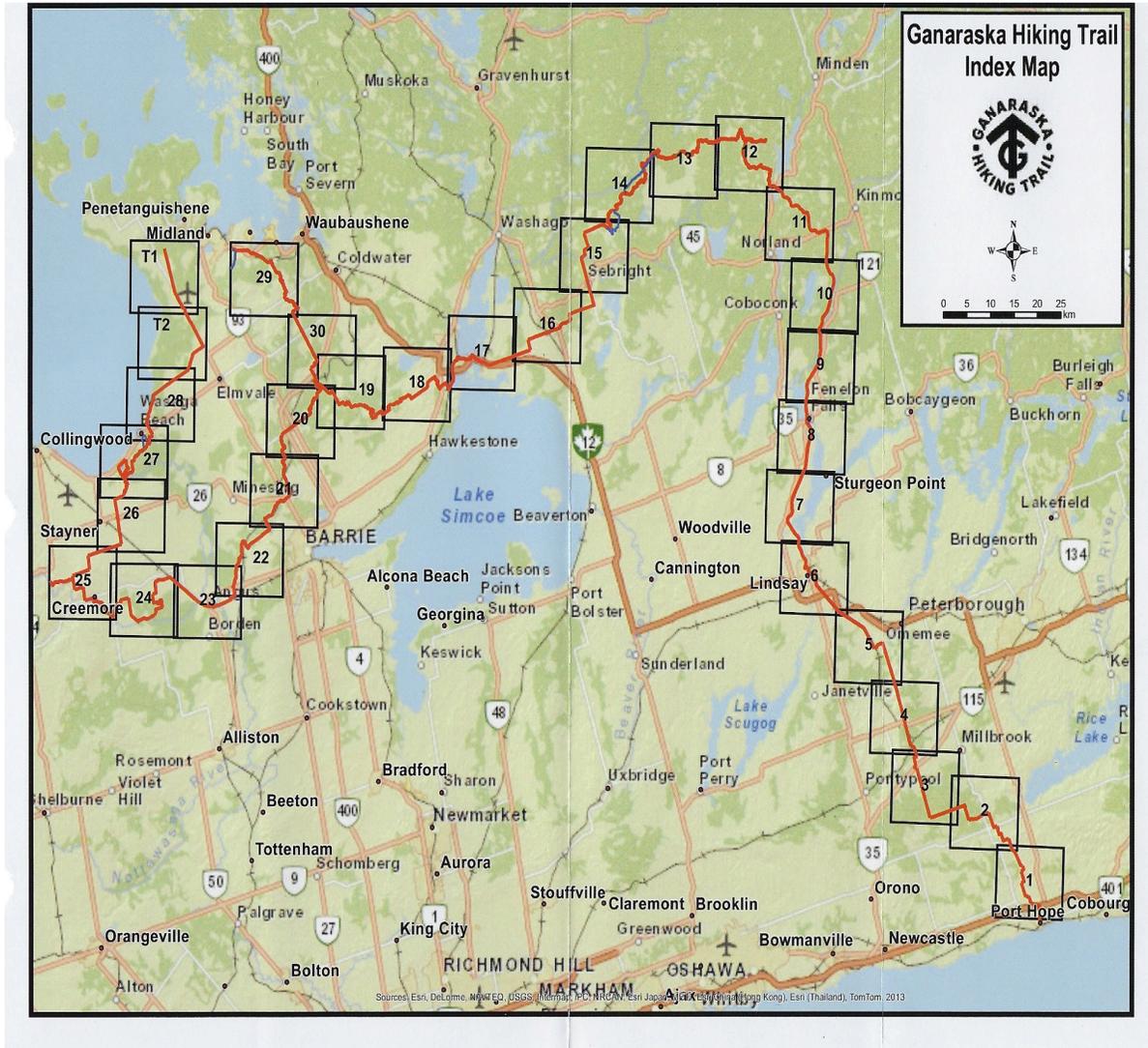


Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association 2013 Guidebook



GHTA Barrie Club Maps 19, 20, 21 & 22

Check the GHTA website 'Trail Changes' link for the latest revisions to these 2013 vintage maps.

BARRIE SECTION

Maps 19, 20, 21, 22

Gentle undulating moraine country with some road sections. Suitable for beginners and seasoned walkers.

Km

0.0 The Barrie section starts in Sugarbush Estate at the intersection of Line 6 North and Huronwoods Dr. next to Monica Court. Huronwoods is a crescent and there are two places where it crosses Line 6. The Barrie section starts at the south end of Huronwoods Dr.

Turn left on Huronwoods, follow west then north and enter bush on left (Tustin Tract). The trail passes through forest to Line 5 North. Turn right and follow Line 5 North, across Horseshoe Valley Rd. to the turnoff into the Amos Tract.

4.0 Here, turn left at steel gate and follow a forest path.

(Note: Interpretive sign on right.) In about 500 metres the trail makes a sharp right turn down narrow ravine. The route now follows wide bush trails used, depending on season, by hikers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers and horse riding enthusiasts. You are now in Copeland Forest.

The 1,650 hectare Copeland Forest property contains a part of the Oro Moraine. There are steep slopes and this area is the source of the Coldwater and Sturgeon Rivers. The Copeland Forest is managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

7.5 The Side Trail to the Oro-Medonte section (previously Midland) branches off to the north (right). The trail comes back to the Horseshoe Valley Rd. Just before reaching this location, there is a good rest spot with benches and a shelter. On the right is Settler's Ghost Golf Course.

12.1 **Cross the Horseshoe Valley Rd. with care**, turn right and follow this long road section to Craighurst.

15.1 **Craighurst** – A good place for breakfast, a coffee or ice cream. Cross over County Rd. 93 at lights and continue west.

17.6 You are now at Old 2nd North. Turn left (south) and after a short distance, make a right turn into reforested area. The trail goes through an attractive area of mixed bush and fields, crosses some creeks and a beaver dam.

This is a pretty area intersected by steep sided ravines with some wet and muddy patches. There are a number of bush roads on this part of the trail and it is important to keep an eye for blazed changes to the route. As you near Gill Rd. you will pass through a large section of Red Pine. This is Simcoe County Forest (Orrock Creek S.).

24.4 At Gill Rd., go left; this is a road section so keep to the left facing oncoming traffic. Proceed over railway tracks and along Gill Rd. to Craig Rd.

25.8 At Craig Rd. turn right. This road allowance is a pleasant hilly section bordered by mature maples. Watch for left turn in about 500 metres. From here, pass through a mixture of field and reforestation leading to Midhurst and to the parking lot of the Community Centre.

It is possible to use the parking lot other than on Sundays. Ice cream is also available at the General Store just east of the parking lot.

27.7 From the Midhurst Community Centre, turn right onto Doran Rd. and, at its intersection with Belmont Cr., the trail goes down a narrow gravel path in to Willow Creek Valley (on left).

Follow path down and cross bridge over Willow Creek. Bear right after bridge and continue up the hill and out to County Rd. 27. Look for blaze on telephone pole high on the opposite side of road. **Cross with great care as this is a busy highway.** Climb short steep hill and proceed to Hwy. 26 (short distance).

28.7 Cross over and follow trail into Simcoe County Museum Property. There is parking at the Museum, as well as across the road at the County of Simcoe Administration building.

The route leads to the back of the property beside an old sand/gravel quarry then back into scrub bush and reforestation. **(Watch for poison ivy – bad in some areas.)**

Note several interesting interpretive signs.

Emerging from the plantation, cross the railroad tracks (caution) and enter the back of Springwater Provincial Park. Please stay on the trail in this area. This is a fairly flat, easy walking, wide trail that ends up at Wilson Dr.

- 32.0 Turn left, cross over the railroad and then turn right on Snow Valley Rd.
Follow this road section until George Pkwy.
- 33.4 Turn left. Again cross over the railway and walk to the end of the road. Here the trail enters the bush by a gate, turns right immediately and left into a cedar swamp (wet most of the time). Follow trail again to the left then around and up to the rear of Snow Valley Ski Resort. A sub division will be at the right just before coming out onto Seadon Rd. (To the left will be Barrie Hill Farm and Rd.).

Nine Mile Portage

Barrie is the site of the eastern end of the Indian portage from Kempenfelt Bay to Willow Creek.

During the War of 1812-1814, a fort or depot was constructed at the Willow Creek end of the portage where war materiel was stored. In the winter of 1813-1814, a force under Lieutenant-Colonel Robert McDougall followed the portage to Fort Willow Depot and from there by canoe down the Nottawasaga River to Georgian Bay, on his way to relieve the isolated British garrison at Michilimackinac.

- 36.2 At Seadon Rd. the Ganaraska Hiking Trail meets up with the Nine Mile Portage route and both take the same route to Fort Willow. The trail is now on Seadon Rd. until it reaches George Johnson Rd. (County Rd. 28).

- 38.1 Cross over George Johnson and follow blazes into bush. This is a township right of way. The path meanders through forests and fields, which ends at Grenfel Rd. (unpaved) near a hydro right of way. Turn right on Grenfel, over railway tracks again, then left into Fort Willow.

- 40.8 Here there are toilet facilities, benches and shelter; a good place for a rest or lunch stop. As this fort is maintained by volunteers donations are most welcome.

The trail passes through Fort Willow, down a flight of stairs then makes a left hand turn on the North Simcoe Rail Trail. This is a recreational route used for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. It is also a part of the Trans Canada Trail.

Following along, the rail trail leads to an overlook site (on right) for the Minesing Swamp. This is a good place to take a break or just admire the view.

Continue along the rail trail until you reach Pinegrove Rd. (12th Conc.).

Note: Simcoe County Forest Miller Tract sign on opposite side of road.

- 42.8 **Pinegrove Rd.** Turn right here, then left almost immediately. You are now on the outer edges of the Minesing Swamp property. Here the trail joins a reforested area following along both edges of two shallow ravines. Eventually, the trail edges down into a valley for a while before climbing out again onto a grass bush trail. At the fence line, with the fields beyond, turn right for about 200 metres. Watch for a stile on the left. Here the trail heads into mature hardwood which gradually edges right and down closer to the swamp edge.

The Minesing Swamp is designated a Ramsar Site. It contains a 6,000-hectare network of interconnected swamps, fens, bogs and marshes. It is home to a large variety of Flora and Fauna, including Ontario's 5th largest Great Blue Heronry.

- 44.7 Eventually, the trail reaches a stile at a bush path. This is the end of Baldwick Lane (previously Conc. 13) which tapers out as it enters into the swamp on the right. Cross this stile, go to the left approximately 10 metres, turn right and cross a second stile on the opposite side of concession road.

Follow the trail while keeping high ground to the left. The trail here is narrow. Try to keep to the trail, as much of the ground can be really boggy.

The trail emerges out of a patch of cedar facing a muddy creek bed. Cross and head for a patch of cedar almost directly ahead. Pass through these, over some "tussock" ground to the wire fence, go right a short distance and climb over yet another stile. Because this area is always wet, keep going along the fence line (fence on right) until reaching change direction

markers. Turn left and proceed over more “tussocky” ground (watch for post marker).

Cross another small creek. Post markers angle at about 45 degrees to the right until fence line is reached. Turn left and follow fence to steel gate and climb over. Now you face a sea of very tall grass. Post markers are very difficult to find. A compass could be very useful and direction is roughly south/southwest. Failing that, head for tree line slightly to the left and follow until blazes are located at the far side, near the corner. Here the trail is well marked for the most part but it can be very wet. The best time to even consider this section is in a dry spell *or* when frozen or snow covered.

The trail now narrows and passes into a mixture of cedar and young fir trees, from this point on, until reaching Hwy. 90. The high ground is on the left.

There are two more tall grass sections on this trail. The first is a small clearing; just edge slightly left or south/southwest and watch carefully for blazes on opposite side. Again, a wet to very wet section with many fallen trees. Proceed with care and eventually the trail will merge with a snowmobile trail coming from the left. Once more, a wet and boggy section (private property on both sides) that finally exits from the trees facing the last tall grass section. This is swampy terrain for about 100 metres long and difficult to cross. Head south/southwest or keep close to trees just to your left passing under hydro lines.

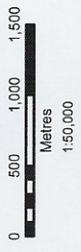
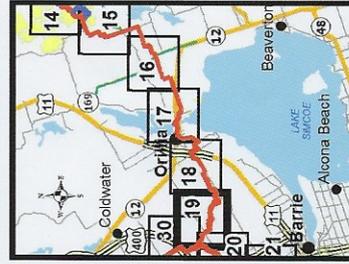
48.1 You will now hear traffic and, after climbing a small knoll, will reach the end of the Barrie Section at Hwy. 90, just west of Conc. 6.

Ganaraska Trail

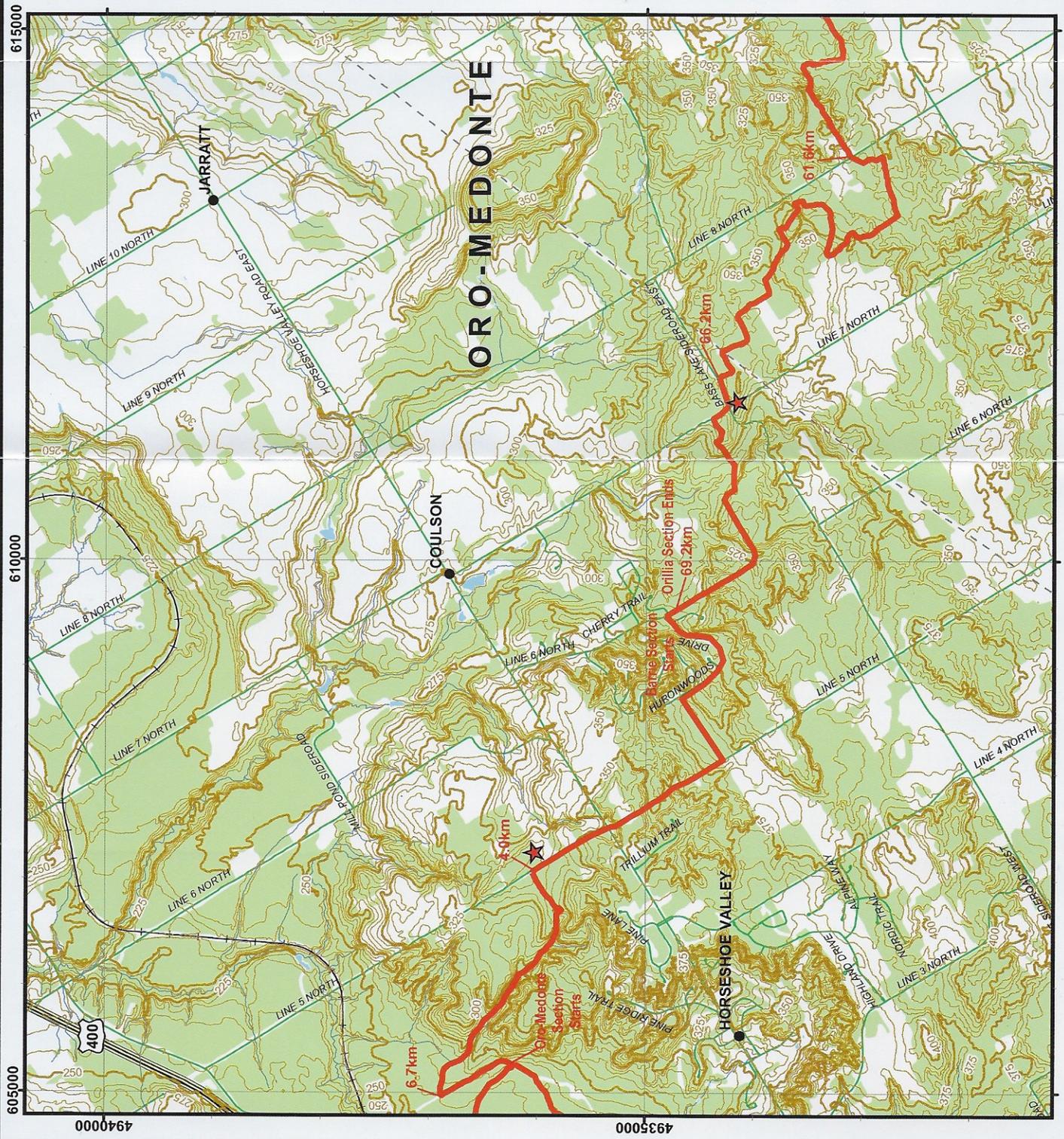
Orillia/Barrie Section

Map 19

	Ganaraska Trail
	25m Contours
	5m Contours
	Divided Highway
	Highway
	County/Local Road
	Railway
	Utility Line
	Lake/River
	Wooded Area
	Conservation Area
	Provincial Park
	Municipal Boundary
	Interpretive Sign



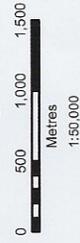
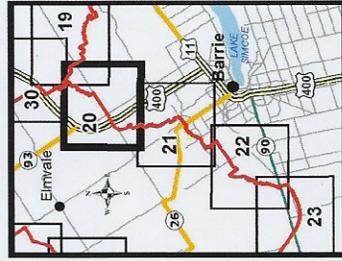
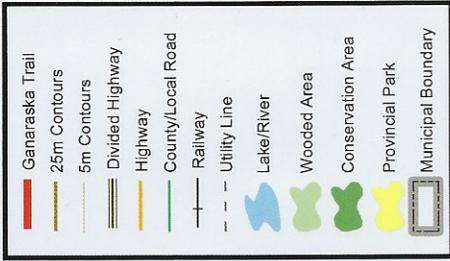
UTM Projection Zone 17
 North American Datum 1983
 Produced for The Ganaraska Hiking
 Trail Association.
 Produced by Steve Aldred
 Plan-it Geographical
 plan.it.barrie@gmail.com
 Copyright Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2013



Ganaraska Trail

Barrie Section

Map 20



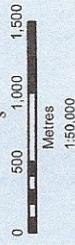
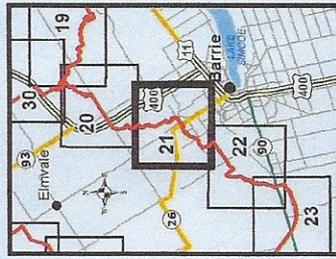
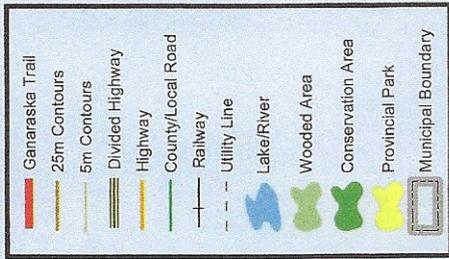
UTM Projection Zone 17
North American Datum 1983
Produced for The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.
Produced by Steve Aldred
Plan-It Geographical
planit.barrie@gmail.com
Copyright Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2013



Ganaraska Trail

Barrie Section

Map 21



UTM Projection Zone 17
North American Datum 1983
Produced for The Ganaraska Hiking
Trail Association.
Produced by Steve Alford
Plan-it Geographical
planit.barrie@gmail.com

Copyright Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2013



