



The Ganaraska News

SPRING 2025 (May 1 to August 31, 2025)

President's Report – Part 1 - Ice Storm Impact



To call the Ice Storm of March 29-30 2025 overwhelming is probably an understatement! We are now coming to grips with the fact that the storm caused a huge amount of damage on our 500 km Ganaraska Hiking Trail. Damage spread from Wasaga Beach to Port Hope, with one of the most affected areas being Oro-Medonte. The storm affected many people. They lost power and suffered damage to homes and property. Much of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail between Barrie, Midland and Orillia runs through County of Simcoe lands. The county is closing the most affected forest tracts. Simcoe County Foresters hope to salvage some of the wood from damaged trees. Their logging efforts will open the access roads in the forest. **'No Entry'** signs will be erected until harvesting is completed. However, this will take time, and we do not expect access to those trails until June in the Oro-Medonte area. Other clubs east and north of Oro/Orillia have suffered a lot of damage as well.

We are still in the process of assessing the Ice Storm damage and the required next steps. For that purpose, Isaac Strang (GHTA VP) has designed a **Damage Reporting form**, which uploads data to a spreadsheet. After gathering data on a damaged trail, we can analyze it and decide if it can be opened or if it needs an arborist or professional tree cutter to clear dangerous trees or limbs.

Meanwhile, we have published safety precautions for clubs and hikers, and special safety guidelines for assessment and restoration work crews. Some highlights of the safety precautions are:

- Hard hats should be worn
- Winds conditions and wind risk must be assessed. As there are still so many broken limbs and leaning trees hanging over the trails, we recommend that volunteers not enter an affected forest if winds are higher than 25-30 km/hr.
- Under normal conditions, *Hike Ontario* recommends that hikes be cancelled if windspeeds are 40 km/hr or more.
- Entry should be banned when there are wind gusts in the forecast.
- Users of chainsaws must wear safety equipment and have training.
- Always **LOOK UP** to watch for danger overhead!

Clean up will be a huge undertaking, so we will need volunteers. As mentioned, we may need to pay for professional services. The GHTA Executive been looking at fundraising opportunities. These include donations, grants, assistance from other organizations, or coordination with other user groups.



What a difference a couple of days make. Friday night we were celebrating a birthday, Saturday morning we wandered the woods taking in the wonder of the beauty of an iced forest. The mood changed when the power went out in the afternoon and the evening delivered creepy sounds. Sunday morning delivered tears.

It took ten days to restore power and internet, two days for our road to reopen and our sketchy cell service was nonexistent. Two weeks later, I reconnected with the Wilderness Club. We've started clearing the trail entrance, launched a wilderness reconnaissance mission and are connecting with maintenance volunteers.

My experiences felt familiar but it's taken me until now to figure out that déjà vu feeling. My hiking buddy handed me a bag of books. Voila [Waubgeshig Rice](#)'s novels **Moon of the Turning Leaves** and **Moon of the Crusted Snow** were the echo that I was hearing. Waub is from Wasauksing First Nation on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay. His stories linked my real world to his fictional worlds.

Moon of the Crusted Snow is a post apocalyptic story of complete social breakdown caused by loss

of power. It reflects the dependency we have on technology and explores the value of traditional skills. The first time our power went out on Saturday we barely noticed and the second time we took a wait-and-see attitude. We don't have a generator and found ourselves deep in conversation about which type of hardwood burned warmest. Without power our well has enough pressure to gather water from a basement tap and we drained the hot water tank before it went cold for a little household use and personal hygiene. What I really missed was news, especially weather reports – we don't have a transistor radio.

Moon of the Turning Leaves tells the story of having to leave your settlement because of dwindling resources and looking for "your people". The concept of home gets a thorough examination. My ice storm escape happened shortly after our roads were passable. Driving under a powerline held up by a couple of 2x4's was more than enough excitement. The epic journey in Waub's novel happens after the roads have grown over and his character must travel cautiously to avoid gangs of roaming thugs. At one point these "wilderness hikers" find themselves at a low point – uncertain of which way to go. The saving grace is familiar blazing; that fab feeling, when you are sure you're lost and you suddenly find a blaze. The irony is that they find the blazing because of a reflection from a cellphone nailed to tree.

Our committee is looking for ways to connect members to Indigenous people and culture. Sharing the work of a First Nation author is one way to hear stories from an indigenous perspective. June 21 is National Indigenous People's Day. It's a Saturday and you are invited to hike with me at [Indian Point Provincial Park](#). To register please email chumpboat@gmail.com

MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

EXECUTIVE

President: Frieda Baldwin

Secretary: Steve Pogue

Vice President: Isaac Strang

Treasurer: Pascal Monat

Trail/Landowners Relations Director: John Sloan

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Barrie – John Rudnickas, Susan Lee, Gary Norton

Kawartha – Stephen Kay, George Boyd, Maureen Hobley

Mad River – Sharon Striegl, Lynn McIlwaine, Don Johnson

Midland – Joanne Sanders, Mary Skinner, Christina Adamson (co-presidents)

Orillia - Carol Strickland, Leslie Raymond, Fern Splichal

Oro-Medonte – Sue Benjafield, Christine Cornu, Kim Drury

Pine Ridge – Cynthia Warn, John Ambler, Stan Muldoon

Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen, Rob Smith

Wilderness – Rob Halupka, Carolyn Humphreys, Billy Cudmore

OFFICERS

Membership Director: Christine Cornu

Badge Officer: Jacquie Van Dyke

GHTA Archivist: Steve Pogue

GHTA Hike Ontario Rep: Tracy Parsons

GHTA Nature Canada Rep: Irene Bell

QE II Wildland Prov. Park Rep: Rob Halupka

Couchiching Conservancy Rep: Billy Cudmore

Web Content: Campbell Britton

Newsletter Editor: Lana Johnson

Bookkeeper: Pascal Monat

Website: Isaac Strang

Social Media Officer: Tracy Parsons

Publicity Coordinator: Vacant

Training Coordinator: Mary Skinner

Mapping Coordinator: Victor Tolgyessy

Signage Coordinator: Pat Tuero

Assistant Treasurer: Ann Kivinen

Mapping Liaison: John Sloan

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 - PART II Submitted By Frieda Baldwin President

Our Wasaga Beach club is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Celebrations are being planned, more on that to follow. Congratulations to the club!

There are a few changes to the executive. Please see above page for details. Changes include:

- John Sloan who is stepping back into his role as Trail/Landowner Relations Director. He is helping with the Ice Storm action plans. I really appreciate his expertise in trail maintenance and project management.
- Tracy Parsons will continue in her role as Hike Ontario representative and GHTA Social Media Officer.
- Pascal Monat will become our new Treasurer replacing Simone Latham. Pascal is a member of the Wilderness Club. The two of them have already been “transitioning”, in preparation of Simone’s well-deserved retirement from the GHTA.
- Isaac Strang will take over the job of Web Master.
- Billy Cudmore will be replacing Charleyne Hall as the Couchiching Conservancy Representative

Our Vice President (Isaac Strang) has developed a **Hike Registration** platform that would capture:

- A participants’ name and contact information
- Emergency contact information
- Indicate their compliance with our Waiver

We had hoped to pilot this new platform in the Midland club prior to the board meeting, but the Ice Storm interfered with that endeavour.

Isaac is also looking to further automate our **Membership application** platform and the GHTA website. One of our goals is to attract a younger demographic, for the sustainability of the trail and the association.

Our **Risk Management** committee has drafted many new Policies/Guidelines. They were presented to the April 26th Board Meeting. Policies were approved. These include: a Chainsaw Policy, Weather Policy, Trail Standards & Maintenance Guidelines, and First Aid Guidelines. The committee is also working with the GHTA Executive on an Ice Storm Action Plan and is in the process of rewriting our Risk Management Plan.

The GHTA Executive also approved a **Retention Policy** for documents. Research has shown that we should keep **waivers** on file for **15 years**. Currently, members “sign” our waiver upon renewal of their membership, but hike leaders are reminded to have non-members sign a paper copy of the waiver. The Executive is designing a new Trail Maintenance Waiver to be signed for each group activity. It will be available shortly.

The Executive has been investigating the details of our association’s insurance policy. We recently discovered that – both paddling and the frequent bike rides are not covered with our policy. It was decided to NOT extend coverage for these activities under GHTA. People may wish to continue these activities as friends.

Reminders:

- Following the ice storm, all previously scheduled hikes should be re-assessed by the local club and hike leader. Hikes should be rescheduled to a “safe” area, if necessary.
- Document and file your trail maintenance and inspection reports with the GHTA Trail director trails@gha.ca for record keeping!
- Make sure there is a good **First Aid Kit** on every hike. In some cases, it may be more cost effective to “update” an existing kit, as typically only the bandages and antibiotic cream have expiry dates.

- Each club is invited to follow the Ganaraska Hiking Trail “**Trail Angels**” Facebook page, on which typically “end to end” hikers are asking if anyone is available to shuttle them from the end of their planned hike to the start.
- Again, a reminder to always **LOOK UP!**

Special thanks go to the following very dedicated Ganaraska Hiking Trail volunteers who are stepping away from their roles. Your service to GHTA is appreciated.

- Simone Latham who served as Treasurer for 7 years
- Rob Smith who served as Web Master for 10 years
- Charleyne Hall
- Tracy Parsons

Thank you and happy hiking.

Trails Director and Landowners Relations

Please send all reports to John Sloan at trails@gha.ca.

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Signage

For information or signs, contact Pat Tuero at Signage@gha.ca

Certified Hike Leader Training

By Mary Skinner, Training Coordinator

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association members can now access online training for Certified Hike Leader status. The training involves two online sessions through Hike Ontario. Visit their website for the next available courses:

<https://hikeontario.com/takeacourse/trainingcourses/certified-hike-leader/>

Fifty percent of the course fee will be reimbursed by GHTA upon completion of the online course. The other fifty percent will be reimbursed once the member has led three official club hikes. Have your club president let Mary Skinner know when you have finished the course and the three hikes. We keep a record of certified members for insurance purposes.

meskinner055@gmail.com

Anyone interested in obtaining Emergency First Aid training is also encouraged to contact Mary regarding upcoming courses.

Foreign Correspondent

From the Ganaraska Trail to the Top of Jebel Jais by Mazna AlMutawa

An enthusiastic member of the GHTA, Mazna has made a lot of friends in both the Wilderness, Midland and Barrie clubs. She recently returned to her family home in the United Arab Emirates after living and working as a veterinarian in Barrie.



My passion for hiking started in the UAE several years ago. Desert mountains, rock formations of various shades of brown, blue skies and a beaming sun... I was obsessed with the mountains. Trails in the UAE are not very well marked (although this is changing with the growing hiking community). They feature rough terrain, scorching heat, no water sources, loose rocks and steep cliffs. All of which adds to the thrill - but those features also make it riskier.

But what is beautiful about brown rocks and scorching sun you may ask?

It's the geological masterpiece and rock formations, the moss growing on the side of a desert mountain, the donkeys scrambling up a mountain trail and goats casually chilling on the wall of a cliff. The way the rocks move as you scramble and boulder, it's a dance between the hiker and the mountain, bringing a profound sense of grounding.

Hiking up a valley, passing cliffs and big boulders. And the breathtaking view up the mountains.



The Hajar Mountains may not be the highest in the world, nor the most colourful...but this is what makes them special. Hiking up a mountain summit and back in just one day hike? Absolutely yes! Nature is utterly beautiful in all its shapes and forms.

A thousand miles away from everything I have ever known, the Ganaraska Hiking Trail became my little piece of home away from home. Where I felt one with nature. From the beaver dams to the snow-covered paths to the magical colours of autumn, and even the bugs and pouring rain of summer. Socks soaking wet, face covered in mosquito repellent on a mission of trail maintenance with only the best volunteers. All of this serves as a reminder to be present in the moment and grounded. To be part of nature, protecting, conserving and maintaining the earth we all share.

The most memorable hike was the "crossover" from Victoria Falls to Devil's Lake on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, in autumn of 2024. Crossing beaver dams, pondering the glistening lakes, the trees painted by the colours of autumn. To finally set up camp, relaxing by the campfire while eating Trudy's charcuterie board and sharing jokes and camping stories. Finally bundling up in a warm sleeping bag to rise with the sun the next morning and have warm tea (whilst slightly freezing) to do it all over again.

Nature is both humbling and spectacular. Whether it's the rough terrain of the UAE mountains or filtering water from a beaver pond to drink. Let us not forget being swarmed by mosquitoes and deer flies! We're only one part of this beautiful, interconnected ecosystem.

As bittersweet as it was to leave the Ganaraska Hiking Trail behind, I was thrilled to go back to the mountains. I am incredibly lucky to have been part of the GHTA family and to have experienced the magic of the Canadian wilderness. Moose tracks forever imprinted in my heart *[Editor's note: Mazna is not referring to Kawartha Dairy ice cream!]*.

I don't know when, but I will be back to hike the entire Ganaraska Hiking Trail.

As I write this in a train station in Paris, I'm ready to embark on my next adventure and my most ambitious hike yet: the Camino De Santiago. The Ganaraska Hiking Trail affirmed my passion for adventure and prepared me for the next great adventure.

Buen Camino.

Mazna

Comfortable Hiking Holidays
Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

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July 18 to Aug 1, 2025

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Mapping Report – Spring 2025 GHTA Newsletter (202504 – 202508)

Victor Tolgyessy, Mapping Coordinator, GHTA and John Sloan, Mapping Liaison, GHTA

Victor, John and Carol Strickland spent many hours working together to complete a full update to the Orillia maps (both Trail Guide and Ondago). The updates include a small reroute in the middle of the City of Orillia, improving the accuracy of kilometer readings, adding some waypoints to the maps, and updating waypoint descriptions to make navigation easier and more interesting. Both Trail Guide and Ondago maps are released and available. Be sure to have the latest version if you explore the Orillia trail.

There has also been an update to the Wilderness maps to add a caution where the trail crosses a creek at the bottom of Fairy Falls. Updated Trail Guide and Ondago maps are available also for this change.

Victor continues to work on updating all the Trail Guide maps to his new and much improved version, so it is a good idea to always check that you have the latest version Trail Guide map. Victor is also creating poster size maps of each club trail system at the same scale as the Trail Guide maps (a draft of the Wilderness trail has been created at the time of writing this report). This will be a great addition to our library of maps for the Ganaraska Hiking Trail System.

A wee reminder about how to check to see if you have the latest version of all our maps.

- After finding the map you want on Ondago, check for an 'Update' link in the top right-hand corner. If there is one, simply click on the link and the latest maps will be downloaded on your mobile device.
- For our Trail Guide maps, there is a date of publication on each individual map in the Legend section. The GHTA website library of maps will always be the latest version.
- For the Trail Guide Description, a 'date of publication' is part of the file header, so all you need to do is open the file posted on the GHTA website to see the date of the latest version.

Also note that all Trail Guide Maps will have their magnetic declination values updated every spring since it does fluctuate from year-to-year, so newer map versions will be available then even if no other changes are needed. Magnetic declination is the angle between magnetic north (where your compass will point to as north) and true north (where your map points North).

One of our members asked recently about the process used for map updates. They were wondering if the clubs can do the updates independently or does the activity need to be done solely by John or Victor. A summary version of the answer is the actual updates to the files that create the maps needs to be done by Victor (Trail Guide) and John (Ondago). However, this is best done working with club members to provide the details of the changes to be made. For example, for waypoints we need to know the location (GPS coordinates), the type of waypoint (Parking / Point of Interest / Caution / etc.) and a description of the waypoint providing the information hikers should know about the waypoint. This is all best provided by the club. John and Victor take this information from the club and work together to coordinate the updates to the Trail Guide and Ondago maps. All map creation files are stored on the GHTA SharePoint drive ensuring a robust back-up protocol and removing the 'sharing and succession' complications of having them stored on a personal device. This central storage and management also allow for a standard naming and format convention, making it easier to understand the content of the files (ie. if you know how to read one file, you know how to read them all).

We hope none of this sounds too complicated. The next thing we want to mention is it would be beneficial to have volunteers come forward to work with us to learn how to create our maps. Having other 'mappers' would help the organization with back-up and succession planning. It would give 'peace of mind' to both Victor and John. A very high-level description of the work involved for the Trail Guide maps is learning how to

use an open-source GIS programs like QGIS and Global Mapper and create the data sets needed to place information on the maps. For Ondago it involves using GPX, Word and Excel files and managing the relationship with Ondago. It is interesting work and is a significant contribution to the organization and our trail users. Anyone interested should contact either John Sloan at mapping-liaison@gha.ca or Victor Tolgessey at mapping-coordinator@gha.ca for more details.

Your feedback and suggestions for improving our maps will always be welcome.

Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

On Saturday April 26, there were 2 worthy members awarded with the 2025 Volunteer of the Year award. They are Simone Latham, our retiring Treasurer, and Bill Zeran from the Pine Ridge Club.



We are highly appreciative of the contributions Simone Latham has made to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. as our Treasurer since 2018. She has been a valued member of our GHTA Executive and is a Certified Hike Leader for the Midland club. Simone joined the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. in 2011. In 2012 she encouraged a team of 4 GHTA members to walk the 100 km Oxfam event in 48 hours. It was a very hot weekend, but we all made it in 42 hours, and only lost several toenails in the process. Simone enjoys hiking and became a great hike leader. As a member of the GHTA Executive, she brought skills from experience with other Nonprofit and charitable boards. She improved procedures and policies and administration. We also thank her for the work done to find a suitable replacement, and get our processes documented and streamlined to pass on to our new Treasurer. We wish her all the best in her

retirement as treasurer from the GHTA Inc and will miss her team approach.



Over the years Bill Zeran has held leadership positions within the GHTA and the Pine Ridge Hiking Club:

- Member of the GHTA Executive (2014-2018) as Recording Secretary and later on as Secretary-Treasurer
- Member of the GHTA Risk Assessment Committee
- President of the Pine Ridge Club (2018-2022)
- Hike Leader at Pine Ridge since 2014
- Member of the Pine Ridge Maintenance Committee (2017-the present).

Through all of these commitments Bill has demonstrated a positive and friendly demeanour which endears him to those around him. Bill's smile and sense of humour are contagious. He provided valuable mentorship to his Vice-President at Pine Ridge. With the ongoing support of his spouse Rita,

Bill is also involved with other organizations especially within their local church community. Bill's family roots are steeped in service to others.

Supporting the Association

Annual Membership fees will be increased this year to \$ 30.00 per household as of September.

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. You can also mail a cheque to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc., P.O. Box 693, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7. Tax receipts are mailed before February 28 the following year.

Abbreviated hike schedules to August 31 for most clubs are included. Please see your local club's communications for more details. Enjoy the glories of the season. Stay safe and healthy!

Membership fees are currently \$25 per family. Please see information at bottom of newsletter for payment options.

From your 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.

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE 2025

Set Sail This Summer — Adventure Awaits!

Weekly Summer Program (June–August)

Join a crew and explore Midland Harbour like never before!

- Learn to **sail and row** a stunning 38' replica wooden longboat
- Be part of a (up to) **11-person team** mastering seamanship, teamwork, and adventure
- Just **\$125 for the entire summer** — an unforgettable experience on the water!

Weekend Adventure (Date TBD)

Push your limits on a true Georgian Bay expedition!

- Sail and row through **open water and hidden inlets**
- **Camp overnight** under the stars with your crew
- Perfect for explorers aged 14+ ready for a thrilling challenge
- Only **\$75 for an epic weekend**





International Challenge 2026

The journey of a lifetime awaits...

- Train locally, then **travel abroad** to Denmark
- Complete and connect with international longboat crews
- Experience the ultimate mix of **culture, camaraderie, and adventure**
- Happening **August 2026**

Volunteers Needed! (any age!)

We're looking for help with:

- Boat prep and maintenance
- Fundraising and sponsorship outreach
- Spreading the word in the community

No experience necessary — just a good attitude and willingness to help!

Just the Facts

- Open to all youth aged 14+ (Adults welcome too — if there's enough interest, we'll run an adult crew!)
- An **adventure of a lifetime** — unforgettable memories on the water
- Opportunities for **world travel and international connections**



Atlantic Challenge Canada
DEFI ATLANTIQUE DU CANADA

A recent CBC radio spot described the 'Walk with the Doc' movement that has bloomed in North America. It found a multitude of benefits of both getting outside to walk or hike combined with the benefits of social interaction. That is the secret sauce of the GHTA. Meeting people and getting a chance to learn about the beauties of our area. When we are out with the 'elders' of GHTA, let us thank them for their contributions!

CLUB REPORTS

Barrie

Submitted by John Rudnickas, President

Well, last fall I was wishing for good snowy weather in the upcoming winter. We got it!! Lately some club members have suggested that I should be careful what I wish for.

While the amount of snow we received this past winter was spectacular, it did pose challenges for our hiking/snowshoeing plans. They had to be cancelled or revised a number of times due to travel advisories, parking limitations, and sometimes just the sheer amount of soft snow blanketing our trails. I did go out on a number of occasions to scout some trail sections and found that signs of hiker travel was very sparse. Go figure, too much snow for snowshoeing! We did however persevere and had a good number of wonderful outings in the winter wonderland.

Adding to some of our challenges were trail closures. These are:

- The Hunter Russel nature trail. This will remain closed (with a detour route posted by the Township), due to erosion.
- Springwater Park through which our trail runs was closed for the entire winter due to logging.
- Tiffin and Orrock Creek forest tracts were also closed for logging. (now largely reopened).

Obviously, we have to remain flexible with our hike plans and this highlights the need for members to keep and eye on changes to schedules as they are updated on the website calendar.



The long winter and inability to access some of our trails has also led to delays in inspecting and cleaning up our trails for the upcoming season. We did expect to have things in good order by the time this newsletter came out, but, then the ice storm!

We now have a very challenging spring to deal with. While some areas were not severely impacted, some trail sections were completely impassable. Our remediation work got off to a quick start and we were able to continue with some scheduled hikes but we unfortunately did have cancellations. At time of writing this report, we are chipping (excuse the pun) away at the blockages but cannot be certain when our entire section of trail will be safe and usable. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have participated and continue in the hard work of the cleanup. This well illustrates how much we value our access to our natural areas. The work will be ongoing for some time, so be on the lookout for new maintenance event announcements

and changes to our schedules.



As noted in our last newsletter, we had completed the construction of three water crossings in the Orrock Creek forest tract. We are now very pleased to report that the club has received further funding from the Rotary Club of Barrie and will be constructing a further three crossings in that section of trail. We anticipate that this construction will be carried out this fall. We will be soliciting members to help with the work. Though sometimes a challenge, working on the trails is very satisfying and can be as much fun as hiking them.

Our club is undergoing a transition at the director level. John Sloan, who has put in so much work with our Club, is leaving this trail management position. We thank him for his many years of dedication, hard work and guidance. But don't worry, he won't be disappearing as he will still be maintaining a role at the Association level. We welcome Gary Norton, and thank him, for taking on this role. Gary has been a

longstanding member of the club and brings with him a great amount of knowledge and experience related to trail building and maintenance.

ELEVATE
your next adventure

Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2025, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

Port Zoolout, Portugal

NEW: Hike Saskatchewan 10 Days: June 20*, 2025	DOUBLE \$5,295	SINGLE \$6,395
P.E.I. Hiking 8 Days: July 15*, September 6, 2025	DOUBLE \$4,795	SINGLE \$5,695
NEW: Portugal Hiking 12 Days: October 21, 2025	DOUBLE \$6,995	SINGLE \$8,595
NEW: Yukon Hiking 10 Days: June 19, 2026	DOUBLE TBA	SINGLE TBA

***GUARANTEED DEPARTURES**

PRICE INCLUDES: Roundtrip airfare from Toronto, Connections Program, coach transportation, accommodation, meals and highlights as listed on website, all entry fees and passes, local guides and Tour Director. Prices are in Canadian dollars, are per person and include GST.

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Kawartha

Submitted by Maureen Hobley Secretary/Treasurer for Kawartha

Weather wreaks havoc on the Winter Hike Schedule! That would be an apt headline as we cancelled, or reconstituted, hikes to keep up with the dizzying array of changing weather conditions. But all was not lost.

The schedule kicked off on New Year's Day with a group of energetic hikers. They braved brisk winds and a wet, wintry mix of precipitation but it didn't dampen their spirits. A week later a group of hikers were greeted with a veritable winter wonderland as they explored a location new to our schedule. It wasn't a hike for the faint of heart as folks slogged their way through deep snow. A hike scheduled mid-January at the ever-popular Trent Wildlife Sanctuary saw the largest turnout of the schedule with 27 hikers.

However, by the end of January, an out-of-town hike became the first weather casualty due to unsafe driving conditions on local roads and highways. Two more were cancelled in February and another in early March.



Despite the cancellations, there have still been numerous hiking opportunities. Our members are a hardy group and an adaptable lot. When there was a significant frostbite risk, the hike location, pace and duration was modified

accordingly. When the trails were covered in deep snow, people embraced the opportunity to snowshoe. When it was cold but sunny, hikers embraced the picturesque settings and dressed warmly.

As the snow melts and winter turns to spring, we are looking forward to different challenges. Speaking of challenges, we are hoping to coordinate a 2025 Wilderness Trail Challenge at the request of some of our members who were inspired by their fellow hikers, dubbed the Silver Six, who completed the feat in 2024.

Kawartha Hiking club's current membership is 78. Consisting of 45 couples, 33 singles and 8 new members.

We have been approached by Jerry Pedersen, the director of Kawartha Lakes Trans Canada Association to participate in International Trail Day June 7th, 2025. They currently manage a section of the Trans Canada Trail from Manilla to Peterborough. Dates for scheduled hikes will not be available by print deadline but we will advise our membership once details are available.

Betty LaBranche, our Social Coordinator, is planning our next infamous Potluck Supper that will follow our AGM for Wed. May 7th. Spring and Fall has proven to be the best time to schedule our Socials.

As we continue to highlight members of our club, we are pleased to acknowledge one of our most active and involved members, Richard Raper. Richard is originally from Toronto. He is now retired.



Richard learned about the club from friends and joined in 2013. He says he wanted to meet like minded people and learn about hiking opportunities in the Peterborough area.

It didn't take long for Richard to step up and contribute in a meaningful way to the club. He started leading hikes soon after joining, becoming a Certified Hike Leader in 2014. If that wasn't enough, in 2018 he assisted as Hike Coordinator for a year, and became Hike Coordinator in 2019, and a valuable member of the club Executive. He continued in that role until 2024. In addition to these roles, in 2022 Richard initiated the very popular summer GHTA Kawartha Section Challenge hikes. Richard assisted with the establishment of the club Facebook page. Our Facebook page has become a major communication tool for both current and prospective members with followers on a steady increase.

In 2024 Richard stepped back from the formal role on the club's Executive, but behind the scenes continues to be the Facebook/Gmail administrator and is regarded as a wealth of knowledge and experience for the club.

When asked about his favorite hike Richard commented "there are so many great trails in the Peterborough area", but his favorite is the 15 km loop around Silent Lake. A special memory when hiking was spotting 2 otters in a beaver pond on his first GHTA Kawartha Leg #5 hike. This picture was taken on Stony Lake Trails.

The Kawartha Hiking Club has been truly enriched by Richard's contribution to the club's success.

Update from George Boyd: KHC Trail Maintenance Coordinator

KHC hiked leg 1 of its section of the GHTA trail from Crosswind Road to Victoria Junction on January 11, 2025. This leg consists of 14.5 km of our 79.3 km of trail. The trail was in good condition and there were no downed trees or branches. However, the blazes at most road crossings are partially obscured by the open gates used to control access during summer months (open in winter for snowmobiles). KHC is planning to address this issue for Leg 1 this spring. KHC is planning to hike the remaining four legs of our trail this year as part of our weekend hike schedule. In addition, KHC will be scheduling a maintenance day this fall on our most remote section of trail between Monck Road and Buller Road.

Mad River Submitted by **Sharon Striegl, President**

Well, that was one heck of a winter, but I admit, personally, I loved it! Hiking this year was an adventure, especially on some of our trails where we had snow up to.....well you know. As a matter of fact, Highlands Nordic, a local Cross-country ski resort in Duntroon, recorded a total of 643 cm of snow this winter. That's a lot of snow! It was a snowshoe season. Everyone who came out to enjoy what this winter had to offer was not disappointed. We also enjoyed our moonlight hikes this season well into March, which was a bonus.

And speaking of all that snow, the club also enjoyed our first annual X-country ski day at Blueberry Trails in Wasaga Beach. The day welcomed many Ganaraska members who enjoyed the perfect temperatures, lots of snow and many groomed trails to suit all participant ski levels. Next year, maybe add in a weenie roast??

The Mad River Club was approached by BCKC (Barrie Canoe and Kayak Club) asking if we would be interested in doing a presentation about our club including all our activities that we enjoy. Our presentation was held on March 10th. Our hard-working team consisting of Lynn McIlwaine, Don Johnson and I put together a 30-minute informative video which included interesting history along with pictures and music encompassing the many activities the club enjoys season-round.

The club had another hike-packed season, being able to offer 2 hikes per week throughout the area. We have been fortunate to have new hike leaders step forward to help when they could. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped lead! Our club is growing. Our current hiking schedule is being well attended – either for the Tuesdays longer hikes or Thursdays shorter 2 hour hikes.

We held our annual club meeting covering many topics. We voted in new executive members. Our club is expanding along with a larger executive to share the work and provide new ideas. Future plans for the club were discussed. Let's not forget the potluck lunch!

Spring trail maintenance along the Mad River at Avening involved some re-routing away from the riverbank.

Trail maintenance dates once again will be coordinated by our Trail Manager, Lynn. This year we will be placing trail markers that have the Ganaraska logo on them throughout our trail system. We are also working closely with the EBC (Escarpmnt Biosphere Conservancy) regarding their property in Glencairn with the clearing of Wild Parsnip and cooperative trail maintenance.

We will be taking summer vacation from hiking. We will return to the hiking trails in September for trail maintenance to spruce them up for the upcoming fall and winter seasons.

Wishing you all a great spring and summer and hope to see you on the trails in the fall.

Midland

Co-Presidents: Mary Skinner, Christina Adamson, Joanne Sanders

We were not long into winter before members took to their snowshoes. They enabled us to see our beautiful and unique trails from a new perspective. Weekly Wednesday hikes continue to be well attended. Thanks to our wonderful and dedicated hike leaders, our club offers a great variety of hikes for both weekdays and weekends. Several of our members completed the Orillia end to end. The final piece covered the Rathburn Forest in January/February with Pat Tuero leading.



A big Thank You goes out to Frieda Baldwin for once again organizing winter camp at Killbear Provincial Park. Both camp sessions were a great success with pristine conditions for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The campfire was also great. All attendees enjoyed good food, games and conversation.

Scheduling of hikes proved to be challenging at times due to the amount of snowfall we received. This resulted in many parking lots not being plowed and many roads being too narrow to park on.



Several of our members participated in the Coldest Night of the Year. We raised \$ 2,275. This amount was matched by Skyline Living. So our total contribution to the Guest House homeless shelter was \$ 4,550!

The Midland club continues to participate in area's Senior Events where we provide information about the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. The next event is scheduled to be the Penetanguishene Senior's Information Day on June 6, 2025.

Some exciting news regarding registration of hiking events. There is a new app being launched for hike or bike registration which

will replace the Team Up registration app. This app will post the events on a calendar (different platform not google). The hike leaders will enter their hike details in the appropriate fields and a description. This app will give hike leaders more information all in one place. For example signed waivers, Emergency Contact Information can be stored not asked for every time there is a hike, hike leaders can print their hike details out. There is a soft launch being planned and the Midland Club will be the first to use the app and provide feedback. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

As a result of the recent ice storm, we may want to avoid hiking in forested areas where many trails are actually officially closed until further notice. Our own Ganaraska Hiking Trail may need a lot of help from our members to bring it into shape after all the deadfall from the storm. Stay tuned for more information. It has been a great winter for hiking, but now I believe we are all looking forward to Spring. Bring on the new growth and beautiful flowers.

We have a series of Midland End to End hikes planned:

Midland End to End (E2E) hikes

1. Saturday August 16, 2025: Vasey Road to Reeves Road, km 1 - 8.4
2. Sunday August 24, 2025: Reeves Road to Midland Bay Landing, km 8.4 to 18.5
3. Sunday August 31, 2025: Midland Bay Landing to Overheadbridge Road, km 18.5 to 28.2

Orillia

Submitted By **Carol Strickland, President**

Orillia Club had a typical Christmas season, with our traditional downtown Christmas Lights walk. This walk was followed by a potluck supper.

We continued our regular thrice weekly hikes as per usual, including the Coldest Night of the Year hike. The real fun began with the serious snow in December/January, resulting in wonderful snowshoe conditions all over. Many pictures show hiking poles buried in the snow to their handles, and even as I write this letter in April, the snowpack continues in the forest. Compared to other years, we were on snowshoes most of the time (as opposed to crampons) as we needed the platform if ever we stepped off the beaten trail, and even on the beaten trail we couldn't count on not encountering punched-through footprints.



The ice storm arrived on March 30. It brought hiking to a crashing halt. The forests have been devastated. As I write this article, we are just beginning to figure out how we will assess the damage. The trails are closed. We are reduced to walking country roads for our hikes. It's good we have the calendar and can update hike plans as trail recovery unfolds. It's also great that we have our wonderful crew of hike leaders, and many keen and consistent hikers to share the love of trekking in the outdoors, whatever the challenge. Looks like we will have our hands full soon cleaning up the trails under the direction of our faithful Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Bob Wilson. Thanks everyone for your support.

Oro-Medonte

Submitted by **Sue Benjafield, President**

Oro-Medonte was plagued by stormy weather and low numbers. Scout Valley was a pleasant hike and those who hiked in Earl Rowe enjoyed the day as well. It was disappointing to cancel one of our favourite longer day outing to Awenda Park where we ski and snowshoe. A substitute hike in the Copeland Forest brought out nine hikers. We hiked on the well worn trail but ran into some difficulty on the blue trail which had deep snow. The remaining two hikes are cancelled due to the havoc caused by the ice storm.



Hikes during the Spring session are cancelled due to trail closures. We will be looking for volunteers in a couple of weeks when the snow is gone to help clear the Oro-Medonte section in the Copeland Forest. After that we will need help with the 4th line to the 5th and then north to Vasey Road.

Please watch for emails with dates where you can sign up to help.

Thanking you in advance,

Sue

Pine Ridge

Submitted by Cynthia Warn, President

'A walk in nature walks the soul back home.' Mary Davis

Our members, 144 as of our AGM, would tell you that getting outside was the driving force in joining, or rejoining, the Pine Ridge Hiking Club. No matter how much entertainment we can access within our homes, being in nature is essential for our well-being. Hikers will give other reasons for hiking. These include wanting to explore our area more fully, seeking conversation and company, and glean knowledge from locals. Yet, it all comes back to being outside, in nature, while engaging in these pursuits.

We've had a very successful winter despite having a winter! We expanded our hike schedule to include



Wednesdays during January, February and March. No matter how cold the day, attendance for these hikes, and our weekend hikes was in-line with our year-round average numbers. We Canadians are a tough lot!

We heard from older members, former members, and really busy members that short hikes were welcome. So, as another change this winter was to arrange a 5km hike embedded in our regular Sunday hikes. All hikers start at the same trailhead. One group does the full hike, while the 'short hikers' will do a loop or an out-and-back, always aiming to keep to 5 km. This only requires hike leaders on a Sunday to mention the short hike in their pre-hike email to the club (via our amazing Communications & Membership Director, Rita Zeran) and to make a note of where the turnaround point is located. Now for a better name than 'short hikers'!

Our hike catalogue was further upgraded by Hike Catalogue Coordinator, Jason Kay, to include a link to the What Three Words navigation tool for each hike. The schedule is on website <https://www.pineridgehikingclub.ca> contains the links as well. Now, with one click members can pinpoint (within 3 square meters) the trailhead on a map.

We gathered for our annual Hike Talks on March 25th. We had three members speak about their recent hiking trips abroad; Connie Flewitt spoke on Madeira; Anita Lautenbach on Peru, Bolivia, and Chile; and Heather Briant presented her trip to Exmoor. Jason Kay created a movie, using the iMovie app, which had its world premiere at this event. Jason was inspired by our annual photo exhibit at the Port Hope Library, 'Through the Hiker's Lens'. He canvassed the members for hiking photos from near and far, and created a delightful film, with themed chapters, titles, introductory clips, perfectly matched music, and extensive credits. All this and Susan Casson created our second annual photo identification contest, "Where is this, Northumberland?". The prize went to Lee Wakelin, who correctly identified 11 of the 12 locations.

I would like to introduce new members of our club directorate:

- Website & Social Media Coordinator - Jodi de Jong
- Hike coordinator - Connie Flewitt.

On behalf of the entire club, I would like to extend our thanks to Hilda Van Netten and Darryl Russell, respectively, who fulfilled these roles beautifully for many years.

Congratulations to Bill Zeran! We accepted his 2025 Volunteer award for him at the April 26th AGM of Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. See details earlier in this newsletter.

Coming up in the spring/summer session, we're looking forward to our annual Hike Leaders potluck, marching in the Port Hope Canada Day parade, and organizing an end-to-end hike through the Kawartha section of the Ganaraska Trail.



Wasaga Beach

Submitted By Lorraine van Vlymen, President



The winter season was late getting started but hit quickly so that meant we didn't have to contend with icy paths and could tackle some hilly terrain with ease. Winter when it finally came, offered great snowshoeing and hiking for all levels of hikers as the snow was deep but not icy. We kept hiking all winter even when it was very cold. We stuck mostly to trails in the Wasaga Beach provincial park which offers excellent protection on well trodden paths. When inclement weather hit like freezing rain and high winds, some hikers tried out the new indoor track at the arena. We only made it out to the beach a few times this winter because of deep snow and high winds but the forest snowshoe hikes easily made up for this loss.

Plans have begun for our 30th anniversary this year. Events will consist of an end-to-end hike, a picnic and others. We look forward to inviting other clubs to participate in a key hike to honour our club.

Our club generally hosts three hikes weekly, the Amblers hiking a shorter distance and easier pace, the Trekkers hiking a wider range of trails, some challenging, and the Sunday hikers doing a moderate hike through the woods. Our club sends out a weekly email detailing the upcoming hikes as well as providing advice on the challenges on the trail, appropriate clothing, safety tips and any other interesting information for our members. Photos are often provided by hikers of hike participants and interesting wildlife on the trail which provides a way for all members to stay connected to the club even if they are away travelling. Thanks to all the regular hikers who consistently support our club's efforts to provide healthy and fun activities in the great outdoors. There is really nothing that can replace it. In fact, a few of our members have even been hiking for 25+ years with the club.



One of our special hikes was a moonlight hike through the park which was quite thrilling for some of the hikers who had never experienced it. It's a good thing we know the park well as unfortunately, the moonlight was too slow coming up that night and we had a real dark woods thrill. It was so quiet.

I am pleased to announce that Jenny Schimmel has agreed to take on the job of Treasurer of our club.

We also really appreciate the hike leaders who take on the responsibility of leading all of us on the trails some of which can be confusing. Without the commitment and knowledge of our leadership team, our club would not be able to continue the way it does. We are welcoming some new leaders to our team and look forward to introducing them to the fun of leading a hike once they get to know the trails.

With spring on its way, we begin to think about hikes further afield. Wetlands and the Escarpment are



examples. We generally plan to visit the trails in each of these special areas and maybe some new ones that are located within an easy travel distance. Highest on our agenda is to visit the much-loved wildflower and wilderness areas this spring, like Tiny Marsh. We might even get to see some orchids again this year if conditions in the provincial park are just right.

Finally, we plan to get involved in some community events like the Senior Expo to advertise the news of our hiking club and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. Some trail maintenance will resume this spring with emphasis on clear trail marking.

Wilderness Submitted by **Rob Halupka - President**

"Jakoś to będzie" is a Polish expression (pronounced "Ya-kosh toe ben-jay") that loosely translates to "Things will work out in the end". It is a common expression of optimism and the belief that everything will eventually fall into place, even if things seem difficult or uncertain. Given the damage inflicted on our trails by the ice storm of March 31st, this phrase seems an appropriate introduction for the newsletter.

Highlights from the Wilderness Club Annual Meeting of April 9th

The No. 1 issue of our meeting was the impact of the ice storm. We are in the process of assessing the extent of damage to our trails, and the priority for this spring and summer will be to organize work parties to carry out trail maintenance and clean-up. At time of writing, there is still a substantial snowpack in the bush, and water levels in ponds, streams, lakes and rivers are exceptionally high. Group hikes will need to be deferred until trails have been inspected for safety considerations and cleared by our maintenance teams. "Pop-up" hikes announced at short notice will be the order of the day until we have a better grip on trail conditions. Accordingly, we are not releasing the usual hike schedule for this spring and summer. We will, however, be calling on volunteers from time to time to help out with trail maintenance. Given the need for chainsaw work, we are looking for members who have completed - or will complete - chainsaw safety certification courses.

I am delighted to announce changes to our leadership team:

- Cara Oleksuik is stepping up as co-Vice President to share the VP role with Carolyn Humphreys.
- Jeremy Graham will become our new Trail Maintenance Director.
- I will stay on as President.
- Billy Cudmore, Carolyn and myself will carry on as GHTA Board members.
- Teri Campbell will continue as Calendar Liaison (and not Calendar Girl, which would require a new wardrobe).
- Incidentally we are still looking to fill the Hike Coordinator position, and we are always looking for more hike leaders.

As usual, the last 10 km stretch of Black River Road from Lewisham Lane to Victoria Bridge is due to reopen May 15th after the regular seasonal closure. We expect our Ontario Parks friends will schedule a date shortly after May 15 to reinstall the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek. Good news! Last year Hydro One installed a new bridge over Black River to replace the old one by Victoria Falls. As part of this major undertaking, Hydro One carried out significant road improvements over the last rather sketchy stretch of Black River Road to enable the passage of large equipment and material needed for the bridge construction. That means you are much less likely to bottom out or get stuck in a flooded spot on the drive in to the trailhead at Victoria Falls.

The new Wilderness end-to-end Day Hike qualification option (as an alternative to the "cross-over") continues to generate interest with members from other clubs as well as our own. In response, we expect to be announcing guided group hikes later in the hiking season to scratch that itch for those enthusiastic badge hunters.

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.

SPRING 2025 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 GHTA Hiking [page](#), registration apps, or email information from your local club closer to the time of the planned hike. Hiking page is: https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=4586

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. 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 emergency contact information. Waivers must be signed by non-members before each hike; members sign a blanket waiver as part of their membership renewal.

BARRIE HIKES

General information

All hikes are posted on the Ganaraska [website](#) calendar.

The Barrie Club offers hikes on Sundays and Wednesdays. We join the Orillia Club to hike on Thursdays. The Wednesday hikes are easy hikes lasting about two hours. The Thursday and Sunday hikes are moderate to challenging hikes lasting between 3 to 4 hours. All Barrie hikes start at 10:00 a.m. We do not regularly offer hikes in July and August.

Please check the GHTA Google Calendar for detailed information about our hikes.

Hope to see you on the trails.

KAWARTHA HIKES

General Information

- Wednesday hikes are 1.5-2 hrs/5-7 km and are usually on easy terrain/well defined trails at a moderate pace.
- 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
- Special Note - This schedule has been abbreviated. To better assess your capabilities vis-a-vis a specific hike, please refer to the detailed Club schedule available at www.facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub
- Guest hikers should call the hike leader a few days before the hike to let them know they plan to attend and to get updated hike information as needed.
- Back-up contact: Janice at 226-984-8083

Wednesday, May 7; Trent (Lady Eaton Drumlin) <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Stephen at 705-749-6292

Wednesday, May 14; Young's Point CA <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 5 km; Contact Linda T at 705-874-0503

Wednesday, May 21; Lakefield Area <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 8 km; Contact Roxanne at 705-927-2711

Saturday, May 24; GHT Kawartha Section Leg #2 <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 15.4 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, May 28; Tecasy Ranch <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Barb at 705-760-1974

Saturday, May 31; Lang Area <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Richard at 705-927-2366

Wednesday, June 4; Trent University Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Sharleen at 705-768-0237

Saturday, June 7; Trails and Pathways of Lindsay <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 12-14 km; Contact Joanne at 705-464-9078

Wednesday, June 11; Jackson Creek Side Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6-7 km; Contact Janice at 226-984-8083

Saturday, June 14; Northumberland Forest - Beagle Club Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 13-14 km; Contact Ali at 705-875-0253

Wednesday, June 18; Trent Wildlife Sanctuary <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 6 km; Contact Debbie at 705-749-4912

Sat., June 21; GHT Kawartha Section Leg #3 <EASY-MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 16 km; Contact George at 705-927-2924

Wednesday, June 25; Lakefield Trail & Country Roads <EASY> 10:00 a.m.; 5-6 km; Contact Betty at 705-875-2300

Saturday, June 28; Peterborough North End Rail Trails <MODERATE> 10:00 a.m.; 10-12 km; Contact Richard at 705-927-2366

2025 Wilderness Challenge

Hike planning for the 4 legs of this challenge is underway in conjunction with the Wilderness Club. We are planning to do 2 legs in early Spring with the remaining 2 legs to be planned for late summer/early Fall. For more information about this Kawartha Club challenge, contact Janice at 705-874-0194

MAD RIVER HIKES

HIKES AND UPDATE: The Mad River Club will be posting their twice-weekly spring hikes on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association website hike calendar, (www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org), through to the end of May. The Club will then be taking a summer break. Hikers are encouraged to check the

calendar periodically for updates, hike cancellations and/or changes.

Members are encouraged to check emails for further club activities.

The hiking schedule typically is as follows:

Tuesday hikes: Moderate to difficult, 3-4 hours (9-12 km), varied terrain and includes a lunch stop.

Thursday hikes: Easy/moderate, 1.5-2 hours (5-8 km)

MIDLAND HIKES

General Information for all hikes:

- Meet at the Food Basics parking lot on HWY 93 (close to the street) for carpooling.
- Hikers may meet at the trail head if discussed with the hike leader.
- Local Wednesday hikes will be at 10 AM from May 1st until the fall.
- Weekend hikes will start at the time announced in the hike schedule.
- Hikes beginning at 9-10 AM are often 8-10 km or more. Will take 4-5 hours. Hikers will require a packed lunch.
- Hikes beginning at 1 PM are 4-6 km and will take 2-3 hours. Bring a snack if you wish.
- Pace for all easy hikes is 2-3 kph, the moderate to difficult hikes indicate hills and other obstructions or a faster pace (4 kph or more) and longer distance
- Always bring a bottle(s) of drinking water and a backpack.
- Use common sense re: rain wear, bug spray, warm clothes, hat and sunscreen. Layers are recommended in cold weather.
- Walking poles are recommended on moderate and difficult hikes.
- Close to the hike date (usually within 7 days) more details for the hike will be posted to the website calendar, (www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org), and will include specific details for meeting location. A hike registration link will usually be offered.
- If not a Ganaraska Hiking Trail Assoc. club member, please check in with contact person by phone or text at least 90 min prior to hike

start time. You will have to sign a waiver of Assumption of Risk.

Sun May 4 9 AM Kolapore Hike Moderate <Difficult> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

Sat May 10 10 AM Horseshoe Valley Trilliums <Easy/Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sun May 11 10 AM Midland Waterfront <Easy> Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

Sat May 17 10 AM Barrie Old Second <Moderate> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Sun May 18 1 PM Tiny Marsh <Easy> Gina Gaudry 705 209-0391.

Wed May 21 10 AM Awenda Park Hike <Moderate> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

May 19-22 Awenda Camping <Moderate> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

Sat May 24 11 AM Kilbear Shoreline Scramble <Easy/Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sun May 25 Dorion Forest <Easy> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Sun June 1 Sun June 15 1:30 PM Coulson Swamp/Schumacher Tract <Moderate> Joe Davis 705 279 1518

Sat June 7 International Trails Day – Various hikes in the Thompson Forest – <Easy/Moderate>. Details to be advised. Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sat June 6 – 8 Camping Balsam Lake Provincial Park

Sat June 7 Hike Balsam Lake <Easy>

Sun June 8 Carden Alvar <Moderate> Kim Wand 705 828 2033

Sat June 14 10 AM Penetang Waterfront <Easy> Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

Sun June 15 9 AM Hoggs Falls <Moderate> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

Sat June 21 10 AM Midland Waterfront and Pow Wow <Easy> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sat June 21 9:30 PM Evening Firefly Hike <Easy> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Sun June 22 Rattray Marsh/Lake Ontario Shoreline <Easy> Port Credit Kim Wand 705 279 1518

June 28-July 3 Camping Chutes Provincial Park Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

Sat July 5 10 AM Tiffin CA <Easy/Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sun July 6 10 AM Copeland Forest Parking Lot P2 <Moderate> Pat Tuero 289 395 2298

Sat July 12 10 AM Cooper's Falls <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sun July 13 1 PM Matchedash Bay <Easy> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Tues July 15 6 PM Tiny Beaches Evening Hike <Easy> Kim Wand 705 828 2033

Fri July 18 Awenda Hike and Swim Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sat July 19 2 PM Parry Sound North Shore and Salt Dock Loop <Easy> Tracy Parsons 705 627-3758

Sun July 20 1 PM Tiny CC Con 8 <Easy> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Sun July 27 10 AM Copeland Forest Parking Lot P5 <Moderate> Pat Tuero 289 395 2298

Sat Aug 2 10 AM Bells Falls <Easy> Gina Gaudry 705 209-0391

Sun Aug 3 1 PM Blueberry Farm <Easy> Edda Zeitel 705 427 3460

Mon Aug 11 6 PM Sutherland Tract <Easy> Joe Davis 705 279 1518

Sat Aug 16 10 AM Midland E2E (1) Vasey Rd to Reeves Rd <Moderate> Marilyn Holden 705 527 0256;
On the day of hike 705 427 9629

Sat Aug 23 10 AM Pretty Channel <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sun Aug 24 10 AM Midland E2E (2) Reeves Rd to Midland Bay Landing <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Wed Aug 27 10 AM Torrance Barrens <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sat Aug 30 10 AM Standing Rock <Moderate> Larry Piitz 705 529 9141

Sun Aug 31 10 AM Midland E2E (3) Midland Bay Landing to Overheadbridge Road <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Sep 19/20/21 (Fri, Sat, Sun) Maitland Camino Goderich <Difficult> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

Midland End to End (E2E) hikes

1. Saturday August 16, 2025: Vasey Road to Reeves Road, km 1 - 8.4
2. Sunday August 24, 2025: Reeves Road to Midland Bay Landing, km 8.4 to 18.5
3. Sunday August 31, 2025: Midland Bay Landing to Overheadbridge Road, km 18.5 to 28.2

Contacts: Marilyn Holden 705-527-0256 and Frieda Baldwin 705-245-1005

ORILLIA HIKES

Please check events that are posted on the Hiking calendar [website](#) .

General Information

The Orillia club hikes on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. We share Thursday hikes with the Barrie club. Monday hikes are one hour easy, local hikes and start at 10:00am. Tuesday hikes start at 9:00am are 2 hours long with easy to moderate difficulty. The Thursday and Saturday hikes tend to vary in length and difficulty and often are 3-4 hours.

All hikes are posted on the Ganaraska website calendar. Please check frequently for additions, updates or cancellations. Registration information can be found on the website calendar of hikes.

ORO-MEDONTE HIKES

Please check events that are posted on the Hiking calendar [website](#) .

PINE RIDGE HIKES

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

Sat, May 03 <MODERATE PLUS> 11.5 km. B.C. Flying Squirrel, Fisher Ridge, Luna. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot for possible

carpooling OR 9:50 am from the trailhead at the Beagle Club Rd parking lot. Contact: Jodi at 905-269-5932 or jodi_dejong@yahoo.com

Sun, May 04 <EASY> 13 km Waterfront Trail (Thickson Woods to Whitby Harbour). Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot, Port Hope OR meet and park at 10:05 am at the trailhead – The dead-end at the bottom of Thickson Rd. Contact: Connie at 905-373-6887 or mccroryhomes@gmail.com

Wed, May 7 <MODERATE> 10.9 km. Castleton Area – Wolfam Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (Division St), Cobourg OR Meet and park at the trailhead at 9:45 am. Contact: Anita at 905-269-3724 or alautenbach63@yahoo.com.

Sat May 10 <MODERATE PLUS> 13.5 km. Perrytown, Tinkerville Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot, Port Hope OR 9:45 am from the trailhead. Contact: Stan at 289-691-3275 or stanmuldoon@hotmail.com.

Sun May 11 <MODERATE> 13 km. View of Two Lakes. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 28/401 commuter parking lot, (entrance on Phillips Rd), Port Hope OR Meet and park at the trailhead on Morton Rd near Vimy Ridge at 9:50 am. Contact: Jay at 905-396-3895 or jayg_sherwin@yahoo.com

Wed May 14 <MODERATE > 12 km B.C. Green Loop, Morris, Bowmanton & Dunbar Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot for possible carpooling OR 9:50 am from the trailhead at Beagle Club Rd parking lot. Contact: Elke at 905-269-9711 or emsw53@gmail.com

Sat May 17 <EASY> 5 km Hazel Bird Nature Reserve Leaving from the Hazel Bird parking lot at 9636 Beavermeadow Rd E (about 2 km east of Harwood Rd) at 9:30 a.m. Contact: John at 416-998-1292 or johnpoyston@gmail.com

Sun May 18 <MODERATE> 15 km Russ Creek Area Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter

parking lot for possible carpooling OR 9:50 am from the trailhead at the end of the paved section of Tucker Rd. Contact: Anita at 905-269-3724 or alautenbach63@yahoo.com

Wed May 21 <MODERATE> 9.6 km or 13.6 km Bewdley Area East Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the Bewdley Overflow parking lot, entrance opposite Cavan Rd. Contact: Shelley at 705-313-6787 or shelley.irving@icloud.com

Sat May 24 <EASY> 8.2 km Corbett's Dam to Sylvan Glen Leaving 9:30 am from the Corbett's Dam parking lot. Contact: Jan at 905-375-8188 or janhike27@gmail.com

Sun May 25 <EASY> 8 km Racetrack Rd., Crossen Rd. Loop Leaving 9:30 am from the 45/401 commuter parking lot OR from the trailhead at 9:45 am on Racetrack near Crossen Rd. Contact: Darryl at 905-373-2463 or darryl4t2@gmail.com

Wed May 28 <MODERATE PLUS> 14.5 km Newtonville/Concession Rd. 6. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot, Port Hope OR 9:50 am from the trailhead. Contact: Jay at 905-396-3895 or jayg_sherwin@yahoo.com

Sat May 31 <EASY> 9 km Rural Port Hope, Deer Park Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot, Port Hope. Contact: Heather at 416-457-8730 or briant.heather@gmail.com.

Sun Jun 1 <MODERATE> 13 km Millbrook Valley Trails Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope OR meet at the trailhead about 9:55 am Contact: Lee at 905-376-3467 or lwakelin@hotmail.com

Wed Jun 4 <EASY> 12.5 km Wilmot Creek Waterfront Trail Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope. Taking Hwy 401 to Newcastle exit 440, Mill St. S. to the trailhead at the Bondhead Parkette. Contact: Shelley at 705-313-6787 or shelley.irving@icloud.com

Sat June 7 <MODERATE> 9 km Camborne Areas, Williamson Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot (Burnham St) for possible carpooling. The trailhead is on Williamson Rd just north of Bickle Hill Rd. Contact: Heather at 416-457-8730 or brian.heather@gmail.com

Sun Jun 8 <MODERATE> 9.5 km Centreton Area, Diemo Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot for possible carpooling OR Meet and park at the trailhead on Diemo Rd near Newton Rd at 9:50 am. Contact: Bill at 905-207-2399 or bill_zeran@live.ca

Wed Jun 11 <MODERATE> 8.8 km Gores Landing area, Lew Harris Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 18/401 commuter parking lot (Burnham St), Cobourg OR Meet and park at the trailhead at 9:40 am. Contact: Connie at 905-373-6887 or mccroryhomes@gmail.com

Sat Jun 14 <EASY> 5 km Ball's Mill and Lime Kiln Trail Meet at the trailhead at 9:30 a.m. at the Ball's Mill Conservation Area, 2967 Harwood Road. Contact Susan at 289-251-3125 or susan3deane@gmail.com

Sun Jun 15 <MODERATE> 10.7 km or 5 km Eddystone Area, Abbey Lane Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot (carpooling). OR Meet at the trailhead on Locke Rd near Joice Rd. Contact: Cynthia at 416-694-7901 or planetwarn@gmail.com

Wed Jun 18 <MODERATE> 11 km Bowmanton Rd/Alnwich Hill Rd. Meet at 401/45 Commuter Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m., Car-pooling available or meet at the Trail Head at parking lot for Hazel Bird Park on Beaver Meadow Road at 9:45 a.m. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895 or jayg_sherwin@yahoo.com

Sat Jun 21 <MODERATE> 9.3 km Richardson's Lookout, Oak Hill Rd. Trailhead is on Oak Hill Rd (the dead-end part, just east of Walker Rd). Leaving 9:30 am from the Toronto Rd/Hwy 401 commuter parking lot in Port Hope OR from the trailhead at 9:50 am. Contact: Jan at 905-375-8188 or janhike27@gmail.com

Sun Jun 22 <EASY> 8km Port Hope, Rapley Blvd/Haskill Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the trailhead at the bottom of Rapley Blvd (dead end, beside a park). Contact: Darryl at 905-373-2463 or darryl4t2@gmail.com

Wed Jun 25 <MODERATE> 10.6 km Baltimore Area, O'Grady Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter parking lot for possible carpooling OR Meet and park at the trailhead on O'Grady Rd near Community Centre Rd. for a 9:50 am departure. Contact Elke at 905-369-9711 or emsw53@gmail.com

Sat June 28 <EASY> 7 km Morton Rd., Art Lang Rd. Meet and park at the trailhead on Whitney Howard Rd (at the end of the asphalt, opposite Phantom Farm) for a 9:30am departure. Contact: Susan at 289-251-3125 or susan3deane@gmail.com

Sat Jun 29 <EASY PLUS> 12.5 km Morganston area, Tobacco Rd. Leaving 9:30 am from the Hwy 45/401 commuter lot for carpooling OR meet and park 9:50am at the trailhead on Huycke Rd near Hwy 25. Contact: Cynthia at 416-694-7901 or plantwarn@gmail.com

Tues July 1 – CANADA DAY – Details TBA

Wed July 16 <EASY> 5 km Oak Hills Farm Meet and park at 6:30 pm at 4945 Oak Hills Rd (0.8 km north of Oak Ridges Dr) Contact: John at 416 998 1292 or johnpoyston@gmail.com

Wed July 30 <EASY> 5.5 km Ganaraska River, Port Hope Leaving 6:30 p.m. from the Port Hope City Hall parking area, walking to the P.H. Conservation Area just off Choate Rd. Contact: Cynthia at 416-694-7901 or planetwarn@gmail.com

Wed Aug 13 <EASY> 3.5 km Trails at Northumberland Heights Spa Meet at Northumberland Heights Spa parking lot at 6:30pm. Contact Jay at 905-396-3895 or jayg_sherwin@yahoo.com

Wed Aug 27 <EASY PLUS> 5 km Port Hope, Downtown East Leaving 6:30 p.m. from the Port Hope City Hall parking area, walking to the P.H. Conservation Area just off Choate Rd. Stan at 289-691-3275 or stanmuldoon@hotmail.com

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 see Wilderness Club report with respect to delayed spring and early summer hikes until inspections and required maintenance is completed.

Please check the Wilderness Club Facebook page or the Ganaraska Hiking Trail [website](#) hike calendar for up-to-date information.

Hikers looking for hike leaders to support the day hike option section badge requirements should email wilderness.gha@gmail.com.

The damage in the wilderness section is extensive. As of Saturday April 12, 2025, we have been unable to access the western entrance into QEII. The parks staff are focussed on Balsam PP.

Wilderness Club hike leaders will be offering pop up hikes one week in advance as we complete our trail reconnaissance. These hikes will be posted on the association calendar and on Facebook.

Sunday May 11 @ 9:30 Mothers Day Maintenance Hike - Moore Falls towards Scrabble Mt, 10:00am, <Moderate> 5km chumpboat@gmail.com

Post May 15 (date tba) Floating Bridge Replacement - Black River/Montgomery Creek, 9:30am, < Difficult / Heavy lifting> Contact wilderness.gha@gmail.com

Saturday June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day - Indian Point PP, 9:30am, <Easy> to moderate 5km chumpboat@gmail.com

Wednesday July 1 Canada Day - Beaver Dam Census QEII, 9:30am, <Challenging / Difficult> Contact wilderness.gha@gmail.com

Please note the following dates / activities:

- The last 10 km stretch of Black River Road from Lewisham Lane to Victoria Bridge is due to reopen May 15th after the regular seasonal closure
- Ontario Parks will set a date to reinstall the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek. Date TBA after May 15th Black River Road opens.



GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT - NOVEMBER, 2024

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Winter	Fall	Summer
BARRIE	61	98	92
INDEPENDENT	8	11	7
KAWARTHA	78	79	70
MAD RIVER	35	33	32
MIDLAND	103	132	130
ORILLIA	60	85	78
ORO-MEDONTE	35	43	40
PINE RIDGE	112	146	135
WASAGA BEACH	66	84	74
WILDERNESS	74	90	79
PAID MEMBERSHIPS	632	801	737
LIFE MEMBERS	27	28	28
MEMBERSHIPS	659	829	765
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	20	21	21
LAND OWNERS	80	80	81
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	759	930	867



Merchandise Order Form

Proudly support the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. Purchase merchandise listed below or make a donation.

Just fill out this order form and select one of the payment methods below.

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) **		27.00	
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		7.00	
SECTION BADGE – Wilderness Crossover (special)		10.00	
50 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE *		7.00	
100 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE *		7.00	
200 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE*		7.00	
250 HIKES IN 1 YEAR BADGE *		7.00	
GAP BADGE (while quantities last)*		7.00	
SUBTOTAL			
DONATION			
GRAND TOTAL			

- Section badges are for hikers who hiked an entire section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.
- End to End badges are for hikers who completed all 10 sections.
- ** Non-members who wish to purchase an End to End badge also need to fill in a Membership Application Form.
- No log is required for badges marked with *
- Tax receipts will be issued for donation amounts of \$25 and over.
- Payment options:
 1. Make cheque payable to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. and mail the completed form to Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc., PO Box 693, Orillia ON L3V 6K7.
 2. Email badgeofficer@gha.ca and treasurer@gha.ca the completed form (and your hike log if required), and e-transfer the appropriate amount to treasurer@gha.ca.

The Ganaraska News

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

Email _____

Additional comment for
GHTA: _____

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 (until August 31)
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 Hiking 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 the 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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with
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The Ganaraska News is published three times a year for the members of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. and the generous landowners 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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