



The Ganaraska News

Winter 2024 (January 1 to April 30, 2024)

Completing a Ganaraska Hiking Trail End-to-End Journey

Written by Neil Runnalls, Wilderness Club Hike Leader

The Wonders of Our Trail:



The 2021-2023 Ganaraska End-to-End Team completed the trail in September on a beautiful day in the Wasaga Beach Section. What an amazing trail we have to enjoy! As a hike leader this experience has been tremendously rewarding from a number of perspectives. It has brought me into a community of wonderful hikers who have enriched my life tremendously. You really get to know people when you spend hours on the trail together, week after week, overcoming challenges, listening to their life stories, and appreciating the beautiful places you inevitably find along the trail. There is no doubt

that I have found like-minded Ontarians on this trek. People who appreciate nature, a physical challenge, good company, and the wonders of the outdoors in all seasons.

One of the most outstanding aspects of hiking the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail is it provides a taste of the geographical and ecological diversity within southern Ontario. One terminus of the trail connects you to Lake Ontario in the south, and the other terminus connects you to Lake Huron in the north. Both are incredible lakes that offer breath-taking views which remind us what a vast province and country we have.



In between, the trail winds along a number of creeks, streams, and rivers that add interest to any hike. The Tiny Marsh was a particular highlight for our group due to its natural beauty as well as the wildlife initiatives at work in this area. During our hike we encountered a volunteer who was laying small protective screens over turtle eggs; she was happy to share information with us related to her mission in the area and pointed out large turtles along the edges of the trail that were laying springtime eggs.

There was also an initiative under way to control invasive phragmites in the marsh. The efforts of the local conservation authority could be seen. Areas such as this remind me as a hiker that our wild spaces are vulnerable to outside forces, and that great care must be extended to ensure that natural ecosystems thrive despite the pressures of development.

As a hike leader for the Wilderness Club I am likely somewhat biased in saying that the Queen Elizabeth Wildlands II is a unique and special area of the trail. It is the largest tract of “untouched” lands in the entire 578 kilometres of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail and truly earns the name “Wildlands” with its 33,505 hectares of mostly untouched space. It is rugged and beautiful with lakes, ponds, and beaver dams throughout. The “crossover” journey from Victoria Falls to Moore’s Falls is certainly only for hikers in peak condition who are able to carry a heavy pack and endure the challenging terrain. However, if you are not up for multi-day hiking

treks, I would still recommend trying out a day hike to get a taste of the park. The 6 kilometre trip from Devil's Lake to Sheldon Lake provides a little sampling of all that the park has to offer and is quite manageable for most hikers.

There are many "gems" along the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Other memories that really stand out for me include the beautiful country roads in the Stayner/ Collingwood area, quaint trails that run along the Ganaraska River and smaller streams in the Pine Ridge Section with sturdy bridges built by the local club to make crossing easier. Finally, an outstanding bakery in Creemore selling hot soup, latte and treats on a cold winter day.



On behalf of the many hikers who were part of this hiking adventure, I would like to thank all of the local clubs for your care of the trail. The trail exists due to the passion and care of volunteers. It is only accessible because of your efforts!

Bob Wilson receiving his 50 Year Gold Badge By Carol Strickland



Nov. 4, 2023 was a cool but pleasant autumn day in Midhurst where 50 fellow hikers gathered to celebrate Bob Wilson's 50th year as a member of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. Many old friends and new from several clubs of the GHATA attended the event. Bob and Mary organized the gathering at the Midhurst Community Center. John Sloan led a 5 km easy-paced hike out into the adjacent forest which includes some of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. A potluck luncheon followed. Help was given from Mary, Isabelle, Sue, Susan, Jeff, and others. Lunch included a large decorated cake and a delicious cherry cheesecake. Frieda Baldwin (President of the GHATA Inc.) presented Bob with a brand new

badge for those who reach 50 years of membership with the club. Bob is the only member of a very exclusive group!

Bob presented a slide show with photos from the early years, recalling the names of some of his fellow trail builders and hikers. He also shared his memories of the various iterations of the Orillia Club and the eventual development of the Barrie Club. Over the years Bob has served as trail developer, Association President, hike leader, and Trail Maintenance Coordinator for Orillia. His 50 years have served the club well.

Congratulations Bob!

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 Benjafield, 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
Web Content: Campbell Britton

Newsletter Editor: Lana Johnson
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: [facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub](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

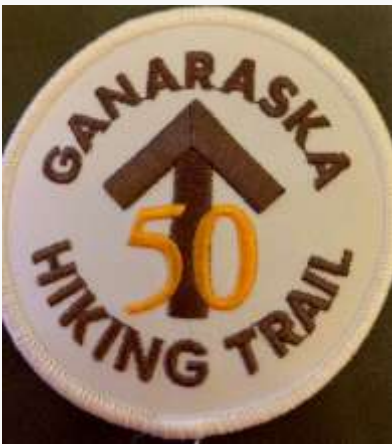
While the summer was rather slow, there has already been a flurry of activity this fall:

- Memberships are pouring in. The on-line pay system is working really well and even generating lots of small and some larger donations to our organization.
- Our new Mapping Coordinator Victor Tolgyessy is creating new and improved trail guide maps as well as a wall map showing the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail, which will also be available as a free download.
- Our outgoing Web Content Manager/Newsletter Editor Heather Briant has passed on her role to Lana Johnson as the Newsletter Editor and to Campbell Britton as the Web Content Manager.
- Steve Pogue has created a Microsoft 365 platform on which all our important documents are stored, such as bylaws, maps, policies, contracts, membership list, etc. He has also done one-one-one sessions with those who needed it. He enabled us to use Outlook and generic email addresses. (e.g. mine is president@gha.ca). Steve has also researched what actions have to be taken with respect to our compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit act which is due in the fall of 2024. A review of our membership structure may be required.
- Several clubs have made changes to their trails, and that is keeping our Trail Director John Sloan busy with updates to the Oudago and Trail Guide maps.
- The "Closing the Gap" project between the Midland and Tiny sections is nearing completion: blazing is as good as complete, and mapping is being worked on. Some Kawartha club hikers already tested this 14.5 km addition to the Midland section and 3.3 km to the Tiny section. The extensions offer a variety of terrain and many beautiful views of Georgian Bay. And most importantly, it closes the gap in our trail at the north end of Simcoe County. We also created a badge for anyone hiking this "gap" which will be made available as soon as we announce the extension open for hiking. The official opening of this "gap" is scheduled for April 13, 2024. Details to follow.
- The Indigenous Engagement committee has created a Land Acknowledgement sign and is asking each club to install one on their section.
- The Risk Management Committee has identified someone who will help us pro bono with an update of our Risk Management Plan. The committee is also looking into the availability of chainsaw training.
- And many others are helping with various other activities, such as trail maintenance, finances, etc. etc. etc.

Some reminders:

- Printed newsletters are no longer being mailed out to members (as per a board decision earlier this year), however, bulk shipments will be increased to club presidents, who can then hand out printed copies to members who like to have a printed newsletter.
- Hike pictures can be submitted to our web content manager so they can be added your club's photo gallery. We especially appreciate pictures showing younger hikers!
- Keep the trail in good order to ensure the enjoyment and safety of any hikers:
 - check and repair any man-made structures and remove or disassemble unused stiles, bridges, etc.
 - fill in the trail maintenance report, and follow up with any action items, in a timely manner. Send the Trail Maintenance and Status report to John Sloan, at a minimum annually.
- Volunteers who undertake Trail Maintenance can be reimbursed for mileage, if they have to travel more than 25 kilometers from home to the trail. The mileage rate is the government rate, which is currently \$0.68/km.

- Volunteers are covered under our liability insurance in case they get sued while volunteering on behalf of the association.
- For group hikes, keep attendance records of hikes and paddle/bike outings.
- Whereas GHTA members sign a Waiver of Liability/Assumption of Risk when they take out or renew their membership, non-members have to sign a waiver at the start of the hike/bike/paddle outing. Hike leaders should bring the waiver form to the hike. It is available from the Resources page on our website. This form has to be kept in “perpetuity”.
- Section badge prices as well as the 50/100/200 badge prices have gone up to \$7, whereas the Wilderness badge is \$10.
- If any members have training needs (Certified Hike Leader, Wilderness Hike Leader, First Aid, etc.) please let me know.
- In our last newsletter, we posted an article about the National Hiking Trail awards. Some of you would qualify for it. Check it out at www.nationalhikingtrail.org.



On November 4, 2023, it was a pleasure to present Bob Wilson of the Orillia club with a 50 Year Gold badge. Our first member to receive one! Congratulations and a big thank you, Bob, from us all for your commitment!

Happy hiking!
Frieda Baldwin

Trail Guide Mapping Update

by Victor Tolgyessy, Mapping Director, GHTA

NEW LOOK MAPS!

All 33 Trail Guide maps will be updated as trail changes happen. I've been working closely with John Sloan and the current priority areas are **Barrie**, **Wilderness** and **Pine Ridge**. This is a good time for Clubs to think about what else they'd like to see on their maps, like points-of-interest (POIs) relevant to their specific areas. However, as cartographers jokingly say, “a map is out of date as soon as it's published.” We recently received permission from The County of Simcoe to add all the county forest tracts, so another **Barrie** update is in the works. Our trail runs through and near many County forests, so this is an important addition for our adventures as well as for future planning. We will ask other jurisdictions if we can add their forest tracts too. The next updates will be **Tiny** and **Midland** now that the two trails will soon be connected. I've also created a “Wall Map” that has the entire GHTA trail system on one poster-size page. This map will be published soon for you to download and print.

MAPPING PROCESS

The mapping program I use is QGIS and it's FREE. It's a crowd-sourced program that's been around for a while and is just as good as all the others. I'm thankful to Lyle Wood, who made the first edition of the trail-guide maps, for encouraging the use of QGIS and offering invaluable assistance to get me up to speed.

I first made maps at the Ministry of Natural Resources back in the '80s and '90s scraping on exposed rock with sharp stones and witnessed the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This revolutionized the way maps are produced, but we lost some creativity in favour of quick reproducibility, at least in the early days. Thankfully, GIS programs today can help recreate that creative flair from the past with the added benefit of making changes quickly and easily.

QGIS is a lot of fun! And it's easy once you've grasped some basic fundamentals, like understanding map projections, spatial data and spreadsheets because that's what a GIS is – it connects geography (points, lines and polygons) with attribute data (feature characteristics). So, every feature on the map is connected to a database with any imaginable attributes important to us. For example; its location in latitude & longitude decimal-degrees, its proximity to specific features, its distance along the trail from the starting point, what makes it uniquely interesting (POIs), and its creation date.

Anyway... hope you like the new-look maps. I'm having tremendous fun, especially working with John, Frieda and our Clubs!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or are just interested in maps!

Victor mapping-coordinator@gha.ca :)

Hike Ontario Award of Excellence



This award was presented on September 23, 2023 at the Hike Ontario Summit in London, Ontario to Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. president Frieda Baldwin, for her volunteer work on the Hike Ontario Executive and Hike Ontario's insurance program.

For more information please refer to this post: <https://hikeontario.com/2023/09/25/frieda-baldwin-wins-hike-ontario-award-of-excellence/>

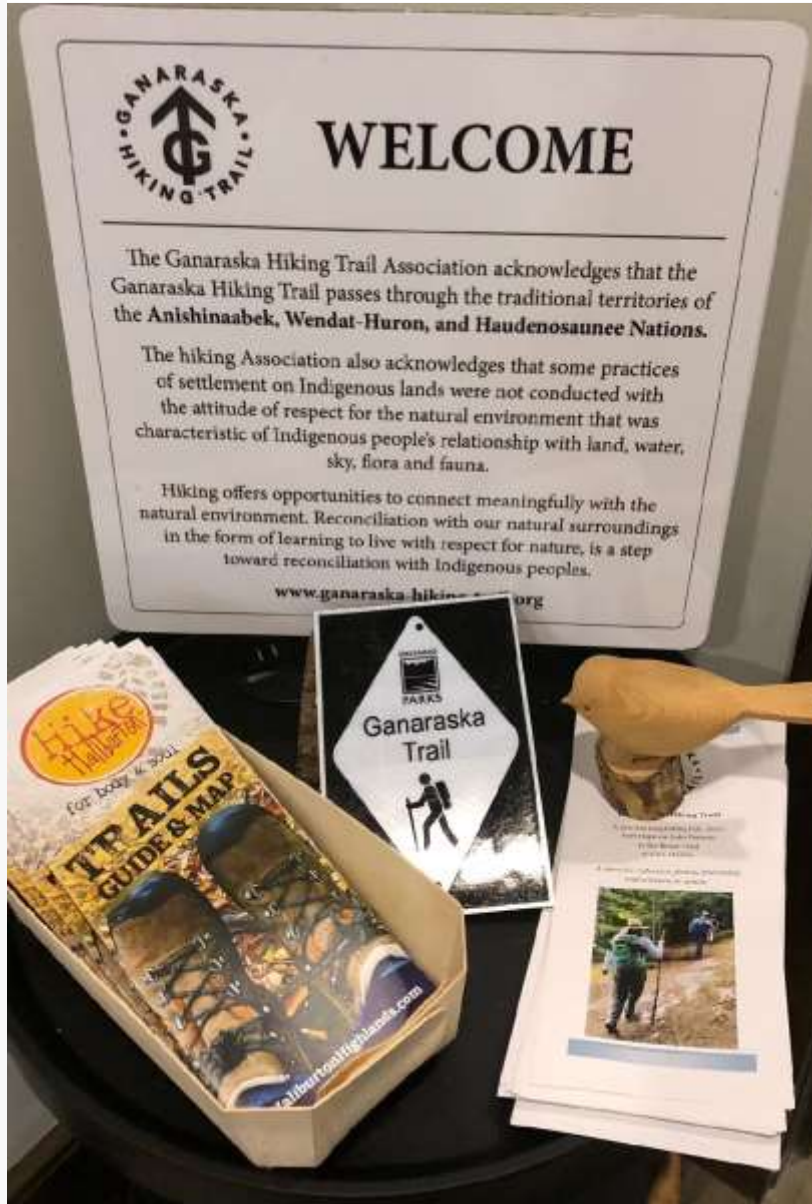
Frieda Baldwin with Mike Bender, president of Hike Ontario.

Indigenous Engagement

by Carolyn Humphreys, chair | Indigenous Engagement Committee

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

The first Land Acknowledgement sign was posted in the Wilderness Section on September 30 (National Day for



Truth and Reconciliation). I felt it was a special way to acknowledge the day and to thank our maintenance team home emergency contact Raven, who monitored a beacon for our crew working without cell service. We are currently exploring the option to install a sign at the beginning of the trail in Port Hope.

Your local club will be receiving a Land Acknowledgement (LA) sign for posting along your section of the trail. Please reach out to your local representatives with your recommendation(s) for good location(s). I'm willing to work with local representatives (club and property owners) to help make the installation meaningful and celebratory. As part of the IEC mandate to share our LA with hikers, LA sign was part of an exhibit connected to the Hike Haliburton festival, the feedback was very positive.

The committee is committed to helping members learn more about the connections to First Peoples along the trail. Jay led a hike with 24 participants on July 8th that ended at the annual Alderville Powwow. Carolyn connected club members to an Alderville Band member and First Nation historian Dave Mowat's presentation on August 19, "Understanding the Indigenous Roots of

Balsam Lake". Post presentation, Wilderness Club member Nancy hiked the trails at Indian Point with a doe watching quietly.

It's still in the early stages, badge collectors get ready for the new Wilderness Side Trail badge is being designed by a First Nation artist. You'll need to be patient because the badge release is scheduled to connect to BIG wilderness news — stay tuned. This promises to be a special badge with lots of good connections.

For those of us looking for some inside resources this series was recommended by Irene, [Home on Native Land](#) a series of 10 videos, cartoon and lessons, that take you on a journey through history — and the frontlines of legal action — with Anishinaabe comedian Ryan McMahon.



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.

Abbreviated hike schedules to April 30 for most clubs are included. Please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the glories of Canadian winter whether on foot, snowshoes or skies. Stay safe and healthy!

Membership fees for 2024 are due by Dec. 31, 2023 for all those who joined before September 2023. Fee is \$25 per family. Please see information at bottom of newsletter for payment options.

From you new Editor

Please feel free to message me at newsletter@gha.ca with any ideas for articles or pictures to be considered for future publications.

Thank you, Lana Johnson.

CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

By John Rudnickas, President



Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! Please!!

Well, at least that's my opinion. I know. We're a hiking club, but many of us are not averse to beefing up our hiking boots with ice cleats or snowshoes and getting out and enjoying the magic that winter can bring. It's also nice that snow melts off our gear whereas mud will not.

In any case, whatever this winter will bring, our trails are in good shape and ready to be trod. Our trail maps have been updated on both Ondago and online and trail descriptions are current.

While we did get off to a bit of a slow start early in the fall, organized hike attendance has rebounded and we now have a very good showing at most hikes.

Our membership numbers have grown! We are very pleased to note that we've had a significant number of new members sign up this fall and hope to meet many of them on the trails. We continue to offer hikes on Sundays and Wednesdays and share Thursday outings with the Orillia Club. Hikes do vary in terms of intensity and length so we encourage our new members to check the more informative descriptions which appear in the website calendar and contact the designated hike leader if you're not sure whether a particular hike would suit you. It's also important to keep an eye on the calendar for the most up to date information as schedules can change and hikes are added as we go along.

Speaking of hike schedules, you will note that significant gaps are present in our section in this newsletter. We do hope to fill these as the season progresses. For a variety of reasons, we are experiencing a serious shortage of hike leaders this winter. So, what are you doing from January to April? We are currently working on a plan for a short information session for anyone that may wish to volunteer to do some hike leading. We will be sending out further information to all Barrie club members once the plan is finalized but you can put your name in the hat right away by sending me an email at: president_barriecub@ganaraska-hiking-trail.org

Me, I'm fairly new at leading hikes. I find it rewarding to share leading and to be able to pick the type of hike I personally like. It's a joy to take people along to some of my favourite places.

For now, let's all wish for whatever type of hiking weather we personally prefer and get ready to go out to say thanks to mother earth.

Kawartha

By Stephen Kay, President

The Kawartha Hiking Club continued to have a full slate of activities in the spring/fall of 2023 with regular hikes scheduled every Wednesday and Saturday. We also have welcomed several new members throughout the year. The hikes are well attended with one recent Wednesday hike having 37 participants.

Our Facebook page use has steadily increased since it was created in April of 2022. We now have 110 likes and just over 200 followers. Our posts get good reactions (e.g., quite a few likes and comments) In addition, we know that some of our guest hikers have accessed the page and our detailed hike schedule. This has led to some of these guests becoming new club members.



We feature one leg of the GHT Kawartha Section in each published hike schedule. On our hike of Saturday, October 14th, 9 hikers completed the challenging but rewarding 16 km of Leg 5 (Monck Rd to Moore Falls). For two of those hikers, completion of this hike meant that they had completed the Kawartha Section End to End. Congratulations Joanne and Matthew!

September 23rd turned out to be a great day for the KHC annual trail maintenance. The weather was clear and relatively cool. We had nine volunteers that we split up into 2 teams. We accomplished quite a bit of trail

maintenance considering the conditions of the trail. One team completed maintenance on about 4 km of trail from Sommerville Track Cross Country Ski Club south of Monck Road. The second team completed maintenance on about 2.5 km of trail south from Buller Road/South Beaver Lake Road intersection towards Corben Lake. These areas are our part of our more remote wilderness sections. There was a considerable amount of work to do to remove fallen trees, clear brush, make blazes visible, add new blazes and make alternate routes around some of the areas where there were significant amounts of larger trees down.

Throughout the summer, 16 KHC hikers completed the 2023 KHC Pine Ridge End to End Challenge! Led by Challenge Coordinator George, hikers Andy, Carol, Debbie, Janice, Jim F, Joanne, Linda G, Marilyn, Ray, Regina, Richard, Rosanne, Roxanne, Slade, and Tina hiked some 69 km in 5 legs. The hikers covered all the PR Section from Port Hope to Crosswind Road, Omeme. George has been working on awarding the Pine Ridge End to End badges as opportunities arise. Many, many, many THANKS to George for all his work planning, coordinating, pre-hiking, hiking, and make-up hiking. Thanks also to Janice, Slade and Richard for their assistance pre-hiking and leading several of the hikes. The KHC Pine Ridge End to End Challenge represents the second year for a KHC Challenge. We are currently considering options for a suitable challenge for KHC members for 2024.



Mad River

By Sharon Striegl, President

Our fall hiking schedule commenced after a quiet summer with our first hikes being held on Saturdays in September. The apple trees were amazing this year and, as many of our hikes are on trails with apple trees, a few of us ended up returning to our cars with knapsacks heavier than when we left. Lots of apple pies and apple crisps were baked this fall!

The exciting news for this club is that the abandoned rail line running from Stayner to Angus is now being worked on by the County of Simcoe to be created into an multi-use trail, which will be completed in late 2025. This will expand our hiking opportunities as 11 km of the Mad River trail is on this rail line. I would also like to thank our member Catherine Trembling for her generous donation to the Ganaraska of \$75. Catherine has now moved to Quebec but remains a member to this club. She was also a dedicated hike leader and offered up many interesting hikes. We miss her but we also hope she enjoys great hiking in lovely Quebec!



Our winter schedule will be posted on the calendar as per hike leader's availability. I would also like to thank my hike leaders, because without them, there would be no hiking. We are planning to hold our club AGM meeting/potluck in the spring of 2024.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the trails this winter and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Midland

Larry Piitz, President



Congratulations to those who reached their 50-100-200 Hikes in a year Badges in 2023. We all have a New Year where we can set our own goals.

Thank you to our club members and hike leaders. This fall saw the members contributing to a lot of trail maintenance. Work on blazing and helping to create the new 'Gap' trail between Tiny and Midland involved a lot of work. This picture displays the blazing tools the team used. We are proud to show off our section's trails and welcome you all to join us.

Enjoy your winter. See you on the trail.

Orillia

By Carol Strickland, President

What a season!! Lots of hiking, fabulous weather, loads of pictures. Also, the summer featured kayaking and biking, with a little bit of hiking. Despite many of our leaders being away for wonderful trips, we still managed to keep the hike schedule loaded, with some leaders doing cameo appearances! A few members continue to help with the work of Garlic Mustard Control in the Copeland Forest – well worth the effort. It means that club members actually become somewhat familiar with the Copeland – no easy feat!



Lots of celebration this season – Bob Wilson was honoured at a special Nov. 4 event to celebrate his 50 years as a member of the GHTA. Our iconic hiker/leader Isobel turned 84 this October! Way to go, Isobel!

We look forward to our annual Christmas Walk and Potluck – this year hosted by Nynka. As always, I am indebted to the club members who make this club work – leaders, hike co-ordinators, Trail Maintenance coordinator. We are so fortunate to have the forests and wild spaces, and provincial parks close at hand that we can always find somewhere to hike.

Oro-Medonte

By Sue Benjafield, President

We welcomed our hikers back with a hike in our beautiful Copeland Forest followed by a corn roast at Wayne and Holly's. Thanks to Holly and Wayne for hosting once again.



We had two Monday hikes cancelled due to inclement weather which was a shame as we were going to try out a new hike. (Lavender and Noisy River) Fortunately we made up for it by having two glorious sunny Monday hikes to the Steamwhistle Trail and the East Coulson Swamp. Sugarbush was cancelled due to logging so we went back to the Steamwhistle to create an entirely different route using a car shuttle which worked out well. Both Mondays were well attended. Hardy Lake in early October was also well attended.



Shorter Sunday hikes were also well attended and enjoyable. In spite of some cancellations, we stayed dry and enjoyed the woods. It was so good to get out! Another hike in Copeland forest was a plus on Nov. 12.

We have three more hikes to end the season with a Mystery hike followed by a potluck supper at Kim's beautiful farm.

Thank you to all the hikers who have joined us on our hikes. May you continue to do so! Thank you also to our fearless hike leaders. We are a small but mighty group.

We are always looking for more hike leaders so keep it in mind.
Happy hiking in 2024.

Pine Ridge

By Jay Sherwin, President

*Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands
And all the day the blue-jays calls
Across the autumn lands (William Wilfred Campbell)*

These words by poet William Campbell were especially true through the months of September and October. Warmer than usual temperatures and generally calm conditions resulted in a prolonged season of vibrant colours in the hardwood forests along our hiking routes.



A group of hardy PRHC hikers celebrating the completion of the 117 km Frontenac Challenge

Throughout the fall season a variety of hikes were offered from easy strolls through suburban streets to long grinds in wilderness areas.



PRHC members enjoying a late summer ramble through the suburban area of Port Hope.

Good weather and a steady inflow of new members resulted in hikes being well attended. Hikes that ended with a gathering for soup and snacks at a member's home were especially popular.

In addition to the end-of-hike soup socials, another social event took place in mid-October when over 20 women of the PRHC gathered at a luncheon to honour those among them having birthday number during 2023 ending in a 5 or a 0. This was the first such birthday party celebrated by PRHC since 2019.



The PRHC's annual photo exhibit 'Through the Hiker's Lens' will be on display from November 18th to December 8th at the Port Hope Public Library. The exhibit will feature photos taken locally and from around the world by PRHC members.

The PRHC AGM is scheduled for Saturday December 2nd. The guest speaker will be Laurie Hill who will speak on behalf of the Northumberland Land Trust.

PRHC Hikers enjoying a break during a late fall hike in the beautiful hills of Northumberland County.

In late August, long time GHTA members Bill and Penny Harris were presented with a cheque to reimburse them for expenses incurred constructing a bridge over the Ganaraska River. The Harris's, landowners of the section of the GHTA trail from km 7.0 to 8.3 have been enthusiastic supporters of the GHTA for many years and their support for the association is greatly appreciated.



Penny & Bill Harris with PRHC President Jay Sherwin at the Harris farm property, km 7.0 to 8.3 of GHTA Trail

At the time of writing this report, two members of the PRHC had already earned the 50 hikes in one year badge, a feat made even more impressive by noting all 50 hikes were PRHC organized hikes. Congratulations to Darryl Russell and Marcella DeGraff.

Some notes on the PRHC section of the GHTA trail.

Ganaraska Forest staff have not yet completed a review and update of their signage policy or the non-staff maintenance of trails within the forest policy. As a result, the PRHC has not completed signage and trail maintenance on the portion of the GHTA trail in the GF during 2023.

The section of the GHTA trail from km 5.7 to km 10.6 remains inaccessible due to the closure of Sylvan Glen Road for replacement of a bridge over the Ganaraska River. Reopening of this section of the GHTA trail is expected during the spring of 2024. In the interim, a detour route has been posted on the GHTA website. Best wishes to all and Happy Hiking in 2024.

Wasaga Beach

By Lorraine van Vlymen, President



We have enjoyed a very busy fall hiking schedule with our hiking team energetically taking us to all the popular trails as well as some less travelled ones in our area. The presence of the Wasaga Beach Provincial Park, (WBPP), right here in town gives us endless opportunities to enjoy wilderness right under our feet and with its multitude of trails, the hiking experiences are constantly changing. Challenging hikes involve hiking up and down dunes, near wetlands and around the edges of slopes. As we follow along the river's path, we can hardly believe we are in the middle of an urban area. For variety, we visit the Collingwood

trails, along local streams, and out along the beach. Unfortunately, a lot of Simcoe County trails and some wildlife areas (e.g., Tiny Marsh) are off limit to us during the fall hunting season but we are looking forward to visiting these in the New Year.

The Wasaga Beach Club continues to offer a range of hikes from challenging to easy each week. Our regular Wednesday morning hikes are usually moderate in difficulty and range from 1.5 to 2 hours. Our 1.5 hr. Sunday afternoon hikes in the WBPP are usually moderate in difficulty as well. The weekly 1-hour ambler hikes are very popular for those seeking an easier pace and shorter hike in the local area. All hikes have seen consistent turnouts this fall with 10 to 20 members showing up each time.

We had a great riverside summer hike/picnic for all our members this past September as a winddown to summer. This event was a wonderful opportunity for all our members from ambler to long distance hikers to get reacquainted. Many new members showed up as well.

A Christmas lunch is organized this month for closing out the year. This was a very popular event last year as we get together to socialize, share stories, and support each other in our hiking endeavours. We just have a lot of old-fashioned fun.

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. We will continue to encourage others to take on the hike leadership role as it is really needed and appreciated.

This winter, we are looking forward to the snowshoeing season and introducing new members to the joys of hiking or snowshoeing in the winter. We are planning a winter picnic to test our abilities to enjoy a meal together in the cold and the snow at one of our beautiful outdoor spots. Work continues to update, condense, and archive club photos taken over the 2+ decades the club has been in existence. This work will make the club records more manageable.



The Pretty Channel

Wilderness Rob Halupka – PresidentHike Haliburton

Cara Oleksuik, Carolyn Humphreys and El Prez led hikes for the always-popular annual Hike Haliburton event on Sept 22-24. We welcome the opportunity to introduce new hikers to the Wilderness section...and of course to promote our club. Carolyn organized a lovely photo exhibit featuring the Wilderness section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail at "The Rockcliffe", a popular restaurant at Moore Falls. We were blessed with exceptionally fine weather, which contributed to the success of this event.

Trail Maintenance

On June 11th, Wild Child Charleyne Hall and El Presidente braved the bugs to complete a thorough inspection of the Montgomery Creek loop. The mosquitoes were out in force, as were the ticks. The infamous 400 metre stretch of raspberry cane along the northern White trail section was not bad at all thanks to scythe work by Laroslav Strasevici and Derek Cox the previous fall. Blazes were in good shape as was the overall condition of both arms of the Montgomery Creek loop.

It had become abundantly clear from recent hiker reports that the High Falls Loop at the western end of our trail network was in poor shape, i.e. overgrown and with faded or missing blazes. Your club responded with a very successful trail maintenance expedition on the weekend of Sept 30-Oct 2. Carolyn applied her organizational talent and pulled together a team of eight seasoned hikers, suitably equipped with trail markers, paint supplies and tools. We ferried across Black River by canoe at Ragged Rapids to shorten the hike in/out, and we camped out for two nights at Rainy Lake (and what a lovely base camp it was). On the second day, we split into two teams, with one team going clockwise around the loop, the other counterclockwise. We trimmed, cleared, painted blazes and erected trail markers. Kudos to Billy Cudmore, Jeremy Graham, Lisa Boulay, Paul Flude, Phill White, Vladimir Jonak as well as Carolyn and El Pretzel.

The float plane trip that had been carefully organized and scheduled for Oct 14th to fly a work party of four hikers to Wolf Lake to carry out trail maintenance in QEII's rugged interior was - once again - cancelled due to inclement weather (so sorry, Char, Cheri, Mary and Vlad). We will give it another try in 2024... but this time we will aim for earlier in the year ("Third Time's a Charm").



On Nov 17th the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek was disassembled and the segments stored on the bank for winter hibernation. A round of applause to Park staffer Glynn Richardson and GHTA members Ted Oakes, Jeff Brewer, Carolyn and El Prez. The bridge continues to perform well, and it has clearly been a successful endeavour.

A Substitute to the "Crossover" for End-to-End Qualification?

At the last Board meeting we raised the issue of the "crossover" hike in QEII's rugged interior presenting an insurmountable obstacle to some hikers, effectively thwarting them from realizing their goal of earning End-to-End designation for the Wilderness section - and by extension the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Many accomplished day hikers are simply not able to hike for two to three days while toting a 30-35 lb pack needed for overnight camping. Accordingly, we are contemplating a solution which would involve designating a series of day hikes that would serve as a proxy for the crossover. Stay tuned for developments!

Comfortable Hiking Holidays
Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

TOUR DU MONT BLANC
July 9 to 23, 2024

One of the most iconic treks in Europe, the TMB crosses through 3 countries (France, Italy and Switzerland)! 7 valleys! 168km in distance! and 10,600m of total ascents and descents! Beginning and ending in Chamonix, the Tour du Mont Blanc delivers superlative, pristine mountain scenery day after day!



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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.

WINTER 2024 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 GHTA members are encouraged to take part in any of the hikes, regardless of which club they belong to. 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.

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 and other viruses are still present and pose a possible threat, albeit less life-threatening than 4 years ago – so if someone is not well, it is expected that they **will not attend** a hike.

BARRIE HIKES**General information**

This season we are working hard to offer a full hiking/snowshoeing schedule. We have been challenged with a shortage of hike leaders so there are currently significant gaps in the schedule that we are hoping to fill. Please check the Ganaraska [website](#) calendar frequently for additions and updates. Sunday and Thursday hikes are 3-4 hours with a lunch break. Wednesday hikes are 1.5 -2 hours. Contact the hike leader if you need further information about specific hikes.

January 3. Midhurst Community Center. <Moderate> John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

January 7 Simcoe County Forest @ 100 Bass Lake Side Road East. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

January 10 Tiny Marsh. <Easy> John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

January 11 Simcoe County Forest at 1832 Line 8 East Oro/Medonte. <Moderate> Isobel Thorup @ isobelthorup@gmail.com

January 14 Western portion of Barrie Ganaraska. <Moderate/Challenging> Gary Norton @ 416-918-5050

January 17. Tiffin Tract Simcoe County Forest. <Moderate> John Rudnickas @ 416 -248-1690

January 21 Simcoe County Forest at 251 Bass Lake Side Rd East. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

January 24. Springwater Park and Museum Tract. <Moderate> John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

January 25. Simcoe County Forest Midhurst. <Moderate> John Sloan @705- 715-6994

January 28 Kolapore Uplands off trail Snowshoe. <Moderate> Gary Norton @ 416-918-5050

January 31. Ganaraska near Willow Creek. <Moderate> John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

February 4. Copeland Forest P5. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994 February 7 Museum tract and reforestation area. Easy John Rudnickas @ 416-248-1690

February 8. Jarrett Mountain. Oro Medonte Line 9. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705- 715-6994

February 11 Limberlost Forest (Huntsville). <Moderate> Bob Wilson @ bob.mary.wilson1081@gmail.com

February 18. Copeland Forest P2. <Moderate> John Sloan @705-715-6994

February 22 Simcoe County Forest at 1832 Line 8 East Oro/Medonte. <Moderate> Isobel Thorup @ isobelthorup@gmail.com

February 25. Ganaraska Trail at Pinegrove Rd. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

March 3. Simcoe County Forest @100 Bass Lake Side Rd. East. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

March 7. Simcoe County Forest Line @ 1832 Line 8 East Oro/Medonte. <Moderate> Isobel Thorup @ isobelthorup@gmail.com

April 7 Simcoe County Forest @ 251 Bass Lake Side Rd. East. <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

April 11. Simcoe County Forest at 1832 Line 8 East Oro/Medonte. <Moderate> Isobel Thorup @ isobelthorup@gmail.com

April 14. Copeland Forest P5 <Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

April 21 New Trail between Tiny and Midland. <Easy/Moderate> John Sloan @ 705-715-6994

April 28 Copeland Forest P2. <Moderate/Challenging> Dale Hannah @ 249-359-7270

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

Wednesday, Jan. 3; Sherbrooke Woods <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Barb R at 705-760-1974

Saturday, Jan. 6; Windy Ridge CA/Hogsback Trail <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 9-12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Jan. 10; Millbrook Bike Trails <MODERATE>10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Mark or Heather at 705-874-2133

Saturday, Jan. 13; Lang Area TCT & Country Roads <EASY/MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Jan. 17; Trent University Trails <MODERATE>10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Sharleen at 705-768-0237

Saturday, Jan. 20; Northumberland County Forest - Woodland Trails (Joint Hike with Pine Ridge Hiking Club) < MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 9-12 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Jan. 24; Lakefield Area <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 7-8 km; Contact Marjorie at 705-761-8895

Saturday, Jan. 27; Ken Reid Conservation Area <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 8-10 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Jan. 31; Emily Tract < MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Mark or Heather at 705-874-2133

Saturday, Feb. 3; Peter’s Woods PP <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 8+ km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Feb. 7; Canal, Armour Hill and East City Streets < MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Feb. 10; Long Sault CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Tina at 705-876-9035

Wednesday, Feb. 14; Robert Johnston EcoForest <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, Feb. 17; North End Rotary/Parkway Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Barb R at 705-760-1974

Wednesday, Feb. 21; South End Ptbo <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Ken at 705-933-5354

Saturday, Feb. 24; Durham East Cross Forest <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 9-12 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Feb. 28; Fleming College <EASY/MOD> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Pat or Charlie at 705-750-0986

Saturday, Mar. 2; Lakefield Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m. 10 -12 km; Contact Ken at 705-933-5354

Wednesday, Mar. 6; Trent Property North of Woodland <EASY/MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Barb R at 705-760-1974

Saturday, Mar. 9; GHT Kawartha Leg # 1 <EASY/MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 14.5 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Mar. 13; Warsaw Caves CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Mar. 16; Peterborough Crown Game Preserve/Blue Mountain <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Nick at 705-768-0253

Wednesday, Mar. 20; Parkway Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Saturday, Mar. 23; Wildlife Sanctuary All Trails <MODERATE > 10:00 a.m.; 12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

Wednesday, Mar. 27; Explore the Avenues <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Ken at 705-933-5354

Wednesday, Apr. 3; Bridgenorth Rotary Trail <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, Apr. 6; Ballyduff Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Richard at 705-750-1040

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

Saturday, Apr. 13; Orono Crown Lands <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10 km; Contact Linda P at 705-748-2274

Wednesday, Apr. 17; John Earle Chase Property <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Apr. 20; Ferris PP <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, Apr. 24; Little Lake Circuit <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

Saturday, Apr. 27; Fleetwood CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 14 km with drop-out opportunity after 8 km; Contact Janice at 705-874-0194

MAD RIVER HIKES

Hikes and Updates: Hikes and Updates: The Mad River winter hiking schedule will be posted on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail [website](#) hike calendar.

Hikes are planned on a weekly basis. Check the calendar periodically for updates, hiking changes and cancellations. For more details on the hikes, please contact the hike leader. Note also, if a hike is to be cancelled the day of, registered hikers will be contacted by the hike leader prior to 8 am.

MIDLAND HIKES

General Information

- Local Wednesday hikes will continue as usual. Meet at Food Basics. Hike at 1 PM

Sunday Jan 7 2024 Bass Lake Prov Park/ Langman Conservation Area <Easy> 1 PM
Contact Kim 705-828-2033

Saturday Jan 13 Wildman Tract Snowshoe Hike <Easy/Moderate> 1 PM
Contact Joe 705-279-1518

Sunday Jan 14 Turkey Ridge Snowshoe Hike 1 PM <Easy/Moderate> Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sat Jan 20 Laking Woods <easy to challenging> Ski / snowshoe Hike with MAD River Club
Meet at 8:45 AM Midland for car pool FOR Location 6936 Concession Road 2, Lisle, ON
Parking near the front gate at the corner of Concession 2 as it turns into 17th Sideroad
Contact: Frieda 705 245 1005 or
Lana Johnson 705 730 5686

Sat Jan 27 Copeland Forest <Easy/Moderate> 10 AM
Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Thurs-Sun Feb 1-4 and Sun to Wed Feb 4-7. Kilbear Lodge Snowshoe/ Hike/Ski <easy to difficult> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sat Feb 10 Pretty Channel Snowshoe. 10 AM <Moderate> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

ORILLIA HIKES

Saturday Feb 17 Methodist Point Snowshoe Hike 1 PM <Easy/Moderate> Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sunday Feb 18 Caston Tract Snowshoe 1 PM <Easy/Moderate> Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Sunday Feb 25 Wyevale Farmstead 1 PM <Easy> Contact Kim 705-828-2033

Sat Mar 2 Minesing Swamp Snowshoe 10 AM <Moderate> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sun Mar 10 Keewatin Harbour <Easy> 1 PM Contact Edda 705 427 3460

Sunday Mar 17 Stotts Park Beach Hike <Easy> Contact Marc 705 527 1967

Saturday Mar 23 Warminster/ Orillia/Couchiching Conservancy; 3 short hikes. 9 AM Contact Joe 705-279-1518

Sun Mar 24 Copeland Forest Snowshoe 10 AM <Moderate> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sat Mar 30 Tiffin Conservation Area 1 PM <Easy> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Saturday Apr 6 Dorion Forest 1 PM <Easy/Moderate> Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sunday Apr 13 Gap Trail 10 AM <Easy> Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

Sunday Apr 14 Midland Bay Woods 1 PM <Easy> Contact Edda 705 427 3460

Saturday Apr 20 Long Falls 9 AM <Mod/difficult > Contact Larry 705 529 9141

Sunday Apr 27 Barrie Loop 10 AM Contact Frieda 705 245 1005

EVERY TUESDAY 2 hr Local Hike 9:00 am (usually). refer to [website](#).

Thursday January 4; 100 Bass Lake SR East, Oro 10:00 am; <MODERATE> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598

Saturday January 6; 1832 Line 8N 10:00 am ; <MODERATE> Contact Mary at 705-330-5107.

Saturday January 13; P2, Copeland Forest 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Saturday, January 20; Bracebridge Resource Management Centre 10:00 am; <MODERATE> Contact Isobel at 705-325-6578.

Saturday, January 27; Bracebridge Resource Management Centre 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Thursday February 1; P5, Copeland Forest 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Thursday, February 15; Pretty Channel 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, February 17; Awenda PP 10:00 am. <EASY-MODERATE> Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Saturday, February 24; Cooper's Falls 10:00 am. <MODERATE-CHALLENGING> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Thursday, February 29; Hardy Lake 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, March 2; Bass Lake PP 10:00 am. <EASY> Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Thursday March 7; 1832 8th Line N 10:00 am; <MODERATE> Contact Isobel at 705-325-6578.

Saturday, March 16; Carlyon/Division Rd 10:00 am. <EASY> Contact Fern at 705-619-2952.

Saturday, March 30: 3721 Burnside Line 10:00 am. <EASY> Contact Isabelle at 705-326-8082.

Thursday, April 4; P5, Copeland Forest 10:00 am. <MODERATE> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, April 6; Rail trail, James St 10:00 am. <EASY> Contact Fern at 705-619-2952.

Saturday, April 13; Trail cleanup, Sadowa 10:00 am. Contact Carol at 705-238-1905.

Thursday, April 18; Old Second South 10:00 am. <MODERATE-CHALLENGING> Contact Leslie at 705-790-3598.

Saturday, April 20; Trail maintenance, location TBA 10:00 am. Contact Bob/Mary Wilson at 705-330-5107.

Saturday, April 27; Carlyon/Division Rd 10:00 am. <EASY> Contact Isabelle at 705-326-8082

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Sunday, January 7; Timber Wolf<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours
Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, January 15; Penetanguishene Waterfront Trail<EASY>10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3-4 hours; bring lunch
Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Wayne 705-718-0143

Sunday, January 21; Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike/snowshoe 2 hours
Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

Monday January 29; Baldwick <MODERATE> 10:00 am; hike/snowshoe 3-4 hours; bring lunch
Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Christine 705-733-3825

Sunday, February 4; Scout Valley <MODERATE> 1:30 pm; hike/snowshoe 2 hours Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, February 12 & 13; Limberlost and Arrowhead< MODERATE>Overnight outing to ski and/or snowshoe
Contact Pat 705-331-1527 or Pierre 705-733-2078 for details. Register by February 1

Sunday, February 18;Midhurst<MODERATE> 1:30 pm; snowshoe 2 hours
Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (text/talk)

Sunday, February 25; Tiny Marsh<EASY>6:30 pm; snowshoe 2 hours under a full moon
Contact Kim 705-721-0502 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, March 4; Awenda<MODERATE>meet 9:00 am at Crown Hill Car Park to carpool; ski in the morning, snowshoe in the afternoon; 3-4 hours; bring lunch
Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Holly 705-345-7913

Sunday, March 10; East Coulson Swamp & Schumaker Trail<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike/snowshoe 2 hours
Contact Joanna or Emilio 705-818-1923 (phone or text)

Monday, March 18; Holland Landing Newmarket<EASY-MODERATE>meet 9:00 am at the Essa/Ardagh commuter lot to car pool or arrive 10:00 pm at the site; hike/snowshoe 4 hours
Contact Pat 705-331-1527 or Pierre 705-733-2078

Sunday, March 24; Scanlon Creek<EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours
Contact Pat 705-331-1527 or Pierre 705-733-2078

Monday, April 8; Muskoka Waterfalls
Tour<EASY>Tour some Muskoka Waterfalls in the Gravenhurst and Bracebridge areas 3-4 hours; some walking involved; bring or buy lunch
Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Holly 705-345-7913

Sunday, April 14; Tiffin Conservation Area<MODERATE-EASY>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours
Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Christine 705-733-3825

Monday, April 22; Oak Ridges<MODERATE>10:00 am; hike on the Oak Ridges trail including Lady Eaton and Pellatt Estates 3-4 hours; bring lunch
Contact Wayne 705-718-0143 or Holly 705-345-7913

Sunday, April 28; Ardagh Bluffs<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours
Contact Christine 705-733-3825 or Pat 705-331-1527

PINE RIDGE HIKES

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

Saturday, Jan 06 9 km. North'd Forest - Woodland.
<MODERATE> Leaving 9:50 am from the trailhead at the Woodland Tract parking lot (off Hwy 45). Contact Jodi at 905-269-5932

Sunday, Jan 07 5 km. Oak Hills Farm. <EASY > Meet and park at 9:30 am at 4945 Oak Hills Rd (0.8 km north of Oak Ridges Dr). Contact John at 416-998-1292

Saturday, Jan 13 10.3 km. Nawautin Shores. <EASY > Leaving 10:00 am from the trailhead at the Haldimand Arena parking lot on Hwy 2 in Grafton. Contact Melissa at 905-242-6114

Sunday, Jan 14 14.5 km. South Slope Rd area.
<MODERATE plus> Leaving 9:45 am from the trailhead - parking is on the north side of the 5th Line, just west of Jamieson Rd. (west of Hwy 28). Contact Stan at 289-691-3275

Saturday, Jan 20 9 or 12 km. North'd Forest – Woodland. <MODERATE plus> Joint hike with the Kawartha club. Leaving 10:00 am from the trailhead at the Woodland parking lot (off Hwy 45). Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Sunday, Jan 21 8 km. Port Hope. <EASY > Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the south end (parking area) of Rapley Blvd. Contact Jan at 905-375-8188

Saturday, Jan 27 12.6 km. Bewdley area west.
<MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot, Port Hope (carpooling) OR meet and park at the Bewdley overflow parking lot on Rice Lake Drive, entrance opposite Cavan Rd. Contact Bill at 905-207-2399

Sunday, Jan 28 12 km. Ste. Anne's west loop.
<MODERATE plus> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling) OR 9:50 am from the trailhead on Shelter Valley Rd near Boyle Road. Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

Saturday, Feb 03 5.5 km. Oliver's Lane. <EASY plus> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot, which is also the trailhead. Contact Tom at 416-457-8730 om

Sunday, Feb 04 6 or 11 km. Fenella area, Leach Rd.
<MODERATE plus> Leaving 9:30 am from the 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). OR 9:50 am from the trailhead on Leach Rd near Hwy 29. Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395

Saturday, Feb 10 10.5 km. North'd Forest, Beagle Club. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot or 9:50 am from the Beagle Club parking lot. Contact Jodi at 905-269-5932

Sunday, Feb 11 7.3 km. Rice Lake Conservation area.
<EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Bewdley overflow parking lot on Rice Lake Drive, entrance opposite Cavan Rd. Contact Susan at 289-251-3125

Saturday, Feb 17 9 Km. Camborne area, Williamson Rd. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot, Burnham St (carpooling). OR 9:40 am from the trailhead on Williamson Rd just north of Bickle Hill Rd. Contact Heather at 416-457-8730

Sunday, Feb 18 11 km. North'd Forest, McDonald Tract. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling) OR 9:50 am from the McDonald Trailhead parking lot – 507 McDonald Rd (Hwy23) north of Grafton. Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463

Saturday, Feb 24 8 km. Wicklow area, Telephone Rd. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot, (carpooling). Contact Jan at 905-375-8188.

Sunday, Feb 25 11.3 km. N.E. Canton area, 6th Line. <MODERATE> Meet at 9:30 am at the trailhead on Jamieson Rd, just north of the 5th Line (West of Hwy 28). Contact Susan at 289-251-3125.

Saturday, Mar 02 5 km. Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. <EASY> 9:30 am Meet and park at the Hazel Bird parking lot, 9639 Beavermeadow Rd E. Contact John at 416-998-1292.

Sunday, Mar 03 8.8 km. Canton west area, 4th Line. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (carpooling) Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395.

Saturday, Mar 09 10.7 km. Baltimore area, The Scots Line. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Bill at 905-207-2399.

Sunday, Mar 10 11 km. Morton Rd/Canning Rd area. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot on Burnham St. (carpooling). Contact Melissa at 905-242-6114.

Saturday, Mar 16 10.5 km. Oak Heights area, Hogan Rd. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Cynthia at 416-694-7901

Sunday, Mar 17 4.5 km. (NEW) Bonebakker Nature Reserve. <EASY> Possible snow shoe hike. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Jay at 905-396-3895.

Saturday, Mar 23 11 km. Lilac Valley Rd-Isaac Rd. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot, (carpooling). Contact Darryl at 905-373-2463.

Sunday, Mar 24 8 km. Bewdley area south, Donaldson Rd. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Bewdley overflow parking lot on Rice Lake Drive. (Entrance opposite Cavan Rd). Contact Jan at 905-375-8188.

Saturday, Mar 30 9.4 km. Vimy Ridge/Cavan Rd. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead on Little Rd S. near Vimy Ridge Rd. Contact Cynthia at 416-694-7901

Sunday, Mar 31 EASTER SUNDAY – NO HIKE

Wednesday, Apr 03 10.5 km. Vernonville area/Eddystone. <MODERATE> Meet at Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot at 9:30 am (carpooling). Contact Jay at 905-396-3895.

Saturday, Apr 06 12.5 Km. Wicklow Rd, Telephone Rd. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Bill at 905-207-2399.

Sunday, Apr 07 6 km. Eagleson/Beaver Meadow Rd. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Hilda at 905-372-2395.

Wednesday, Apr 10 7 km. Marsh Rd - Baulch Rd. <EASY plus> 9:30 am Meet and park at the Home Hardware on Toronto Rd in Port Hope. Hike begins and ends at the Home Hardware parking lot. Contact Dixie at dixie.allen@ymail.com

Saturday, Apr 13 13 km. Tinkerville/Perrytown loop. <MODERATE Plus> Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd /401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (carpooling). Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

Sunday, Apr 14 6.5 and 10 km. (NEW) Shelter Valley and Vernonville area. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). Contact Jay at 905-396-3895.

Wednesday, Apr 17 8.5 km. Cornish Hollow. <EASY> Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot, Burnham Rd. (carpooling). Contact Jan at 905-375-8188.

Saturday, Apr 20 8 or 16 km. Pat and Jack, Founders' Hike. <MODERATE> Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (carpooling). Contact Stan at 289-691-3275

Sunday, Apr 21 10 km. Bethel Grove Rd/Glen Gavel Rd. <MODERATE> 9:30 am meet and park on Vic Lightle Rd, opposite the cemetery, just north of Bethel Grove Rd. Contact Dixie at dixie.allen@ymail.com

Wednesday, Apr 24 9.5 km. EARTH WEEK, LITTER PICK-UP. <EASY plus> Meet at the Toronto Rd/Hwy401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope at 9:30 am. Contact Stan at 289-691-327500

Saturday, Apr 27 12 km. Ferris Provincial Park, Campbellford. <MODERATE> EARLY START: leaving 9:15 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot for carpooling OR meet and park at 9:50 am at the trailhead - the Kennedy Park parking lot in Campbellford, where Saskatoon Ave meets Trent Dr. Contact Melissa at 905-242-6114 or me.holmes@hotmail.com

Sunday, Apr 28 12 km. Millbrook Trails. <MODERATE Plus> Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope (carpooling) OR meet at the trailhead on Zion Line, about 0.4 km west of the 4th Line Theatre at 9:55 am. Contact Lee at 905-376-3468

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 or the Association calendar for up-to-date information. It is important to note that the winter trail conditions in QEII may require snowshoes and/or icers.

Saturday, January 6th - Winter Queen <moderate/challenging>

Meet at Devil's Lake Trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Contact Rob at halupkarob@gmail.com

Saturday, January 13th - Frost Centre <moderate/challenging>

Meet at Devil's Lake Trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Contact Cara at woodstove481@gmail.com

Sunday, January 21st - Snowshoe

Contact Neil at neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com

Saturday, January 27th - Barnum Creek *Cara's Full Moon Snowshoe Hike* <moderate>

Meet at Trailhead at 8:00 p.m. Contact Cara at woodstove481@gmail.com

Saturday, February 3rd - Winter Queen Register via Hike Haliburton Event

Meet at Devil's Lake Trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Contact Rob at halupkarob@gmail.com

Saturday, Feb 3 - Winter Faerie Register via Hike Haliburton Festival

Meet at Moore Falls Parking lot at 9:00 am Contact Chump at chumpboat@gmail.com

Sunday, February 11th - Snowshoe

Contact Neil at neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com

Sunday Feb 18th - QEII Family Wknd Ron Reid Lands <moderate>

Meet at Lewisham Lane/Black River Road at 9:30 am Contact Chump at chumpboat@gmail.com

Saturday, March 9th - QEII Petticoat Junction <moderate/challenging>

Meet at Devil's Lake Trailhead at 8:45 a.m. Contact Rob at halupkarob@gmail.com

Saturday, March 23 - Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary <moderate>
Meet at 4164 Monck Rd at 9:30 am
Contact Chump at chumpboat@gmail.com

Sunday, March 24th - Snowshoe
Contact Neil at neil.runnalls2015@outlook.com

Saturday April 20 - QEII Black Creek <moderate/challenging>
Meet at Moore Falls Parking lot at 9:00 am
Contact Chump at chumpboat@gmail.com



GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS RECORDED NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Fall	Summer	Winter
BARRIE	80	71	63
INDEPENDENT	18	13	12
KAWARTHA	87	80	76
MAD RIVER	35	35	32
MIDLAND	139	120	104
ORILLIA	69	64	52
ORO-MEDONTE	48	44	43
PINE RIDGE	124	115	110
WASAGA BEACH	77	75	69
WILDERNESS	80	79	67
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	757	696	628
LIFE MEMBERS	28	28	29
MEMBERSHIPS	785	724	657
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	21	22	22
LAND OWNERS	81	81	81
TOTAL	887	827	760

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			

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.

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 (Newsletter@gha.ca). 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@ganarasaka-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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