness Club will also be leading hikes during the winter edition of Hike Haliburton festival. Watch the festival web site for details <https://winter.hikehaliburton.com>

Monday Jan. 2/2023 – 8:30 am
Monck Road Access Point, Glynn's Pond – There/Back 12km. Difficult/Challenging | Snowshoe Hike Leader Carolyn Humphreys – 416-536-9534

Sun. Jan 7/2023 – 8:30 am
Devil's Lake Trailhead to Petticoat Junction There/Back 12km. Difficult/Challenging / Snowshoe Hike Leader: Rob Halupka - 416-737-8819

Sat. Jan. 21/2023 – 8:30 am
Country Road Trailhead, Moore Falls/Devils Lake – ONE WAY w CAR POOL 12km. Difficult/Challenging
Cara Oleksuk – C. 705-854-2115

Saturday February 4, 2023 – 8:30 am
Black History Hike – TBA Rating & Distance 6/10km Moderate - participant driven
Hike Leader Tanya Cora – tscora@gmail.com

Family Day Saturday February 18/2023 – 8:30 am
Cation Wildlife Preserve Flexible Loop series 2/6km. Moderate participant driven | Snowshoe Hike Leader Carolyn Humphreys – 416-536-9534

Sat. Feb. 25/2023 – 8:30 am
Devil's Lake Trailhead, Sheldon Lake/Devils Lake - Loop w frozen lake crossing 12km. Difficult/Challenging
Cara Oleksuk – C. 705-854-2115

Saturday March 11/2023 – 8:30 am
Chisholm Tr Access, High Falls There/Back 12km. Difficult/Challenging
Hike Leader Carolyn Humphreys – 416-536-9534

Sun. Mar 19/2023 – 8:30 am
Country Road Trailhead, Moore Falls to Devil's Lake
Trailhead: One way with car pool
11km. Difficult/Challenging / Snowshoe
Hike Leader: Rob Halupka - 416-737-8819

Sat. March 25/2023 – 9am Frost Centre, loop series w
campfire option 10km. Moderate
Hike Leader Cara Oleksuk – C. 705-854-2115

Saturday April 11/2023 – 8:30 am
Buller Rd S Beaver Lk Ln access, south to tall beaver
dam There/Back 12km. Difficult/Challenging
Hike Leader Carolyn Humphreys – 416-536-9534

Sat. April 22/2023 – 9am Devils Lake Trailhead to
Petticoat Junction There/Back
10km. Difficult/Challenging
Hike Leader Cara Oleksuk – C. 705-854-2115

GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED OCT. 16, 2022

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Fall	Summer	Spring
BARRIE	69	61	51
INDEPENDENT	14	12	11
KAWARTHA	84	78	72
MAD RIVER	25	22	19
MIDLAND	134	125	101
ORILLIA	78	74	57
ORO-MEDONTE	53	50	48
PINE RIDGE	122	118	105
WASAGA BEACH	79	76	63
WILDERNESS	91	86	79
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	749	702	606
LIFE MEMBERS	30	30	31
MEMBERSHIPS	779	732	637
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	22	23	23
LAND OWNERS	81	83	83
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	882	838	743

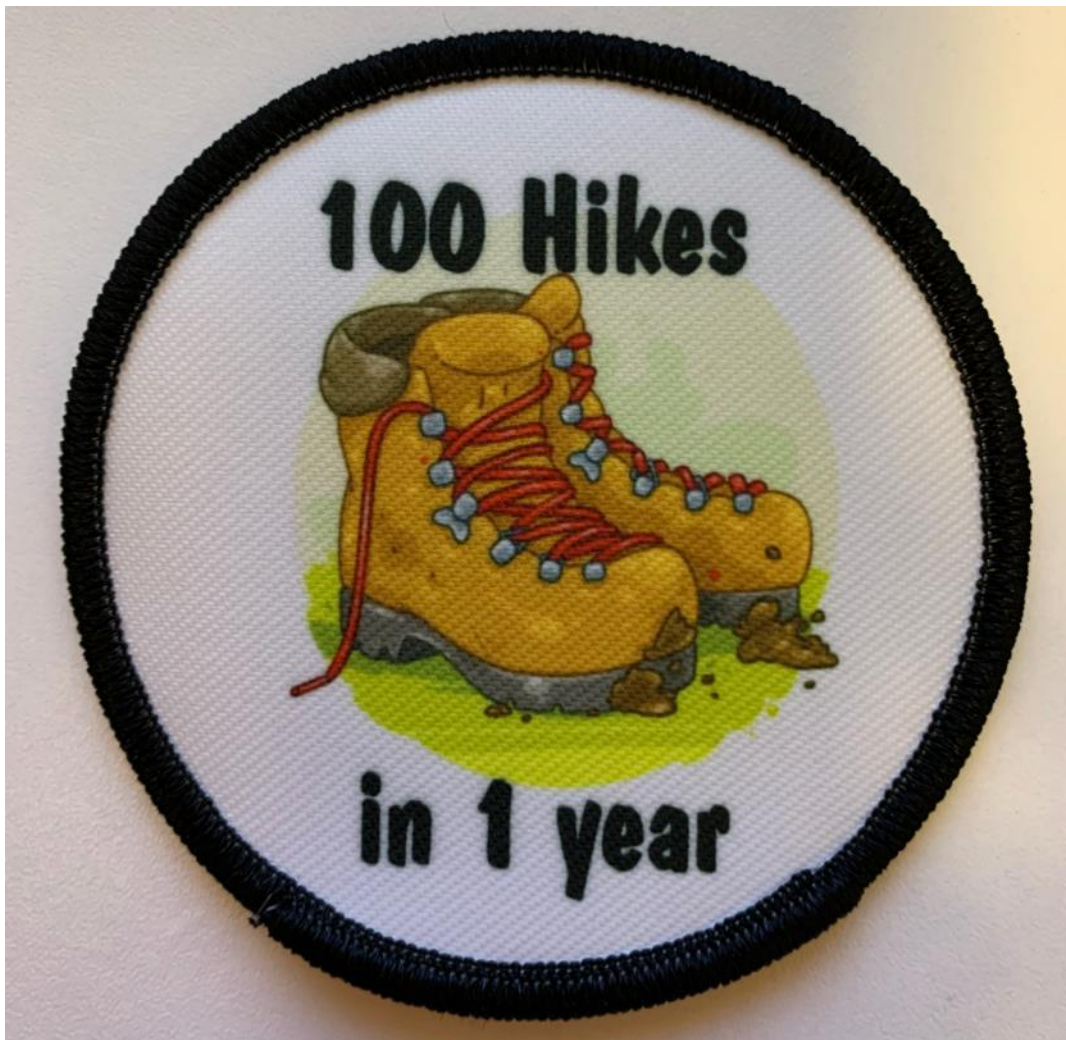
The 100 Hikes Challenge

By Frieda Baldwin

Earlier this year, Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association president, Frieda Baldwin, launched a Challenge for 2022 to encourage hikers to get out in nature, for their physical and mental health, and to explore new trail locations. Several have taken up the challenge and are posting their sequentially numbered hikes on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Facebook Group with the hashtag #gha100hikesin2022. Anyone can participate, and the hike can be anywhere, provided it is at least one hour in duration, and that the name of the trail or location is mentioned, accompanied by one or more nature photos.

Some participants then asked “Do we get a badge for that?”, and the answer is YES! You can order your 100 Hikes in 1 Year badge on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Merchandise [Order Form](#).

If you have not taken part in this challenge in 2022, there is always 2023! A growing number of hikers achieved their 100 Hikes in 2022 badge, and some exceeded that number, such as GHTA Association president Frieda Baldwin who completed her 200th hike this past December. So, who will challenge her in 2023?



Merchandise Order Form

Proudly support the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. by purchasing merchandise listed below or making a donation. Just fill out this order form and mail it with your payment to:

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.
P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Item	Quantity	Price (incl. shipping)	Total
CREST of GHTA logo		5.00	
END TO END BADGE –member price		0.00	
END TO END BADGE – non-member (incl. 1 year membership)		25.00	
SECTION BADGE – Barrie		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Kawartha		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Mad River		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Midland		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Orillia		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Oro Medonte		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Pine Ridge		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Tiny		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wasaga Beach		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness		10.00	
100 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE		5.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

Make cheque payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

Section badges are for hikers who hiked an entire section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.

End to End badges are for hikers who completed all 10 sections.

Tax receipts will be issued for amounts of \$25 and over.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____ Email _____

GHTA Membership Form (or register and pay [online](#))

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.
☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Change of address or club affiliation.
 Please complete the form and send it with your cheque, payable to the
 Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, to the following address:

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.
 P. O. Box 693 Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

NAME(S) _____
 SPOUSE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____
 HOME TELEPHONE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 SPOUSAL EMAIL (if applicable) _____

Membership (includes family) \$25.00
 Donation \$ _____
 TOTAL \$ _____

A receipt for a tax deductible charitable donation will be sent by Feb 28 in
 the next year for donations of \$25 or more.

Printed Newsletter? (you will receive the electronic form automatically)
 Yes, mail printed Newsletter _____

Please associate me with the following Ganaraska Trail Club: Midland ☐,
 Kawartha ☐, Wilderness ☐, Orillia ☐, Barrie ☐, Mad River ☐, Wasaga
 Beach ☐, Oro-Medonte ☐, Pine Ridge (Port Hope) ☐, Independent ☐

By submitting this form, I certify that I have read Ganaraska Hiking Trail
 Association Inc. [Waiver Form](#) (available on the website) in full, and that I
 agree to be bound by it.

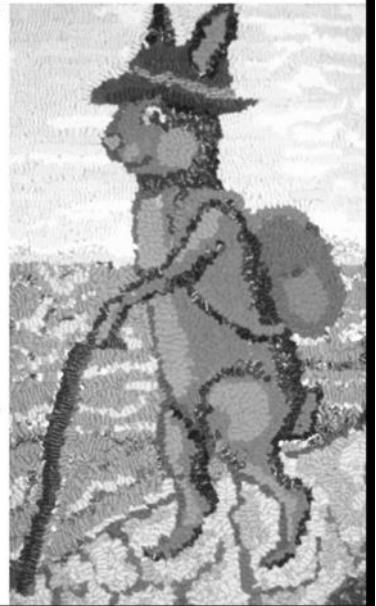
Signature: _____

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The Ganaraska News is published three times a year for the members of the Ganaraska Trail Association Inc. and the generous land-
 owners who permit the trail on their land. Please submit content by April 1, August 1 and December 1 for upcoming issues.

Please send your news, stories, poems and photos via email (NewsletterEditor@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org). Please send content using
 Word, Calibri (body) 11 font (.doc or .docx format) files. Images should be JPG or PNG for best results.

Web Addresses: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
info@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org

Mailing Address: **Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.**
Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

The GHTA welcomes all donations. Tax receipts for donations over \$25.00 will be issued. Charitable registration #847447414 RR0001
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