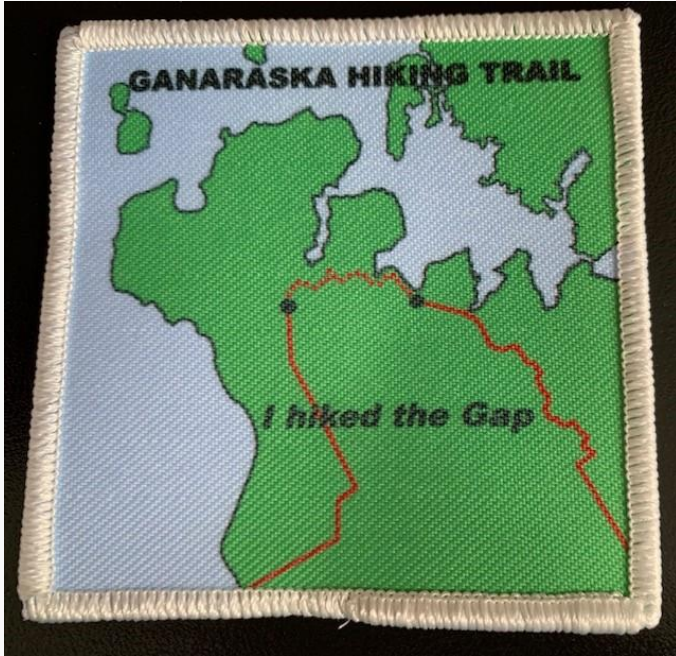




The Ganaraska News

Spring / Summer 2024 (May 1 to August 31, 2024)

Hiking the new Midland-Tiny Gap



CLOSING THE GAP IN THE GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL

On April 13, 2024 lace up those hiking boots and join us for the historic and scenic "I Closed the Gap" hike along a NEW section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail through Midland, Penetanguishene and Tiny. This project has been over 10 years in the making. Following an official ribbon cutting ceremony, hikers will be bused to the start of the hike, and hike 18 kilometers along the new trail, which closes the "gap" between the Midland and Tiny sections of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. The hike includes a beautiful part of the Tiny Trail (a rail trail). It goes through a number of forests and along the Midland waterfront, with its gorgeous views of Georgian Bay. Anyone completing the hike will receive a "Gap" badge. For more details and to register click on [I Closed the Gap](#)

GHTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND HIKER 101 COURSE

Saturday April 27, 2024

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Saturday April 27, 2024 at the **Tiffin Centre** of Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0 (between Angus and Barrie).

Agenda:

- 9:30 AM Board Meeting
- 11 AM Annual General Meeting
- Lunch (byo)
- 1 PM Choice of hikes
 - 1 hour easy
 - 1.5 hour moderate
- 3 PM Hike Ontario Hiking 101 course – condensed version of Safe Hiker Course

Free admission to the grounds of the Tiffin CA, the AGM, the hikes and the Hiker 101 course

MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

EXECUTIVE

President: Frieda Baldwin
Secretary: Steve Pogue
Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Simone Latham
Trail/Landowners Relations Director: Vacant

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – John Rudnickas, Susan Lee, John Sloan
Kawartha – Stephen Kay, George Boyd
Mad River – Sharon Striegl, Lynn McIlwaine, Don Johnson
Midland – Larry Piitz, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow
Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal
Oro-Medonte – Sue Benjafield, Christine Cornu, Kim Drury
Pine Ridge – Jay Sherwin, John Ambler, Stan Muldoon
Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen, Rob Smith
Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Charleyne Hall

OFFICERS

Membership Director: Christine Cornu
Badge Officer: Jacquie Van Dyke
GHTA Archivist: Linda Blow
GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: Tracy Parsons
GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell
QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka
Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Charleyne Hall
Web Content: Campbell Britton

Newsletter Editor: Lana Johnson
Website: Rob Smith
Social Media Officer: Alana Boulay
Publicity Coordinator: Vacant
Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner
Mapping Coordinator: Victor Tolgyessy
Signage Coordinator: Pat Tuero
Assistant Treasurer: Ann Kivinen

ASSOCIATION AND CLUB LINKS

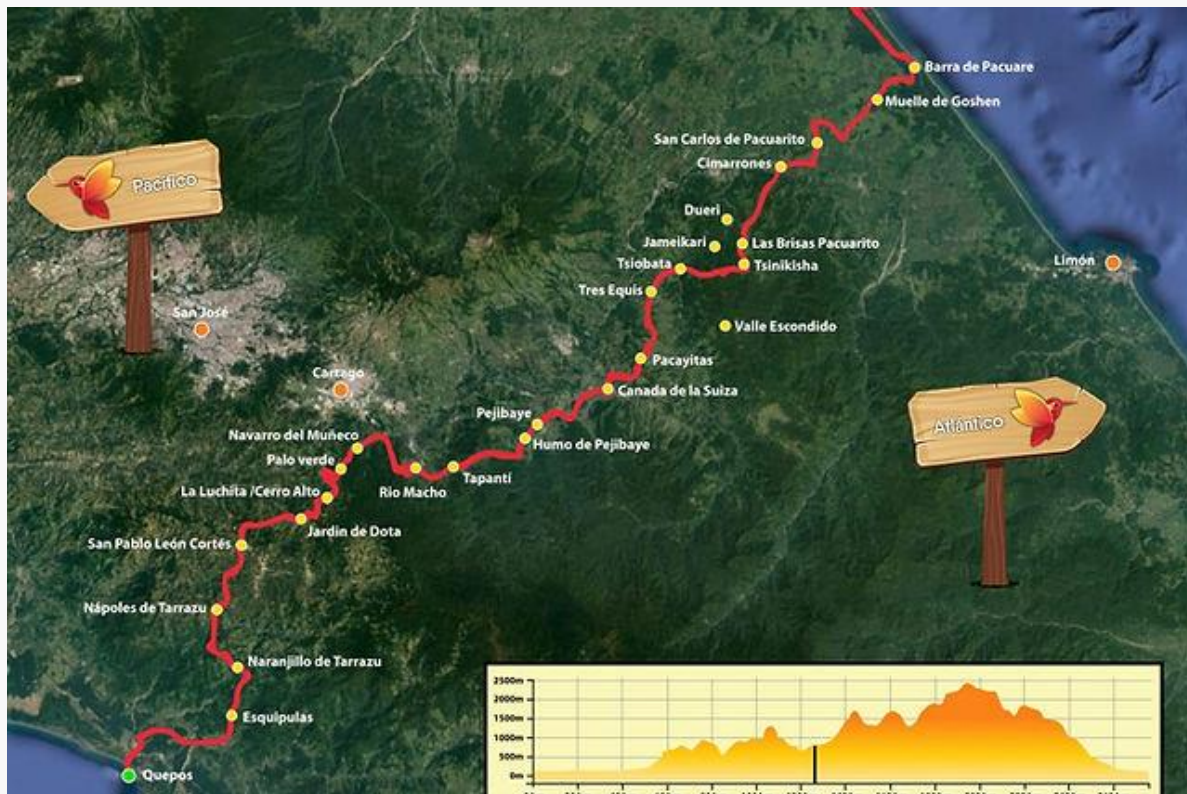
Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
[Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation)
[Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup)
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Pine Ridge: www.pineridgehikingclub.ca
Wilderness: [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

Please use Contact Us on the Association Website to send us a message!

Hiking the El Camino del Costa Rica

Written by Jacqueline Van Dyke

Our adventure of completing a Camino in Costa Rica was co-organized by Hamid Nasser, a fellow hiker here in Ontario, and ViaLig Journeys in Costa Rica. Developed in 2016, this cross-country hiking trail leaves the Caribbean coast from Pacuare Reserve, reaching the Pacific coast in Quepos several days later. El Camino was designed to hike in 16 days but we decided to complete it in 11.5, hiking longer days with many more kilometres each day.



The total distance was approximately 280 kms, 266 km by land and 15 km by boat. Passing through 6 climate zones, we hiked all 16 sections (Etapas) which led us through cloud forests, jungles, National and private parks, coffee plantations, distant views of active volcanoes, rural communities, along mountain ridges, and on narrow dirt roads. Given that it was rural, hot, and that we hiked anywhere between 15 – 29 km daily (except on our first day where we hiked 7km and had our 15km boat ride), we had luggage transfer. This meant that in addition to moving our luggage forward, a “sag wagon” met us daily on or near the trail so we could replenish our water and have an extra snack or two. On rare instances, tired/injured hikers could also catch a ride on the sag wagon. On some days, even 3L of water was not enough so we were grateful we could replenish our water. Accommodations varied from glamping to home stays to hotels. On all but our last hiking day, three meals a day were provided. We ate a great deal and very well, enjoying coffee and chocolate grown on nearby slopes, fresh homemade juices, fresh meat, fish, and vegetables, and for most meals, having the option of gallo pinto (red beans and rice prepared with coconut milk). Our hosts were also very accommodating with vegetarian and vegan meals. On days we began hiking at 6:00am, we would have a traditional breakfast or lunch on the roadside or in one instance, beside a river we had just crossed. These meals were wrapped in banana leaves and tied with string. There wasn’t a plastic bag or container to be seen! One memorable day, we had lunch in an open-air barn. We were warned to stay far away from one of the horses as it would try to bite us. One of the hikers got too close and immediately jumped back – the horse did want a nibble!

Every day we spotted beautiful plants, birds, and other wildlife (including poisonous snakes and frogs), breathed in the fresh air, enjoyed the simple pleasure of putting one foot in front of the other, and taking in the scenery while connecting with ourselves and those around us. In avoiding large cities and getting to know rural communities, enjoying nature while walking through mountains and forests and appreciating the biodiversity of the area, our days lent themselves to positive experiences for everyone. There was a lot of laughter, conversation, and comradery as we hiked for hours on end. Our guides regularly used the phrase, “Costa Rican flat” to describe the terrain we would traverse each day. We quickly learned that this phrase had very little to do with the terrain being flat! Costa Rica is mountainous, with many ups and downs – often for kilometres at a time. At one point, we climbed to 2300 m above sea level! The phrase, “what goes up, must come down” was very appropriate for the terrain we encountered daily.

Adventures and surprises abounded. Crossing the Nairi-Awari Indigenous lands required us to hire an Indigenous guide. While we wore hiking boots, this guide wore mid-calf rain boots. We knew we would encounter mud on this day but had no idea there would be so much – 22 km of it, uphill and down. Rain boots would have been much more appropriate. I will never complain about hiking through mud again! To get across the Pacuare River, a popular location for white water rafting, there were two options - walk across in chest-deep, quickly moving water or, use a human muscled powered cable car. Luckily our guides had decided ahead of time that we’d be using the cable car. A huge sense of relief was felt by all! While waiting for our turn to cross in pairs or groups of three, we watched an extended family, including children, ferry building supplies for an entire house across the river by raft. Keeping in mind there are no roads in this area, supplies had to then be carried up the trail in stages to the final building location. Another memorable moment was when we learned the reason for a hook on the end of one of our guide’s hiking pole ...it was for examining and moving snakes! It was quite something to see him handle a poisonous viper which had eaten a poisonous frog. It didn’t end well for either the snake or the frog!

A group of 18 hikers successfully traversed the countryside with the help of many. The Costa Rican people we encountered were welcoming, warm and ready with a smile everywhere we went. More times than not we were greeted or sent along our way with the Costa Rican unofficial national slogan “Pura vida” translating to “pure life”. This has come to symbolize the simple, cheerful outlook and lifestyle of what is often called the happiest country in the world.

Would I do another Camino de Costa Rica? Definitely. I would, however, choose to hike more days with fewer kilometers per day to take advantage of the activities that were available as part of our tour (yoga, hot springs, bird sanctuary tour) that I just did not have the energy for at the end of a long day of hiking. One of our mottos was, “Eat, hike, eat some more, continue hiking, eat again, sleep, repeat.” We rose early each day and fell exhausted into our beds early each night and I would do it all over again. With such beautiful countryside and welcoming, kind-hearted people along the way, Costa Rica beckons again and again. Pura Vida!!

Editor’s Note:

Camino can be translated into a number of English words: path, road, journey, way (as in ‘the way’), track or trail. The Camino de Santiago in Spain is a famous contemplative spiritual journey. As noted above, this type of trip forces one to leave behind everything and open one’s self to Mother Earth and the challenge of walking the trail. Congratulations to Jacqueline and those hikers. This is a feat she’ll treasure for all time. Just like our members who have done the El Camino de Ganaraska!

Springwater Park includes GHTA Land Acknowledgement

By John Rudnickas, President of Barrie Club



Springwater Park is a special place. It is located north of Barrie. Part of the Barrie section of the Ganaraska Hiking trail goes through it. The park is situated within the traditional territory of Beausoleil First Nation (BFN) and is a site chosen for the placement of our Land Acknowledgement plaque.

The site has been a long-standing traditional area of continuous use and significance to the people of BFN but was more recently managed and controlled by the Province of Ontario as a Provincial Park. The future of this land became uncertain in 2012. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) announced that the park would close. It was reported to have been losing \$100,000 annually and required \$1 million in capital upgrades.

Springwater Provincial Park was originally a 47 hectare day use park. It was named for its numerous springs and seepages that feed into a series of streams and ponds in the park. This abundance of water is well known to many hikers who have emerged with wet feet and muddy boots. Historically, the park was closely associated with the former Midhurst Forest Tree Nursery. The park was part of the original 400 hectares purchased for the nursery by the Province of Ontario and the County of Simcoe in 1922. In the late 1800's much of the Midhurst area had become a wasteland of pine stumps and windblown sand due to the clearing of the forests and farming of light soils. The springs for which the park was named were the main reason this area was chosen for the nursery, as a dependable water supply was essential to such an operation.

Initially, park facilities were developed and maintained as part of the nursery operations. The park first opened in 1927. Cleared lands were planted with Scot's, red and jack pine seedlings produced in the nursery. During the 1930's, park roads, a large picnic pavilion, native bird and animal enclosures, floral displays and rock gardens were constructed. While the keeping of wild animals in small enclosures is generally deemed unacceptable nowadays, in the past, seeing these animals up close was a source of excitement and learning for many children and thus was a major attraction to the park. In 1958 the area officially became a provincial park providing day use facilities. Responsibility for the park's management shifted from the nursery to the parks branch of the Department of Lands and Forests (now the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry). In 1992, a decision was made to phase out the operation of the Midhurst Forest Tree Nursery. Springwater Provincial Park was expanded to include approximately 145 hectares of the adjacent nursery lands south of Provincial Highway 26. A comprehensive Management Plan, recommending significant development, was drafted in 1994 but this future vision was not to be. The Park closed (becoming a non operating Provincial Park) on April 1, 2013 and the remaining display animals were moved to the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

The closure caused great concern among local residents as well as visitors who had enjoyed the park in the past. There was justifiable fear that it would eventually become development land and thus lost. However, a new chapter to the story was about to begin.

The Beausoleil First Nation,(BFN), successfully negotiated a co-management agreement with the Province of Ontario and has been operating the Park since July 2015 and is now responsible for staffing, maintenance, and operation of the park. BFN is the first Indigenous nation in Ontario to take over management of a Provincial

Park located within its traditional territory. As well as being open to the public for day use, the park is now used by BFN for pow wows, recreation, and an Anishinabek cultural program for elementary and secondary school students. Visitor amenities at the park include:

- BBQ pits, playgrounds, self-guided trails
- picnic pavilions for up to 400 people - NB: large groups must be reserved in advance
- wheelchair accessible comfort stations, picnic areas, playground, trails
- cross country ski trails (11 km) in the winter

To get an idea of where the Park has been heading since BFN assumed its management and a sense of the vision for its future, I turn to the words of Jeff Monague. Jeff is the Park's superintendent, a past chief of the BFN, an elder and someone who takes on the role of land steward seriously.

"It is known today as Springwater Provincial Park, but the Anishnaabeg (Ah-nish-in-aw-beg) knew it as Mnising (Mm-nih-sing), which translates as "at the island."

There was once an island here near the present-day Minesing swamp and the village of Minesing. The oral history the Anishinaabeg tells of how we would come and occupy the island for several weeks each year, prior to contact with the settler community.

The island was a staging area for the hunting of wild game throughout the region. Of course, now the name has been anglicized to Minesing and the island no longer exists due to encroachment and irrigation, but the name remains in some form.

Springwater Provincial Park is a pie-shaped property nestled in between Highway 26, Wilson Road and the rail lines. The park is operated as a partnership between the Beausoleil First Nation and Ontario Parks, and has been since 2015.

Since then, my staff and I have attempted to revive the land by allowing growth to take place naturally. That meant no longer spraying to control mosquitoes. No longer manicuring trail systems and fields. Planting milkweed to encourage butterflies and introducing morel mushrooms to the land.

All these small changes brought about larger changes, as we began to see an increase in insects of various kinds, more birds, snakes, frogs, rodents, and in spring, the park flourishes with the birth of young ones from all species.

We now see young foxes, coyotes, bobcats, wild turkeys, deer, and, recently, a beaver. The fields are now full of butterflies, including the monarch who are there due to the reintroduction of milkweed. As a side note, milkweed is a natural antidote to poison ivy and will aid in controlling its growth.

We have seen bears and even moose passing through. It is amazing what can happen within a very short time."

Jeff Monague January 11, 2023

This naturalization is a good news story, but wait! Recently the park has hosted drive through Christmas light shows as well as a large Halloween themed event. What is happening? The BFN is in need of funding for the upkeep and maintenance of the park. Commercialization? Perhaps, but only in a responsible manner. Only already developed areas in the park have been used and the natural environment has not been disturbed by these events. Creative thinking has been exercised in order to keep the new vision for this land viable.

We have a success story but it doesn't end here. The initial 5 year agreement with the BFN has been extended but decisions about the long term future of the land are yet to be made. We hope that the current thoughtful and respectful stewardship of this land will continue.

The Barrie Club of the GHTA is proud to have this park as the location for posting of our land acknowledgement sign. This sign installation will be on May 12, 2024 following a short talk and ceremony led by Jeff Monague. A hike in the park will follow. Further details can be found in the Barrie Club hike schedule listing.



Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

President's report

Spring 2024 Newsletter

By Frieda Baldwin

It's been a long time in the making, but we are so excited to finally "Close the "Gap" in the Ganaraska Hiking Trail between the Midland and Tiny sections, which both dead-end in North Simcoe. The route has finally come together, and we are proud of how scenic the new trail is. On **April 13, 2024**, we will be officially opening the route, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by an 18 km hike. Participants will be bused to the start of the hike and walk back to their cars. For more information, go to https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/I_Closed_The_Gap.pdf.

I want to thank all the landowners for giving their approval for the use of their lands. Landowners include:

- the municipalities of Tay, Tiny, Midland and Penetanguishene
- Simcoe County Forests
- Georgian Bay Island National Parks
- the Martyrs' Shrine
- Huronia Historical Parks

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped make both the trail and the April 13 event a reality.

Members are invited to our upcoming Annual General Meeting, (AGM), on **Saturday April 27, 2024**. This will be our first in-person meeting since before Covid. The meeting will be held at the beautiful Tiffin Centre for Conservation, between Barrie and Angus. At the AGM we will also be presenting the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Trail Maintenance Award.

At the Annual General Meeting we will be electing or re-electing the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Executive and confirm board members from the various clubs. Each club has 3 members on the board. We do have a number of vacancies in the organization such as Vice President, Trail Director, Landowner Relations Director, Publicity Officer which we hope to fill. If interested to step up to one of these roles, let me know at president@gha.ca. Following the AGM and the board meeting, we will enjoy a hike on the beautiful trails in the CA, followed by a condensed version of the Safe Hiker course offered by Hike Ontario. Admission to the trails and the course are both free on April 27, 2024 for members.

While the winter has been rather disappointing with respect to the amount of snowshoeing or skiing we have been able to do, I think most of us enjoyed our hikes, and were thankful for having good icers and poles. Now, we are looking forward to a great hiking season, spring wildflowers, and let's hope the bugs are tolerable.

I wish you all a safe and very enjoyable spring and summer hiking season.

Frieda Baldwin

President

Trail Guide Mapping Report

by Victor Tolgyessy, Mapping Director, GHATA

Maps 31 and 32 will be updated and posted soon with the addition of a new trail that closes the gap between Tiny and Midland sections. The Wall Map will be updated as well to reflect this change.

I will continue to update the rest of the detailed maps, focusing on areas that need trail revision first. The aim is to have all 33 maps converted to the new format since many like it. Also, it helps to simplify the learning-curve for the next enthusiastic cartographer.

If you find anything out-of-place on any of our maps, then let me know and I'll make the necessary changes.

If you're curious about Geographic Information Systems and QGIS (the program I use to make our maps) then here's a short video on what it all means, wonderfully produced by Statistics Canada!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oEnJvLzDnQ>

It's really cool how I can take the coordinate and description data from an Excel spreadsheet compiled by our boots-on-the-ground hike-leaders and then accurately place that data on the map!

I'm also helping clubs determine the correct distances of their trails since many GPS devices and cell phone apps disagree with each other by many metres or even by a kilometre or two. Some GPS devices only measure a "flat" earth without taking into consideration all the elevation gains and losses. All those ups and downs do add up. However, if you upload your hike information onto something like Garmin Connect or Strava, then they will recalculate your distances based on their elevation model of the earth. Mind you, even those upload-apps don't always agree with each other. LOL!! Sometimes, the best way to measure hike distances is to have many readings and then calculate the average. The truth is usually in the middle somewhere!

If you have any mapping/GIS questions, then please ask away!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or are just interested in maps!

Victor mapping-coordinator@ghata.ca :)

Hike Ontario's 50th Anniversary

By Frieda Baldwin



Hike Ontario is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. They are offering a special edition 50th Anniversary badge. Great for all you badge hounds to add to your collection. <https://hikeontario.com/programs/gold-hike-badge/>

Congratulations to Hiking Ontario for being the voice of all hikers and hiking groups in Ontario for so many years. They deliver essential programs like Certified Hike Leader and Safe Hiker training, affordable insurance for hiking and outdoor groups, and so much more. Thank you.

Indigenous Engagement

by Carolyn Humphreys, chair | Indigenous Engagement Committee

Land Acknowledgment Signs Spring Up

I'm delighted to report that clubs (Pine Ridge, Barrie, Mad River, Oro-Medonte and Wilderness) are busy posting Land Acknowledgement signs, (LA), at key junctions and significant locations along the trail. Did you know that Springwater Provincial Park is managed by Beausoleil First Nation? — I did not. Not only are they supportive of our sign posting but they are keen to actively collaborate with the Barrie Club. This new connection began when John Rudnickas reached out to ask about posting the Land Acknowledgment sign. If your club is stuck or needs more support, please reach out. chumpboat@gmail.com

Our committee is happy to welcome our newest member Lucille Sorin and extend an invitation to all association members interested to join us.

The 2024 Indigenous Engagement Committee project will aim to help hike leaders share the Land Acknowledgment, Indigenous history and contemporary trail connection. We realize that simply reading the LA at some point in a hike is only a starting point. I've started to share facts such as wayfinding markers used by First Nation trail users or good reads by Indigenous writers. If you haven't already read *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline pick up this science fiction novel tracing an epic "hike" that expertly weaves real history and bush skills in a post water war apocalypse era.

Supporting the Association

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and issues 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.

Abbreviated hike schedules to August 31 for most clubs are included. Please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the glories of the season on foot, while cycling or on the water. Stay safe and healthy!

Membership fees are \$25 per family. Please see information at bottom of newsletter for payment options.

From your Editor

Please feel free to message me at newsletter@ghta.ca with any ideas for articles or pictures to be considered for future publications.

Thank you, Lana Johnson.

CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

By John Rudnickas, President



Can't really say my snow prayer of last fall was fully answered. It did snow, then it melted, then it did snow, then it melted... The winter wasn't very cooperative for snowshoeing or cross country skiing but we did still have some great hikes. I suppose an optimist might say it's easier to hike without snow. Just gotta roll with the punches!

In spite of the continuing challenge posed by being short of our normal contingent of hike leaders, we managed to visit a lot of varied territory and covered a good number of kilometres. Our membership numbers continue to do well as we have had a significant number of new people join our ranks in the past few months. It's great to see the new faces that will lead us into the future (and maybe even on some hikes?).

Fortunately, we have been able to schedule a full roster of hikes for May and June. The Barrie club doesn't usually schedule hikes during July and August. We continue with our usual schedule of Sunday and Wednesday morning

hikes along with a joint Barrie/Orillia hike on Thursdays. We have had particularly good attendance on the shorter Wednesday hikes. As a result, we will once again be trying out some easy evening hikes. This will provide an opportunity for those that cannot come on a weekday morning to join us for a less intensive walk in the woods. As I've said before, keep an eye on the online calendar as any changes and additions from what appears in the newsletter are posted there.

At time of writing, we are about to embark on our spring trail inspection and maintenance activities. Overall the trails looked pretty good during the winter but time for a bit of spring cleaning. There is one small recent change to our trail where we exit the west side of Springwater Provincial Park, eliminating a short stretch of road walking. We will soon be posting our land acknowledgement signs and details of these events can be found in our hike schedule.

Kawartha

By Stephen Kay, President



Our club has increased to 61 registered members. On recent hikes we welcomed several guests. Some guests have become new members.

Participation in both our Wednesday hikes and Weekend hikes continues to grow. The Weds hikes, which are usually 6-8 km, have on average 24 hikers, with our highest level of participation being 34 hikers.

The weekend hikes are on average 10-14 km in length. Attendance averages around 12 hikers with a high of 22.

Despite some inclement weather and trail conditions, few hikes had to be cancelled or rescheduled.

We are now using our Facebook page as a regular source of communication and because of this our visits to the site have increased.

Overall, the fall/winter season has been very positive as we now have matched and exceeded pre-Covid participation levels.

On April 10th, we will be holding our first indoor social and AGM since the beginning of COVID in 2020.

Planning is now underway for a summer Challenge and trail maintenance in the fall.

Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President



Another winter (if you want to call it that) has come and gone. It certainly was short-lived, but it did allow for great hiking. Snowshoes were not the footwear of choice this season, as they were not required on our trails!

We enjoyed another hike-packed season, being able to offer 2 hikes per week throughout the area. We have been fortunate to have new hike leaders step forward. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helps lead! We are finding our current hiking schedule being well attended with Tuesdays being our longer hikes and Thursdays being our shorter hikes.

We will be taking a summer vacation from hiking, returning back to the trails in September.



The annual Laking Woods snowshoe day. Attended by members of many clubs and co-hosted by Mad River & Midland groups. Amazing winter day!



in

Three Land Acknowledgement signs have been posted on the Mad section. These mark the beginning and end of the trail as well as midway in Avening.

Trail maintenance will resume once again this spring with the dates coordinated by our Trail Manager, Lynn. This year we hope to be placing new logo blazes along our trail. We are also working closely with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, (EBC), and members of the Bruce Trail coordinating the building of bridges in much needed areas.

We held our annual club meeting covering many topics. We discussed future plans for the club. We would like to welcome Don Johnson as our new Director. We look forward working with him.

The club is advertising in the Creemore Echo and a video has been posted on our facebook page as another way to bring some new hikers out with us on the trails.

Wishing you all a great spring and summer and hope to see you on the trails.

Midland

By Larry Piitz, President



By the time you read this, Midland Ganaraska Hiking Club will have held our "Opening of the Gap" ribbon cutting and our initial group hike.

We are so very proud and happy to have completed this project after years of work. The list of folks who deserve our thanks is a long one. Thank you to:

- all involved with planning and mapping the route
- those who helped obtain landowner permissions
- those who were 'hands on' creating the trail
- all the volunteers for the opening day

Special thanks to the landowners over whose land we will pass. Without their co-operation none of this would be possible.



The biggest Thank You of all certainly goes to out President Frieda Baldwin. It was her vision and dedication to this project that kept the rest of us focused and moving forward.

It is now possible to make a complete circuit of North Simcoe. This circuit takes in the Orillia- Oro Medonte-Barrie -Wasaga Beach and of course Midland Sections of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.

I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to check out the new section. Perhaps we should create a badge for the "North Simcoe Circuit" Let us know what you think!

Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President



This “winter” season has had its challenges. Just when we thought spring is indeed here and the bush trails were almost solid again, snow and ice would appear and the icers were once more the heroes of the day. Despite that, many club members enjoyed a fine hiking season, with some thanks for warmer than usual winter temperatures. Apart from relying on the Simcoe County Forest and our own local trail, we managed to get to Awenda for a combined ski and snowshoe event. There we found trails actually groomed and signed for snowshoes, which was a welcome change. We also got to the Pretty Channel and Copeland Forest. Both our ski and snowshoe trips to Bracebridge Resources center were canceled due to weather. Several “fill in” hikes were led by our various hike leaders which helped offset the canceled hikes. Flexibility was the order of the season. Great job, leaders!

Oro-Medonte

By Sue Benjafield, President

Our first hike on the Timber Wolf Trail was very well attended. The day was pleasant with the sun making a brief appearance. It was heartening to see so many hikers present for the first hike of 2024.

Our Sunday hikes continue to be well attended. The latest one to Friday Harbour was enjoyed by all for the interesting modern concept. Pat and Pierre led us through an easy, flat terrain which was refreshing in itself. Another Sunday that stood out occurred when Emilio led us with a snowshoe hike in Copeland Forest. We went off the trails which resulted in a vigorous challenging snowshoe.(not so much for Wayne as he didn't have snowshoes). It was great to get in one winter sport!

Our longer Monday hikes were plagued by inclement weather with four being cancelled.

We joined Mary and Bob Wilson from Orilla for our overnight trip to Limberlost. Bob led us with our icers and poles by the lakes and woods of Limberlost for five hours. It was lovely. The next day we hiked to the falls at Arrowhead and managed a short ski there as well. In spite of the lack of snow, a few trails were open and were well groomed.

We have four remaining hikes; Muskoka Waterfalls, Tiffin Centre, Oak Ridges and Ardagh Bluffs. Join us! We enjoy having members from other clubs to hike with us.

Our first meeting for the Spring session will be our Annual General meeting on May 6th. We encourage all members past and present to attend this enjoyable social event. It is a chance to see old friends and catch up on each other's news. We are fortunate to have Bob Wilson, (50 years a hiker with GHTA and a world hiker), give a presentation about his experiences as a hiker.

We do not meet in the summer. Upcoming events which are not included in the newsletter will be our Trail Maintenance days and garlic picking days. There will be sign up sheets for these at the May 6th general meeting and emails asking for your help!

Hoping to see you on the trails this spring,
Sue Kim Christine Wayne Holly Pat Pierre Joanna Emilio



Take the path less travelled.

Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2024, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

Image courtesy of Tourism PEI/NickiJoy

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COLOMBIA

September 10 to 23, 2024

Colombia has shed its notorious past!
Visit, hike & discover the most biodiverse country per sq km *in the world*.
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HIGHLIGHTS: Colombia's tallest waterfall
Cocora Valley * Famed coffee region of Salento
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Pine Ridge

By Jay Sherwin, President

'I took a walk in the woods today and came out taller than the trees.'

Henry David Thoreau



*Unmaintained road allowance near Fenella on one of the few snowy days of the winter season.
(photo credit: Hilda Van Netten)*

lack of suitable conditions for other winter sports activities that resulted in many of our club hikes being very well attended. Numbers of 20 – 25 were common on many of the scheduled hikes.

Pine Ridge Hiking Club members experienced an unusually mild and almost snowless winter along the hiking trails in Northumberland County. Only during the last half of January was there a significant accumulation of snow. Perhaps it was the

The Pine Ridge Hiking Club has been fortunate in attracting several new members. Credit for the continuing influx of new members is attributed to an attractive and user-friendly website and periodic posting of the PRHC hiking schedule on social media sites.

Our club has been fortunate to have three of the recent new members step up to become Hike Leaders. An electronic catalogue file of our 120+ hiking routes has been a welcome tool for the new Hike Leaders.

During the winter months of January to March, hikes were scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays only. Wednesday hikes began in April.

Over 40 club members gathered in late March for an evening of Hike Talks. Hike Talks is an annual event of the PRHC where presentations of hikes completed by members are offered following a pot-luck meal. After a delicious meal, club members enjoyed hiking vicariously through Switzerland, Gros Morne Newfoundland and the Tombstone Territorial Park in the Yukon. An additional feature of the evening was a presentation of the history of construction of the foot-bridges spanning the Ganaraska River on the Harris property at km 8 on the GHTA trail.

At the time of writing of this report, the GHTA trail from km 5.7 to km 10.6 remains closed due to the reconstruction of the bridge over the Ganaraska River on Sylvan Glen Road (km 6.5). Replacement of the bridge is due to be completed by mid May and upon completion the GHTA trail will also be reopened.

Below is a sequence of photos demonstrating that some spring water run-off is no barrier to Pine Ridge Hiking Club members.



Oh-oh!! A wet foot is won attempting to jump over a run-off channel.



Splash!! A rock is dropped into the puddle as a stepping stone.



Safe Passage!! Now the hiker with the wet foot is wishing she had just waited a moment.

(Photo Credits: Jodi De Jong)

Wasaga Beach

By Lorraine van Vlymen, President

Let's get one thing straight. This was no regular winter season but just as great anyway. With a late winter start up and frequent melts between the occasional snowstorm, we had to be prepared for anything. There was lots of wind, fallen trees, and icy paths everywhere. We kept hiking however, no matter the weather and the amazing turnouts we had, showed that members had the same idea. One memorable hike was along the Collingwood shore trails where we experienced +11 and sunshine at the beginning of the hike and 15 minutes



later -5 and strong winds coming off the bay. There were a lot of laughs and cold faces about that one afterwards.

Snowshoe hikes into the forest were often done on semi mushy conditions and warm temperatures. Some forest hikes were relocated to the Beach or near Beach trails because of dangerous ice conditions on our usual forest paths.

We took lots of pictures to share with the membership. The members who travelled to sunnier locations this winter really appreciated the photos which helped them stay connected with the club, other members and the beautiful trails in and around Wasaga Beach.

Thanks to all club members who come out regularly on hikes to support our club's efforts to keep us fit and enjoy the beautiful area we live in.



We celebrated a special 90th birthday with one of our longtime members and leaders, Bill Crawford. We always enjoy his lighthearted wit on the trails. His efforts to keep the Amblers going throughout the winter and all year long has been greatly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our intrepid hike leaders who kept us going during the winter months. Your commitment truly makes a difference. As new hike leaders and members come on board, we depend on the experience of the older members, some of which have been with the club for 25+ years, for breaking in the newbies.



With spring just around the corner, we look forward to hiking further afield. Hikes could include the Niagara Escarpment, Simcoe County forests, nearby wetland areas and some areas of the GHTA trail we have not tried before. We especially welcome the spring flowers and birds after a long winter.

We are also planning to get involved in some community events to advertise the benefits of hiking and spreading out the news of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association and our local club.

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TOUR DU MONT BLANC
July 9 to 23, 2024

**One of the most iconic treks in Europe,
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3 countries (France, Italy and Switzerland)!
7 valleys! 168km in distance! and
10,600m of total ascents and descents!
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Wilderness Rob Halupka – President

According to Leo Tolstoy, *“Spring is the time of plans and projects”*, and the Wilderness Hiking Club executive is taking this adage to heart. Activities at the west end of our trail system will resume on May 15th when the 10 km section of Black River Road running from Lewisham Lane to Victoria Bridge officially reopens for the new season. The kick-off event for the 2024 hiking season - reinstallation of the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek - will follow on the heels of the road reopening. We will put out the call for volunteers to assist our Ontario Parks friends as soon as a date has been agreed.

Trail maintenance is high on our to-do list for the spring season. Hiking trails - just like people - need attention too. Volunteers, both leaders and worker bees, will be needed to form work crews to trim encroaching vegetation, refresh painted blazes and put up trail markers. Most of this work can be carried out over a series of day hikes. We are also considering an overnight hiking expedition to tackle the section of trail on the east side running from Petticoat Junction to Victoria Lake, but this project will likely be scheduled for September. Please contact Carolyn Humphreys at chumpboat@gmail.com or me at halupkarob@gmail.com if you would like to offer your services for trail maintenance.



Have you ever noticed that “known” distances for long-established trail sections often seem to vary depending on whom you ask? Further, everyone swears that their measuring device is the most accurate, and that only they know the true distance. Rest assured, Wild Things, your Wilderness Club executive is on the case. With the help of the

“Master of the Maps”, GHTA Mapping Coordinator Victor Tolgyessy, we are assembling data for our various trail sections that will be used to establish official distances once-and-for-all.



A white birch log sectioned into perfect lengths by a beaver.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are still fleshing out the details for an alternative to the standard Wilderness end-to-end hiking requirement that includes completing the renowned “cross-over” hike with at least one night of camping out on the trail. However, not everyone is interested or able to venture out on overnight hiking trips and we don’t want this issue to stand in the way of folks wanting to realize their goal of hiking the Ganaraska Trail in its entirety. The alternative that we are developing will require candidates to complete a series of day hikes to earn end-to-end accreditation.

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Wilderness Club is scheduled for April 10th. We expect that this meeting will have come and gone by the time this newsletter is published.

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Ratings

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.

SPRING / SUMMER 2024 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. 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.

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.

Event organizers and hike leaders are encouraged to have their hikers/participants provide contact information. Waivers must be signed by non-members before each hike; members sign a blanket waiver as part of their membership renewal.

COVID and other viruses are still present and pose a possible threat, albeit less life-threatening than 4 years ago – so if someone is not well, it is expected that they **will not attend** a hike.

BARRIE HIKES

General information

Please check the Ganaraska [website](#) calendar frequently for additions and updates. Barrie hikes continue on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thursday hikes are joint Barrie-Orillia and usually take 3-4 hours with a lunch break. See **Orillia** schedule for Thursday. Contact the hike leader to pre-register.

Wednesday May 1. Drury Tract. <Easy> Shelagh Blenkarn. 705-722-6689

Sunday May 5. Minesing Wetlands. <Moderate> Dale Hannah. 249-359-7270

Wednesday May 8. Behind Simcoe County Admin. Building <Moderate> Shelagh Blenkarn 705-722-6689.

Sunday May 12. Springwater Park Land Acknowledgement Ceremony. <Easy> John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Wednesday May 15. Simcoe County Museum. <Easy> Shelagh Blenkarn 705-722-6689

Sunday May 19. Long Falls. <Moderate> Dale Hannah 249-359-7270

Sunday May 26 Pretty River Valley <Moderate> Gary Norton 416-918-5050

Wednesday May 29. Beeton Rail Trail. <Easy> Marie McArthur 705-241-5471

Thursday May 30 Wasaga Beach. <Moderate> John Sloan 705-715-6994

Sunday June 2. Boyne Valley. <Moderate> John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Sunday June 9. Kolapore Wilderness Trail <Moderate> Gary Norton. 416-918-5050

Wednesday June 12. Barr Tract. <Easy> Shelagh Blenkarn. 705-722-6689

Sunday June 23. Copeland Forest <Moderate/Challenging> Gary Norton 416-918-5050

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

- Wednesday hikes are 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km and are usually on easy terrain/well defined trails at a moderate pace.

- Weekend hikes are 3-4 hrs/10-12 km (sometimes longer) and usually include a lunch stop

-Special Note - This schedule has been abbreviated. To better assess your capabilities vis-a-vis a specific hike, please refer to the detailed Club schedule or contact the hike leader

-Guest hikers should call the hike leader a few days before the hike to let them know they plan to attend and to get updated hike information as needed

- Hikers should arrive 10 minutes before hike start time

- Individual hike leaders may require hiker registration. Back-up contacts are:

- Wednesday Hikes: Janice 705-874-0194
- Weekend Hikes: Richard 705-750-1040

Wednesday, May 1; Young's Point CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 5 km; Contact Linda T at 705-874-0503

Saturday, May 4; Long Sault CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Karen G at 289-356-7366

Wednesday, May 8; Trent (Lady Eaton Drumlin) <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Saturday, May 11; Mount Pleasant Area <MODERATE PLUS> 10:00 a.m.; 13-14 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, May 15; Buckhorn <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 7 km; Contact Karin at 416-986-2875

Saturday, May 18; No Hike (Long Weekend)

Wednesday, May 22; John Earle Chase Property

<MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Karen K at 705-559-6436

Saturday, May 25; Trails of Lindsay <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, May 29; Lakefield Trail & Country Roads <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, June 1; Rotary Trail Peterborough <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 14 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, June 5; Otonabee Gravel Pit CA <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Rosanne at 613-438-1726

Saturday, June 8; Lang Area <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, June 12; East City & North to Trent Woods <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Roxanne at 705-927-2711

Saturday, June 15; Millbrook Valley Trails <MODERATE PLUS> 10:00 a.m.; 13-14 km; Contact Karen G at 289-356-7366

Wednesday, June 19; Trent Wildlife Sanctuary <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Saturday, June 22; O.R. Challenge - Leg 1 <MODERATE PLUS> 9:00 a.m.; 15 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Wednesday, June 26; Harold Town CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, June 29; GHT Kawartha Section Leg #1

<EASY-MODERATE> 9:00 a.m.; 14 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

2024 Oak Ridges Trail Challenge

Hike planning for the 5 Legs of this challenge is underway with a date for the first Leg already set as follows:

- June 22 - Leg #1

The remaining 4 legs will be scheduled over the summer and will be available from [Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association - Kawartha Club | Facebook](#). **For more information about this Kawartha Club challenge, contact Janice at 705-874-0194.**

MAD RIVER HIKES

Hikes and Updates: The Mad River spring / summer hiking schedule will be posted on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail [website](#) hike calendar.

Hikes are scheduled on a weekly to monthly basis and hikers are asked to refer to the calendar periodically for new hike postings, changes, updates and cancellations.

Hikers are asked to arrive 10 minutes prior to hike departure and to register with the hike leader.

Weekly **recreational biking and paddling** will continue.

To be added to email list, please contact Sharon: 705-351-1571

MIDLAND HIKES

General Information

- Local Wednesday hikes will continue as usual. Meet at Food Basics. Hike at 10 AM

The Midland club runs **weekly local paddles**, approximately 2 to 2.5 hours in length at 09:30 every Tuesday during the summer months, weather permitting. Spaces are limited. Contact Beth at 705 361 2644

The "**Friends who Cycle**" group rides every Monday and Thursday at 10 am. (Weather permitting.) Please contact Rinske Van

Brederode rinskevanbrederode@gmail.com or phone 705-728-8453 for more information.

Sat May 4 Awenda Park to Kettle Lake. <Easy> 10 am for a 1 to 2 hour hike.
Carol Hartwell 780-906-4162

Sun May 5 10 AM Trillions of Trilliums Hike in Horseshoe Valley <easy to moderate >
Line 5 of Oro Medonte Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sat May 11 10 AM Veteran's Way <Easy to Moderate> Marc 705 527 1967

Sun May 12 Springwater Park <easy to moderate>
Land acknowledgement ceremony and joint hike with other GHATA clubs
(1.5 – 2 hrs) Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sat May 18 9AM Trilliums <Moderate> Trillium hike in the Horseshoe Valley area,
Contact: Joe (705) 279-1518

Sun May 19 1 PM Ganaraska Trail Reeves Rd <Moderate> Larry 705-529-9141

May 20-23 Mon – Thurs Camping Awenda Wolf Campground site 209 Book your own Site. Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Sat May 25 9:30 AM Killbear Provincial Park <Easy to Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sun May 26 12:45 PM Friel Tract <Moderate> Rainbow Valley Rd, Apto.
Contact: Kim (705) 828-2033

Sat June 1 10 AM Georgian Bay Snowmobile Club Multi use Trail. <EASY>
Meet at Gervais Road and Hike to Bells Falls and back. Carol Hartwell 780-906-4162

Sun June 2 Duncan Escarpment and Metcalfe Rock <Moderate> 13 km
Contact: Tracy Parsons at (705) 627-3758

Sat June 8 8:30 AM Carden Alvar day outing. <moderate> Contact: Kim (705) 828-2033

Sun June 9 9 AM Hogg's Falls Hike Easy Marc 705 527 1967

Sun June 9 2 PM Celebraton of Life for Rick Switzer at Midland Golf and Country Club, followed by an easy hike, possibly at the Thompson Forest.
Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

June 12-19 Wed – Wed Camping Samuel de Champlain Prov Park Babawasse Campground Site 10. Book your own site.
Marc 705 527 1967

Sat June 15 10 AM Barrie Section Old Second to Gill Road <Moderate>
Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Sun June 16 10 AM Midhurst <moderate> 10 AM at Food Basics or 10:45 AM at the Simcoe Board of Education building (east side) Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sat June 22 1 PM Waterfront and Pow Wow <Easy> Food Basics Frieda 705-245-1005

Sun June 23 Humphrey Nature Trails 5 Km+ <Moderate>
Contact: Tracy Parsons at (705) 627-3758

Sun June 30 10 AM Copeland Forest Hike <Moderate> Contact Pat Tuero at 289 395 2298 (txt).

Sun July 7 1 PM Woodland Beach area <Easy>, meet in Midland at 1 pm, bring a bathing suit.
Contact: Joe (705) 279-1518

Sat July 13 Tiny Marsh Ganaraska Trail Loop <Easy>, 6 K hike Carol Hartwell 780-906-4162

Sun July 14 1 PM Ganaraska Hiking Trail hike (Hogg Valley north) <moderate> 1 PM at Foodbasics Marilyn Holden 705-427-9629

Sat July 20 North Shore Rugged Trail and Salt Dock Loop 5Km <Moderate>
Contact: Tracy Parsons at (705)627-3758

Sun July 21 Blueberry Farm Patch <easy> Meet 1pm at Food Basics !
Edda 705 427 3460

Sun July 28 Awenda Hike/Swim <Easy> Frieda
705-245-1005

Tues Aug 6 9:30 AM: Killbear Hike and Swim <easy
to moderate>
Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sat Aug 10 10 AM Lone Lake
<Moderate/Difficult> Lone Lake Larry 705-529-9141

Sun Aug 11 10 AM Pretty Channel (Big Chute area)
<moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Wed Aug 14 10 AM Hardy Lake <Moderate>
Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sun Aug 18 10 AM Overhead Bridge Rail Trail
Parking Lot on 221 Robert's St W to Ganaraska Trail
and back <Easy>
Carol Hartwell 780-906-4162

Fri Aug 23 9 AM Torrence Barrens <moderate>
Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

Sat Aug 24 9 AM McCrae Lake N <Difficult> Long
hike. Larry 705-529-9141

Aug 30 – Sep 2 Camping Silent Prov Park
<Moderate> . Kim is booking 2 sites when
they come available by date. 3 tents per site. Hiking
and paddling.
Contact: Kim (705) 828-2033

**Save the date! Friday/Saturday/Sunday Sep 20, 21,
22, 2024**

El Camino Hike along the Maitland River
(challenging due to distance & terrain)
50 km from Auburn to Goderich in 2 days (optional
shorter distance)
See www.maitlandtrails.ca.
Frieda Baldwin
705-245-1005

ORILLIA HIKES

There will be **canoeing and kayaking** on Tuesdays
starting in May and continuing until the middle of
September. This is open to members of all clubs.

Notices for upcoming paddles will be sent to
participants by email. Most paddles will last 4 hours
and be 12-18km. We have several experienced
leaders who will guide the group to interesting and
beautiful places in Simcoe County and southern
Muskoka.

To join the group contact Bob Wilson at 705-330-
1904.

The club will also be **cycling** on several Thursdays
starting in June continuing until September. The rides
will be 30-40 km, easy to moderate pace. The rides
are posted on the Hiking calendar [website](#) .

EVERY Monday <EASY> 1 hour local hikes 10:00 am;
Contact Ann at 705-329-4835

EVERY TUESDAY <EASY> 2 hr Local Hike 9:00 am
(usually);

Thursday, May 2; Sheldon Lake < MODERATE-
CHALLENGING> 8:30 am; hike 5 hours. Contact Bob
Wilson at 705-330-1904

Saturday, May 4; Copeland Forest - P5
<MODERATE> 10:00 am ; hike 3-4 hours. Contact Pat
at 289-395-2298.

Thursday May 9; Bass Lake Sidereal E <MODERATE>
9:00 am; hike 4hours. Contact Bob Wilson at 705-
330-1904

Saturday, May 11; Bass Lake Sidereal E <EASY> 10:00
am; hike 3 hours. Contact Isabelle Lloyd at 705-321-
3631.

Thursday, May 16; Cooper's Falls <MODERATE-
CHALLENGING> 10:00 am; Hike 5 hours. Contact
Diane Dailly at 705-241-7735.

Thursday, June 6; Ragged Rapids <MODERATE-
CHALLENGING> 10:00 am; hike 5 hours. Contact
Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, June 8; Awenda PP <EASY-MODERATE> 8:00 am; hike 3-4 hours. Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Thursday, June 13; McCrae Lake <MODERATE-CHALLENGING> 10:00 am; hike 5 hours. Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, June 15; Copeland Forest - P2 <MODERATE> 10:00 am ; hike 3-4 hours. Contact Pat at 289-395-2298.

Thursday, June 20; Jarratt Mtn <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike 3-4 hours. Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, June 22; Division Rd <EASY> 10:00 am ; hike 2-2.5 hours. Contact Isabelle at 705-321-3631.

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Monday, May 6; 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 – Bob Wilson - 50 years Ganaraska hiker with the Orillia Club; Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Kim 705-721-0502

Sunday, May 12; Arbour and Johnson Tract<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Sue 705-722-0395

Monday, May 27; Wasaga Beach<MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 3-4 hours; bring lunch; Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Kim 705-721-0502

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

Monday, June 10; Hogg's Falls to Eugenia Falls<MODERATE>Meet in the Essa/Ardagh commuter parking lot to car pool; hike 4 hours; bring lunch; Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Christine 705-733-3825

Sunday, June 16; Wilkins Walk<EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Holly 705-345-7913

PINE RIDGE HIKES

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

Wednesday, May 01 <EASY> 10 km Osaca area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter pk'g lot P.H.. Contact: Jan at 905 375 8188

Saturday, May 04 <MODERATE> 12.0 km. Goodrich-Loomis C.A. Leaving 9:00 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact: Anita at 905 269 3724

Sunday, May 05 <EASY PLUS> 12.5 km. Bewdley, Vimy Ridge. Meet at 9:30 am at the trailhead - the Bewdley Overflow pk'g lot Contact: Susan at 289 251 3125

Wednesday, May 08 <EASY> 8.5 km. Cornish Hollow. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter pk'g lot (Burnham St). Contact: Melissa at 905 242 6114

Saturday, May 11 <MODERATE> 11.4 km. Speechly Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Jay at 905 396 3895

Sunday, May 12 <MODERATE> 9 km. Williamson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Heather at 416 457 8730

Wednesday, May 15 <MODERATE> 14.1 km. Port Britain. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401commuter pkg lot (carpooling). Contact: Stan at 289 691 3275

Saturday, May 18 <EASY> 6.1 km Gleason's Corner Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact Hilda at 905 372 2395

Sunday, May 19 <EASY> 5 km. Oak Hills Farm. Meet and park at 9:30 am at 4945 Oak Hills Rd. Contact John at 416 998 1292

Wednesday, May 22 <MODERATE> 10.6 km. O'Grady Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact Tom at 416 561 7587

Saturday, May 25 <EASY> 5.6 km. Eagleson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter pk'g lot (Burnham St). Contact: Hilda at 905 372 2395

Sunday, May 26 <MODERATE> 9.5 km. Gore's Landing. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Lucille at 416 996 8384

Wednesday, May 29 <MODERATE> 10.5 km. Oak Heights. Leaving 9:30 from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact: Cynthia at 416 694 7901

Saturday, June 01 <EASY> 6.5 km. Harris Property. Meet at 9:30 am at the trailhead - the former Canton United Church, 4840 4th Line Rd. Contact: Stan at 289 691 3275

Sunday, June 02 <MODERATE> 10 km. Canning Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Susan at 289 251 3125

Wednesday, June 05 <EASY> 11 km. Nawautin N.R. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Anita at 905 269 3724

Saturday, June 08 <MODERATE> 9 -10 km. Sweet Fern trail. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Woodland Forest pk'g lot Contact: Jodi at 905 269 5932

Sunday, June 9 <MODERATE Plus> 10 km Campbellcroft area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Tor. Rd/401com'r pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Bill at 905 207 2399

Wednesday, June 12 <MODERATE> 9.2 km. Roseneath area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 com'r parking lot.. Contact Cynthia at 416 694 7901

Saturday, June 15 <EASY Plus> 5.5 km. Forest Hill area. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact: Melissa at 905 242 6114

Sunday, June 16 <EASY> 7.3 km Bewdley east, Rice Lake C. A. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Bewdley Overflow pk'g lot, entrance opp. Cavan Rd. Contact: Melissa at 905 242 6114

Wednesday, June 19 <MODERATE> 12 km. Fenella area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot. Contact: Jay at 905 396 3895

Saturday, June 22 <MODERATE> 8 km. Morris Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter pk'g lot (carpooling). Contact: Jan at 905 375 8188

Sunday, June 23 <EASY> 5 km. Hazel Bird N. R. Meet and park 9:30 am at the H.B pk'g lot, 9639 Beavermeadow Rd. E. Contact John at 416 998 1292

Wednesday, June 26 <MODERATE Plus> 13 km. North'd forest. Leaving 9:30 am from Beagle Club pk'g lot. Contact: Jodi at 905 269 5932 or

Saturday, June 29 <MODERATE> 10.5 km. North'd forest. Leaving 9:30 am from Beagle Club pk'g lot. Contact: Jodi at 905 269 5932

Sunday, June 30 No hike. Preparing for Canada Day.

Monday, Jul 01. Canada Day Parade, Port Hope. Time and details TBA

Wednesday, July 03: <EASY> about 4.5 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk
Meet and park at the North'd Mall entrance. Leaving 6:30 pm from the mall. Contact: Bill at 905 207 2399

Wednesday, July 17: EVENING walk, TBA Contact: Jay at 905 396 3895

Wednesday, Jul 31: <EASY> about 6 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk
Leaving at 7:00 pm from the front of Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West
Contact: Marcella at 705 653 3433

Wednesday, Aug 14: <EASY Plus> about 5 km. Port Hope EVENING town walk
Leaving from the Port Hope City Hall parking area at 6:30 pm
Contact Darryl at 905 373 2463

Wednesday, Aug 28: <EASY> about 6 km. Cobourg EVENING town walk
Leaving at 6:30 pm from the front of Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West.
Contact Susan at 289 251 3125

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

Please check the Wilderness Club Facebook page or the Ganaraska Hiking Trail [website](#) hike calendar for up-to-date information.
It is important to note the trail conditions in QEII.

Saturday, May 4th - Sheldon Lake Loop 18 km <Difficult/Challenging>
Meet at Devil's Lake Trailhead at 8:15 a.m.
Contact Rob at halupkarob@gmail.com

After May 15 mid week - Montgomery Creek Floating Bridge Replacement Maintenance (watch calendar and FB page for exact date and timing)
Meet at Victoria Bridge.
Contact Carolyn at chumpboat@gmail.com

Saturday, May 25th - Ragged Rapids Loop 16 km <Difficult/Challenging> Trail Maintenance Hike
Meet at Victoria Bridge at 8:15 a.m.
Contact Rob at halupkarob@gmail.com

Friday June 21 (Indigenous Peoples Day) 25k Paddle — Fishog to Crooked Lake <challenging/moderate>
meet at Fishog drop in 9:30 am
Contact Carolyn at chumpboat@gmail.com

Saturday July 27 (rain date 28) 10-15k Paddle — QEII via Riley Creek <moderate> meet at Riley Lake launch 9:30 am
Contact Laura at eatlaughsmile@gmail.com

Saturday August 3 — Montgomery Cr hike 12k <challenging> meet at Victoria Bridge 9:30 am
Contact Carolyn at chumpboat@gmail.com

August TBA — Hike Location TBA <challenging/moderate>
Contact Neil at neil.runnals2015@outlook.com

September
Watch for announcements via Calender and FB.
Wilderness Club members will receive a direct email.

GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED MARCH 2024

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Winter	Fall	Sumr
BARRIE	80	80	71
INDEPENDENT	7	18	13
KAWARTHA	64	87	80
MAD RIVER	27	35	35
MIDLAND	107	139	120
ORILLIA	70	69	64
ORO-MEDONTE	38	48	44
PINE RIDGE	123	124	115
WASAGA BEACH	66	77	75
WILDERNESS	68	80	79
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	678	757	696
LIFE MEMBERS	28	28	28
MEMBERSHIPS	785	785	724
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	21	21	22
LAND OWNERS	81	81	81
TOTAL	780	887	827



Merchandise Order Form

Proudly support the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. by purchasing merchandise listed below or by making a donation. Just fill out this order form and select one of the payment methods below.

Item	Quantity	Price (incl. shipping)	Total
CREST of GHATA logo*		7.00	
END TO END BADGE –member price		0.00	
END TO END BADGE – non-member (incl. 1 year membership)		27.00	
SECTION BADGE – Barrie		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Kawartha		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Mad River		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Midland		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Orillia		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Oro Medonte		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Pine Ridge		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Tiny		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wasaga Beach		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness		10.00	
50 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE *		7.00	
100 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE *		7.00	
200 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE*		7.00	
MID PEN GAP BADGE (available after April 13, 2024)*		7.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

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.

No log is required for badges marked with *

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

Payment options:

1. Make cheque payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. and mail the completed form to Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc., PO Box 693, ON L3V 6K7.
2. Email badgeofficer@ghata.ca and treasurer@ghata.ca the completed form (and your hike log if required), and etransfer the appropriate amount to treasurer@ghata.ca.

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.

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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with
Brown Rabbit Walkabout

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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 (Newsletter@gha.ca). Please use Word or similar formats, but not PDF. Digital images should have a minimum of 300 ppi resolution and be JPG or PGN, not PDF.

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