

## **Annual General Meeting**

December 4, 2021

This year's Annual General Meeting was held virtually with John Oyston being the Emcee. Approximately 40 people attended.

### **Agenda**

John Oyston – Emcee of Virtual AGM

Bill Zeran – Opening Remarks

Finance Director – John Ambler

Membership Coordinator – Nancy Tong

Hike Coordinator – Jan Either

Website Coordinator – John Kryski

Trail Maintenance Director – Jimmy Edwards

Information Coordinator – George Atto

Land Owner's Coordinator – Bruce Williamson

Speaker: Val Drezil – Biologist from Nature Conservancy

### **Social Activities**

Earth Day & Frontenac Challenge Coordinator – Stan Muldoon

Hiking outside the GHTA Coordinator – Jim Osbourne & Pam Callus

President Elect – Jay Sherwin

Bill Zeran – Closing Remarks

## **President – Bill Zeran:**

My 3-year term as President started out pretty normal after the 2018 AGM with the regular hikes at Christmas and New Year's, Hike Talks in March, Earth Day in the rural areas of Port Hope in April, Canada Day Parade and some social gatherings in the summer of 2019. We even had "Through the Hikers Lens" at the Port Hope Library, United Way Dragon Boat Festival in September and of course lots of hikes. But then in March 2020 everything came to a halt. We tried numerous times to get the hiking schedule out. We ended up cancelling all our activities, namely Hike Talks, Earth Day, Canada Day Parade, and so on.

Within the 3 years of my term as President, the GHTA decided to purchase an app (namely ONDAGO) for the Ganaraska Trail from Port Hope to Georgian Bay.

All 9 clubs needed to get on board to map out the route, along with the correct kilometers, trail coordinates, description of noted areas, history, website addresses and parking areas. Bob Short, David Beevis, John Kurowski and Jimmy Edwards hammered out the updated information. Darry Russell, Elke Williams and Liz Forder helped out by hiking our entire 63.5 Km of the Pine Ridge Section. Thank you all for your time and effort. This app is free for anyone. You just go the ONDAGO website and download. It will show you the Ganaraska Trail from end to end and the individual 9 club trails.

In 2020 & 2021, Jay Sherwin had his yearly fundraiser in February for Greenwood Coalition called "The Coldest Night of the Year."

This year, our Hike Coordinator Jan Ethier brought forward a fundraiser to the club for Ed's House in Cobourg. This is a Hospice Care Centre on Ontario Street north. We all came together and helped out.

I would also like to thank Marci Edwards for the last 3 years; Marci has been fundraising for the club by selling her marmalade also known as "Marci's Marvellous Marmalade".

Finance Director – John Ambler:

<b>Pine Ridge Hiking Club</b>		
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>		
	<b>November 30, 2021</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
AGM Deposit	N/A	\$265.00
Donations	\$552.00	\$233.00
GHTA Support	\$479.05	\$405.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,031.05</b>	<b>\$903.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Postage & Cards	N/A	\$36.14
Cobourg Internet	\$140.00	\$182.90
Hall Rental	N/A	\$173.82
Projector Rental	N/A	\$112.94
Meeting Expenses	N/A	\$282.15
Bank Maintenance Fee	\$30.00	\$27.50
Gifts	\$200.00	N/A
Trail Markings	\$139.05	N/A
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$509.05</b>	<b>\$815.45</b>
Increase (Decrease) in Resources	\$522.00	\$77.55
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$1,626.38</b>	<b>\$1,104.38</b>

## **Membership Chair – Nancy Tong**

I have held the position of Membership Chair for about 4 years. It is not a particularly onerous job...even less so with technology and the pandemic. Members, new and returning now tend to use the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association's web site for application forms and to make payment. Essentially, I am a conduit between Pine Ridge Hiking Club and GHTA. Membership reports are produced quarterly by GHTA, sent to me and I forward to our hike leaders and our Information Officer.

I also forward names of new members to our club leaders. It is my responsibility to prepare a membership report for our annual general meeting. This report highlights our membership statistics so we have a picture of growth or decline ... good for decision making. In pre pandemic days many members would renew their membership at the AGM and I would forward application forms and money to GHTA. As we resume (hopefully) in person meetings this may return to some degree. Finally, a gentle reminder that membership fees for 2022 are now due.

ACTIVE MEMBERS: 111 (18 more than last year)

LANDOWNERS: 13 (same as last year)

LIFE MEMBERS; 2 (down 1 from last year)

## **Hike Coordinator – Jan Ethier:**

We've all had many challenges over the past 1 1/2 years and one of ours was keeping the hiking group alive and well when we were allowed to get out and hike.

So, for their willingness to offer themselves, my gratitude goes out to the hike leaders.

Their flexibility, their generosity, and their commitment to the task enabled our Club to survive the Pandemic.

Our many new members are a testament to the excellent job done by the hike leaders, in their planning and executing a variety of hiking experiences. We've had

more people step up to be hike leaders which will ensure our Club continues to grow. So, thank you, hike leaders!

In particular, I want to thank Rita Zeran, who is retiring as a hike leader. Rita would consistently send me a list of at least 4 hikes she'd be willing to do. She'd also generously say, "If you need more hikes, let me know!"

Also, in her role as "email message forwarder", she always sent out the emails in a timely fashion and has been doing this for a long time! So, thank you, Rita.

I'd also like to thank Bill Zeran, our Club President. I often had to consult with Bill on different issues that would arise. He'd listen thoughtfully and consider options and we could always work out a solution together. I always felt supported and heard by Bill and that made my job easier. So, thank you, Bill.

I am grateful to Darryl Russell who is taking over as hike coordinator.

Darryl's attention to detail, love of maps and good communication skills make him a great choice for hike coordinator. So, thank you, Darryl.

So, dear folks, all that's left for me to say is - see you on the trails!!

### **Website Coordinator - John Kryski:**

The website coordinator is the main point of contact in our club for making changes to the Pine Ridge Hiking Club website.

Activities include: 1. Receive the hike schedule from our hike coordinator and forward it to our website developer (Karl vom Dorff), for posting on our website. (3 times/year). This routine was reinstated partway through 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic. 2. Receive invoices from Karl vom Dorff for website revisions and maintenance, vet the invoices, and forward them to Treasurer John Ambler for payment. (approx. twice/year; total \$140 in 2021) 3. Send an annual invoice (\$200) to Maddalena Molina at Comfortable Hiking for their website advertisement. In 2020, they suspended their sponsorship. We will likely ask them in mid-2022 to reinstate it. 4. Receive email requests from members to add/change/delete other content or notices on the website, as approved by the president. Receive pictures from members to post on the Members Gallery.

Changes to the website this year included: 1. We updated the notice on the website to let people know new rules around hiking during the Covid-19 Pandemic. 2. The Members Gallery is continuing to show pictures of hike events. I have pictures from recent hike events, and plan to post these over the winter. The Member's Gallery is hosted on the Flickr platform at a cost of \$77 CAD/year. 3. There are also numerous Archive items to be restored on our website. They will be posted over the winter.

Website cost history:

2014: \$153.50, 2015: \$163.40, 2016: \$180.50, 2017: \$187.70, 2018: \$147.80, 2019: \$195.20, 2020: \$182.90, 2021: \$140.00.

2021 View of Hiking Website Statistics: With the change in website developer (from John Draper to Karl vom Dorff), the variety of website statistics no longer exists, so very little useful information is available

### **Trail Director – Jimmy Edwards:**

Looks like once again we have completed another year of maintaining our 60 kms plus section of the Ganaraska Trail. THANK YOU ALL!

All 25-plus workers have done a great job of clipping, snipping and even painting blazes on their section of our wonderful pathway.

A special shoutout to Dan Clark of Parks and Recreation in Port Hope for doing such a complete job of clearing the Pat/Jack trail along the east side of the Gannie in the downtown. Aside from braving the fisherfolk along the trail it is almost like a super trail due to their efforts. Have a look and hike it to see.

All of this was accomplished during the continuing backdrop of COVID concerns... also under the assumption that most if not all involved have had both COVID shots which would provide a modicum of comfort undertaking this activity. I know that all of us are looking forward to seeing COVID in the rear-view mirror...hopefully sooner than later...time will tell.

In the meantime, THANKS again for all your effort and support for this continuing venture. Rest assured that you will have at least late spring before needing to block my phone as I make my annual roundup of volunteers for 2022.

Keep on hiking, being active and keeping safe.

**Information Coordinator – George Atto:**

I do receive a few emails per year which I forward to the President if I am unable to find an answer. Being I have been doing this for the past 10 or so years, I am handing over the reins to Colin Banfield. They are in good hands.

**Land Owner Relations – Bruce Williamson:**

Ajo Baby and young family moved into the house that Steve and Ruth Farkas owned at the corner of the 5th Line and Knoxville Rd. I visited him 3 weeks after they moved in and he was immediately agreeable to having the club continue to use our trail at the back of his property.

This year's Christmas card to property owners features the bridge made by Wally Hobb's on Bill and Penny Harris's property at Sylvan Glen.

**Guest Speaker – Val Drezil:**

Val is a Biologist for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Her presentation involved the work currently being done at the Hazel Bird Sanctuary on Beaver Meadow Road and Russes Creek Nature Reserve.

## **Social Activities**

**Stan Muldoon:**

### **EARTH WEEK CLEANUP HIKE**

It has been a tradition at Pine Ridge to conduct an annual cleanup of the southern section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail during Earth Week. This year the cleanup is planned for Wednesday April 27 from 9:30 am to noon. We will meet in the Port Hope Home Hardware parking lot where we will form teams of 3 – 4 people. Each team will be assigned to a section of the trail. Garbage bags are provided. You are asked to bring a pair of work gloves. We will bring the waste to a central location

(usually the parking lot at the fish ladder). You are invited to come to Stan and Jan's for snacks and refreshments afterwards.

### **FRONTENAC PARK TRIP**

Frontenac is a beautiful provincial park with extensive hiking trails north of Kingston. Club members often spend five days hiking there during the fall. We stay at the Snug Harbour Resort just outside the park ([snugharbour.on.ca](http://snugharbour.on.ca)). There are a variety of hikes and two hike leaders to accommodate those who prefer longer or shorter hikes. The dates for this fall are October 16 – 21. If you are interested or have questions, please contact [stanmuldoon@hotmail.com](mailto:stanmuldoon@hotmail.com).

### **Hiking Outside the GHTA – Jim Osborne & Pam Callus, Jimmy & Marci Edwards:**

The Huntsville Trip planned for May 2022 has again been postponed until the Fall of 2022. Please note these dates if you are considering participating: starting Monday Sep.12 and leaving Thursday Sep.16, 2022. We have secured a block of rooms at the Huntsville Best Western Muskoka Inn at \$149.99 + tax per night (half with one king sized bed, and half with two queen beds per room), breakfast included. Details concerning how to book your room, when this guaranteed available room ends, and daily hike details will be made available once we are certain that the club trip will take place.

### **Photography Show- Lee Wakelin:**

We are hoping to continue the tradition of sharing wonderful photographs taken by members of our club next year. A venue has not yet been secured, but will most likely be in Cobourg. It will be held a little later than in previous years, probably mid-November. With Christmas approaching, members who wish to sell their framed photographs may be more successful!

I know that many of our hikers are avid photographers, and since we've not had a show for two years, there should be many amazing photographs to choose from for our show.

I will be sending out more information in the new year. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions or concerns.

**President Elect – Jay Sherwin:**

Thanks Bill and thank you to John for managing this meeting via zoom.

Welcome to all members attending virtually and hopefully a year from now our AGM will be an in-person event. To begin, I wish to recognize Bill for the fine work he has done over the past 3 years serving as our President. I am aware of the organizational skill and professionalism you brought to the position. You leave big shoes to fill.

Already Bill has provided me with a large box crammed, but neatly organized with many files pertinent to the PRH club and I understand a binder is to follow shortly as the reins of power are passed to me. All of this information is a little daunting and I am sure my learning curve as your president is going to be steep. I expect I will be reaching out to many of you for support....and please do feel comfortable if you have reason to believe I need some direction or to remind me of a detail I may have overlooked. I look forward to working with all club members with my goal being to keep the Pine Ridge Hikers a strong and vibrant group.

I was born in this area, worked as milk truck driver and with dad, drove down many dead-end roads. There is spectacular natural scenery of this part of Ontario that in my opinion is best revealed by discovering it on foot. I have noticed on recent hikes that we have a significant number of new members. I hope that those of you who have recently joined the PRHC are enjoying the same benefits that the club has presented to me.

During the next 3 years, I will be arranging annual meetings, special events, maintain and promote new Membership, oversee maintenance of the club's

section of Ganaraska Hiking trail and communicate with club members (will be relying on Rita's skills to circulate messages) and maintain communications with our parent organization, The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. On another note, on communication.... you may find my text responses to your texts may be short and possibly, but hopefully not blunt as I am still using a flip phone. At present phone calls and emails are my preferred method of communicating.

As the incoming president I wish to state that I have no intention of making any radical changes in the manner in which our club functions and I look forward to working with club members who have taken responsibility for activities of the club.

I have some ideas that I intend to work on during my term, one of which is to develop a hike route in the Alderville area that will provide an opportunity for we as hikers to become familiar with the community and the cultural and geographic features of that area.

In closing I wish to say that I look forward to serving as your club President and trust I will have the pleasure of enjoying many good chats with each one of you along the hiking trails.

**Closing Remarks – Bill Zeran:**

Thank you, Val, for speaking to us on this area of where we do some of our hiking. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge to obtain from your message and we really appreciate you speaking with us.

Continuing on with our volunteers, Hilda Van Netten will be our Social Coordinator for public events, namely pot lucks. She will work with her committee to make sure we have our social gatherings organized and planned.

Concerning the United Way Dragon Boat Festival, if it is held next year in September, Elke Williams will lead that event.

Our Publicity Director, Scott Harris within the last 3 years has made business cards for distribution and also started the Pine Ridge Hiking Club Facebook. Thanks, Scott, for your designing of the cards and your knowledge of getting the Facebook up and running with the other clubs.

I would like to thank all committee members who are staying for another year. This includes Rita Zeran. Rita our communications coordinator has been an asset to the club for relaying messages. She has held this position for over 10 years. Thank you, Rita. Just to let you know when Rita is not available, Bob Short sends out the emails.

There are 2 people in our group that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Bob Short, by making a CD of all the hikes in the Rural areas and towns of Port Hope and Cobourg, not once but twice. This was not an easy task. All hike leaders should have a copy and if you don't, please let me or Bob know. There are approximately 100 different hikes in our community that Hike Leaders are able to choose from a hike. I would like to personally thank Bob for his commitment to this organization.

The other person in our group who has gone above and beyond the call of duty is John Oyston. I would like to thank John Oyston who picked up the torch to do 3 virtual hike talks. It was truly an inspiring event to see so many hikes being done not only in our area but around the world. Some of them are still on the website. Our next Hike Talks will be at the end of March, early April but not sure if it will be in person or virtual.

If anyone is thinking of doing the Pine Ridge Section from end to end, as indicated on our website, they will need to purchase a day user pass or a membership from the Ganaraska Forest Conservation Authority to enter the Forest. The cost is \$30.00 per year or \$6.00 per day. This is from km. 21.9 to km. 39.7 section of the trail. Please see their website.

Just a reminder, anyone who signs up to be a member in September your membership is good for the following year. We, as a club receive \$5.00 from each

member that renews before January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. For anyone who has not renewed their membership next year, please do so before January 1<sup>st</sup> to help out our club. See our website for more details.

In closing, we will see some of you this afternoon at the Town Hall Port Hope parking lot at 2:00 pm for our traditional 4 km President's Hike and going for a beverage at Turtle John's after if you wish. You will need to show proof of being double vaccinated and proof of ID. If you have not yet pre-registered, please send me an email before 1:30 this afternoon. If any hike leaders are attending this afternoon, please bring your completed hiking sign-up sheets to be given to Darryl. Thanks again John for hosting the virtual AGM.

Happy Hiking

Bill Zeran