



The Ganaraska News

Fall 2023 (September 1 to December 31, 2023)

Hello Members

Fall has arrived! **Abbreviated** hike schedules to December 31 for most clubs are included in this newsletter, please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the fall colours, the beautiful world of nature, and stay safe!

Looking forward to seeing you hike, paddle, bike or snowshoe with us as we enjoy the great outdoors.

HALF CENTURY WITH GHTA!

By Mary Veltheer, Orillia Club



Bob hiking on the North Coast Trail in Madeira in 2014

2023 marks a milestone for Orillia Club member Bob Wilson. He is celebrating his 50th year with the GHTA. Bob has been a stalwart fixture with the GHTA since joining in 1973. In addition to being the President of the Orillia club for 15 years, Bob also served as GHTA President for 3 years. He was part of the group that initially built the Wilderness Trail (which was part of the Orillia Section at that time) from Sadowa to Devil's Lake. He has led hikes for 50 years, blazed trails in the Orillia Section and is currently Trail Maintenance Director for the Orillia Club. In 1989, Bob and co-worker Harold Powell closed the gap between the North and South sections, with the last blaze being painted in the village of Burnt River. For the last 2 years, Bob has organized and led kayak/canoe day trips for the Tuesday Paddlers (a group composed of 36 members from 6 Ganaraska Clubs).

Bob joined the Orillia Club when he was 23 (at that time it was called the Simcoe Club) and became Club President when Dave Rapson called a meeting to find a replacement for himself. Dave asked several people if they would stand for the position of President. Everyone had an excuse for not taking on the position. When it came to Bob, he couldn't think of a reason to decline. Or as Bob says, he was too young and stupid to say no. I asked Bob what he considers the most important part of hiking with the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Club.

“The social aspect is most important to me. I have known many wonderful people in my time with the hiking club. Some of those are no longer with us, but many remain. When Covid-19 hit, we were reduced to hiking with a very small group of people for two years. That really made us realize the importance of companionship.”

I also asked Bob about his most memorable hike.

“There have been many memorable hikes but there is one that I will never forget. Around 1980 I did a solo hike to look for a route for a trail along the Black River because of a conversation I had with Ralph Wood, the person who wrote the Master Plan for the GHTA. He had mentioned how beautiful the area around Victoria Bridge was. I followed the river south from Victoria Bridge and then west along a high ridge overlooking the river. Down to follow the bank of the river and then back up again. The desire to see what lay ahead was very strong that day, but I finally had to turn around when I got to the bottom of Ragged Rapids as the day was getting on. The sun was setting as I drove back out on the Black River Road. I had found a stunning route to Ragged Rapids but it was several years before it was blazed. But that is another story.”

I would like to finish by including an excerpt from the President’s Message that Bob wrote for the Winter 1989-1990 Newsletter.

“Many of us have come to realize that hiking does not simply mean travelling from point A to Point B. A hike starts from the moment you load your pack and ends, unfortunately, when you return home and take off your hiking boots and it is the sum of all the experiences that have occurred between. Meeting new people and old friends, the crunch of dry leaves underfoot, the smells of spring, the feel of the first snowflakes of the year hitting your face, the desire to see what is over the next hill. These are the things that hiking is all about and these are the memories that remain with you. Hiking is an escape from the pressures of the everyday world and perhaps that is the most important function of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail – simply to provide that place of escape.”



MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

EXECUTIVE

President: Frieda Baldwin
Secretary: Steve Pogue
Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Simone Latham
Trail/Landowners Relations Director: John Sloan

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – John Rudnickas, Susan Lee, John Sloan
Kawartha – Stephen Kay, George Boyd
Mad River – Sharon Striegl, Lynn McIlwaine
Midland – Larry Piitz, Jo-Anne Gorthy, Linda Blow
Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal
Oro-Medonte – Sue Benjafeld, Christine Cornu, Kim Drury
Pine Ridge – Jay Sherwin, John Ambler, Stan Muldoon
Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen, Rob Smith
Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Charleyne Hall

OFFICERS

Membership Director: Christine Cornu
Badge Officer: Jacquie Van Dyke
GHTA Archivist: Linda Blow
GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: Tracy Parsons
GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell
QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka
Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Charleyne Hall

Newsletter Editor/Web Content: Heather Briant
Website: Rob Smith
Social Media Officer: Alana Boulay
Publicity Coordinator: Vacant
Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner
Mapping Coordinator: Victor Tolgyessy
Signage Coordinator: Vacant
Assistant Treasurer: Ann Kivinen

ASSOCIATION AND CLUB LINKS

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
[Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation)
[Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup)
Barrie: [Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAbarrie)
Kawartha: <https://www.facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub/>
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)
Oro-Medonte: [Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte)
Pine Ridge: www.pineridgehikingclub.ca
Wilderness: [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

Please use Contact Us on the Association Website to send us a message!

President's Report

By Frieda Baldwin

Middle of the summer already, as I write my president's report for the fall newsletter. I know several of our clubs skip the summer season for hiking as members get busy with family, cottages, vacations, other pursuits like boating, camping or biking, or they simply find it too hot or buggy at this time. Not me... not us in Midland. We hike through the summer, even though perhaps with less participants. We select the spots that may be less buggy and put our trust in a good bug repellent. There is so much to enjoy in the summer, from beautiful wild flowers and mushrooms, edible berries, etc. We also plan some hike & swims, which are usually well attended. Other club members have been enjoying bike or paddle outings.

However, this summer has also produced exceptionally good growth conditions for weeds on our trails, thus creating tall weeds, sometimes obscuring the trail itself. It has been a challenge for trail maintenance volunteers with scythes and weed whackers to deal with this exceptional growth.

As you may have heard before, we are trying to close the gap between the Tiny and Midland sections in North Simcoe, and I am very pleased to report that we are just about ready to start mapping this extension of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, which will add about 16 kms, split over the Tiny and Midland sections. We are waiting on only one approval, and don't expect this to be an issue... it just takes time. We are also extremely pleased to see the set of stairs built by the Township of Tiny, specifically to get hikers up a pretty high hillside. We are confident that we should be able to blaze the extension this fall.

At the Executive Level, I am extremely pleased to report that our association Secretary, Steve Pogue, has been very busy to set up our organization on a Microsoft platform, on which we can store and share (on a need-to-know basis) all pertinent Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. documents, such as membership lists, mapping files, contracts, forms, etc. The platform also allows us to use Outlook for emailing, use a teleconference module and provides executive members, officers, and club executives with generic email addresses. Example: president@gha.ca, secretary@gha.ca, etc. When volunteers change roles, these addresses will be passed on to the successor. This is a huge step forward for our organization, and I would like to thank Steve Pogue for his efforts in this regard.



We recently also appointed a new Mapping Coordinator. I understand that Victor Tolgyessy has substantial cartography experience and is off to a good start with some updates to our Trail Guide maps.

Unfortunately, we just received a resignation from our Newsletter Editor and Web Content Manager, Heather Briant. I have really enjoyed working with Heather, as we cooperated on the revamp and update of the content of our website. I will miss her. But hopefully another volunteer will come forward to take on either the Newsletter Editor, or the Web Content Manager role, or both. We will be posting job descriptions soon. Anyone interested in the above, or the other vacancies we still have (Vice President, Publicity Officer and Signage Coordinator) can contact me at president@gha.ca.

With respect to the newsletter, the board of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. decided last spring that it is time for us to move away from printed newsletters, to save on printing and mailing costs, as well as volunteer time. Rather than sending printed newsletters to those who requested in the past that we do so, starting with the winter edition of the newsletter, bulk shipments will be sent to the club presidents, and those who insist on a hard copy newsletter, can request one from their club president on a hike. More information on this to follow.

Our new 50/100/200 badges in a calendar year have sparked a lot of interest. Some hikers are posting their progress, as well as their pictures and destinations on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Facebook Group. Many are well on their way of reaching their goals. I also hear that a very young hiker (9 years old) may soon become the youngest hiker to ever do the Wilderness Crossover. I can't wait to hear about that adventure, which will be a totally awesome achievement.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and very enjoyable fall hiking season, which is probably the best, weatherwise, and most of all, no bugs.

Trail and Landowner Relations

by John Sloan, Director

New Mapping-Coordinator Volunteer!

It is with great pleasure (and relief) that we can announce that Victor Tolgyessy has agreed to take on the volunteer role of Mapping Coordinator. Victor and his wife Pat are members of the Oro-Medonte hiking club and live in Oro-Medonte at Horseshoe Valley. With his background in cartography he will take on prime responsibility for the GHTA website Trail Guide maps while I will continue to work with Ondago on our mobile device maps. When you need to update your club trail map, contact me, and Victor and I will work together to coordinate update activity on both map platforms.

My thanks to Steve Broomfield for his previous work on this role, particularly getting all our Trail Guide mapping and trail description files organized and stored in a way that made them easy and efficient to use.

Welcome to the team Victor!

Mapping Notes

Our Ondago maps have been downloaded 741 times so far this year, and opened for use 3,373 times (as of the end of July). It seems that hikers continue to find the information and features of Ondago helpful.

While it is our intention that the Ondago maps and our downloadable Trail Guide maps stay in sync, there are a couple of situations currently where Ondago has been updated and the Trail Guides haven't caught up. All updates however are captured in our Trail Changes section of the GHTA website, so remember to check there for updates when using the website Trail Guide maps.

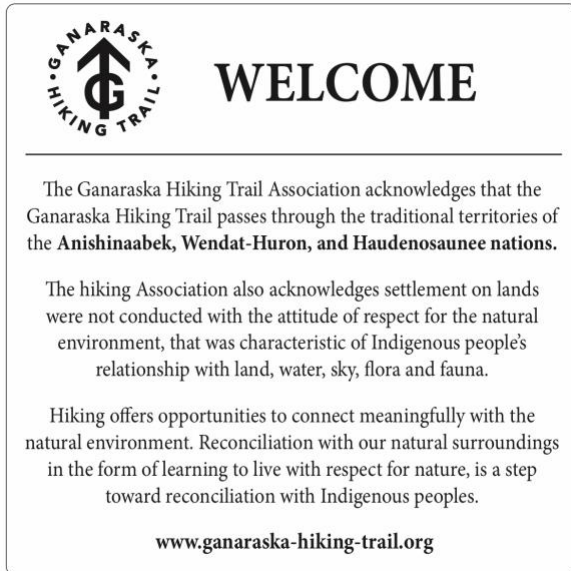
Risk Management Committee Notes

The Risk Management Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Our focus this year includes creating a process to record our annual trail maintenance activity and updating our inventory of 'GHTA owned man-made structures' across our trail system. Communication about both of these topics was sent to all clubs earlier in the year and reports have started to flow in. Thanks to all the club members that are working on both of these activities.

Sharing Our Land Acknowledgment

by Carolyn Humphreys, chair | Indigenous Engagement Committee

The Association needs your help sharing our Land Acknowledgement with trail users.



One way to share our Land Acknowledgment is to post it on the trail (see sample sign). The Indigenous Engagement Committee (IEC) is asking all members to recommend sites for posting signs. We will produce a limited number of signs and would like to post them in each section of the trail. Deciding where signs will be located will be influenced by local club recommendations, land owner approval and appropriateness.

For example, Jay Sherwin President of the Pine Ridge club and member of the IEC has suggested that approximately kilometre 35 in the Ganaraska Forest near a re-establishment of tall grass prairie would be a good location because it highlights the relationship between Indigenous people and prairie grass. In this case, the Ganaraska Forest representatives are supportive and may support the initiative financially.

The Wilderness club is considering a sign location at Moore Falls because it would provide a conversation point at the beginning or end of a hike. There are several good places to post a sign in the area either on a tree or on a free-standing post. We need to get the landowner's permission and decide on a day to install the sign. A meaningful install date would be September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Please connect with Carolyn Humphreys, IEC Chair if you have location ideas chumpboat@gmail.com or 416-536-9534.

Supporting the Association

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

National Hiker Award - A challenge for Canadian Hikers

By David Francis

Imagine being a trailblazer, one of the first hikers in Canada to obtain your National Hiker Award and being connected to other hikers across the 5,500 km breadth of our great nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic. Imagine being part of an elite and prestigious group of hikers bonded in knowledge and achievement, climbing the hiking ladder as you progress from National, to Advanced, and to the ultimate Distinguished level with all its accolades and privileges.

So what is the National Hiker Award? It has been created by Hike Canada en Marche with a number of goals and exams for each level. The Award Program is due to launch in November 2023, then the race will be on to see who will obtain the coveted #1 award position. There will be no disgrace in being in the top 100, forever locked into the historic founding members of the National Hiker Award Program.



There will be two award sections, one for youth under 21, which will be shorter and less demanding, and one for adults which is described below.

Each Award level will have its unique numbering up to the elite Distinguished Hiker Level top #100. There will be a number of steps for each level, with greater challenges as you work up to the Advanced, then Distinguished Hiker Levels.

These will include some physical hiking challenges, documented trail maintenance and online multi choice exam questions testing your knowledge of long distance hiking trails in Canada, historic trails, values, safety, first aid, weather, natural history and Indigenous trail connections.

We are working hard to set up the online registration process and multi choice exam questions. Progress reports will be posted on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hikeacrosscanada> and on our website: <https://nationalhikingtrail.org/>

What will be the process to get started?

The first thing will be to register online starting in November 2023 and paying a \$20 registration fee for adults, and \$10 for youth, which will pay for the National Hiker Award website portal, the award badges and towards the cost of the program coordinator. Once registered, you can access the program content and your personal log. These will be set out as a physical component and an online hiking skills component with multi-choice questions.

The physical component will consist of a hike, trail maintenance work and working at a community hiking event.



The online skills section demonstrates your knowledge of Indigenous communities and recognizing their importance for wilderness trails, the names and locations of many of our long distance hiking trails across Canada, the history of the National Hiking Trail and how it differs from the Trans Canada Trail, the historic trails such as the Klondike Trail and its importance in Canadian history, the core values of Hike Canada En Marche and their importance to the hiking community, demonstrate basic safety considerations when venturing out onto a wilderness hiking trail and finally, demonstrate knowledge of our natural history and how this can be appreciated and protected.



Each award level will add to the depth and range of questions as well as requiring more physical challenges as you progress to the Advanced and Distinguished levels.

Be ready to challenge yourself to be a knowledgeable and proficient hiker as you proceed from level to level, and be recognized by your hiking peers across Canada.

For details and more information, contact David Francis at david.francis.trails@gmail.com.

WILD GIRLS HIKE THE WILDERNESS

by Jen Nadon

The following is an account of an adventurous three-day hike by our group of four close hiking friends in the Wilderness Section of the Gananaska Hiking Trail over the July 1st long weekend. After days of mapping out our route, mulling over campsites, planning meals, going through gear and arranging parking (The Rockcliffe in Moore Falls was very accommodating), we were finally ready to go.

We first completed the [17 km road portion](#) - Victoria Bridge to Sadowa - in a separate day hike, which ended up being quite a lovely walk, in spite of the biting insects (which invariably target me while leaving my friends alone). After much consideration, we decided to reverse our route to start at Victoria Bridge, complete the Ragged Rapids and High Falls loops (in a figure 8 pattern), restock our food and clothes from our vehicle at Victoria Bridge, and finally continue on to Moore Falls to finish in seven days. Um, this did not go according to plan.



Day One

We left Barrie bright and early, dropped off a vehicle at Moore Falls, then drove to our starting point of Victoria Bridge where we started our hike by 11:00 a.m. After an initial slight miscalculation, we crossed the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek and were on our way on the SE side of the Ragged Rapids loop. We walked with relative ease despite the 35°C temperature. The trail was fairly well marked with a combination of tree blazes, rock markings, and cairns, and we were able to stay on track. However, a lot of bushwhacking was involved, and shorts were a poor choice of clothing, as our legs were thoroughly scratched (except for Laura, who was smart and wore pants). The insects were insane and we must have used up a half bottle of bug spray each on that day alone! Our bug nets were a life saver. We had a bit of a scare with a probable moose butt (?) sighting, but our loud talking and singing warned off all other critters. At our first beaver dam crossing, Laura was lucky to find a perfect walking stick which she put to good use. We were very excited when we finally arrived at our campsite on Rex Pond, but were slightly disappointed in the limited access to water-without-weeds. So no refreshing swim for us...except for our brave water fetcher, Sylvie. After taking care of camp chores and dinner, it was time for bed. For story time, I read aloud from Scott Stillman's book "Wilderness", in which he recounts various hikes through the American National Parks.

Day Two

After a slow start, we passed through "Hiker's Graveyard" (whose name would later be better appreciated). Our intent was to hike along the NW side of the High Falls loop to finish the day at beautiful Rainy Lake for a much wanted and well-deserved swim. However, upon rechecking the map we realized we had erred and discovered that we were on the SE side of the loop. This meant that we would not be staying at Rainy Lake after all, as we had only hiked about 4 km so far that day - boo hoo! We consulted our maps and selected a new home for the night. We had enjoyed another few kilometers of lovely trail...except for the biters and the creek that I fell into while stepping onto a rotten log (not good for the girl who is blister-prone). Here things got dicey - we had



reached a point on the southern part of the loop where the trail simply disappeared! Then Cat (mama bear for our group) recalled that the trail went by High Falls, and lo and behold, we could hear the falls! So, maybe not the smartest idea, but we bushwhacked in the direction of the sound. Poor Cat had her arm impaled by a 3-inch thorn. I am happy to report that we found the falls, and the blazes miraculously reappeared! As we were all almost out of drinking water at this point, we rested and restocked our water supply (whoopee!). All was well again...until it was not - once again, the trail disappeared. Suffice it to say we invested a lot of time and effort (crossing,

then recrossing a bridge; climbing up and down several ridges) before we finally spotted some blazes in the distance... but we lost the trail yet again before reaching our intended campsite. So, we decided to call it a day and set up camp for the night, and leave trail finding for the morning with fresh bodies and minds. Sylvie (who else?) waded into the pond to fetch more drinking water - but she didn't linger when she noticed the leeches.

After completing camp duties, it was time for bed and story time...except all three girls fell asleep on me, so there I was reading aloud to the bullfrogs!

Day Three

We broke camp early. Long pants were donned in lieu of shorts. We had granola for breakfast. With clear heads, and after perusing a paper map, a map app, and GPS on Google maps, we were able to reorient ourselves. Clearly someone before us had run into this same problem as we came across trail tape marking a route. We followed the flagging and we eventually reconnected with those lovely trail blazes on the trees! We again passed by Hiker's Graveyard, which now had a whole new meaning, and on to our breakfast and water supply station at Rex Pond. I don't think we had ever been so happy to see a pond! Once again, Sylvie was our designated water girl. After a two hour stop (water filtration takes a long time!), we were on our way again. We were both happy and relieved to be well guided by blazes and markings all day long. With an approaching thunderstorm, Cat kept us away from the high points as we passed some beautiful spots along the river featuring rapids and some apparent cliffside campsites. When the storm arrived, we hunkered down in the semi-shelter of the trees, at a much lower elevation for safety. The rain was refreshing at first, but after a while we were just plain chilled. As the rain tapered off, we beat a hasty retreat to the car - over the floating bridge, past the beach, alongside Victoria Falls, and we finally arrived at the beautiful Victoria Bridge site and the parking lot! We camped there for the night (sorry if that wasn't allowed), and prepared for the next leg of our journey. We had the most delicious chips, some adult beverages, a fabulous dinner, and attempted to dry our belongings. Luckily, we had left a change of clothes in the car (but it would have been nice to have dry boots!). Then it was off to bed, along with story time (and everyone stayed awake this time)!

Day Four

The next morning, after much discussion and deliberation, we decided, as a team, to pull the plug on our adventure. This was not the outcome we wanted, but it was the smart choice. My heels were completely raw, and they would have been way worse if we had gotten a day or two further in, with no other option than to either backtrack or continue on. Perhaps Rob Halupka had a point when he commented that we had planned, "a very ambitious hike".

This is not the end for us though. We are on a mission to complete the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail, so we will return to conquer the remainder of the Wilderness trail! As tough as this hike was, we were able to persevere and work together to solve a variety of problems. Plus, we had a blast doing it! There is even a [video](#) (courtesy of Sylvie) that showcases the wonder of this wilderness!

Thanks to my girls, Sylvie, Cat, and Laura! This was truly a team effort, and I'm so glad we were able to experience this adventure and explore this wilderness together.



CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

By John Rudnickas, President

Our club had a good spring season, hopefully a sign that things have returned to normal on the social front. Now if only we could get back to the good old predictable climate days!

Our club does not schedule hikes during the summer. Just as well this year as wild swings in weather would have kept us rather busy with cancellations and rescheduling. Some of our members did get together for biking and kayaking on an informal and sometimes short notice basis, and we're now preparing for what we hope will be a great hiking season.

Trail maintenance was performed in the late spring and early summer, and most of our trails were in great shape. This summer though has brought on a growth spurt of vegetation as well as some washouts, so we need to have another go at it before our organized hikes commence. We have adopted a system whereby trail stewards have taken on responsibility for inspecting defined sections of our trail system, and this seems to be working well. Many thanks to John Sloan and Dale Hannah who are our primary trail captains and have been untiring in keeping the trails tuned up. We are still in the process of trying to negotiate our way around red tape concerning our work in improving some water crossings. Hopefully we won't have too many wet feet this fall.

Membership is still on a slow, steady rise. We are continuing with a couple of introductory level evening hike offerings early this fall as we have found this as a way of meeting a few new faces and encouraging some newcomers to participate in our regular hikes. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity for this is short given the rapidly diminishing daylight in the fall.

We are still maintaining our schedule of Sunday morning hikes, shorter Wednesday hikes and joint hikes with the Orillia club on Thursdays. While the Ganaraska Hiking Trail system is the foundation upon which our hikes are based, it seems our scope is ever expanding. Thanks is due to our hike leaders for their creativity and dedication and to Susan Lee who sifts through their offerings and comes up with an interesting, well-organized schedule.



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October 1 to 13, 2023

- ✚ Hike Japan's Honshu Island, from Tokyo to the slopes of Mt. Fuji, the northern part of the Japanese Alps and Kyoto
- ✚ Immerse yourself in the ancient customs & culture
- ✚ Stay in a ryokans, relax in hot springs (onsens), & wear a yukata to traditional Japanese dinners
- ✚ Have tea with a maiko (an apprentice geisha)
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Kawartha

By Stephen Kay, President

KHC completed our successful spring program in June culminating in a lunch following a hike in the Buckhorn area. The number of participants has been steadily rising as have the inquiries regarding our hikes. We have a full slate of hikes this fall with a range of trail ratings to suit a variety of hiker abilities and skill levels. Wednesday hikes tend to be shorter and easy to moderate, while the Saturday hikes are longer and more challenging.

Pine Ridge End-to-End Challenge - Despite the summer usually being a break from organized club hikes, members have completed 3 of 5 sections of the Pine Ridge Hiking Club trail covering 38.8 of the 65.6 km of trail. The fourth section is scheduled for August 19th and the final section is scheduled for September 30th. Twenty-nine hikers had indicated interest in this challenge and we have had as many as 18 hikers participate at a time so far.

KHC Trail Inspection and Maintenance - Volunteers have hiked 29.9 km (of 79.3 km) of trails from Crosswind Rd to Wagar Road so far this year. This section of the trail was in good condition and no maintenance was required here.

A trail maintenance day is currently planned for September 23rd. The focus will be to continue work, based on last year's inspection and maintenance, on the northern section of KHC trails. Work will start from Buller Road and progress south towards Corben Lake. Work will also continue south of Monck Rd if there are an adequate number of volunteers to establish two maintenance teams.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the executive is beginning planning for club get togethers in the fall and winter.

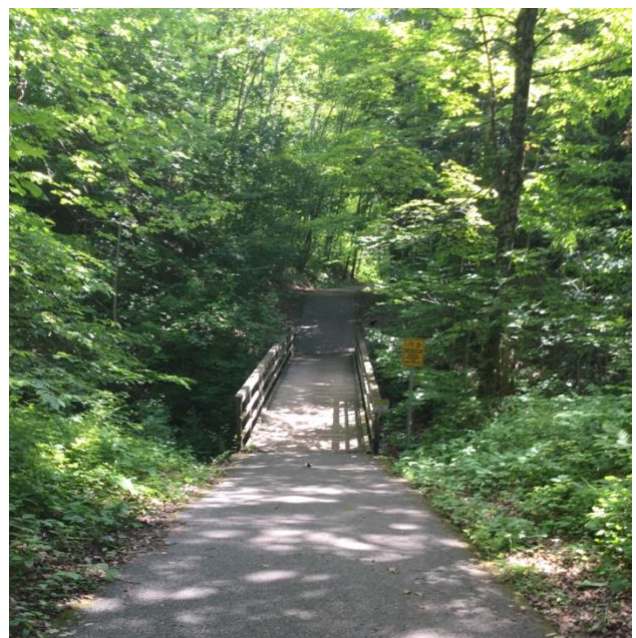
Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President

This spring, members of our club joined in with other community members to help the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority plant 500 trees and shrubs along the banks of the Mad River. Our hard work will benefit the river in the future.

Our hiking schedule takes a holiday for the summer months and is replaced with weekly bike outings and kayaking, which members have come out and enjoyed.

Early in the spring, Lynn McIlwaine took on the role of Trail Manager and throughout the spring and early summer, trail maintenance was undertaken with new blazes added along with refreshing some of the old ones. This will continue throughout the fall as well.



We have also been working with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy this summer to evaluate the trail condition along the Glencairn section in order to maintain the trail.

We will be starting our weekly hikes again and look forward to seeing familiar faces and to catch up with everyone. We have many hikes scheduled to hopefully capture the beauty of the changing leaves and to enjoy everything Mother Nature has to offer at this time of year and well into the winter months.

See you all soon! Happy hiking.

Midland

By Larry Piitz, President

As summer comes to an end, hikers in Midland and everywhere are looking forward to a glorious Fall. Many of our members have achieved or are close to their 50-100-200 Hikes in a year Badges. I encourage everyone to set these goals. You can follow the progress of others on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Group on Facebook.

With respect to closing the gap between the Midland and Tiny sections of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, the Town of Penetanguishene is still working on the final section of a multi-use trail that will become part of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. The Township of Tiny has built a set of steps which far exceeded our expectations. A big thank you to Tiny for their support.

It will soon be possible to hike an uninterrupted circuit around Simcoe County. Currently the gap can be seen on Map #31. We will be upgrading the map when work is completed.

See you on the trail.

Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President

Another Newsletter – and another 1/3 year has rolled around! This season (late spring/summer) is as always relatively quiet for actual hikes – though the Monday and Tuesday hikes have pretty much continued through the summer, thank you Ann Kivinen and Nynka Greer/Isabelle Lloyd for spearheading these. However, the kayaking and biking has been very active with weekly outings, thank you Bob Wilson and Tito Faria. We are busy drawing together the fall season hiking schedule.

Speaking of Bob Wilson, the club plans an event on Nov. 4, 2023 to honour his 50 years as a member. We hope that many of his old buddies will attend – though we will have to limit the numbers due to hall limitations. I have read the writeup that appears in this Newsletter and it's a pretty impressive career in the service of the GHTA. Well done, Bob.

As for the stewardship in the Copeland Forest – the group participated in a round or two of garlic mustard pulling – but I will say that this season has been relatively light for the little blighters. Watch out for next year!

My thanks go out again to Bob Wilson for continuing in his position as Trail Maintenance Coordinator for our section of the trail. Thanks to all the leaders for the club, and especially to Leslie Raymond for being our Hike Coordinator.

Looking forward to another great season of hiking.



Oro-Medonte

By **Sue Benjafield, President**

On behalf of all the hikers who have hiked with Christine Cornu, I would like to thank her for her years of leadership. How long has it been? Seven years!

Christine has introduced many to our hikes with her welcoming smile. She has always led us on the trails with her knowledge, decisiveness and good humour. Christine continues her involvement with the club with her responsibility of manning Memberships for the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. Thank you, Christine!

We started the spring with a challenging hike to Mulmur Hills and ended with an enjoyable hike at the northern part of the Oro Medonte Trail at Peter St to Vasey Rd. Our Monday hikes have been smaller in numbers. The executive has decided to continue the format of a longer hike on Mondays as the challenge of a longer hike is appealing. We have worked hard on a schedule that is both varied and in some cases more challenging. A corn roast and a hike will welcome our hikers back to the fall schedule.

Trail Maintenance was completed in May. Thank you to those that helped. A special thank you to Arend for his chain sawing to cut through logs. The Oro Medonte branch has a section in the Copeland Forest that we are responsible for pulling Garlic Mustard to help with the health of Copeland Forest. Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that can harm the forest if left untouched. A special thanks to all who have helped in the past years. The battle is on going and I welcome anyone who is willing to help pull in the spring.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to that invigorating, healthy activity we call "Hiking".

Pine Ridge

By Jay Sherwin, President

'Me thinks that the moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow.'

Henry David Thoreau

Most hikers, I am sure would agree with Thoreau and perhaps add to his sentiment that once the legs begin to move amid a group of hikers, the conversation begins to flow. Pine Ridge Hiking Club members had many opportunities to engage in conversation as they hiked during this past spring as a schedule of three hikes per week was offered during April, May and June. Wet weather affected a few of the hikes but not the spirit of the hikers as evidenced from the photo below.



During the past few months, several club members have stepped up with initiatives to support the club. Club members Jason Kay and Darryl Russel revised and edited the club Hike Catalogue and have supplied hike leaders with a user-friendly digital copy. The digital format simplifies the task of scanning through a binder of hike routes when considering choice of a hike to offer the club.

Club member and present Trail Maintenance Coordinator Stan Muldoon and his wife Jan Eithier challenged club members to join them on a series of hikes to complete the Pine Ridge section of the GHTA trail from end to end (KM 0 to Km 67) during May and June. Approximately 20 hikers took part in at least one of the five hikes and several members completed the entire distance.

Twenty PRHC members raised the flag and promoted the club at the Port Hope Canada Day parade. Business cards advertising the club were passed out along the route with the expectation of attracting new members. Following the parade, participants gathered for a picnic in downtown Port Hope.



On July 8, club members gathered for a hike in the Alderville area. The hike was followed up by a visit to the Alderville First Nation Annual Pow-wow.

During July and August, hikes are scheduled every second Wednesday evening in the urban areas of Cobourg and Port Hope. Hiking returns to a thrice weekly schedule of morning hikes during the months of September to November.

Effective July 24 and continuing until at least December and possibly the spring of 2024, the GHTA trail is closed from Km 7.0 to Km 10.6 due to municipal bridge reconstruction work. This affects all northbound and southbound hikers on the GHTA trail. A detour route has been posted on the GHTA website.

Wasaga Beach

By Lorraine van Vlymen, Acting President

What a great spring and summer for hiking on the trails at the Beach and in the surrounding area. Very few hikes were cancelled due to rain or wildfire smoke. We have enjoyed the bursting out of spring flowers along McIntyre Creek and in the Wasaga Beach Provincial Park as well as the deep green beauty of summer. Longer range hikes have included trips to Tiny Marsh, up on the escarpment (including Frank's Lime Kiln, Kolapore Uplands, Pretty River Plateau, Devil's Glen), and Dufferin County Forest.



Our regular Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon hikes are usually moderate in difficulty and range from 1.5 to 2.5 hours. The weekly ambler hikes are very popular for those seeking an easier pace and shorter hike in the local area. All hikes have seen consistent turnouts ranging from 10 to 20 members each hike.

This spring, our club participated in Wasaga Beach's Adopt-a-Road program by clearing litter along Veterans Way and Blueberry Trail which have our busiest local trail access points. We also launched a Trail Maintenance Project which had teams surveying and refreshing blazes all along our trail some of which had completely worn away only in

the space of about 3 years. Thanks to all the great helpers for both endeavours.

Our club maintains the Main Street Garden at the entrance to the Beach which holds a dedication plaque to our club. Thanks to Gloria Thompson for organizing the garden crew and to all the members that have participated. Your efforts have really put on a show for the community and all the many Beach visitors.

Wasaga Beach held its first Annual Meeting since before the pandemic. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Volunteer of the Year award to Irene Bell, a long-time member and past president. Thank you for all your great efforts, Irene. Irene still is a very active member of the club, leading regular hikes and always available for consultation. Old time members such as Bill Crawford and Doris and Joe Camilleri were also recognized for their ongoing support. Thanks to all for this great event.

We are currently looking forward to a Beachside summer hike/picnic for all our members. This will be a great chance for all our members from ambler to long distance hikers to get reacquainted. New members will be particularly welcomed.



A special Thank You to all our hike leaders. The club would not be able to continue without your commitment and efforts to keep everyone safe on the trails. It is your knowledge and dedication that we depend on to keep us going in the right direction and prepared for any unfortunate mishaps.

As the summer marches on, we will continue to range further afield such as to the various Simcoe County Forest trails and others up on the escarpment. We also look forward to discovering new trails and introducing new members to the joys of hiking and the beauty that surrounds us. Effort will also be put into updating, condensing, and archiving club photos taken over the 25+ years the club has been in existence.

Wilderness

By Rob Halupka – President

Our primary focus for the fall season will be on trail maintenance, especially for those more remote sections of our trails that require overnight camping to complete a circuit. Members are reminded to check their email as well as the Wilderness Club's Facebook page for hike announcements as details are fleshed out.

There have been a number of reports of hikers in QEII encountering ticks on their gear, clothing and on their skin (yuck!). By far the most common is the dog tick, which thankfully is not a carrier of Lyme disease; however, we know of at least one instance this summer involving a black-legged or deer tick, which potentially can carry Lyme disease. Educate yourself, dress appropriately, and check yourself during and after hiking, and especially after you get home ("Hi, honey. Would you like to see me naked?").

Trail Maintenance

Parts of our trail system are in dire need of attention, i.e. trimming of undergrowth and refreshing of blazes. We are seeking volunteers for an overnight trail maintenance trip the weekend of Sept 30/Oct 1st on the High Falls loop at the west end of the Wilderness Club's trail system. This represents a great opportunity to experience a part of QEII that sees far fewer visitors than the rest of the park. We are also arranging for a float plane to drop off a team of four hikers at Wolf Lake on Saturday, Oct 14th. This party will focus their efforts on the Wolf Lake to Deep Gully stretch (by campsite #13) and will camp out one night before returning to Victoria Bridge. We are seeking Wilderness Club volunteers for this trip with preference given to capable members who have contributed in the past. Later in the fall, we will also be sending out a call for assistance in removing the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek for winter storage. Last year, the bridge came out on Nov 9th.

End-to-End Hiking Group

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I note that the End-to-End hiking journey spanning two years along the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail, capably led by Neil Runnalls and Dan Myall, is drawing to a close. The final leg is scheduled for completion on **Sunday, Sept 10th**. The odyssey commenced on Nov 27th, 2021 when Neil and Dan started the first hike of the series in Port Hope. From Neil's July 24, 2023 Facebook post: "You can never tell where the Ganaraska Hiking Trail will take you. Our End-to-End team has travelled through wilderness lands, rail trails, country roads, along farmers fields, and now past wheat fields. The team completed Kilometres 29 to 48 of the Wasaga Beach Section on Sunday. There is no place more beautiful than this in Ontario!"

Hike Haliburton Festival - Sept 21-24



The Wilderness Club will be participating in **Hike Haliburton 2023** by delivering hikes and putting on a photography exhibit. "**71.5km | Long Exposure**" is a photo exhibit of Wilderness section images. The photos will be displayed as part of the hike festival at the **Rockcliffe Restaurant, Bar & Hotel** at Moore Falls Sept 21/24. There is no admission charge.

Cross-Over Hikes

At time of writing, no cross-over hikes have been scheduled across the rugged interior of Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park for September/October. As usual, we continue to advise caution in planning an overnight hiking trip on the Wilderness trails. Safety concerns include challenging terrain, spotty cell service and limited accessibility to the more remote reaches of the park. If you are thinking about going on a crossover hike, don't hesitate to inquire or to ask advice, and keep an eye out for upcoming announcements.

Overnight Hiking Clinic

Our first-ever Zoom clinic on overnight hiking in QEII last year was very popular, so we are working on offering it again, tentatively on Wednesday, Sept 20th. The format included a panel discussion led by both seasoned Wilderness members and relative newcomers. Stay tuned for details.

Hunting Season

The most important dates for hikers to note are **Oct 16-22** and **Nov 6-19** when hunters in our area take time off to be in the bush for the moose and deer seasons, respectively. **Wear blaze orange & stay safe.**

Most of the Wilderness Section of the Ganaraska Trail lies within *Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park*, which in turn falls within **WMU** (Wildlife Management Unit) **56** with some of the west end within **WMU 53A**. Following is a summary of the relevant open seasons for the various game species:

- Small game (grouse, rabbits) starts Sept 15 but end dates vary with species (Dec 31 & beyond).
- Ducks: Sept 16 - Dec 31; Geese: Sept 1 - Dec 16.
- Black bear: Sept 1 - Nov 30.
- Moose (firearms): Oct 16-22.
- Deer (firearms): Nov 6-19.

For more information, click on the following links to **Ontario's 2023 Hunting Regulations**

Summary <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>,

and **Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations** <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries/ontario.html>.

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Ratings

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Easy	Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots and poles optional. Suitable for beginners.
Moderate	Generally on trail. May be hilly, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots and poles recommended.
Difficult	Rough terrain. May include bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock scrambling. Boots and poles essential, and a high level of fitness. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

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Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2023, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

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FALL 2023 HIKE SCHEDULES

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

This information is current as per newsletter publication. Please check with the hike leader, or see the updated hike information on the Google Calendar, registration apps, or email information from your local club closer to the time of the planned hike.

All GHATA members are encouraged to take part in any of the hikes, regardless of which club they belong to. The club which is organizing the hike is listed under the date of that hike. Call the leader if the weather is at all questionable in case the outing has been cancelled. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring snacks/drink/lunch. See the hike rating chart on the prior page.

Important Notice: Unpaid volunteers conduct events. Anyone participating in these events, or making use of the trail in any way, does so at their own risk. The Wilderness section should only be hiked with an approved Ganaraska Hiking Trail leader.

Event organizers and hike leaders are encouraged to have their hikers/participants provide contact information. Waivers must be signed by non-members before each hike; members sign a blanket waiver as part of their membership renewal.

COVID is still present and still a possible threat, albeit less life-threatening than 2 years ago – so if someone is not well, it is expected that they will not attend a hike.

BARRIE HIKES

General information

Wednesday hikes are 1.5 to 2 hrs.

Sunday and Thursday hikes are 3-4 hrs. (Sometimes longer) with a lunch break.

All hikes start at 10:00 am. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time.

Please check the Ganaraska Website Calendar for additional hikes and more specific information.

Contact the hike leader with any questions.

We are offering 2 easy introductory level hikes geared towards attracting new hikers. They are Wednesday Sept.6 behind the Simcoe County Administrative Building and Tuesday Sept. 19 on the North Simcoe Rail Trail. Please contact John Rudnickas at 416-248-1690 for further information and to register.

Sept. 7. Simcoe County Forest 100 Bass Lake Side Road – moderate Leslie Raymond. 705-790-3598

Sept.14. Centennial Ridge

Further details will be on the Google Calendar

Sept. 17. Kolapore Duncan Cave Crevice - moderate

Gary Norton 416-918-5050

Sept. 20. Midhurst Tract - moderate

John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Sept. 21. Ragged Rapids -difficult

Diane Dailly 705-241-7735

Sept.24. Long Falls- moderate

Leslie Raymond 705-790-3598

Sept.27. Simcoe County Forest Tiffin Tract-moderate

John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Sept.28. McCrae Lake Conservation Trail-moderate, challenging

Leslie Raymond. 705-790-3598

Oct.1. Minesing Wetlands-moderate
Dale Hannah. 249-359-7270

Oct.8. Simcoe County Forest Bass Lake Side Road
(hydro line)-moderate John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Oct.11. Simcoe County Museum into Springwater
Park- easy Shelagh Blenkarn shelaghb@rogers.com

Oct.12. Kolapore Trail-moderate
Gary Norton 416-918-5050

Oct.15. Pretty River Provincial Park - moderate
John Sloan 705-715-6994

Oct.18. Simcoe County Forest Drury Tract. Easy
/moderate Shelagh Blenkarn shelaghb@rogers.com

Oct.19. Simcoe County Forest, Bass Lake Side Road
and Line 5- easy/moderate
Dale Hannah 249-359-7270

October 22. Bruce Trail Noisy River - moderate
Alana Boulay alanab@outlook.com

Oct.25. Simcoe County Forest. Barr Tract - easy
/moderate Shelagh Blenkarn shelaghb@rogers.com.

Oct 26. Simcoe County Forest Oro Medonte Line 8-
moderate John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Oct.29. Copeland Forest P2-moderate
John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Nov.1. Simcoe County Museum and Reforestation-
easy John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Nov.5. Hockley Valley- moderate to challenging
Dale Hannah 249-359-7270

Nov.8. Simcoe County Forest Tiffin and Orrock Tracts -
east John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Nov.9 Fort Willow-moderate
Alana Boulay@alanab@outlook.com

Nov.12. Simcoe County Forest Bass Lake Side Road
(hydro line)-moderate John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Nov.15. Midhurst Park Trails-moderate
John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Nov.16. Big Chute Pretty Channel-moderate
Leslie Raymond. 705-790-3598

Nov.26. Simcoe County Forest Museum and Hickling
Tracts-moderate John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

Nov. 19. Eugenia Falls -moderate
Alana Boulay alanab@outlook.com

Nov.23. Simcoe County Forest Old Second South-
moderate Leslie Raymond. 705-790-3598

Dec. 3. Simcoe County Forest Bass Lake Side Road
(loggers)- moderate John Sloan. 705-715-6994

Dec.6. Ganaraska and other trails near Willow Creek-
moderate John Rudnickas 416-248-1690

December 14. Simcoe County Museum into
Springwater Park-easy
Alana Boulay alanab@outlook.com

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

- Wednesday hikes are 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km
- Weekend hikes are 3-4 hrs/10-12 km (sometimes longer) and usually include a lunch stop
- Hikers should arrive 10 minutes before hike start time
- Individual hike leaders may require hiker registration.
- Back-up contacts are:
 - Wednesday Hikes: Janice 705-874-0194
 - Weekend Hikes: Richard 705-750-1040

Labour Day Weekend – No Hikes Scheduled

Wednesday, Sept. 6; Selwyn CA <EASY> 10:00 a.m.;
6 km; Contact Debbie at 705-749-4912

Saturday, Sept. 9; Trent Area Trails <EASY> 10:00
a.m.; 8-10 km; Contact Barb R. at 705-760-1974

Wednesday, Sept.13; Little Lake Circuit <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Sept. 16; Silent Lake Provincial Park < MODERATE/DIFFICULT> 10:00 a.m.; 15 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Sept. 20; Omemee Rail Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 8 km; Contact Ann at 705-743-5032

Saturday, Sept. 23 – GHT Trail Maintenance Day-
more info to come; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Sept. 27; Ennismore/Emerald Isle <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km.; Contact Mary at 705-292-8776

Saturday, Sept. 30; GHT PR EtoE Leg #3 <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 15 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Oct. 4; Trent Wildlife Sanctuary <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Thanksgiving Weekend – No Hikes Scheduled

Wednesday, Oct. 11; Windy Ridge CA/Victoria Rail Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 7-8 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Oct. 14; Kawartha Leg #5 <MODERATE/DIFFICULT> 10:00 a.m.; 16 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Oct. 18; Corrigan Hill <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Marjorie at 705-761-8895

Saturday, Oct. 21; Hetherington Woods <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 8-10 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Oct. 25; Oatbox Forest <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Barb R at 705-760-1974

Saturday, Oct. 28; Mount Pleasant Area
<MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 13-14 km;
Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Nov. 1; Trent Canal & TCT <EASY> 6-7 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, Nov. 4; Petroglyphs Provincial Park <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 12-14 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Nov. 8; Christie Bentham (KLT Property) <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 7 km; Contact Barb R. at 705-760-1974

Sunday, Nov. 12; Millbrook Valley Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Marjorie at 705-761-8895

Wednesday, Nov. 15; Lakefield Area <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 8 km; Contact Roxanne at 705-927-2711

Saturday, Nov. 18; Northumberland Forest - Beagle Club Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 14 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Nov. 22; Jackson Creek Side Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Nov. 25; Stony Lake Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Nov. 29; Parkway Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Saturday, Dec. 2; Warsaw Caves CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Wednesday, Dec. 6; Orange Corners/Trestle Bridge <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 7-8 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Dec. 9; Durham East Cross Forest <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 12 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Dec. 13; Jackson Creek/Great Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 7-8 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Dec. 16; Peterborough/Lakefield Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 12 km;
Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Dec. 20; Bridgenorth Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Christmas Season - No Hikes Scheduled

MAD RIVER HIKES

Hikes and Updates: The Mad River fall hiking schedule will be posted on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail website hike calendar. Check the calendar periodically for updates, hiking changes and cancellations. For more details on the hikes, please contact the hike leader.

MIDLAND HIKES

Starting September 1, Wednesday hikes depart from Foodbasics at 1:00 pm.

Bike and paddle groups will continue on their regular outing as long as weather permits. Changes due to weather or trail concerns will be sent by email.

Sept. 2/23 (Sat)
Introducing the new stairs 1:00 PM Easy
Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Sept. 9/23(Sat) Bush Road Sawlog Bay 1:00 PM Easy
Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Sept. 17/23 (Sun) Copeland Forest 10:00 AM Easy-Moderate, Lunch Required
Contact Marc 705-527-1967

Sept.23/23(Sat.) Beausoleil Island with park naturalist Mike Lavin. Boat shuttle, details to follow.

Sept. 24/23(Sun) Sutherland Tract Horseshoe Valley 1:00 PM Moderate, Kim 705-327-2033

Sept. 30/23(Sat.) Walsh Tract 1:00 PM Moderate

Contact Joe 705-279-1518

Oct. 1/23(Sun.) Pretty Channel 10:00 AM Moderate
Lunch Required Contact Frieda 705-245-1005

Oct. 7/23(Sat.) Tiny Marsh 1:00 PM 9 Km. Easy
Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Oct.15/23(Sun.) Mystery Hike, Lunch Required
9:00 AM Mod.-Difficult
Contact Marc 705-527-1967

Oct.21/23(Sat.) Kettles Lake Awenda 1:00 PM Easy
Contact Marilyn 705-527-0256

Oct.22/23(Sun) Lone Lake Lunch Required 10:00 AM
Mod. - Difficult, Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Oct 28/23(Sat.) Vasey Forest Tract 1:00PM Moderate
Contact Joe 705-279-1518

Oct. 29/23(Sun.) Uththoff Trail 1:00 PM Easy
Contact Kim 705-327-2033

Nov.5/23(Sun.) Osprey Bluffs 10:00 AM Moderate
Contact Larry 705-529-9191

Note This Nov 5 week is deer hunting season throughout Simcoe County. Please be aware. WEAR ORANGE

Nov. 11/23(Sat.) Agnew Reserve-Kahshe Barrens
10:00 AM Easy-Moderate, Kim 705-327-2033

Nov 18/23(Sat.) Midland Ganaraska 1:00PM Easy
Contact Joe 705-279-1518

Nov.19/23(Sun.) Veterans Way Lunch Required
10:00AM Moderate
Contact Marc 705-527-1967

Nov. 26/23(Sun.) Coopers Falls Lunch Required 10:00 AM Moderate, Contact Frieda 705-245-1005

Dec 3/23(Sun.) Old Second-Gill Road 1:00PM
Moderate, Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Dec.10/23(Sun.) Copeland Forest 1:00 PM Moderate,
Contact Frieda 705-245-1005

Dec. 16/23(Sat.) Methodist Point 1:00 PM Moderate
Contact Larry 705-529-9141

Christmas - New Year hikes TBD

ORILLIA HIKES

EVERY Monday <EASY> 1 hour local hikes 10:00 am;
Contact Ann at 705-329-4835.

EVERY TUESDAY <EASY> 2 hr Local Hike 9:00 am
(usually)

There are no Saturday hikes in December scheduled at
this time. Watch the hike calendar for any updates.

Saturday, September 2; 1832 8th line, Oro
MODERATE> 9:00 am;
Contact ISOBEL at 705-325-6578.

Saturday, September 9; Jarratt Mountain
<MODERATE> 10:00 am ; Contact Carol 705-238-1905.

Saturday September 23; Singhampton Caves
<MODERATE> 8:30 am; hike 2.5 hours. Contact Carol
705-238-1905.

Saturday, September 30; Cooper's Falls <MODERATE-
DIFFICULT> 9:30 am. Contact Tito at 416-624-0133.

Saturday, October 14; Hardy Lake <MODERATE> 8:00
am; Contact Fern at 705-619-2952.

Saturday, October 21; Old Second South
<MODERATE> 9:30 am. Contact Tito at 416-624-0133.

Saturday, November 4; Special Event - Bob Wilson's
50th year with GHTA. Contact Mary at 705-330-1904.

Saturday, November 11; Sheldon Lake <MODERATE>
8:30 am. Contact Bob or Mary and 705-330-1904.

Saturday, November 18; 3721 Burnside Line <EASY>
10:00 am. Contact Isabelle at 705-326-8082.

Saturday, November 25; 251 Bass Lake Sideroad East
<MODERATE> 10:00 am. Contact Isabelle at 705-326-
8082.

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Sunday, Sept 10; Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30
pm; hike 2 hours followed by corn and weiner roast;
\$7, Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Holly 705-345-
7913 by 6 pm on Sat Sept 9th.

Monday, Sept 18; Wasaga Beach<MODERATE>meet
9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 3-4
hours; some hills; bring lunch. Contact Pat or Pierre
705-733-2078

Sunday, Sept 24; Ardagh Bluffs<MODERATE-
DIFFICULT>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours. Contact Christine
705-733-3825 or Sue 705-722-0395

Monday, Oct 2; Hardy Lake<EASY-MODERATE>meet
9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 4
hours; bring lunch. Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or
Kim 705-721-0502

Sunday, Oct 15; Midhurst<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike
2 hours. Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923
(phone or text)

Monday, Oct 23; Steam Whistle Trail <MODERATE>
10:00 am; hike 3-4 hours; bring lunch. Contact
Christine 705-733-3825 or Sue 705-722-0395

Sunday, Oct 29; Simcoe Museum and Hickling
Trail<EASY-MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours.
Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Kim 705-721-0502

Monday, Nov 6; Lavender and Noisy River
<MODERATE> meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park
to carpool; hike 3-4 hours; some hills, beautiful views,
bring lunch. Contact Pat or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, Nov 12; Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours. Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

Monday, Nov 20; Ganaraska Trail from Oro-Medonte Line 6 (Sugarbush) to Line 8<MODERATE>10:00 am; hike 3 hours; bring lunch. Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Wayne 705-718-0143

Sunday, Nov 26; Lightfoot Trail<EASY>1:30; hike 2 hours. Contact Holly 705-345-7913 or Sue 705-722-0395

Monday, Dec 4; Kolapore<MODERATE> 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; hike 3-4 hours; bring lunch. Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Kim 705-721-0502

Sunday, Dec 10; Mystery hike and Potluck<EASY>4:00 pm; hike 3 km followed by potluck 5:30 pm. Contact Kim 705-721-0502 by Friday December 8.

PINE RIDGE HIKES

Hikers Should Arrive At Least 10 Minutes Before the Advertised Hike Departure Time. Please check our [website](#) for more hike details.

Wednesday, Sep 06 < EASY to EASY PLUS> 5 or 10 km. Racetrack Rd - Leach Rd area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot. Contact: Jen at jenpoole83@yahoo.ca

Saturday, Sep 09 <MODERATE> 9 km. Camborne area, Williamson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (possible carpooling). Contact Heather. 416 457 8730

Sunday, Sep 10 <MODERATE to MOD PLUS> 5,10 or 14 km. Northumberland Forest, Green loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Beagle Club Rd parking lot. Contact Jodi. 905 269 5932

Wednesday, Sep 13 <EASY PLUS> 10 km. Catherine Parr Trail route. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy

18/401 commuter parking lot (Burnham St). Contact Cynthia 416 694 7901

Saturday, Sep 16 <EASY> 5.6 km. Cold Springs area – Eagleson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot (Burnham St), Cobourg (possible carpooling). Contact Hilda. 905 372 2395

Sunday, Sep 17. tba

Wednesday, Sep 20 <MODERATE> 9.2 km. Baltimore area, Noble Rd, Baptist Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (possible carpooling). Contact Tom. 416 561 7587

Saturday, Sep 23 <EASY> 4.7 km. Racetrack Rd/ Rose Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot (Burnham St) for possible carpooling. Contact Hilda. 905 372 2395

Sunday, Sep 24 <MODERATE PLUS> 11.2 km. Creighton's Hill/Boyle Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on Shelter Valley Rd near Boyle Rd. Contact Jay. 905 396 3895

Wednesday, Sep 27 <EASY> 5.8 km. Canton area, Kellogg Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (possible carpooling). Contact Darryl. 905 373 2463

Saturday, Sep 30 <EASY> 11.4 km. Wilmot Creek Waterfront Trail. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Jan. janhike27@gmail.com

Sunday, Oct 01 <MODERATE> 8 km. Canton area, Dodds Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (possible carpooling) Contact Darryl. 905 373 2463

Wednesday, Oct 04 <MODERATE> 9 km. Black Oak Savanna and Minnetonka Rd Loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (possible carpooling). Contact Jay. 905 396 3895

Saturday, Oct 07 <MODERATE> 10 km. Bruce's Thanksgiving weekend hike and lunch. Leaving 9:30

am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Bruce. 905 753 2602

Sunday, Oct 08 <MODERATE> 7.2 km. Northumberland Forest, Elderberry, Dragonfly, Stonewall. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Carstairs parking lot on Bowmanton Rd. Contact Jodi. 905 269 5932

Wednesday, Oct 11 <MODERATE> 12.2 km. Ganaraska Trail, Knoxville Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Stan. 289 691 3275

Saturday, Oct 14 <MODERATE> 9.5 km. Centreton area, Diemo Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot in Cobourg (carpooling). Contact Bill. 905 207 2399

Sunday, Oct 15 <MODERATE> 12 km. North'd Forest, Green Loop, Morris, Bowmanton & Dunbar Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Beagle Club Rd parking lot. Contact Stan. 289 691 3275

October 16 – 21 VARIOUS LEVELS and LENGTHS. Frontenac Provincial Park, one hour north of Kingston. Staying in cabins at Snug Harbour. Contact: John Oyston at johnpoyston@gmail.com 416 998 1292

Wednesday, Oct 18 <EASY> 7.3 km. Bewdley area East, Rice Lake Conservation Area. Leaving 9:30 am from the Bewdley Overflow parking lot, entrance opposite Cavan Rd. Contact Susan. 289 251 2352

Saturday, Oct 21 <MODERATE> 11.2 km. Rice Lake Views and Donkey Sanctuary. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Northumberland Forest Carstairs parking lot. Contact Jay. 905 396 3895

Sunday, Oct 22 <MODERATE> 11.5 km. Northumberland Forest, Flying Squirrel, Fisher and Ridge Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Beagle Club parking lot. Contact Jodi. 905 269 5932

Wednesday, Oct 25 <MODERATE> 12.5 km. Presqu'île Provincial Park. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy

45/401 commuter parking lot for possible carpooling. Contact Stan. 289 691 3275

Saturday, Oct 28 <MODERATE> 11.4 km. Speechly Rd Loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot in Cobourg. Contact Bill. 905 207 2399

Sunday, Oct 29 <MODERATE PLUS> 13.5 km. Perrytown, Tinkerville Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Melissa. 905 375 9033

Wednesday, Nov 01 <MODERATE> 9.8 km. Baltimore area, Hickerson Rd. Meet and park by 9:30 am at 3023 Meyers Rd S (near McMann Rd) – Jay's place. Contact Jay 905 396 3895

Saturday, Nov 04 <EASY> 7.0 km. Morton Rd, Art Lang Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the end of the paved section of Whitney Howard Rd, opposite Phantom farm). Contact Susan 289 251 3125

Sunday, Nov 05 <MODERATE> 12 km. Goodrich Loomis Cons'n Area. EARLY START- Leaving 9:00 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot in Cobourg. Contact Melissa 905 375 9033

Wednesday, Nov 08 <MODERATE> 5 km. Massey Rd- Clouston Rd Loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Cynthia 416 694 7901

Saturday, Nov 11 <MODERATE> 11.0 km. Millbrook Valley Trails. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Darryl 905 373 2463

Sunday, Nov 12 <MODERATE> 11 km. Rose Rd - Minifie Rd Loop. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Lee 905 376 3468

Wednesday, Nov 15 <MODERATE> 13 km. Racetrack Rd east of Precious Corners. Leaving 9:30 am from

the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Jay 905 396 3895

Saturday, Nov 18 <MODERATE PLUS> 10.0 km. Ganaraska Forest, Stone House Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Bill 905 207 2399

Sunday, Nov 19 <MODERATE> 11.0 km. Morton Rd, Canning Rd, Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Contact Lee 905 376 3468

Wednesday, Nov 22 <MODERATE> 12 km. Goodrich Loomis Conservation Area. EARLY START- leaving 9:00 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot in Cobourg. Contact Jodi 905 269 5932

Saturday, Nov 25 <EASY PLUS> 5.7 km. Canton area, Knoxville Rd/Jamieson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on the 6th Line just west of Knoxville Rd. Contact Hilda 905 372 2395

Sunday, Nov 26 <MODERATE> 12.5 km. Bewdley area south, Vimy Ridge. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Bewdley Overflow parking lot, entrance opposite Cavan Rd. Contact Susan 289 251 3125

Wednesday, Nov 29 <MODERATE> 10.5 km. Oak Heights area, Hogan Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot. Contact Jan janhike27@gmail.com

Saturday, Dec 02. AGM (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) Details to be announced

WASAGA BEACH HIKES

Our club is planning hikes on a weekly basis and will connect with club members as hikes are planned. Stay tuned!

WILDERNESS HIKES

Please check the Wilderness Club Facebook page for spring/summer hike or the Association calendar for up-to-date information. Hikes are scheduled based on water level and bugs with a minimum of one week of advance notice.

Sunday, September 10th

E2E Final Hike - Km.14.8 to Km.2 of the Tiny Trail (16.8 km Moderate) Neil
Runnalls neil.runnalls@outlook.com

Twin Peaks Weekend (Hike Haliburton Festival registration required)

<https://festival.hikehaliburton.com/>

Saturday, September 23

Anson Mountain (15km Difficult) Rob Halupka 416-737-8819

Sunday September 24

Scrabble Mountain (17km Difficult) Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

September 30 and October 1

Overnight Maintenance - High Falls/Ragged Rapids (Difficult 33km) Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

October

TBD Overnight Maintenance b/4 Moose Season - Wolf Lake to Victoria Bridge (Difficult)

TBD Maintenance - Removal Montgomery Creek Floating Bridge 10:00am (Difficult 1km) Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

Saturday Nov 11

Devils Lake Trail Head start towards Victoria Lake 16km+ (set time turn around) Difficult Carolyn Humphreys 416-536-9534

Dec 16 hold the date QEII all day Difficult

TBD Overnight Maintenance b/4 Moose Season - Wolf Lake to Victoria Bridge (Difficult 25km)

GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED in AUGUST, 2023

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Summer	Winter	Fall
BARRIE	71	63	69
INDEPENDENT	13	12	14
KAWARTHA	80	76	84
MAD RIVER	35	32	25
MIDLAND	120	104	134
ORILLIA	64	52	78
ORO-MEDONTE	44	43	53
PINE RIDGE	115	110	122
WASAGA BEACH	75	69	79
WILDERNESS	79	67	91
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	696	628	749
LIFE MEMBERS	28	29	30
MEMBERSHIPS	724	657	779
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	21	22	22
LAND OWNERS	81	81	81
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	826	760	882

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		7.00	
END TO END BADGE –member price		0.00	
END TO END BADGE – non-member (incl. 1 year membership)		25.00	
SECTION BADGE – Barrie		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Kawartha		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Mad River		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Midland		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Orillia		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Oro Medonte		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Pine Ridge		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Tiny		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wasaga Beach		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness		10.00	
50/100/200 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE (circle one)		7.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

Prices are under review - check the website for current pricing before placing your order

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 complete all 10 sections.

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____ Email _____

GHTA Membership Form (or register and pay [online](#))

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.

Printed Newsletter? (you will receive the electronic form automatically)
 Yes, mail printed Newsletter _____

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

Signature: _____

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The Ganaraska News is published three times a year for the members of the Ganaraska Trail Association Inc. and the generous land-
 owners who permit the trail on their land. Please submit content by April 1, August 1 and December 1 for upcoming issues.

Please send your news, stories, poems and photos via email (NewsletterEditor@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org). Please use Word or similar
 formats, but not PDF. Digital images should have a minimum of 300 ppi resolution and be JPG or PGN, not PDF.

Web Addresses: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org
info@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org

Mailing Address: **Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.**
Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

The GHTA welcomes all donations. Tax receipts for donations over \$25.00 will be issued. Charitable registration #847447414 RR0001
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