

## PINE RIDGE SECTION

Maps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

The Pine Ridge section starts at the boulder opposite the town hall in Port Hope beside the Ganaraska River. This section ends west of Omeme after 65.5 kilometres of varied terrain. The initial part is fairly flat, following the Ganaraska River. The trail then follows country roads and paths through farmland and the Ganaraska Forest and skirts the Peterborough Drumlin field. The section is easy and novices should have no difficulties.

**KM DESCRIPTION**

- 0.0 43.949343, -78.292453  
The pink granite boulder with a plaque marking the southern terminus of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail is east of the Town Hall, on the west bank of the Ganaraska River. There is parking west of the Town Hall (43.949016, -78.294357). The trail immediately crosses a footbridge to the east bank of the river. Follow the trail north and cross Walton Street at the traffic lights. Walton St., Port Hope's main street (43.950952, -78.292202), is an architectural gem and is designated as a Heritage Conservation District. Continue north to Barrett Street. This town section of the river was deepened, by blasting the limestone bedrock, following the damaging spring flood of March, 1980.
- 0.6 43.954172, -78.294701  
Cross Barrett Street and follow the Patricia Lawson/ Jack Goering trail on the east bank of the river. Note the plaque (43.954335, -78.29474) dedicated to two of the founders of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. Proceed through the wooded areas. The concrete abutments (43.963636, -78.295913) were the foundation of a bridge of the Canadian Northern Railway (CNoR) which ran from Trenton to Toronto circa 1915.
- 2.3 43.967291, -78.295018  
As you reach Jocelyn Street from the south, observe the former Molson's Mill (43.968026, -78.295421) situated on the east bank of the Ganaraska River just north of Jocelyn Street. This used to be Molson's Barrel Works, part of Thomas Molson's brewery properties in Port Hope from 1850 to 1880. It was discovered abandoned in 1923 by artists George Reid and J.W. Beattie, and it became the Ontario College of Arts summer school for artists under Mr. Beattie until 1940. The building is currently used by "Journey through the Arts" as a summer art school for children aged 7 to 13. Follow Jocelyn Street west across the river bridge to Cavan Street, where you will turn right.
- 2.7 43.968973, -78.295781  
Just before passing under Hwy 401 you will pass Corbett's Dam (43.968885, -78.295421) one of 38 dams on the Ganaraska Watershed in the 1800s (be sure to have a look at the fish ladder, especially in the spring for the trout run and fall for the salmon run). Continue under Hwy 401 and turn left up Choate Road. You will pass the Port Hope Conservation Area on your right. There is lots of parking available.

4.3 43.972991, -78.313357

Turn right at Hawkins Rd. (a narrow unpaved road) and proceed to Dale Rd.

On the way down there are good views of the Northumberland Hills to the north. Some of the hills are recognizable as **drumlins** which are elongated, oval-shaped mounds of glacial till that were deposited and shaped beneath an advancing ice sheet during the last ice age. Most drumlins are quite small, a few hundred meters in length and 30 to 45 meters in height, and frequently occur in swarms.

Turn left on Dale Rd. (County Road 74).

5.7 43.9797, -78.32268

Turn right on Sylvan Glen Road and proceed north past the Sylvan Glen Conservation Area (parking available except in winter). Immediately north of the bridge over the Ganaraska River turn left, cross the ditch and through the fence. The trail goes through an attractive wooded area and reaches the north bank of the Ganaraska River. It continues through the woods along the river bank until reaching a tributary stream.

Turn right and follow the stream. Cross two bridges and follow the trail directly away from the stream across an open area with small shrubby trees. The trail re-enters the woods on the far side and finally emerges after a short steep climb into an open area and out on to the 4th Line. Parking is available on the south side of the 4<sup>th</sup> Line (43.994773, -78.338421).

8.3 43.994702, -78.338648

Turn right (east) on the 4th Line for 2.4 km; then turn left (north) on to an abandoned railway bed. This was the starting point of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail when it was opened in 1967.

\*During flooding from spring run-off, you may want to take Knoxville Road north (43.988204, -78.32534) to the 5<sup>th</sup> Line (44.016699, -78.329092) and turn right to rejoin the trail at 13 km (44.016383, -78.328768).

10.6 44.001698, -78.311695

This is one of several abandoned sections of the Port Hope to Lindsay Railway, built in 1857 to compete with the neighboring Cobourg-Peterborough Railway (the CPR lasted only a few years until its trestle across Rice Lake was destroyed by massive spring ice floes on that lake). The Ganaraska Trail follows the original Port Hope to Lindsay railway from this point northward, via Quay's Crossing and the 6th Line. This section of the trail may be wet in the spring.

Follow the railway bed straight north through woods and later a washout which can be crossed on the left using fallen trees. This may not be passable during spring run-off. \*(See detour above).

13.0 44.016383, -78.328768

You will emerge just south of the intersection of Knoxville Rd. and the 5th Line (Bethel Grove Rd.). Turn north to the 5<sup>th</sup> line. At this point you are at the former beach limit of Lake Iroquois, which formed as the last glacial ice sheet began to melt and recede about 12,500 years ago and whose surface was approximately 70 meters above the present Lake Ontario. Turn west along the 5<sup>th</sup> line. Immediately before the first driveway follow the trail north. Another washout is crossed by going down a path on the right side, crossing a concrete culvert and returning back up to

the railway bed on the left side.

15.0 44.032014, -78.344618

At the 6th Line, cross the road and a stile. Follow the railway bed to another washout. Continuing you will pass a house on your left and follow its driveway onto Campbell Road. Turn right and follow this road to the 7th Line.

17.4 44.048853, -78.355799

Turn left for 0.9 km and turn right (north) on Grist Mill Road. You will pass Campbellcroft Mill and pond (formerly Fudge's Mill) (44.058896, -78.375879) which was built in the late 1850s as a planing mill. Originally powered by a water-wheel, a turbine was installed in the early 1900s. This turbine not only powered the mill but also provided electricity to some local homes. It was at this time that the mill was converted to a grist mill. In 1990, the mill property was purchased by Robert Fudge who was a town councilor in Port Hope between 2007 and 2010. He operated the mill specializing in custom grinding for animal feed, treating and cleaning grains for local farmers and selling Purina cat and dog food. Under new ownership since 2011, the mill is slowly being restored. Continue on Grist Mill Road to Ganaraska Road (County Road 9).

20.8 44.063403, -78.37738

Turn left (west) on the Ganaraska Rd. and proceed for 0.6 km; then turn right on to Tinkerville Rd. After a short distance this road turns into an unmaintained road allowance. Continue on this to the 9th Line where the trail turns left to Thomstown. Please note that there will be white blazes to the right but they belong to the Oak Ridges Trail Association. The two trails follow the same route for the next 8 kms.

The trail has now reached the renowned Oak Ridges Moraine, a collection of higher sandy hills that were deposited by ice sheets of the last ice age which converged on this area from the north and east-northeast, thus forming this type of interlobate moraine. It is a local high area: on the south side, the watercourses flow to Lake Ontario; on the north side, the streams go to the Kawartha Lakes. The trail continues along the moraine and provides great views of the hills and forests. Cross County Road 10 and follow Pine Grove Lane past Thomstown. There is good parking at the end of this road (44.075261, -78.409091).

24.8 44.075419, -78.408338

**NOTE:** From this point until km 39.7 you will be hiking in the Ganaraska Forest which is operated by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. All adults (17 years and older) must purchase a day pass for \$6 or an annual membership for \$30 to hike in the forest. Day passes can be purchased online at [shop.ganaraskaconservation.ca](http://shop.ganaraskaconservation.ca) or through the self-serve kiosk at the Ganaraska Forest Centre gatehouse (10585 Cold Springs Camp Rd., Campbellcroft).

Turn left and immediately right on to a forest road that winds through a wooded area until it meets an unmaintained road allowance. Continue west on the trail turning right and climbing gently uphill. Follow the trail as it winds through the Ganaraska Forest to the 10<sup>th</sup> line.

28.8 44.089592, -78.429722

Immediately cross the 10<sup>th</sup> Line. Turn left and follow the trail as it runs adjacent to the 10<sup>th</sup> Line to Walker Road. Parking is available there (44.088005, -78.436162). Continue west on the unpaved road through the central section of the Ganaraska

Forest passing the Northumberland Land Trust's McEwen property at km 30.7 (44.084777, -78.449666). There is a fine valley view from this point. In just over 1 km, turn north off the unpaved road. The Ganaraska Trail and the Oak Ridge's Trail diverge at this point.

31.1 44.081601, -78.463964

**WINTER DETOUR:** From January 1 until March 31 each year hikers are not allowed to walk on the cross-country ski trails in the Ganaraska Forest. Between km 31.1 and km 39.7 hikers must use the detour which travels along the 10th Line Hope Township to Cold Springs Camp Rd. on the west side of the Ganaraska Forest Centre. Turn right (north) on to Glamorgan Rd. As of 2023 this detour will be marked with blue blazes.

Follow the blazes through the central Ganaraska Forest. The hilly central section of the Ganaraska Forest is now apparent. Originally dominated by hardwoods and white pine, the area was largely denuded of trees between the late 1700's and late 1800's as a result of Britain's demand for hardwood for the hulls and white pine for the masts for its Royal Navy ships. Subsequently, much of the area was further cleared for agriculture, which proved a mistake as the settlers were unaware that forest cover was needed to protect the soils from wind and water erosion. By 1900, many of the farms had been abandoned and much of the Ganaraska area turned into sand dunes. Consequent degradation of the entire watershed led to many of the mills on the Ganaraska River ceasing operation. In 1944, a landmark report on the Ganaraska Watershed was published recommending reforestation of the area. The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority was formed in 1946 to buy and reforest the land. By 1991, 4,200 hectares were acquired, of which half have been reforested with red pine, the primary planted species.

Presently the forest is being actively managed to revert it to a more natural state which will allow hardwood species as well as other coniferous species to gradually mature and provide a much more natural looking forest.

39.7 44.106128, -78.519489

Emerging on to the Glamorgan Road, which is unpaved at this point, turn north. Continue north following the GHTA blazes on Glamorgan Rd. Stay on this road until you reach the Old Marsh Anglican Church (1876) (44.130412, -78.530365) at Pontypool Road. (Lunch spot)

The Welsh place names "Glamorgan" and "Pontypool" indicate early settlement in this area by immigrants from south-east Wales where the county of Glamorgan and town of Pontypool are located.

42.6 44.130657, -78.53068

Turn left on Pontypool Road. Cross the bridge over Hwy. 115, then immediately right to regain Glamorgan Rd. and continue north to the T-junction at Solanum Way. Turn right for 300 meters.

44.8 44.14364, -78.532709

Turn left (north) on an unmaintained road and cross the CPR tracks at Dranoel Road. Continue on Dranoel Road, generally north, passing various side roads to Hwy 7A.

49.7 44.182359, -78.553394

Continue north from Hwy 7A on Dranoel Road (roadside parking is available on East Street (44.184884, -78.555166) approximately 200 meters north of highway 7A). At km 50.9, there is a great view of Bethany in the valley about 1 kilometer to the west. (Lunch spot) (44.193569, -78.558115).

53.7 44.2162, -78.568143

The road turns right on Stewart Line but the trail goes straight ahead on the unmaintained road and down a very steep track, coming out beside the Devil's Elbow Ski Club. Continue north on Hillview Dr. and an unmaintained road to County Rd. 38. To the east, you will see signs of what is planned to be the largest Buddhist temple outside of China (44.238803, -78.578314). When completed, it will be a complex of temples, gardens, statues, ponds and pilgrimage paths covering 1,300 acres. When you reach County Rd. 38, you will see to the right the causeway entrance to the complex.

55.3 44.230596, -78.574661

Roadside parking is available on Hillview Drive.

57.5 44.243036, -78.580347

Cross directly over County Road 38 and up the steep slope of an unmaintained road. Continue north over the Hogsback drumlin, with excellent pastoral views to the west. Keep left on the trail and eventually across the bridge over the languid Pigeon River. (Lunch spot and roadside parking on Hogsback Road (44.272282, -78.594043).

Follow the trail to County Road. 31 (Mount Horeb Road).

61.2 44.270164, -78.610926

Turn left (west) on County Road 31 and proceed 1.5 kilometers to the abandoned railway bed between Dranoel and Lindsay (a further continuation of the former Port Hope to Lindsay railway).

**Note:** Just before reaching the railway bed, the Windy Ridge Conservation Area (44.2711348, -78.607757), on the south side of Mount Horeb Road, has a picnic shelter and parking area.

62.7 44.270201, -78.610858

Turn north on the abandoned railway bed, known locally as the "rail trail".

65.6 44.291899, -78.630838

The Pine Ridge section of the trail ends at Crosswind Road, the first east-west road crossing the rail trail. Roadside parking is available here.