



# The Ganaraska News

Linking all clubs of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

SPRING 2021 (May 1 to August 31, 2021)



*Trillions of Trilliums by Alina Lin*

## Key Info for Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Members

Spring is here! Although the lockdowns have continued into May, we hope you have been able to spend lots of time outdoors. Given that clubs are not currently offering group hikes, this **virtual-only** edition of the newsletter **does not contain any events or hike schedules for May through August**. Enjoy the wonderful weather on its way and stay safe!

## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association COVID-19 Protocol and Tips

As outdoor gatherings are now prohibited except for between members of the same household +/- one member of another household who lives alone, all Ganaraska hikes are now suspended.

When group hikes resume, please follow these guidelines:

- Do not join hikes outside your municipality/region.
- Hike leaders will collect emergency contact information before starting the hike.
- Stay home if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you are unwell.
- Group hike participation may be restricted to permit social distancing, even if regional guidelines allow larger public gatherings.
- Carpool to group hikes only with people in your bubble.
- Practice Physical Distancing. Keep 2 metres apart from anyone not in your bubble. Move aside to allow others to pass.
- Masks are not required on hikes except when you cannot maintain a 2 metre distance.
- Do not expect public washrooms to be open.
- Hikers should carry their own basic first aid materials, such as bandaids, tick removers, etc.
- *Above all – enjoy yourselves. We are lucky to be able to go out and hike safely!*

# Update from 2021 Annual General Meeting

Please welcome the 2021 Executive, Board of Directors and Officers! This group of dedicated volunteers play a major role in keeping our Association active and vibrant in our communities. Thanks also to many others who give their time and energies within their local clubs and help to maintain our trails.

## MEET YOUR 2021 EXECUTIVE



**President:** Frieda Baldwin



**Vice President:** Sharon Striegl



**GHTA Trail and Landowners Relations Director:** John Sloan



**Secretary:** Carol Strickland



**Treasurer:** Simone Latham

## 2021 CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**Barrie** – Liz Erwin, Susan Lee, John Sloan  
**Kawartha** – Fred Kooy, Tony Tasch, Robert Pope  
**Mad River** – Sharon Striegl  
**Midland** – Marc Vallee, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow  
**Orillia** - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal  
**Oro-Medonte** – Christine Cornu, Sue Benjafield, Wayne Lillico  
**Pine Ridge** – Bill Zeran, James Edwards, John Ambler  
**Wasaga Beach** – Irene Bell, Rob Smith, Lorraine Van Vlymen  
**Wilderness** – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Neil Runnalls

## 2021 OFFICERS

**Membership Director:** Christine Cornu  
**Badge Officer:** Jacquie Van Dyke  
**GHTA Archivist:** Linda Blow  
**GHTA Hike Ontario Rep:** Lorraine Van Vlymen  
**GHTA Nature Canada Rep:** Irene Bell  
**QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep:** Rob Halupka  
**Couchiching Conservancy Rep:** Charleyne Hall  
**Newsletter Editor:** Heather Briant  
**Website:** Rob Smith  
**Social Media Officer:** Alana Boulay  
**Publicity Officer:** Vacant

## ASSOCIATION AND CLUB LINKS

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association: [www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org](http://www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org)  
[Instagram.com/ganaraskatrail](https://www.instagram.com/ganaraskatrail)  
[Twitter.com/GanaraskaA](https://twitter.com/GanaraskaA)  
[Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup)

**Barrie:** [Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAbarrie)  
**Mad River:** [Facebook.com/GHTAmadriver](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAmadriver)  
**Midland:** [Facebook.com/GHTAmidland](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAmidland)  
**Orillia:** [Facebook.com/GHTAorillia](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAorillia)  
**Pine Ridge:** [www.pineridgehikingclub.ca](http://www.pineridgehikingclub.ca)  
[Facebook.com/GHTApineridge](https://www.facebook.com/GHTApineridge)  
**Wasaga Beach:** [Facebook.com/GHTAwasagabeach](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwasagabeach)  
**Wilderness:** [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

## Supporting the Association

Did you know??? - that the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and can issue 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.

## President's Report

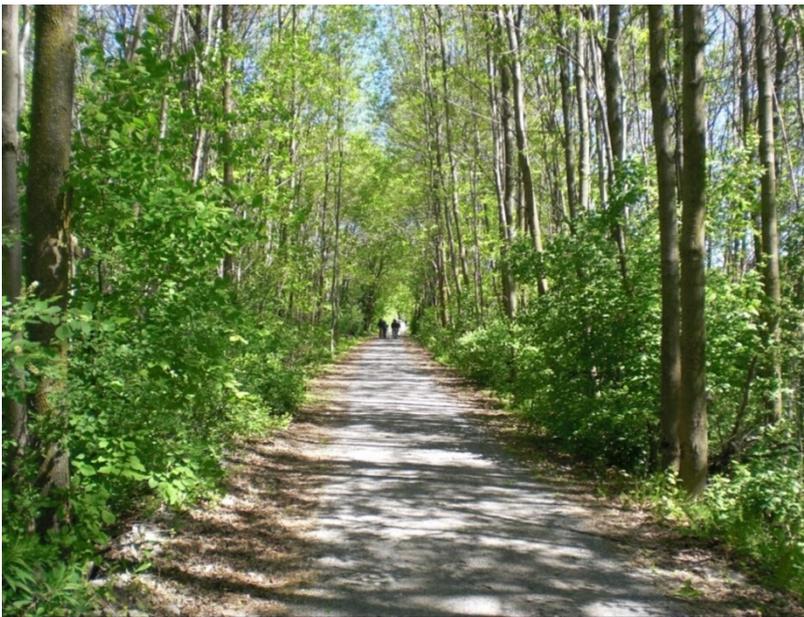
By Frieda Baldwin

On April 21, we held our Annual General Meeting, followed by a Board of Directors meeting. I am pleased to advise that the 2020-2021 Executive members were re-elected for the year 2021-2022 by acclamation, and that all current Officers agreed to continue in their present roles. Our Board also includes up to 3 representatives from each club, including the club President. Thank you so much to all Board members and to all our volunteers, for your continued support of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail and the Association.

The organization is doing well, our membership numbers remain stable (562 as of March 17, 2021), our donations are up and our financial situation for this year is looking good.

There is a lot of activity at all levels. Just to mention a few:

- The Mapping Committee is working on replacing the 2013 Guidebook, which is now fully sold out, and the new maps are intended to complement the Ondago mobile device mapping app. The Committee thanks those of you who responded to the mapping survey, and thus helped the Committee make the decision to focus on “downloadable/printable maps”. Two potential suppliers were selected. One is Ondago, who produced our mobile device app (By the way, Ondago was recently acquired by Mapgears). The other candidate is a local cartographer.
- The Website Refresh/Update committee is giving our website a fresh look and updating and re-organizing our website content. We are also removing all phone numbers and personal email addresses of Ganaraska Board members and volunteers, to avoid potential phishing scams (where members are asked to buy products on behalf of myself and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. Please ignore all such requests!)
- The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association's Facebook Group and Page are being updated regularly with Ganaraska news, but also interesting articles.
- Nature Deficit Disorder was the subject of a passionate zoom presentation and call to action to look for opportunities to connect children with nature. We decided to create 2 Children's Badges (one for young kids and one for young teens) to encourage them to hike in nature.



- The Pine Ridge Ganaraska Club hosted two very interesting Travel Talks via zoom: one on local hiking destinations, the other on hiking in Bolivia and New Zealand.
- Club members have started doing trail maintenance and litter clean up. Some clubs are even looking into improving our trail by re-routing it off road. We also hope to re-open the western connection of the Tiny section with the Wasaga Beach section and looking at closing the gap between the Midland and Tiny sections. Unfortunately, we have also experienced some trail vandalism

in Glen Huron, where a new blue blazed side trail was completely vandalized, for no obvious reasons, as the trail had been suggested by the property owner. Sad, after so much work went into preparing for the new loop.

- We may soon have an online merchandise store as well (for badges, name tags, etc.)
- The Wilderness Club launched a wonderful new section badge and is looking at a solution for crossing Montgomery Creek. Also, check out their Facebook page and participate in their fun but challenging quiz!
- With respect to the training of our volunteers, we looked into producing two different first aid courses – one for Remote First Aid, and the other for Emergency First Aid, but it was decided that the logistics during COVID didn't permit offering these courses at this time. However, I would like to investigate if we have any interest in members taking the Certified Hike Leader course from Hike Ontario. This course consists of 2 virtual sessions now and 1 in-person outdoor session once COVID allows for gatherings in the outdoors. Also, any Certified Hike Leaders whose certification has expired should let me know, so that we can renew the certification and pay the \$5 re-certification fee to Hike Ontario.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 is still causing havoc around the world, but it is good to see that our passion for hiking and for nature has helped us maintain our physical and mental health. Isn't it curious too how we have had the time and the need to explore local areas, close to home, that we would normally have dismissed? I have seen lots of great pictures on Facebook of people discovering greenspaces close to their home where they can hike and enjoy nature.



It has been an entire year already that COVID 19 has impacted our ability to offer hikes. No doubt, we all very much look forward to the end of the lockdown. Once we are allowed to “re-open” and offer small group hikes again, it will be challenging to enlist enough hike leaders to manage the demand, as we have attracted many new members who along with our longstanding members are keen to hike together again. Once again, we expect that hikes will likely fill up quickly as soon as they are published.

In any case, COVID has been a real challenge for all of us, and the demand for outdoor space has put a lot of pressure on local parks, conservation areas, and our trail. In the past, I have never seen our Midland section of the trail used in winter, other than the occasional snowshoe track, but this year it was so busy that the path was trampled down, and one did not even need snowshoes, even though we had lots of snow this year.

And lastly, congratulations to Glynn Richardson from the Wilderness Club - the winner of the 2021 Volunteer of the Year Award, as well as to runner-up Dale Hannah (Barrie Club). By the way, when hiking the Wilderness section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail you may run into Glynn in his parks uniform, as he was hired on as a Park Ambassador for the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. Congrats on that too, Glynn.

Fingers crossed that we will soon be able to hike together again, and thanks to all of you who are committed to making the experience of anyone hiking the Ganaraska Hiking Trail or with a Ganaraska Hiking Trail club, a memorable, pleasant and safe event.

Enjoy the spring, with all the beauty it brings. Happy Hiking!

## 2021 Ganaraska Hiking Trail awards

by Frieda Baldwin, President

At our Annual General Meeting, we award two awards:

### 1. Trail Maintenance Award

Given to any club that has demonstrated significant trail maintenance work along its section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Given that 2020 was an extremely challenging year under the COVID 19 restrictions, the 2021 Trail Maintenance Award will be awarded to **All Ganaraska Hiking Trail Clubs** for their efforts to keep the trail open for all hikers to enjoy hiking our trail. We sincerely thank all volunteers who helped with trail maintenance in 2020.



### 2. Volunteer of the Year Award

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. presents the award to an individual member who has contributed significant time and commitment to their local club, but also to the association itself.

*Nomination from the Barrie GHTA club:*

This message is to nominate one of our volunteers for the Volunteer Award 2021. I am very proud to nominate Dale Hannah for this award.

Dale has been an active member of the Barrie Club. Not only is Dale very active in maintaining our trails but he is also a hike leader. What makes Dale special is that he has time and time again maintained the trails ensuring that they are well blazed and that the trails are clear of debris. For the Barrie Club, he has taken on the job of making new stiles for our trails multiple times. After the construction of the stiles, he would then haul them into

the middle of nowhere to be constructed over fences. When Sharon Striegl took over the Mad River section as President and was looking for volunteers to help bring the trail back from 5 years of neglect, Dale was there frequently to help out.

Dale is also a very avid and knowledgeable hike leader and certainly knows the trails very well. He loves to take on new trail adventures such as Five Winds area or the Bruce Trail (of course this was when it was allowed). He also has been seeking out new trails for the club and has led hikes on many new and different trails. Dale as well has led multiple hikes in a row when no other hike leader was available. Dale was the one who thought of wearing snowshoes in the late summer to create a path through the tall grass in the Minesing Wetlands so that the trail could be found.

On top of his trail maintenance and hike leading, he also organized many of our cycling outings when we were putting them on the calendar.

Submitted by Liz Irwin, Barrie GHTA Club

*Nomination from the Wilderness GHTA club:*

I would like to nominate **Glynn Richardson** of the Wilderness Club as Volunteer of the Year for 2021 for the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

Glynn became a member of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association after going on a hike in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park ("QEIIWPP") some ten years ago. He was clearly smitten with QEII Wildlands as he went on to become Co-President of the Wilderness Club for 2017 and 2018. As Trail Director for the Wilderness Club in 2019 and 2020, Glynn was a tireless and effective organizer in leading work parties to trim undergrowth, paint blazes and attach trail markers. Skilled in the use of GPS devices, Glynn has been active in seeking out new trail routes within the Park, and was a key contributor in gathering field information including Points of Interest for inclusion in GHTA's successful Ondago project. Glynn has been and continues to be an excellent ambassador for the Wilderness Club as evidenced by our exemplary relationship with the Ontario Parks staff that manage QEIIWPP.

Glynn is one of the most enthusiastic and dedicated hikers you'll ever come across. He is an all season/all weather hiker who enjoys nighttime hikes in the wilderness hikes, and he has led groups on the tough and challenging "cross-over" hike through the rugged interior of Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands. Glynn has also organized group hikes outside of the Ganaraska Trail, including Algonquin Park and the Adirondacks. It comes as no surprise that he is a popular hike leader who has attracted new members and encouraged them to step up and contribute their time and energy for the benefit of the Club. As a trainer of hike leaders, Glynn has developed field scenarios specific to the Wilderness Club trails in QEII Wildlands and has led field training exercises for our latest cohort of new hike leaders.

Glynn has played a key role in developing and improving the Wilderness Club's Facebook page, to which he makes regular contributions. He is an innovative photographer, using his smartphone to take beautiful and creative shots that promote hiking and nature. Glynn is a tireless promoter of GHTA on social media as well as in person on the trail (e.g. handing out business cards), and he has manned the GHTA booth at outdoor shows in Toronto.

Glynn may also be described as an ideas man, having originated the "Nine Club Hike" (each year one of the Clubs hosts an open hike for the other Clubs of the GHTA), and he has organized canoeing/kayaking trips on the Black River. Glynn is passionate about wilderness preservation, as evidenced by his "Leave No Trace" training, and he promotes LNT principles to our members and on our FB page.

Glynn is also active as a hike leader with the Toronto Bruce Trail Association, and in closing, we note that in December 2020 he was appointed as a Director with Hike Canada En Marche with a mandate to create the National Hiking Trail.

Submitted by Rob Halupka, Wilderness GHTA Club



The executive of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. has voted on the above 2 nominations and agreed to present the 2021 Volunteer of the Year Award to **Glynn Richardson of the Wilderness Club**, for his significant contributions to the Wilderness Club, but also to the GHTA association as well.

We also appreciate the tremendous contributions Dale Hannah has made over many years to keep the Barrie section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail in tip top shape, and get the trail off-road as much as possible.

Thank you both.

## **Endangered Species: The Child in Nature**

**By Terri LeRoux, President, Ontario Trails Council**

**Past President, Hike Ontario and Director, Canadian Trails Federation**

Children today are spending less time outdoors than at any other time in history. This alienation from nature can have profound impacts, not only on the child, but on the land itself. The land that our beloved trails are on. This loss of direct intimate experience with the natural world is known as Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD). This term was coined by American writer and child advocate, Richard Louv, in his best-selling book, *The Last Child in the Woods*. In researching his book, Richard Louv spent ten years speaking to American children and parents about their experiences and relationship with nature. He found that in the last three decades, a rapid disengagement has occurred between children and the natural world.

It's just as true in Canada. Canada's 2020 Participation Report Card on Physical Activity of Children and Youth found that only 39% of Canadian kids get 60 minutes of physical activity per day and that only 30% of children spend an hour a day outside in any capacity. We need to do better by our kids. We need to protect them from the combined psychological, physical and cognitive impacts of NDD like depression, inattentiveness, lack of imagination, lower grades, poorer health and obesity.

For the past eleven years I've made it my personal mission to raise a nature loving child. My son, Luke, turned everything I believed about how I wanted to raise a child upside down. Independent, free roaming, climbing, risk taking - this is what I envisioned. But, in his eleven years on this planet Luke's epilepsy journey has challenged him with as many as sixteen seizures a day, countless hospital visits, heart issues and many years of needing more than ten pills a day to keep the seizures away. Meds that while necessary, messed with every single part of him. His cognition, his language processing, his dexterity, his coordination, his emotions, his endurance, his self-efficacy. This is not a kid that you can send out into the woods alone to freely roam and take risks.



Instead, I've been his constant outdoor companion. He took his first hike at seven weeks old, his first Algonquin trip at five months and he has logged more trail and paddling kilometers than most adults we know. We have screenless Sundays, we camp under the stars no fewer than thirty nights each year, he's skilled in outdoor survival, and we spend about fifteen hours a week in the woods, in all weather.



Last year was a momentous year for us. We set a goal to do 100 hikes together and Hike #1 on January 1, 2020 was Luke's very first drug-free hike. In 2020, coincidentally aligned with our hiking challenge, Luke was being weaned off of his seizure meds and embarking on a drug free existence. It was a gamble. It was fear inducing. It was exhausting. Yet, it was hope and it was faith. On December 31, 2020 we logged hike #112, drug free and seizure free and Luke became the youngest person ever to earn the Hike Ontario Tamarack Award for hiking 1500 kilometers on Ontario's trails.

What we learned through our hike challenge is that nature heals. It provides the respite we need during the most challenging times in our lives. All children deserve the opportunity to learn this first-hand as it will serve them well their entire life.

We need to get more kids outside. Childhood experiences are significant precursors for adult activism on behalf of the environment. Hands on experience during the critical time of childhood is what counts most in the making of a naturalist.

If we want children to thrive personally and to become environmental stewards, then we must actively enable and support their connection to nature. We need to act now while we have a generation of parents and grandparents who know the value of the outdoors, or quite possibly the future of Ontario's trails and natural species will become endangered.

## Letter to Members

By Carolyn Humphreys aka Chump, Wilderness Club



Hello Experienced Hikers,

I'm new to your community. Remember when you were new to the game? On my first few outings I quickly realized that I was ill equipped. Sure nothing matched, mostly because half of what I needed I didn't have... well, the truth is I don't have equipment. I was a "duct tape" version of a hiker.

Please don't judge me because I only recently learned your secret. "Hiking is walking with snacks!" to quote Laura Dailly, Wilderness Club Hike Coordinator. To places less discovered. To carry those **snacks** the distances to get there, I've observed that experienced hikers employ a **backpack** and a few other "tools".

### Shoes

I used to keep a flock of free range shoes for rugged urban terrain. You know the stuff hikers call **footwear**. If you can believe it, I had several pairs that basically looked the same. You might think the soles were different or that they could accommodate various conditions – no, they were all black with a simple range in heel height. I was the master of my own elevation.

Sometimes I could even mix and match my shoes, and no one was the wiser, although it sure didn't make me look more intelligent. But now I have embraced the wisdom of a comfortable pair of sturdy, wetness-resistant hiking boots – COVID ended my proclivity for trendy pedicures. Open toe hikers something to consider - yes? NO!

### Poles

Light poles, zoom poles and the North Pole. And yes, I'm aware of the exotic dancer pole but none too sure of the origin of the "ten foot pole" expression. Thank goodness for Google (something to do with boats) and the new urgency of meaning that COVID has given the physical distancing measurement - poles apart now being de rigueur. So, on my next "bubble" distancing outing I will be well supported, and at home, newly assertive with my couch companion in the living room.

### Wayfinding

Online shopping has non-hikers reading Wayfair because their brains are on autopilot not thinking about the latest GPS tracking application or cool mapping products courtesy of GIS software. My decades-old girl guide compass and topo sheets lay asleep waiting for rendezvous points. It took me but a few slowly spoken syllables **OndaGO** — the ah-ha moment quickly arrived: for the more formal or unilingual among us, "on the go" makes sense and the new Ontario Parks map. Now the three Ps mean plan, plot and play.

The most effective tools (and well priced) are your senses. I now know that hiking "common sense" can be taught and is generously shared among GHTA members. Thank you to members of GHTA for the sense of connection delivered by following a shared path, to the Wild Ones for a renewed sense of adventure and to Paul and Meghan, whose good sense delivered me from Victoria Bridge to Devils Lake trail head in the fall of 2020.

Happy hiking, look for me on the trails wearing black stilettos, jabbing my 1970's bamboo pole into beaver dams, happily holding my phone overhead looking for a signal from heaven that I'm heading in the right direction. But you might find the new me instead inspired by the confidence of being a GHTA member.

#### Newbie Lessons (so far)

It doesn't matter if there are bugs or wind or rain  
As long as your shoes aren't causing you pain

Crossing a beaver dam and looking for blazes  
Are adventures sure to have the sisters singing you praises

It's all about the company and not getting lost  
Because eventually we'll all just be moss

No matter the steeply rising hills and heaviness of sacks  
It's all about the company and of course the tasty snacks



**PS** Laura do you want to trade snacks? Rob inspired poetry and seriously stilettos leave smaller footprint.

## Landowner Relations and Trail Reports

By John Sloan, Trail and Landowner Relations Director

### Landowner Relations



Horseshoe Valley Developments Inc. has contacted the GHTA asking for a formal arrangement to be established for the section of the Barrie trail that is on their property at the west end of Copeland Forest in Oro-Medonte. Our Landowner Agreement template has been provided to them for review - feedback has not been received yet. It is unclear at this time if they have a problem with our continued use of the trail on their property or if they are just formalizing the arrangement. Members of the Barrie Club have explored alternative routes through Copeland Forest in case it is needed.

The last report mentioned work done by Christine Cornu to establish a club affiliation for all landowners on our membership list. Input from many club members helped update the list but there are still 10 landowners on the list to be resolved. Letters have been sent to ask for updated contact information and whether or not there is a specific club they should be associated with. Two have been returned with resulting action to remove their names from the list.

### Trail Director Report

My last report started off with this sentence - "Aren't we fortunate to have the Ganaraska trail to benefit both our physical and mental health during these stressful times!". It still applies.



**Ondago** 12+  
Offline maps  
[MapGears inc.](#)  
★★★★★ 5.0 • 2 Ratings  
Free - Offers In-App Purchases

Our Ondago app has now had two updates since the initial release in March 2020. As discussed and committed at the last Board meeting, updates will be done on a quarterly basis with all club changes aggregated into one work order to minimize the cost of the updates.

On March 29, 2021 we received notice that Ondago has been acquired by Mapgears Inc., a Chicoutimi, Quebec based business. Their website describes them as ‘mapping software experts’. We have received assurance from Ondago that our mobile app support will continue uninterrupted with more options and capability for support coming (to be further defined in the near future).

There have been a few inquiries about sourcing trail signage (blazes with the GHTA logo and the larger square signs with the GHTA logo). It would be great to have a few people to work with to decide and implement best solution for signs for the organization (centralized versus club level, etc.)

The Trail Status Report provides a high level overview of the status and work items for our overall trail.

## **Trail Status**

### **Barrie Club**

- Reviewing all water crossing structures between Old Second South and Gill Road.
- Private landowner (Horseshoe Development Inc.) considering future of Barrie trail on their property at west end of Copeland Forest.

### **Kawartha Club**

- Annual maintenance activity will focus on north end of trail.

### **Mad River Club**

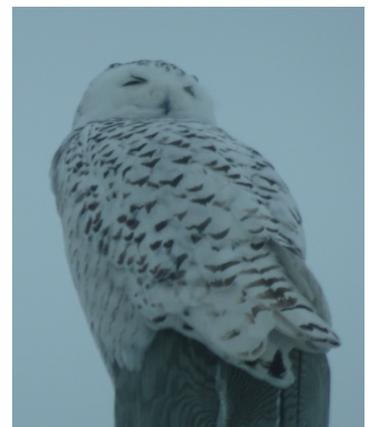
- Trail on abandoned railway line between Angus and Utopia remains an issue (part of Collingwood - Barrie rail trail study).
- Established a side trail from the main trail to the Giffen Market in Glen Huron, however, regrettably this blue side trail was recently vandalized.

### **Midland Club**

- Exploring options to connect Midland trail with north end of Tiny trail.

### **Orillia Club**

- Recently did a complete refresh of the Orillia trail Ondago waypoint file.



### **Oro-Medonte Club**

- Working with landowner to establish off-road trail along Line 5N in Oro-Medonte and reduce road walking.

### **Pine Ridge Club**

- Ongoing discussions about Terms & Conditions for agreement to use trail through Ganaraska Conservation Authority.

### **Tiny**

- Looking to re-open the western end that connects with the Wasaga Beach section
- May be able to take approximately 1 km off the Tiny/Flos Townline at the Tiny Marsh and re-route the trail to the dykes (to be confirmed).

### **Wasaga Beach Club**

- Temporary re-route due to bridge closure on municipal trail. Scheduled for repair by public works next year. Will not update trail on Ondago but will post on website.

### **Wilderness Club**

- Working on a new pedestrian bridge with Ontario Parks to establish a new crossing for Montgomery Creek (discussions with the owners of private Gully Jumpers bridge have been fruitless).
- New 10 km "Queen's Corridor" side trail that runs north from Moore Falls to the new trailhead at Devil's Lake needs to be added to Ondago mobile map.

- Added 'Fire Tower Trail'.
- Confirm 17 km along Black River Road / Chisholm Trail from Victoria Bridge to reconnect Sadowa as west end junction with the Orillia trail to resolve blocked trail access through private property. Continuing to explore longer term trail reroute options including recent land acquisitions by Couchiching Conservancy.



## Mapping Committee Hard at Work

by Stan Muldoon, Committee Chair

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Mapping Committee, consisting of Frieda Baldwin, Steve Broomfield, Stan Muldoon, Gary Norton, Tony Peckham, and John Sloan, is working on a replacement for our 2013 Guidebook which is out of print and sold out. While the Ganaraska Hiking Trail is documented on the ONDAGO mobile app which has been very well received, there still seems to be a need for paper maps. An earlier survey of our members indicated a desire for downloadable/printable maps for hikers and hike leaders alike, both for planning purposes as well as for use on the trail.

The map specifications will be similar to the 2013 version with the addition of such things as an 'angle of declination' symbol and more contour line detail. We will continue to use KM markers on the map as the reference point in the trail descriptions when describing features on the map.

The committee meets 1x or 2x per month and is currently in discussions with 2 potential businesses who can create the downloadable/printable maps and accompanying trail descriptions. These descriptions will be provided by various Club Presidents and Trail Directors. The committee hopes to complete the bulk of the work by Ontario Hiking Week during the first week of October.

Note: We also thank Tito Feria and Dan Gilbert for their earlier contributions to the Mapping Committee.



### 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

# Comfortable Hiking Holidays

*Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.*

Toll free 1 (866) 449-1908 [info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) [www.letshike.com](http://www.letshike.com)

## DREAMING OF TRAVEL

**The world needs travel, and you do too!**

- it relieves stress and boosts mental health
- despite the inevitable gelatos 🍌, it improves your fitness (especially a hiking holiday with us!)
- it's an education! Travel teaches us economy, politics, history, geography, and sociology in a hands-on that way no class ever will
- it takes you out of your comfort zone and teaches you to be patient, more confident and to prioritize what really matters
- Traveling is a way to learn about distant people and cultures for yourself and not through the eyes of the media or our friends

So when the time is right, **we'll be ready!**

Although we don't know when that day will come, there is hope on the horizon. Put your name on our [INTERESTED LIST](#), and we will notify you when we are ready to accept reservations for a particular trip (no obligation).

**Dominica \* Portugal \* Japan \* Ireland**

**Amalfi Coast (Italy) \* Corfu (Greece)**

**Kenya \* Provence & Cote d'Azur**

**Tour du Mont Blanc**

**Galapagos Islands \* Slovenija**

## IN THE MEANTIME...

We would love to keep you informed and engaged.

Here are 3 easy ways to keep in touch that would benefit us both:

**1. [Follow us on Facebook.](#)**

We post daily on topics such as hiking tips & tricks, travel information, gear reviews, trip announcements and so much more. Plus, we're pretty entertaining 😊

**2. [Follow me on Instagram.](#)**

Want to see amazing photos? Follow @maddhiker on Instagram. Maddhiker - that's me! Full disclosure - I sometimes also post pictures of my family and dogs.

**3. [Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.](#)**

Email us at [info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) and ask to be put on our mailing list. You can unsubscribe any time, and we will never share your information with anyone.

### **Stay positive & test negative!**

We look forward to hiking with you again soon!

**TICO # 50023501 & #50023502**

## CLUB REPORTS

### Barrie

Liz Erwin, President and Sue Lee, Director



Well, we are still fighting COVID-19 but with the vaccines now arriving and being slowly administered. There is hope and a light at the end of the tunnel. However, given the fact that we have moved in and out of lockdown, many of us have continued to get out on our trails in small groups. I am sure that many members are disappointed that we have had times when we have not scheduled hikes due to the lockdowns but I must say that I am impressed with the positive attitude and understanding of all our members. And, although this has been a difficult year with the changes due to the pandemic, we still continue to receive new members.

In January, John Sloan stepped down as President of the Barrie club and I stepped in to take on this position. John leaving the role was a huge loss and he will be missed as our Club leader. However, John is still active and has made himself available to answer any questions and help to me as I continue to learn the role. Susan Lee has stepped into the role of Director of the Barrie Club. I am very grateful to Sue for taking on this role and we have been working closely together.

Our Facebook page has continued to be successful and active. I thank Alana Boulay for all her wonderful work on this.

We have a number of projects that we were hoping to complete. However, going forward we will focus on two of the projects such as the recruitment of new leaders, and trail maintenance which is of course ongoing. As the pandemic hopefully begins to disappear, we will work on completing our other projects.

## **Kawartha**

**By Fred Kooy, President**

Since the last report, our club has been significantly impacted by the COVID19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions.



During the period from Nov. 2020 up to and including late Jan 2021 (advent of lockdown), we were able to engage in weekly hikes restricted to our membership. Consistent with COVID protocols, the hikes were limited to 25 members or less with pre-registration and self-screening required. All persons were committed to wearing face coverings during the initial gathering and strongly encouraged to comply with physical distancing throughout the experience. Compliance re physical distancing was strong but not consistent. The hikes were very well attended and received.

During the period from the end of January to present we sent notices re: details of favourite hikes including directions, descriptions and distances. We continued to encourage members to remain active and enjoy the wide diversity of trails available while complying with COVID protocols.

As an executive, we made a decision not to resume organized group hikes following the completion of the period of lockdown-pending ongoing review.

Unfortunately, our traditional Christmas social and New Year's levee were cancelled.

## **Mad River**

**By Sharon Striegl, President**

There hasn't been a lot of activity to report but Mad River has continued to offer weekly hikes at differing times, published through Google Calendar.

We have just completed development of a side trail in the Glen Huron area. Details will soon be added to Ondago.



## Midland

By Marc Vallee, President

COVID has been front and centre again this season, but Frieda did not let that get her down. She kept organizing smaller snowshoe groups, and on certain occasions we had three separate groups snowshoeing at the same time.

Given the third wave, we had to adjust our hikes accordingly. I'm sure we'll set a few days aside to concentrate on trail maintenance.

Here is hoping for the best, so we can get back to some kind of normalcy.

Hope everyone is staying safe, till we meet again.



## Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President



As I write this newsletter article, we are once again in Stay-at-home constraints, this time even banning small group activities. It hasn't been that way all spring, however, and we managed to get out for a couple of trail cleanup activities. One time we had two small groups meet at either end of Km 0 – 14.6, and walk towards the middle, collecting garbage etc. out of the roadside/ditches. We netted 4 large garbage bags of garbage, 8 large bags of recycle, and \$43.80 worth of recycled alcoholic beverage containers!!! Well done, team!

We also instituted a Hike Leader Group for any members interested in learning leadership skills and the trails in the vicinity of Orillia. We have had about 10 hikes so far until we couldn't meet at all, but the weather Gods smiled on us, and every time was beautiful weather! We plan to resume as soon as the COVID rules permit.

Otherwise, we continue to hike alone – or with someone from a single person household. Sometimes it's not who you're with, but what you see: a porcupine up a tree; ospreys on a nest; first family of geese. Thank goodness we are so comfortable in the woods from all our years of hiking with the Ganaraska!

I remain so grateful for the volunteers who help with the running of the club – need to thank Wendy Kirk who is stepping down as one of our representatives to the Board, and Leslie Raymond who has



stepped up to take her place; Bob Wilson for continuing to keep our trails in good shape, and Isabelle Lloyd for continuing to organize group hikes when we can. And so many others who contribute – you are appreciated!

To the new club members, I am so looking forward to getting back to hiking, so that we can meet and enjoy the group camaraderie on our wonderful nearby trails.

## Oro-Medonte

By **Christine Cornu, President**



It is amazing how resilient hikers are. As soon as an email goes out that hiking can start again, the hike is full! The fall was actually great for our club going to such places as Hardy Lake, McCrae Lake, Copeland Forest just to name a few. Everyone was eager to be out hiking and were very good keeping their distance and wearing masks. They were beautiful autumn days and felt so good to be with others.



In November we had to go into small group mode so we scheduled a morning hike and an afternoon hike on the same day. That worked well. Then came another lockdown again. After that we were slowly getting back into serious hiking having two groups allowing us to keep the numbers down but still enabling almost everyone to come out hiking. Now another lockdown! Needless to say, we look forward to going back to “normal” in both hiking and life as we know it. Keep safe!

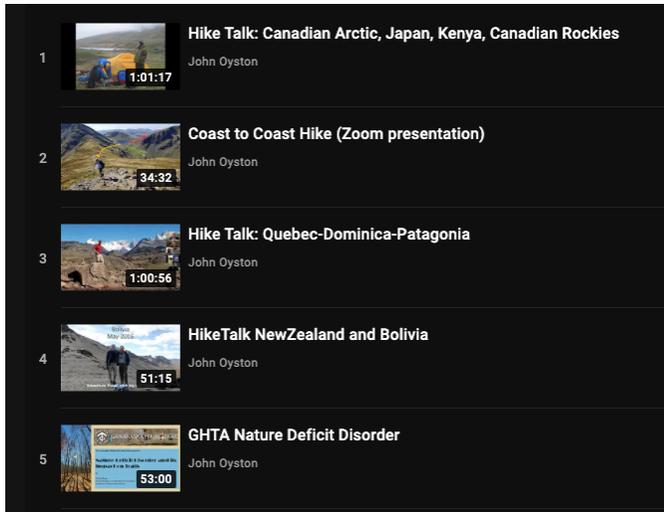
## Pine Ridge

By **Bill Zeran, President**

In the year 2020, our AGM was accomplished by having all committee members write a report on events they completed (or didn't), attaching their picture so other members would know who they were. It was put on the website “Pine Ridge Hiking Club” under the heading “Newsletters”. They all did an excellent job.

In addition, Scott Harris took responsibility of our [Facebook](#) page. He created a video/radio spot on the Facebook page, and added the [website](#) page. The video can be heard and viewed directly [here](#).

We usually have our hike talks the last week in March but due to COVID, like all other events, these were cancelled. John Oyston picked up the ball on this one. John held the 1<sup>st</sup> Zoom Hike Talks on November 28<sup>th</sup>, with 4 speakers. January 21<sup>st</sup> with 3 speakers. On February 7<sup>th</sup> John spoke on this hike in England hiking north to south



and February 14<sup>th</sup> with 3 speakers. The most recent Hike Talks was on April 8<sup>th</sup> with 3 speakers. These Hike Talks are recorded and available on YouTube [here](#).

On February 14<sup>th</sup> we received the go ahead to start hiking with members only. Since the latest lockdown our group hikes are on hold.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> our vice president, Jay Sherwin, was the leader on a fundraiser for Port Hope/ Cobourg “The Coldest Night of the Year” (CNOY). The Pine Ridge Team came in 6<sup>th</sup> and raised more than \$3,900 to help out the “Hurt, Hunger & Homelessness”.

It is great to have members who get involved.

## Wasaga Beach

By Irene Bell, President

As the ice slowly melts on the trails in the provincial park and the local trails in Wasaga, hikers are eager to get out for some fresh air and exercise. During the pandemic, we have continued to hike and snowshoe in small groups and have taken the opportunity to discover new trails in the area. The beauty of the woods after a winter snowfall is a wonderful experience.

As spring arrives, we will move out of the wetland trails that are accessible in winter and onto higher trails in the dunes, town trails that are hard surfaced such as Carly Patterson and Shore Lane, trails on the beach as the ice mountains recede and the Niagara Escarpment. We are all looking forward to a summer season of hiking and socializing free of the restrictions that COVID has placed on us for the past year.



## Wilderness

By Rob Halupka - President

Although our Club's group activities have been much curtailed over the last few months due to COVID-19, our members have continued hiking in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands albeit on an informal, individually organized basis. Hiking is one of the safer physical activities one can undertake in these uncertain times given that appropriate spacing is manageable in an outdoor setting.

Our Club has made significant progress in recruiting new members to serve on our Executive Committee and as hike leaders. Three recent EC appointments provide us with much needed bench strength, injecting new ideas and energy into the running of the Wilderness Club. New executives include Carolyn Humphreys as Vice President, Neil Runnalls as Trail Director, and Laura Dailly as Hike Coordinator. In January, six members (including the new EC members) participated in two virtual Certified Hike Leader training sessions, which will be followed with in-person sessions to complete the program. In March, our hike leader trainees participated in scenario training exercises in QEIIWPP capably led by Glynn Richardson.

The most challenging issue facing the Wilderness Club has been seeking a solution to the Montgomery Creek crossing near its confluence with the Black River.

*The bad news...*

As noted from my Nov 16th conversation with spokesman Bob McPhee, we were advised that the Gully Jumpers group had considered the possibility of allowing access to hikers across their gated, privately-owned bridge over Montgomery Creek, but then decided against cooperating with us. This was very disappointing, as we were not given the opportunity to meet and discuss their concerns and to review our insurance package, which would have provided them with liability coverage for all hikers - not just GHTA members.

*The good news...*

Under the capable guidance of Steve Broomfield and with the support of Ontario Parks, we have selected a location just downstream from the private Gully Jumpers bridge where we plan to install a pedestrian bridge this summer. Because the area is subject to severe seasonal flooding, a more conventional design (e.g. wooden bridge) won't work; consequently, the current design envisions a floating structure that can adapt to variable water levels.

With the current initiative to update GHTA's maps, we will be re-routing the final western end of the Wilderness Section of the Ganaraska Trail to run 17 km from Victoria Bridge along Black River Road and Chisholm Trail to Sadowa. This reroute will address the issue that arose some years ago when a landowner cut off trail access through his property on the final approach to Sadowa, and will restore continuity from the western end of the Wilderness section to the eastern end of the Orillia section. In a similar vein, we will be simplifying our End-to-End requirement by establishing one continuous white main trail running from Moore Falls to Sadowa (via the reroute) and eliminating the requirement to hike an additional side trail loop (i.e. 16 km Ragged Rapids Loop or



12 km Montgomery Creek Loop). To complete the exercise, we will need to signpost and blaze (in white) the road segment, and paint over any white blazes (to blue) on the Ragged Rapids and High Falls loops. Eventually we expect to establish a new trail that would emerge at Hwy 45/Monck Road, but that option requires Ontario Parks support, which won't be forthcoming until the QEIIWPP master plan has been approved.

**GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED ON MARCH 17, 2021**

<b><u>CLUB</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
BARRIE	58	48	40	36
INDEPENDENT	10	12	6	7
KAWARTHA	59	97	77	73
MAD RIVER	19	17	7	6
MIDLAND	84	84	67	70
ORILLIA	60	56	46	32
ORO-MEDONTE	41	41	34	31
PINE RIDGE	71	93	97	92
WASAGA BEACH	62	74	67	88
WILDERNESS	63	77	41	30
<b>PAID MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>465</b>
LIFE MEMBERS	35	36	37	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>635</b>		



## Merchandise Order Form

Proudly support the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. by purchasing merchandise listed below or making a donation. Just fill out this order form and mail it with your payment to:

**Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7**

Item	Quantity	Price (incl. shipping)	Total
CREST of GHTA logo		5.00	
END TO END BADGE –member price		0.00	
END TO END BADGE – non-member (incl. 1 year membership)		25.00	
SECTION BADGE – Barrie		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Kawartha		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Mad River		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Midland		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Orillia		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Oro Medonte		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Pine Ridge		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Tiny		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wasaga Beach		5.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness		10.00	
NAME BADGE – please clearly print your name in the field below		8.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

Make cheque payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

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.

Name badges include your name, your club’s name and the GHTA logo.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**GHTA Application Form (or register and pay [online](#) here)**

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](#) in full, and that I agree to be bound by it.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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[info@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org](mailto:info@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org)

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**Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7**

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