



Ganaraska Hiking Trail Guidebook - 2006 Edition

long walk leads to the Nordic Ski Centre where ample parking and two outdoor toilets are available. For those who wish to start hiking from this location, easy access is provided. (Interpretive sign found here.)

Note, however, that hiking is not permitted during the winter season when a 30-kilometre trail system is groomed for X-country skiing.

- 14.8 **Powerline Rd.** Interpretive sign is found near entrance on eastside of Powerline Rd. Parking is available near the trail crossing. You are now entering the western portion of the park which is used by snowmobilers during winter. Winter hikers are cautioned to be prepared to yield right-of-way for the next 200 metres. The trail swings to the left and ascends over several dunes to reach the Nottawasaga River Ridge.

- 19.3 A picturesque picnic area, allowing a good view of the Nottawasaga River below, also a river access point for fishermen.

- 20.3 Lookout point with interpretive sign; fragile sand bluffs high above the river's oxbow.

- 22.3 Exiting the western section of the park and crossing Oxbow Park Dr. you will see Schoonertown Parkette. A historic site dating back to War of 1812, it had been transformed into a conveniently located picnic area with tables, benches and a small parking lot. From here turn left across bridge; go along town streets.

- 24.3 **Sunnidale Rd.** Turn south and follow the blazes to just below the water tower which is one of the largest in North America. A short side trail ends up at a lookout whereas the main trail, leading downward, merges with Wasaga Sands Dr. Keep right and find trail access between houses. For a short distance the Ganaraska Trail coincides with a local trail named McIntyre Creek Trail. Along its route, look out for giant ferns and jack-in-the-pulpit.

- 26.0 **Wasaga Sands Golf Course.** Stay on designated hiking trail; golfers and golf balls have the right-of-way. Follow the creek valley until reaching a sharp bend to the right. A short ascent ends up in a residential street (Blake Court) merging with Wedgewood Dr.

- 28.5 A left turn followed by a short walk leads to Sunnidale Conc. 12 where the trail merges with the road leading westward. At County Rd. 7 (Centre Line) turn left and proceed to highway 26. A left turn followed by a right turn takes you back to Centre Line. Follow the latter to Nottawasaga 18/19 Sideroad which is an unassumed road allowance. Turn right and continue to next intersection.

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~~Interpretive sign found here. The road is now open to meet the trail. Proceed south along the road to meet the trail.~~

~~Note: the blaze on the big tree in the middle of the river, keep to the left on the right and follow it around the river to the southwest corner. Look for an opening down into a wooded valley with a dry creek bed. At the next opening, follow the blaze at the left side of a field until arriving at a creek crossing. A good way to cross the stream is to use plastic bags around your boots, then made to the other side.~~

~~20.5 Cross Highway 20, then walk south on Sunnidale Rd. to the next kilometre.~~

~~34.2 Sunnidale Conc. 10. At this location, the main trail continues south to Conc. 0, then west to Centre Line, where a side trail leads westward along Conc. 10. The latter is not maintained and could be difficult to pass after a long period of rain. At 16, however, the path of the river since it leads to the wooded forest.~~

~~41.1 The two sections merge at Centre Line and turning south, even continue westward along Nottawasaga to the river.~~

41.1 **Airport Rd.** (Simcoe County Rd. 42). Continue walking west, turn south onto Fairgrounds Rd., then turn west on Nottawasaga 15/16 Sideroad. Great views, especially from the top of the hill, over Nottawasaga Bay and surrounding countryside. Beyond the crest of the hill, the scenery changes to views overlooking the Village of Glen Huron and Devil's Glen on the escarpment.

48.1 **Smithdale.** Turn south at the bottom of the hill onto 6th Line.

48.6 **Stile.** This marks the end of the Wasaga Beach Section and the junction with the Mad River Section.

It is suggested that, when hiking the western end of the Wasaga Beach Section, you hike from west to east, not only to fully enjoy the scenery but also because you are walking downhill after the first 1.5 kilometres.