

Pine Ridge Hiking Club

2022 Annual General Meeting, December 3rd

Officers Reports

Presidents Report: Jay Sherwin



In my first year as President of the Pine Ridge Hiking Club I have been very pleased by the willingness of members to support our club. During the first month of my term, a club member offered to redesign our website. Throughout the year several members have lent their skills to lead hikes and now at year end, a new club member has provided the technical skills to manage the Zoom component of our AGM. Despite the problems the pandemic has placed on organizing social activities during 2022 our club has remained vibrant and active. The enthusiasm of new and longstanding members has allowed our club to thrive. I am grateful for the support of club officers and to all members for their active participation in club hikes.

In addition to offering over 100 hikes in 2022, our club also held an evening of Hike Talks, participated in the Cobourg Canada Day parade and showcased photos taken by club members of hikes from around the world in the Through the Hiker's Lens photo exhibition.

The number of new members joining our club has been a highlight of the past year. This trend has been very encouraging. An objective for the coming year is to host hikes designed to welcome new members. Hikes would be of moderate length with a social activity (drinks and snacks) following the hike.

Over the past several months PRHC members have joined in work bees to replace a bridge over a tributary of the Ganaraska River near Sylvan Glen on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Another bridge on the GHTA trail between the 4th and 5th line also requires replacement and a project is now underway to complete the replacement.

The derecho windstorm which passed through southern Ontario on May 21st had a devastating effect on the Ganaraska Forest. Thousands of trees were uprooted by the storm and the damage has not yet been cleared up. As a result, the forest has been closed to all recreational uses including hiking. This has closed an area of interesting off-road hiking to the club. Hopefully our club will be able to return to hiking in the Ganaraska Forest by the spring of 2023.

May I express my heartfelt thanks to all club members for the opportunities of meeting new people and seeing new countryside. Merry Christmas and I look forward to hiking with you in 2023.

Past President: Bill Zeran



Advises or consults with the President on past PRHC and GHTA decisions and practices.

Discuss issues with the President when required.

Assumes presidency in any emergency,

President's Note: Although too humble to state it in his report, Bill has always been available for consultation and advise and has been an excellent supporter of the President.

Social Coordinator: Position Vacant

At present, the
the Social



- Assist AGM
- Assist with club events such as Hike Talks, Canada Day Parade, and Through the Hiker's Lens photo exhibit
- Assist with planning of hikes that are designed to welcome new members to the club

Social Coordinator's position is open. Duties of Coordinator are as follows:

President in making arrangements for the PRHC

the planning of social activities associated with

Please contact Jay if you have an interest in this position.

Financial Coordinator: John Ambler

PINE RIDGE HIKING CLUB

Statement of Financial Activities

November 30, 2022

<u>Revenue</u>		2022	2021
Donations		-----	\$552.00
GHTA Support		\$495.00	479.05
GHTA Trail Expense		142.36	-----
Port Hope Refund		96.60	-----
	Total Revenue	733.96	1,031.05
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Website		327.61	140.00
2021 AGM Expense		199.50	-----
Trail Expense		142.36	139.05
Gifts		-----	200.00
Bank Fees		30.00	30.00
	Total Expense	699.47	509.05
<u>Increase, Decrease</u>		34.49	522.05

<u>Bank Balance</u>		1,660.87	1,626.38

Hike Coordinator: Darryl Russell



Although we began the year with some Covid restrictions still in place, we gradually returned to a more normal situation. One thing which did not return was our standard practice of car pooling from the Home Hardware to minimize the number of vehicles. That was achieved by giving out the trailhead information for almost every hike, allowing people to go directly to the trailhead in their own car.

Perhaps a more important change was the decrease in the number of active hike leaders. The six who have withdrawn were all exceptional leaders who gave the club many years of service through all seasons. They are: Rita Zeran, Claire, David Beevis, John Kurowski, John Leblanc and Bob Short. Another four leaders are on what I hope is a temporary retirement: Doug Smith, Jim Edwards, Paul Archambault and Michelle Vibert. Thankfully, three new people have started leading: Hilda Van Netten, Susan Deane and Tom Briant. Obviously more are needed if we want to continue offering the same number of hikes – about 100 per year.

There has been an increased emphasis on safety – specifically on road hikes that have hills or blind curves which prevent vehicles from seeing us. Hi visibility safety vests and “spotters” who proceed ahead of the group on hills or curves are two of the more noticeable changes.

New procedures have been suggested by the Ganaraska Forest people which would seriously impact our usage. They have also had closures for much of the year and some parts are still closed. Until the issues are worked out, hike leaders should speak to Jay before contemplating a Ganaraska Forest hike.

On June 22nd Jason Kay generously volunteered to take over the hike route catalogue from Bob Short. In September I began a collaboration with him on revising our hike leader maps and descriptions.

Pine Ridge Hiking Club Website: Hilda Van Netton



Last winter I needed a project to challenge my brain so I rebuilt PRHC's website. I moved the site to the WIX platform which I am fairly familiar with.

Some stats on the site: In October/22 we had 528 site sessions with 211 unique visitors.

Here's an example of where visitors to the site live:

- Cobourg - 69
- Port Hope - 30
- Toronto - 43

I encourage new members to check out the "Other Club Activities" page to familiarize themselves with the various activities our club takes part in throughout the year. You may find a new fun activity!

Please Note: Hilda has agreed to assume the role of Publicity Coordinator.

Landowners Relations Coordinator: Bruce Williamson



We have one new property owner this year. Bruce and Karen Paterson on the 6th Line readily agreed to continue having the Ganaraska Trail run through their property. They are outdoors people and passionate cyclists.

Two different images were used on the Christmas cards this year. One from a few years ago shows hikers crossing the tree trunk and rope crossing between the 4th and 5th Lines. The other is the same as last year, a photo taken of the bridge on the Harris property at Sylvan Glen. Many thanks to Melissa Homes and Scott Harris for delivering the cards into mail boxes while Bruce sits under coconut palms.

Communications Coordinator: Rita Zeran



2022 has been an exceptional year! In spite of Covid, or maybe because of it, we've encountered an influx of new members. Nevertheless, I've been very busy sending out a welcome letter to these new members and adding them to my master distribution list. On that note, if anyone wishes to be removed from my mailing list, please don't hesitate to let me know. As a large portion of my job as Communications Coordinator consists of contacting new club members, the roles of Communications Coordinator and Membership Coordinator have been combined and I will be taking over responsibility for both tasks

Respectfully submitted

Rita Zeran

Information Officer: Colin Banfield



The Information Officer is responsible for handling enquiries from any persons considering joining the club or from existing members having queries or concerns regarding the club's hiking and social activities. There may be additional calls for information about the club from the media and local government departments concerned with promoting outdoor activities in Northumberland County.

During 2022 the majority of contacts were with persons who had either recently joined the club or were seriously considering joining. All information provided to these contacts occurred during the early

part of the year, with no contacts since mid summer.

In more detail:

Those who had recently joined the club (particularly if they had moved into this area) needed some more details regarding where to meet up prior to a hike and whether there was car pooling (not allowed during peak Covid period).

Enquiries from persons considering joining varied from queries about the nature of the hikes (locations, distances, durations, difficulties), to suitable clothing and footwear (and where to obtain it), other club activities (social events, away trips), age range of members. In the "unusual and unexpected" class of enquiry was that from a gentleman in Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia last winter who was just forming a hiking club and needed some pointers on how to structure the club, executive positions, website design etc. I gave him various suggestions and referred him to our own website and wished him good luck. He concluded with musing over possible exchanges of hiking visits here and in Ethiopia, but with the Covid pandemic and an ongoing regional conflict there, I did not pursue that.

Besides these enquiries I supplied updated information about our club to the Fall 2022/Spring 2023 Edition of the *"Town of Cobourg Leisure Guide"*, a valuable resource for the current population and newcomers to Cobourg and vicinity.

Trail Maintenance & Earth Week Litter Clean Up: Stan Muldoon



Earth Week Litter Cleanup

During Earth Week in April each year Pine Ridge Hikers join the Northumberland County “Keep the County Clean Challenge”. Our Club removes litter for 10 km along the Ganaraska Hiking Trail from downtown Port Hope to the 4th Line. For many years Paul Archambault has provided his truck to remove large items and last year we had 17 volunteers to help. This year’s cleanup will be held on Wednesday April 19, 2023. Hope you can join us.

Trail Maintenance

All GHTA Clubs are asked to maintain their section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. As Pine Ridge members we are responsible to ensure that the first 65 km of the Trail are free from hazards and clearly “blazed”. Our volunteers are assigned to approximately 5 km of trail and usually work in pairs or small groups to trim branches and repaint blazes as needed.

The closing of the Ganaraska Forest this summer has prevented maintenance there. However, a new side trail on the 10th Line and Glamorgan Road has been marked with blue blazes. This signage also directs winter hikers on a trail to avoid the Ganaraska Forest ski trails between January 1 and March 31.

Another group of our members has worked several times on the Harris property near Sylvan Glen to assist in preparation for a new bridge to be constructed there next summer. This will allow that part of the trail to avoid flooding and damage to the bridge. Many thanks to those volunteers.

Please consider volunteering for trail maintenance. It usually takes about 5 hours to complete your assignment.

Through the Hiker's Lens Photo Exhibit: Lee Wakelin



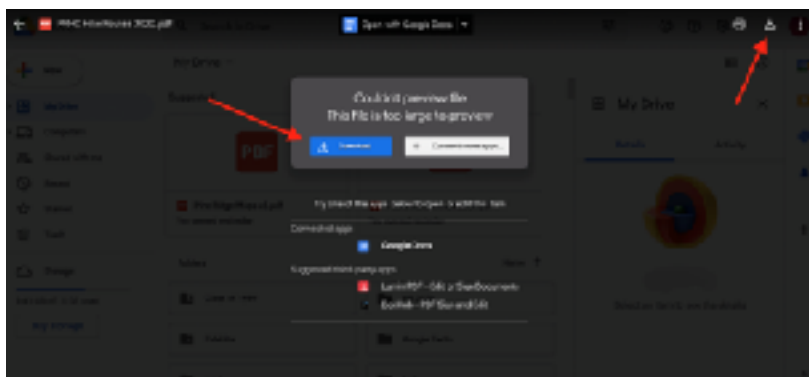
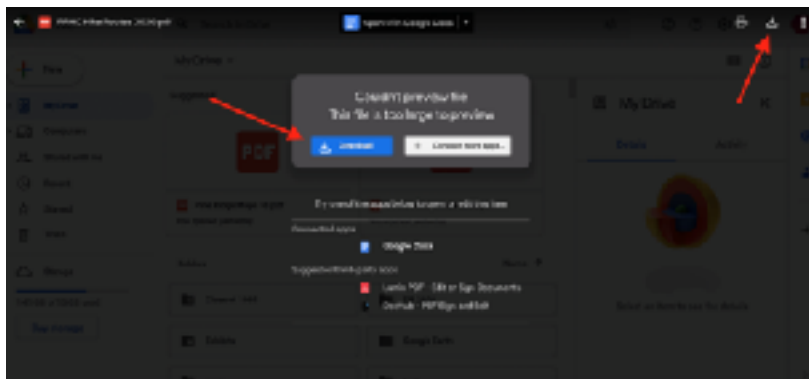
The Pine Ridge Hiking Club photography show has become an annual event where club members can submit photos taken while out walking, either on club hikes, or while travelling. We have many excellent photographers, and the subjects exhibited cover a variety of genres. The show opens with a reception where visitors can enjoy light refreshments while browsing the exhibit.

Trail Inventory Catalogue: Jason Kay



Bob Short handed off the digital files to Jason Kay, who subsequently uploaded them to Google Drive. All members can access the catalogue by clicking on this [link](#).

That will take you to a page that looks like this.



Click on either of the two download buttons (as identified by the red arrows) to download the PDF file to your computer (or other device). Once you have downloaded the file, you have the ability to print the entire document, individual pages or simply refer to it in its digital form. If anyone has any questions about or problems with the file, please contact Jason (jkay1966@gmail.com).

Additionally, Jason is working with Darryl Russell on a project to update the catalogue and add features to it. Suggestions are welcome. We don't yet have a timeline on when the new version will be complete, but we will keep you apprised.

Membership Coordinator: Nancy Tong



Membership in Pine Ridge Hiking Club has continued its upward trend. There have probably been several factors at play here. The ongoing pandemic has encouraged people to search for safe, outdoor activities with the opportunity to socialize. Our club has also welcomed members new to Northumberland as more people move away from the larger urban centres. Our club's presence on the internet has made PRHC easier to find. The ability to join Pine Ridge, renew a membership and make payments on line has been a definite bonus. The following membership statistics are as of November 14/22. Just a reminder that a membership is by family not by an individual.

NEW MEMBERS: 126 (14 more than last year)

LANDOWNERS: 13 (same as last year)

LIFE MEMBERS: 2 (same as last year)

Respectfully Submitted Nancy Tong

HIKE STATISTICS

(1) Winter (Jan 01 – April 30)

Number of actual hikes: 34 (1 cancelled due to bad weather)

Total number of hikers (inc'g hike leader): 408

Typical number of hikers per hike: 7 – 17 (two-thirds of the time)

Number of hikes rated "Easy": 17 (1 Easy plus)

Number of hikes rated "Moderate": 12 (4 Moderate plus)

Hikes 10 km or longer: 14

Hikes less than 10 km: 23 (totals reflects three "double" hikes)

(2) Spring/Summer (May 01 – Aug 31)

Number of actual hikes: 27 (2 cancelled due to bad weather)

Total number of hikers (inc'g hike leader): 273

Typical number of hikers per hike: 6 – 14 (two-thirds of the time)

Number of hikes rated "Easy": 10

Number of hikes rated "Moderate": 15 (2 Moderate plus)

Hikes 10 km or longer: 11

Hikes less than 10 km: 18 (total reflects the two "double" hikes)

(3) Fall (Sept 01 – Dec 31)

Number of actual hikes: xx

Total number of hikers (inc'g hike leader): xxx

Typical number of hikers per hike: xx – xx (two-thirds of the time)
Number of hikes rated “Easy”: xx (1 Easy plus)
Number of hikes rated “Moderate”: xx (4 Moderate plus)
Hikes 10 km or longer: xx
Hikes less than 10 km: xx (total reflects the three “double” hikes)