



# The Ganaraska News

WINTER 2026 (Jan 1 to April 30, 2026)

## 2025 The Year of the Ice Storm – Part I

Submitted by Frieda Baldwin



What a doozy that was! The Ice Storm of March 29 and 30, 2025 really caught us off guard. It took us a while to come to grips with how much destruction the storm had done to the trail. About 80% of our 500 km hiking trail was severely impacted by the storm. It made sections of our hiking trail totally impassable and even impossible to find.

When asked the question: “should we give up on the trail and let it grow back in with GHTA remaining as a hiking organization?” - the board of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association vowed to restore the trail, and that is what we did!



Safety of our volunteers was of primary concern, so we immediately produced two documents, one with safety guidelines for hikers, and another for clubs. I must admit that ChatGPT helped us draft those guidelines. We then also bought safety equipment for our volunteers to use as they assessed the damage. We even created a form for uploading information about impacted areas. There was so much damage that it was impossible to reach some areas, and record everything. So, we had no choice but to start working away at the debris that covered the trail. Chainsaws were needed to cut a path through the

debris, while other volunteers moved the branches to the side.

*See more Ice storm discussion & pictures below on Page 4.*



## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

### President's report

### Newsletter – Winter 2026



*Ice storm aftermath on the Orillia section.*

It is now 9 months after the infamous ice storm of March 29/30. We will still be dealing with the clean up and restoration of the trail next spring, as Mother Nature will likely take down more of the hanging and leaning trees over the winter. But as I understand it, for the most part, the trail has now been restored and is open for use. Hikers should be cautious - especially on windy days - and use the trail at their own risk. My sincere thanks to the tremendous work done by our dedicated volunteers to clear the trail.

#### Other Association news:

The Midland club has been using and testing a **Hike Registration** platform. It captures participants' names and contact info, their emergency contact info, and has them tick off compliance with our Waiver of Responsibility/Assumption of Liability. Generally, the new registration system is working well and has been well received by hikers. We are cognizant of the fact that not all our members are comfortable with on-line registrations, and their needs will need to

be accommodated, in a more traditional manner. We hope to roll this new form out to the other clubs soon.

Lastly, our Wasaga Beach club celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. Congratulations to the club! I remember the efforts of then President Harold Culham who – as a snowmobiler – negotiated the route of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail with landowners in the Wasaga Beach area as well as along the Mad River. In 2026, we will be celebrating the Mad River club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the opening of the Angus-New Lowell rail trail. Details on the planned celebration event will be announced in the new year. We encourage all GHTA members to participate in the celebration.

We can probably agree that this past fall made for some great hiking. The fall colours have been spectacular and truly made this a fantastic fall hiking season. Now, it's time for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Enjoy!

Best wishes for the holidays to you and your families.

Frieda Baldwin

President

# 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, Carol Storey

**Mad River – Sharon Striegl**, Lynn McIlwaine, Don Johnson

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

**Orillia – Leslie Raymond**, Carol Strickland, Fern Spichal

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

**Pine Ridge – Cynthia Warn**, John Ambler

**Wasaga Beach – Lorraine Van Vlymen**, Jenny Schimmel

**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](http://www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org)

[Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation](https://Facebook.com/GanaraskaHikingTrailAssociation)

[Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup](https://Facebook.com/groups/GanaraskaHikingTrailGroup)

**Barrie:** [Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie](https://Facebook.com/GHTAbarrie)

**Kawartha:** [facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub](https://facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub)

**Mad River:** [Facebook.com/GHTAmadriver](https://Facebook.com/GHTAmadriver)

**Midland:** [Facebook.com/GHTAmidland](https://Facebook.com/GHTAmidland)

**Orillia:** [Facebook.com/GHTAorillia](https://Facebook.com/GHTAorillia)

**Oro-Medonte:** [Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte](https://Facebook.com/GHTAOro-Medonte)

**Pine Ridge:** [www.pineridgehikingclub.ca](http://www.pineridgehikingclub.ca)

**Wilderness:** [Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness](https://Facebook.com/GHTAwilderness)

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



## 2025 The Year of the Ice Storm - Part II



Unfortunately, the most impacted area was on the Orillia section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail in Oro Medonte. The devastation was unbelievable, not only on the trail, but also on the municipal roads and on private property and in our Simcoe County forests. All the tops of the red pine trees had been sheered off, and birch trees had their top branches broken off. Such a sad sight! The County of Simcoe asked us to stay out of their forest tracts, so they could salvage as much wood as possible. Work by the Simcoe County loggers opened some of the forest access roads. That made it easier for us to get to the more remote sections of our trail. Our volunteers were not allowed in those forest tracts where logging was done until September.

While many of our volunteers had previous chainsaw experience, we are very thankful to the County of Simcoe – Forestry department for hosting a chainsaw course, which was attended by several GHTA volunteers. Another course is being planned for the spring of 2026 and will be hosted in the Midland area by Hike Ontario on the property of one of our GHTA members.



Our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who committed a tremendous amount of time into the restoration of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. They used their own chainsaws and other tools such as loppers. GHTA invested in safety gear (chainsaw chaps, helmets, safety glasses, vests, etc). GHTA reimbursed volunteers for their mileage expenses. GHTA has incurred \$4000 in unexpected ice storm related expenses that were not budgeted.

The commitment to get the job done and done well has been outstanding. Members helped their own clubs and other clubs too. Our thanks go out to the landowners, who have been so supportive to the restoration of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail on their lands. Together, we got the job done!

One decision that is still outstanding is what to do with the remaining hanging or leaning trees. Shall we let Mother Nature take care of them, or shall we hire professionals to clear them? The latter may be a very expensive and almost impossible undertaking, as much of our trail is so remote, and difficult to reach by professional loggers or arborists.

Since the ice storm caught us totally unprepared, the GHTA Executive Committee has asked the Risk Management Committee to draft an "Inclement Weather Policy" that would guide the Executive and our clubs with respect to the steps that need to be taken should we ever experience another disastrous event that impacts our trail.



## More pictures of Ice Storm aftermath across GHTA area

### Kawartha



### Wilderness





Barrie



Tiny Section



**Memories:** By Paul McCreath

Recently the Orillia club had a nice dinner for me in recognition of my many years with the organization. I really appreciated it, and it got me thinking of all the great memories I have of hikes and other incidents that have happened over the years. I thought it would be nice to share some of these memories from the last 50 plus years with our members.

Not all my memories are good or funny but two comical ones stand out. The first one occurred shortly after Gay and I became engaged. We had only been dating for about 3 weeks before we decided to get married so while the club members knew about it, it was very new. Up until that time I had been seeing another girl named Willa who was also a club member. We hiked a lot together and always with her dog Rambo who knew me well. On this hiking day Gay, Willa and Rambo all showed up for the hike at Zellers where we used to meet. That was no problem since we were all friends. When we were about to hop in our vehicles to drive out to the starting point for the hike, I opened my truck door and to everyone's surprise Rambo hopped right into my truck. Apparently, nobody told Rambo about the change in our situation and Rambo thought he was going on another hike with Paul. We all had a good laugh over that one.

Another time we had a former president named Dorothy Burrus who left the area and moved to BC. A year or two after she left Gay and I ran into one of Dorothy's family who informed us that Dorothy had passed away. Since she had not been in good health, we had no reason to question the news. In the next newsletter I made mention of her passing. Soon after I was contacted by a very irate Dorothy who informed me that she was still very much alive. Dorothy and I usually got along OK but she could be very abrasive at times, so I was tempted to ask her if she was sure she was still alive, but I declined and saved myself another ear full.

One incident I remember was not at all funny. We were having a hike in the McRae Lake and Gibson River area. We had about 20 hikers and were heading into the narrows where the lake empties into Georgian Bay. In those days we saw no need for a sweep but at the tail end was an experienced senior hiker named Eric Weise. Eric was about 70 and had had a serious heart attack not long before. Well into the hike we stopped for a rest and discovered that Eric was no longer with us. The trail had few markers so we did not know whether Eric had become lost or if he had had a heart attack. We decided to turn back and look for him. We spread out on both sides of the trail in case he was lost off trail and kept calling his name but no Eric. We got back to the parking lot and there was Eric healthy and well. He had just turned back without telling anyone. He should have known better, and we could have killed him. Soon after that we started making a sweep standard procedure.

Another unforgettable incident happened on a hike in the wilderness area that later became part of Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. We had driven into the area on a series of confusing cottage roads to the end of Riley Lake where we parked our vehicles. From there we headed east on an old snowmobile trail and enjoyed a nice hike. On the way out disaster struck! I was in the middle of the pack just behind an older lady named Betty French. Suddenly Betty slipped on some mud and went down hard. I could hear her ankle breaking before she even hit the ground. We were still a good mile from our cars and Betty was in a lot of pain and going nowhere on her own. This was back when cell phones were very rare and they usually don't work in the wilderness anyway, but we got lucky. One hiker had a cell phone and she got a signal. We called an ambulance and told them we would meet them on the county road just before they reached Housey's Rapids and lead them in to get Betty. Meanwhile we had to carry Betty out. We were lucky again. We had 3 hikers who were certified in first aid as well as two nurses and a doctor with us. We all went to work to deal with the situation. First thing we did was gather up some sticks for a splint for Betty's ankle. Then we constructed a stretcher by using two long poles threaded through the arms of several jackets. We got Betty on the stretcher and started out. Part way out Bob Wilson and I went on ahead to Bob's truck then out to the county road to flag down the ambulance. We got there 5 minutes before they arrived then led them back through the maze



of cottage roads to where our cars were parked. We arrived just as the stretcher got there too. The medics said we did everything right and Betty went with them to the hospital and later recovered from the injury although she never hiked again.



One time in the early days we were working on establishing the Ragged Rapids loop out by Victoria Bridge. Bob Wilson and the two Erics and I drove out the Black River road as far as the old Stein place where we discovered that the road was washed out just beyond there. We had to hike the last three miles to the bridge then we blazed the whole loop of about 12 miles total then the three miles back to Steins. We did about 18 miles that day, the last three hours in a snowstorm. I will never forget that day.

Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2026, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

Explore more.  
Experience more.

<b>Portugal Hiking</b>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
9 Days: April 10, 2026	\$6,395	\$7,895
<b>Saskatchewan Hiking</b>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
10 Days: June 17, 2026	\$5,295	\$6,395
<b>Yukon Hiking</b>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
12 Days: June 19, 2026	\$8,999	\$10,799
<b>Newfoundland East Coast Trail</b>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
7 Days: August 14, 2026	\$5,695	\$6,695
<b>Newfoundland West Hiking</b>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
7 Days: August 22, 2025	\$5,995	\$6,895

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 HST.

**DeNureTours**  
World of Inspiration

[denuretours.com/active](https://denuretours.com/active)  
**1-800-668-6859**

Registration  
50000578  
300000077



## **Director Trails & Landowner Relations Report**

### **Trails**

In our last Newsletter my opening message was “As a result of the hard work by our great trail maintenance volunteers, and other groups that we share our trails with, much of the damage caused by the ice storm in late March has been fixed – but we are not “out of the woods” yet.”

For this newsletter it is great to be able to say today that our trail is ‘passable’ from end-to-end with the following caveats.

- There are still some remote spots on the trail where significant work is required to clean up the ice storm damage (specifically on the Wilderness and Kawartha trails), with ‘walk-arounds’ anticipated to be possible to get around blocked areas.
- A final clean-up is still needed in many areas where the ‘heavy lifting’ has been done to clear the trail.
- Multiple situations remain where hazardous trail conditions (the infamous ‘widow-makers’) still exist and should be avoided.

When on the trails please remember that hazardous conditions might still exist, so always pay attention to your surroundings and weather conditions. Be careful.

We should feel proud of the way the GHTA team responded to the challenge of the March ice storm. To all the folks that put in the hard work to get us to this point – well done!

### **Risk Management Committee**

Our draft Risk Assessment Table and Risk Management Policy was presented to GHTA Board members at the November 18 Board meeting and the feedback included some ideas that the Risk Management Committee will study with a goal of making the draft policy even better. The goal now is to decide what updates will be done and have a follow-up Executive team review in time to bring the documents back to the Board members at the April 2026 AGM Board meeting.

### **Safety Tip for Winter Hiking**

Hydration may not always be ‘top of mind’ when hiking or snowshoeing in cold weather. Surely when it is not hot and humid like in the summer months we don’t need to drink as much, and with all the bulky clothing layers we need in the winter it can be hard to even get at our water bottle. So, it is okay to not pay as much attention to hydration in cold weather, right? Wrong! Cold air has less humidity so the heavier breathing you experience with the exertion of hiking or snowshoeing in winter can contribute to a significant loss of your body's moisture. Staying hydrated and well-fed not only helps with energy but also helps keep you warm. A warm drink stored in a thermos, perhaps with a touch of honey in it for some calories, is great to help make your winter excursions safe and enjoyable. As a minimum, make sure you are drinking as much water as you would when being outdoors in warmer weather.

*Your feedback and suggestions for keeping our trails safe and enjoyable are always welcome.*

Please send all reports to John Sloan at [trails@ghta.ca](mailto:trails@ghta.ca).

Thanks. John Sloan, Director Trails and Landowner Relations

## **GHTA Winter Newsletter Mapping Report, December 6, 2025**

By Victor Tolgyessy & John Sloan – Mapping Directors

### Detailed Club Maps:

Most club maps have been converted to the new layout format, except for Kawartha and Pine Ridge, but should be finished soon after the New Year. I was hoping to finish sooner, but I had to transfer all projects to a new computer with new updated software. My old laptop has insufficient resources for Windows 11, but my new laptop is very spiffy! There were minor glitches during the transfer, but I'm overcoming all of them so far.

### Web Map:

We're also working on a Web Map for our website. It's a clickable and zoomable online map to access club trail guides, detailed club maps, Facebook club links, plus many other clickable goodies. It'll even show you your current location on the trail. I make no promises as to its efficacy in these early stages of development, but it is a lot of fun nonetheless! It's similar to Ondago, but it's not there yet. Maybe one day...

### Ganaraska Trail On Other Municipal/Regional Websites:

An updated version of the Ganaraska Trail is now available for viewing on Simcoe County's GIS portal, but only for those parts of the trail that reside within Simcoe County. We'll be contacting other jurisdictions to have other parts of our trail on their websites too where possible.

### Do You Have An Interest In Mapping?:

If you have an interest in spatial data collection, mapping and/or geographic information systems, then let me know. I'm always eager to talk about how we do all this. Only John Sloan and I are the "Breaking Bad cooks", although everything is legal and above board. Luckily, we haven't blown up anything yet.

Anyone interested should contact either John Sloan at [mapping-liaison@gha.ca](mailto:mapping-liaison@gha.ca) or Victor Tolgyessy at [mapping-coordinator@gha.ca](mailto:mapping-coordinator@gha.ca) for more details.

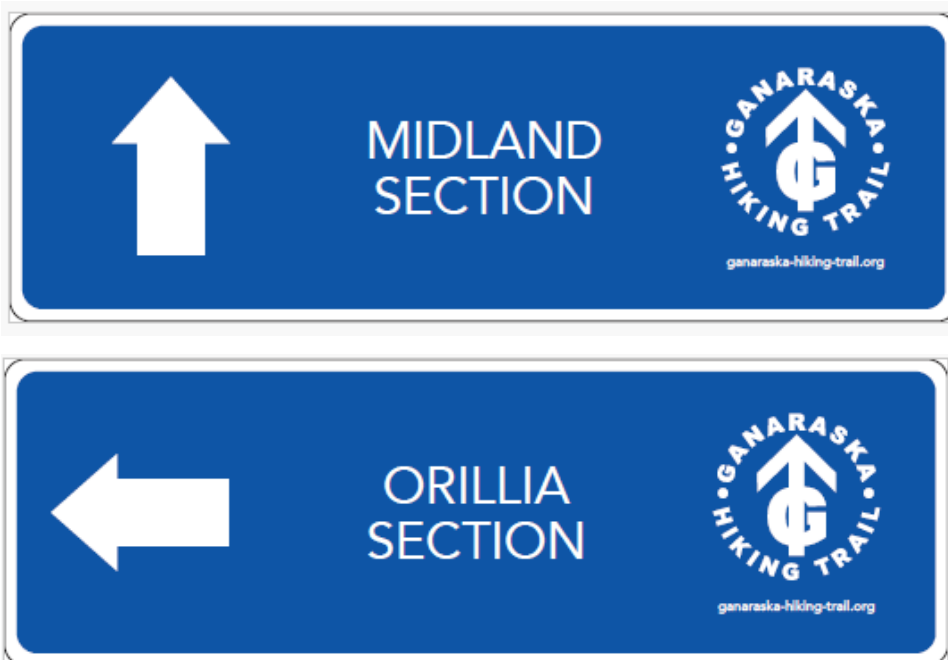
## **Ganaraska Hiking Trail Signage**

"Coming Soon - Section Junction Signs!


To help promote the Ganaraska Hiking Trail and identify its various sections, new Section Junction signs are being created. The signs will be placed along the trail where sections join or intersect. The signs will identify the name and direction of the adjoining section so that hikers can continue along the trail. The GHTA logo and website URL are included as well. See samples below.

Many thanks to the various clubs for their help in creating the signs"





For information or signs, contact Pat Tuero at [Signage@gha.ca](mailto:Signage@gha.ca)

	<b>Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.</b> <b>Vice-President's &amp; Webmaster report</b>
--	--

#### **Current Website Status**

Our existing website remains in maintenance mode as we prepare for a comprehensive platform migration that will include integrated membership management capabilities.

#### **Hike Registration System Improvements**

We've made significant progress on streamlining our hike registration process. The new online form now enables:

- Fully online signup for participants
- Digital waiver collection and storage
- Capture emergency contact information
- Reduced Administrative Burden on volunteers
- Improved organizational record-keeping compliance

This system has undergone extensive testing with feedback from both hikers and hike coordinators in the Midland Club. I'm grateful for their valuable input through multiple rounds of refinement, and we're now preparing for a broader rollout.

I know that transitions to a new system can be challenging, and some members may prefer familiar offline processes. We will continue to offer traditional registration options during this transition period to ensure all members feel comfortable participating while they adjust to the new system.

Please share feedback with [vice-president@gha.ca](mailto:vice-president@gha.ca)

## Interpreted Historic Site - Mohawk Institute

Carolyn Humphreys, Wilderness Club | Chair Indigenous Engagement Committee



As the snow settles on the ground, I'm reminded about the footprints that we leave and the footprints that we follow. The Indigenous engagement committee's focus is linking indigenous stories to hiking, and our most significant endeavor is writing in this newsletter.

Our Canadian identities are linked to our love of the land — the kilometres of trails to be travelled. So often those trails are cast upon historic routes. Who cut the trails and why those trails came to be is mostly long forgotten. It's not hard to find fragments in place names, unusual routes and structures.

In the fall of 2025, a trail lead me to the Mohawk Institute in Brantford. My destination was the newly created interpreted historic site (opened September 30, 2025) that lives in a former residential school. The exhibit is profound in a quiet way. No guilt, no shaming; a delivery of facts layered with the truths of former students - survivors.

The experience has you enter exactly the same way a student would; up the front stairs to the front door. The lock turned and a young woman silently opens the door. She provides quiet introductions at the threshold, including direction to safe spaces for quiet retreat and then points us into the reception area. Your journey



takes you to the principal's office, into a classroom, along halls, to the dining room and the laundry room. I finished my tour in the dormitory.

The exhibit is highly interactive and self-paced. It uses simple techniques to share the history and the consequences. The use of a mirror to create an infinite number of beds in the dormitory is stunning. The school operated 1831-1970 and 15,000 students passed through the doors.

The same gentle young woman who unlocked the door to let me in and showed me the quiet room, unlocked the front door to let me go. I'm forever changed by those few hours.

[Virtual Tour of the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School \(Public\) - Woodland Cultural Centre](#)

Woodland Cultural Centre  
184 Mohawk Street  
Brantford, ON, N3S 2X2  
Phone: [\(519\) 759-2650](tel:5197592650)

If you decide to make a day trip to Brantford, there are several lovely hikes in and near the Woodlands Cultural Centre.

[Trails - Discover Brantford](#)

### **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 GHATA 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](mailto:meskinner055@gmail.com)

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

## Supporting the Association

Annual Membership fee is \$ 30.00 per household.

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 Donate page on the website 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.

**Comfortable Hiking Holidays**  
Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

## PORTUGAL 2026

**Two departures - March 8 to 20 and  
March 14 to 26**

- ✓ Hike the Lisbon Coast & the Algarve
- ✓ Charismatic towns, kms of coastal trails
- ✓ Glorious beaches, 14 UNESCO sites
- ✓ An enticing cuisine
- ✓ And more sunny days than anywhere else in Europe

**www.letshike.com**

TICO #50023501 & #50023502



## CLUB REPORTS

### Barrie

Submitted by John Rudnickas, President

As I write this I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. By the time you read this, we'll know if my wish was fulfilled. The snow squall machine has been active here recently and it looks promising for some great winter activity. This past fall gave us a lot of weather variability and sometimes had us wondering just which season we were in. Unfortunately, we did have a number of organized hike cancellations. Soaking rain and high winds did not make for enjoyable or safe hiking. On the other hand, we also had some lovely weather and great hikes. Our trails are all open as recovery from last March's ice storm went well. Still, we should always be aware of our surroundings, around, below and overhead when out in the forests. The ice storm was really an amplification of what is happening in the forest on any given day. We come across fallen branches and trees often, a constant reminder of the dynamic nature of forest life and potential for natural hazards. High winds in particular pose a significant increase in risk and there still are trees around that had been compromised by the ice storm.



This fall we were again busy constructing more stream crossings on the trail section between Gill Road and Old Second Road South. Four new crossings were constructed. This gives that section a total of seven bridges crossing streams. Once again, many thanks to Gary Norton and Dale Hannah for their work in making this happen. Also a big thank you to the Barrie Rotary Club for their generous support. We do have more work planned for next year. Some of the crossings need handrails and one old, quite rickety log crossing has yet to be replaced. We have achieved a significant improvement in safety on this trail section but care must still be exercised as more work is required and the structures can be slippery when wet.

Our trail maintenance and hike leadership are totally dependant on our volunteers. The time they put in is greatly appreciated. We can use more help and are always looking to add to our roster of trail stewards and hike leaders. The positions do pay well, I mean in terms of satisfaction. Please contact us if you think you can help out.

We are planning a full schedule of hikes this season, on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (in partnership with the Orillia Club). You can find the latest information on them in the calendar section of the GHTA website. Looking forward to a magical white winter season and hope to see you on the trails.

## Kawartha

Submitted by Carol Storey - Secretary / Treasurer

We have made some recent changes to our hike coordination, involving more people in the development and coordination of the hike schedule rather than a single coordinator. Two Hike Coordinator Groups have been formed, one for the Wednesday hikes and another for the longer hikes. Each group will be responsible for creating their hikes. We have also experienced an increase in the number of individuals expressing a willingness to lead hikes. There will be growing pains as the two groups work through all the responsibilities. The club would like to acknowledge Janice Brown for all the work she has done as the Club Hike Coordinator. So much of the seamless results of the well-coordinated hikes over the last few years have been due to her tireless work. Janice has agreed to help the 2 new committees but is stepping back at the end of the fall from all responsibilities. The club owes her a big thanks for all she has done.

One decision that resulted from the creation of the 2 hike committees is to no longer publish hikes in the GHTA newsletter. Each schedule, and any changes, will be provided to all members by email. The schedules will continue to be published on the club Facebook page. There is an intent to move the longer hike schedule to the GHTA website, first the existing one and then to the new hike schedule calendar developed by GHTA.

Our ever-popular Wednesday hike schedule kicked off the fall season on September 3<sup>rd</sup> with summer-like weather. Our hikes have had great turnouts with everyone taking advantage of the strong sense of camaraderie and the diverse range of trails in the nearby area. One Wednesday in late October 39 hikers came out to take advantage of the beautiful fall weather.

We also sent out a Club survey in September to canvas members related to our weekend hike schedule. As a result of that feedback, we have developed a schedule for November that is offering some longer hikes during the week, testing out an earlier weekend start time, and offering two hikes with drop-out opportunities.

Our club's Wilderness Hike Challenge, that had been deferred by the ice storm, kicked off on September 9. News of the Challenge yielded numerous inquiries including people from other Ganaraska Hiking Trail clubs. Given the need to manage group size for these challenging wilderness trails, we had to limit participation. Ultimately, nine hikers successfully completed the challenge thereby earning their Wilderness Section end-to-end badges. Throughout the planning process, we had tremendous support from the Wilderness Club with special mention going to Rob Halupka, Wilderness Club President. Our participating hikers were excited to finally meet Rob when he personally led the Sheldon Lake Loop hike.



*Never underestimate Nature's fury.*

The Kawartha Hiking Club has had a challenging year with respect to trail maintenance due to the damage that occurred from this spring's ice storm. Shortly after the ice storm our club volunteers inspected approximately 69 km of our 79.3 km of trail. The rail trail and ATV/Snowmobile trail sections were being aggressively cleared by the City of Kawartha Lakes and local ATV clubs. We greatly appreciate their hard work. That left the KHC with approximately 15 km of mostly narrow bush trail, from 59.2 km at the south end of Somerville Tract Forest to 74.0 km at Buller Road. Much of this section of trail has had significant damage from the ice storm (59.2 to 64.6 km and 68.6 to 74.0 km). Our club trail maintenance volunteers have been out six times to date (June 2 and 21, September 11, October 6 and 9, and November 4) and have completed trail maintenance from 59.4 km to 64.6 km and from 74.0 km to approximately 70.0 km. Chainsaws were required to support this work due to the heavy damage.

There is approximately 1.0 to 1.5 km of trail left to be maintained from the south end of Corben Lake (68.8 dm) to approximately 70.0 km. This is a difficult area to access as it requires:

1. a 5 km hike along an expert ATV trail to the bottom of Corben Lake to reach the starting point for maintenance, completing 1.5 km of trail maintenance, and then hiking 6.5 km back, **or**,
2. hiking 4 km over rough terrain, beaver dams and swamps to get to the top end of where maintenance needs to start, then completing 1.5 km of maintenance and hiking back approximately 5.5 km

The trail section from Monck Road (63.6 km) to Buller Road (74.0 km) was re-opened on November 4 following the latest trail maintenance. However, there is approximately 1 to 1.5 km of trail that has NOT been maintained, and it may be a little more difficult to navigate this small section. Trail maintenance activity is complete for this year. Kawartha Hiking Club will focus on the trail section north of Corben Lake in 2026.



Thanks to our trail maintenance volunteers for your hard work in 2025 to get our trails back in good shape.

*The forest can be so idyllic...*

Our annual fall potluck and travelogue evening on September 17 was a welcomed get together to catch up on summer activities and plans for fall. Travelogue presenters Shirley and Karen shared wonderful pictures of their adventures. Shirley in South Africa and Karen in P.E.I. Keep traveling folks. We love to hear about new and exciting places! We are looking forward in December to a Christas Light walk, followed by a potluck, to promote some holiday cheer. We currently have 91 members, two of which cover 2026. This comprises 47 couples and 44 singles.



**Mad River** Sharon Striegl, President

What a beautiful fall we had. After a much-needed rest over the summer months, the club got together once again to give our trails a bit of a tidying up during September. We were able to install 2 new bridges in the Glencairn section. They were funded by Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, (EBC). Bruce Trail bridge builders helped us with the pre-build and installation. The local community appreciates the improvements.



The club worked on light trail maintenance involving cutting back of tall grasses/weeds throughout the late summer months, when the weather had cooled off and when volunteers were available. We were very pleased to see that over the summer months, the trails were in great condition showing no more "surprises", especially after that (let's not talk about it) ice storm. At our Christmas party we recognized our expert blazer – Florence.

Hiking resumed once again in October with the club enjoying our regularly scheduled 2-hikes per week routine. This fall, hikes are also being advertised in the Creemore Echo and on Facebook Neighbourhood pages. We hope this gets more participation in events and provides new hikers to join us.

Of course, what's a hike without fresh fall apples? Some of our hikes take us along open roads where there is an abundance of wild apple trees growing. We loaded up our knapsacks for apple pies and apple crisps!

With winter approaching, there are many plans in the works for the club. We celebrated Christmas this year in the newly refurbished Avening Community Centre complete with a bowling alley. We are planning a winter picnic and provided there will be enough snow this year, we will also be repeating our Cross-Country Ski Day in Wasaga Beach as well as adding a new ski/snowshoe day at Highlands Nordic.



Our Christmas party allowed us to show our appreciation for Don Britton. We presented him with his 'Over 80 Hiker' badge and shared a video of his many hiking adventures. Don continues to help novice kayakers and is always ready to share sage advice with any of our cyclists. All his hiking, boating and cycling experiences provide us with lots of stories and best practices. We love you "Don #1"!

This spring will also have the club involved with the grand opening of the Rail Trail starting in Angus and stretching its way to New Lowell. This 11 km section will open hiking opportunities for the club. Happy hiking everyone and I hope Santa loads up your stockings.

## Midland

Co-Presidents: Christina Adamson and Joanne Sanders



The Midland Ganaraska Hiking Club is working to increase our exposure to the public and to increase our membership. We now advertise in the *Springwater News* on their non-profit page. The newspaper is free to the public and gets distributed within Simcoe County. It gives us a broad audience for the club. We are also advertising in *Midland Today*. This is an online newspaper. A member contacted *Midland Today* and was interviewed. A profile page was created with information given to them along with photos. Hyperlinks to our Facebook page and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, (GHTA), were included in the article. You can access this by going to [midlandtoday.ca](http://midlandtoday.ca). Click on the 'Shop Local'

drop down tab. In the 'Search' bar enter one of (Hiking, Club, or Ganaraska). Select Midland Ganaraska Hiking Club. The page has information on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. This advertisement is free and did not involve much effort. It gets the information out to more people and is another way to encourage people to come out and enjoy the great outdoors.



The club has had great success in their trail maintenance this year with many people coming out and helping clean up the trails. Everyone pitched in and helped in many ways such as using loppers, chain saws, refreshing blazes and cleaning debris from the trails. Comments from the public have been very positive when we are out cleaning up the trails.



The Midland End to End was offered in three parts this summer to anyone who wished to get their badge. Hikers came from all over. There were 9 to 22 hikers for the three sections. The first section was Vasey Road to Reeves Road which had shaded forests and a breeze with no bugs. The second section was Tiny Concession 12 to Sainte Marie Among the Hurons. The third section was from Overhead Bridge Road to Midland Bay Landing which had a great spot for lunch overlooking a gorgeous view of Midland's waterfront. The trail in some spots was very picturesque and shady. We had expected some muddy and wet areas but these were dry because of the lack of rain. Congratulations to Garry Bryant (Midland), Susan Casson (Port Hope) and Joanne Sutherland (Lindsay) who completed the entire Midland section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.



There were 4 members who completed the Bruce Trail Section in Niagara in October hiking 29 km last spring and completing the final 57 km. this November. They reported beautiful views on the Niagara Escarpment, stunning ravines along side picturesque vineyards, as well as lots of birds, some llamas and even a snake. Congratulations to Judi Holland, Carol Hartwell, Kim Wand and Joe Davis who led the hikes.

## Orillia

Submitted By **Leslie Raymond, President**

It was a busy fall as we continued to clean up our trail from the devastation of the ice storm. We also had to



contend with significant logging operations in Oro-Medonte as the County attempted to salvage what trees they could.

We had 7 trail maintenance events this fall, along with several re-blazing days. Thanks to our Trail Maintenance Coordinator Bob Wilson who coordinated these events and did most of the re-blazing. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed countless hours lopping branches, chain sawing and hauling brush off the trail.



We are happy to announce that most of the trail has been cleared. There are a few sections that must be temporarily rerouted, but we hope to tackle these sections in the spring.

Despite the time spent cleaning up the trail, we continued to offer our regular Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday hikes. We have begun offering another option for the Thursday hikes - these hikes are approximately 3 hours, but at a slower pace. These hikes have proven to be quite popular. The Monday hikes take a break for the winter and will resume in the spring.

It looks like it is shaping up to be a good winter for snowshoeing! See you on the trails.

### **Oro-Medonte**

Submitted by **Sue Benjafield, President**



We started off the fall with a hike in Copeland Forest followed by a corn roast. The day was well attended and enjoyed by all. Beausoleil Island was a huge disappointment as it was cancelled due to weather and slippery rocks. Some of the hikes following were also cancelled. Weather proved to be a contributing factor. We did enjoy McRae Lake. The hike to Schumaker Trail was a beautiful fall day with many participants.

We have decided not to hike in the winter months due to difficult weather conditions and low attendance numbers. We hope to see you in April when we will resume hiking.  
Happy trails

### **Pine Ridge**

Cynthia Warn, President

#### ***"Adventure is worthwhile in itself" Amelia Earhart***

Pine Ridge has just wrapped up the year with its 125<sup>th</sup> hike. Our last hike on Sunday traversed Cornish Hollow in a gentle, magical snowstorm. Despite, or because of, the weather we had 17 hardy souls out - a lovely finish to a stellar year. Our winter 2026 schedule, 52 hikes from January 1 through April 30, is now up on our website: [pineridgehikingclub.ca](http://pineridgehikingclub.ca)

Our autumn was fairly busy; outside of our usual Wednesday-Saturday-Sunday hike schedule there was a women's hiking adventure trip to the Eastern Townships, October 14 to 19. I was lucky enough to find a former auberge that was listed on VRBO: ten bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, a commercial kitchen and multiple lounge areas for our various after hiking activities (Blue Jays playoff games, quiet reading, low-key

conversation, or raucous card games). We stayed just outside of Sutton and had 3 days of hiking culminating with all 21 of us summiting Mount Sutton. We may repeat this trip in autumn 2026.

Immediately preceding the Eastern Townships trip was the annual trip to Frontenac Provincial Park where some of our members attempted the Frontenac Challenge: 11 trails in 5 days. This year's trip was fun and challenging, and I know members will already be marking their calendars for next year.



Autumn is also the time for our "Through the Hiker's Lens" photo exhibit at the Port Hope Library. The show runs for three weeks and attracts many community members. Lee Wakelin and David Didur are ending their stewardship of this event on a high note: more photos were entered this year than in any previous

year. Many thanks go to both of you for managing this eagerly anticipated show.



The club appreciates this boost to our community profile. Elke Williams and Ihor Molodecky have volunteered to coordinate the exhibit going forward.

Our AGM and legendary potluck was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We reviewed the reports of 9 of our volunteers who are responsible for the following areas: Communications, Landowner Relations, Website and Social Media, Inquiries, Online and Interactive Hike Catalogue, Annual Photo Exhibits, Treasurer, Hike Coordinator, and Trail Maintenance. Two reports that I will reference here were produced by our

Hike Coordinator, Connie Flewitt, and our Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Stan Muldoon.

Our Hike Coordinator has kept electronic records of all our activities and provided some interesting statistics. Our longest hike was 16 km, our least attended hike had 3 participants (sometimes the weather is just not appealing), and our most attended hike had 26 participants. One member completed 95 of our scheduled hikes for a total distance of 905 kms! It's hard to imagine anyone beating that record.

The Trail Maintenance Report was noteworthy because it was Stan's last report. Trail Maintenance duties have been handed over to Jay Sherwin, our former president. I know that Jay will do a great job (though Stan *has* set the bar quite high).

Stan is one of the most patient and thoughtful people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I speak for all of the club when I say that working with Stan, whether building a bridge over the Ganaraska River, or cleaning up the trail on our annual Earth Week endeavour, is always made enjoyable by Stan's bonhomie and gracious nature. He takes everything in stride and makes everyone feel appreciated for their efforts. The world could use more of you, Stan Muldoon. Thank you.

Below is a note from the last newsletter, but as the situation is ongoing I include the information here for anyone planning on hiking our end of the Ganaraska Trail.

*"Due to Hwy. 401 construction at Port Hope, there is a detour where Choate Rd. crosses under the 401 (km 2.7 of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail).*

*Hikers travelling north must now proceed straight at the Jocelyn St. /Cavan Rd. intersection (km 2.3) to Victoria St. N. (approximately 1.0 km). Turn right (north) at Victoria St. for 1.5 km to the intersection with Choate Rd. Turn right on Choate Rd. for 0.5 km to the intersection with the unmaintained section of Hawkins Rd.(km 4.3) where you will rejoin the GHT.*

*Hikers travelling south must turn right (west) at the Hawkins Rd./Choate Rd. intersection (km 4.3) to the Choate Rd. / Cranberry Rd. intersection (0.5 km). Turn left on Cranberry Rd. and travel south to the intersection with Jocelyn Rd. (approximately 1.5 km). Take a left on Jocelyn St. to the intersection where the GHT meets Molson St. (approximately 1.0 km). Turn right (south)."*

## **Wasaga Beach**

**Submitted By Lorraine van Vlymen, President**

Great weather and great hiking! That just about sums up the hiking activities that occurred in the Wasaga Beach Club this fall. As the heat and dryness of summer faded away slowly, we continued to tackle our summer roster of escarpment hikes and even tried some new locations on parts of the Bruce Trail further to the south. The late fall colour change and leaf drop meant that we safely enjoyed the rigour of the escarpment trails in places like Kolapore and Noisy River. We also slipped back into Tiny Marsh before Hunting Season.



Our club hosts three hikes a week, a more rigorous longer hike and a slower shorter hike on Wednesdays, and a moderate hike on Sundays. A big thank you goes to hike leaders and regular hikers who support the club's efforts on a regular basis. Without the commitment of our leadership team, our club would not be able to continue the way it does. We have also welcomed some great new hike leaders this year who are getting to know the trails.

The Ambler group is a special feature of our club with hikes geared towards older and less vigorous hikers, some well into their 80s and over. It is a great way for people to remain engaged with the outdoors as abilities start to become challenged. The social benefits also cannot be overstated as participants discover they have much in common.



As the weather turned, we started to stay on more local provincial park and other trails. With the snow depths we are now switching to snowshoeing in our winter wonderland. A snowshoe clinic is planned in the new year to introduce more members to this great way to workout.

Communication to our club members is mainly through weekly emails which detail the upcoming hikes as well as provide advice on appropriate clothing, safety tips and any other interesting information for our members. Photos are key to remembering the fun.

Our Annual meeting in September was well attended with an open discussion on club issues, clear support for our directors and our future direction. We will continue our 30<sup>th</sup> Year celebration in 2026 with special hikes and activities.

**Wilderness** Submitted by **Rob Halupka – President**

Post-ice storm trail conditions in the Wilderness section are variable – the more easily reached sections are in fair-to-good shape after maintenance hikes conducted over the last few months. On August 31<sup>st</sup> a work team cleared trail from Manhattan Drive to Devil's Lake via Scrabble Mountain. On November 6<sup>th</sup> a two-person team carried out a maintenance hike on the 16 km Ragged Rapids loop, with the help of a recently acquired "cordless pruner" (Stihl's highly portable GTA 40 battery powered unit that can be easily carried by one hand or even stored in a backpack).



*"Continuous Maintenance":* Each hiker is asked to consider picking up and tossing off the trail a dozen tree limbs/branches each time you go for a hike, even if the outing is not designated as a maintenance hike. Think about it – ten hikers x 12 = 120 branches cleared off the trail with relatively little effort. A lot of debris can be removed with just a pair of work gloves, even without a saw. Your hike time would not be materially affected, but the cumulative effect on the trail would be most beneficial.

*On the "To Do" list for 2026:* On Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Neil Runnalls led a group hike on the 12 km Montgomery Creek loop and reported that the trail was manageable but rough in sections and in need of maintenance. The infamous 500-metre cane patch is overgrown and will need to be tackled with scythes or power snippers. A work party will need to be organized to move debris off the trail. We have had reports that the interior section of the main trail (between Anson Mountain junction on the east side and Otter Junction on the west end) is in rough shape. Further, the High Falls loop has not been inspected by Wilderness Club members and no doubt will need attention.

During the summer, a derelict boat and motor on a trailer with flat tires was left on the grassy parking area by Moore Falls off Hwy 35. GHATA friend and property owner "Mr. P" was annoyed to be stuck with this issue and asked us to deal with it. He was concerned that his property might be turned into a dumping ground. If that were to happen, he indicated he might have to close the property from use by anyone. On Sept 4<sup>th</sup> we hired a handyman to dispose of the boat/motor/trailer at a cost of \$200. Mr. P was delighted that we had dealt with the issue and is pleased to continue allowing GHATA use of the parking area.

With cooler temperatures and fall colours, hiking activity revved up in September and continued into December. Cara Oleksuik, Carolyn Humphreys, Jeremy Graham and El Presidente contributed to the success of the annual Hike Haliburton event from Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> by organizing and leading several hikes.

The "day hike option" for earning end-to-end qualification for the Wilderness section continues to be popular. The Wilderness Club hosted an enthusiastic and determined contingent from the Kawartha Club organized by

Janice Brown who were keen on achieving end-to-end completion. Cara Oleksuik and El Pretzel led this lively Kawartha group on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> around the 18 ½ km Sheldon Lake loop that went very well despite the bad jokes.

On Nov 12<sup>th</sup> the floating bridge over Montgomery Creek was disassembled and put into hibernation for the coming winter. Thanks to John Mumford, Neil Runnalls and Carolyn Humphreys for coming out to assist OP staff led by Glynn Richardson with this semi-annual task. We always enjoy the opportunity to refresh contact with our Ontario Parks friends.

**Abbreviated** hike schedules to April 30<sup>th</sup> 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 \$30 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](mailto:newsletter@gha.ca) with any ideas for articles or pictures to be considered for future publications.

Thank you, Lana Johnson.



The new bridge in the Barrie Section. Thanks to funding from Rotary.



## 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 2026 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](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

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. Wednesday features 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.

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

## KAWARTHA HIKES

### General Information

- Hikers should arrive 10 minutes before hike start time

The Kawartha Club generally schedules 2 hikes per week as follows:

- Shorter Hikes (Wednesday morning) – easy to moderate, 1.5 -2 hrs (5-8 km)
- Longer Hikes (often Saturdays) – moderate to moderate plus, 3-5 hrs (10-15 km) on varied terrain and often including a lunch stop

The Schedules are communicated through a Club email to all members. The schedule is also pinned to the Club's Facebook Page,

[facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub](https://www.facebook.com/kawarthahikingclub). Longer hikes may also be on the GHTA hiking calendar, ([www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org](http://www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org)).

Hikers are encouraged to check frequently for additions, updates or cancellations.

## MAD RIVER HIKES

HIKES AND UPDATE: All hikes posted on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association website hike calendar, ([www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org](http://www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.org)). Hikers are encouraged to check the calendar frequently 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 - Local Wednesday hikes will continue as usual. Meet at Food Basics at 1 PM.

General Information for all hikes:

- ✓ Hikers will meet at Food Basics in Midland before the hike or at the trail head unless otherwise noted.
- ✓ Hikes beginning at 10 AM are often 8-10 km will take 3-5 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).
- ✓ Always bring a bottle(s) of drinking water.
- ✓ Use common sense and dress for cold. Layers are recommended as they can be removed if overheating (or added if needed).
- ✓ Walking poles are recommended on most hikes.
- ✓ Snowshoes or icers depending on snow condition
- ✓ Sign up for all weekend hikes can be done via this link: [https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page\\_id=13455](https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=13455) Click on selected hike and then fill out the form.
- ✓ If not a Midland club member, please check in with contact person by phone or text at least 90 min prior to hike start time.

**Sun Jan 4** Vasey Tract 1 PM <Moderate> Kim Wand 705 828 2033

**Sat Jan 10** Midhurst 10 AM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Jan 11** Mad River 1 PM Tracy Parsons 705 627-3758

**Sat Jan 17** Laking Woods 10 AM <Moderate> Frieda 705 245 1005

**Sun Jan 18** Overhead Bridge 1 PM <Moderate> Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

**Sun Jan 25** Walker Tract 1 PM <Moderate> Joe Davis 705 279 1518

**Fri Jan 30 - Feb 4** Kilbear Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sat Feb 7** Copeland P2 10 AM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sat Feb 7** Nordic Trails Wasaga Beach Night Ski <Moderate> Beth Hamer 705 361 2644

**Sun Feb 8** Forget Rd 1 PM <Moderate> Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

**Sat Feb 14** Bush Rd 1 PM <Easy> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

**Sun Feb 15** Carley Forest 1 PM <Moderate> Kim Wand 705 828 2033

**Mon Feb 16** Wyevale 1 PM <Moderate> Beth Hamer 705 361 2644

**Sat Feb 21** Pretty Channel 10 AM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Feb 22** Wyevale 1 PM <Moderate> Joe Davis 705 279 1518

**Sat Feb 28** Coldest night of the Year 4:40 PM Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

**Sun Mar 1** Dorian Forest 1 PM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sat Mar 7** Tiffin 1 PM <Easy/Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Mar 8** Tiny Marsh 1 PM <Easy> Carol Hartwell 780 906 4162

**Sun Mar 15** Tiny Twp Office Con 8 <Moderate> Beth Hamer 705 361 2644

**Sun Mar 22** Ron Jones Rd 1 PM Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

**Sun Mar 29** Keewatin Harbour 1 PM Edda Zeitel 705 427 3460

**Sat Apr 4** Turkey Ridge 1 PM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Apr 5** Wymbolwood Adventure Hike <Easy> Beth Hamer 705 361 2644

**Sun Mar 12** Langman/Bass Lake <Easy> 1:30 PM Joe Davis 705 279 1518

**Sat Apr 18** GHATA AGM and Hike Tiffen CA Time TBA <Easy> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Apr 19** Stotts Park 1 PM <Easy> Marc Vallee 705 527 1967

**Sat Apr 25** Copeland P5 1 PM <Moderate> Frieda Baldwin 705 245 1005

**Sun Apr 26** Matchedash Bay 1 PM <Easy> Kim Wand 705 828 2033

### ORILLIA HIKES

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

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.

Please check the website 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](#).

Due to low participation numbers in the fall, Oro-Medonte club leaders have decided to pause outings during the winter session. In the meantime, please continue hiking with the other Ganaraska clubs. We will resume hiking in the spring.

**Sunday, April 12;** Copeland Forest<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Sue 705-722-0395 or Kim 705-321-2937

**Sunday, April 19;** Tiny Marsh<EASY>1:30 pm; Hike 2 hours; Contact Holly 705-345-7913 or Sue 705-722-0395



**Sunday, April 26;** Ganaraska Trail Line

7<MODERATE>1:30 pm; hike 2 hours; Contact Wayne  
705-718-0143 or Kim 705-721-0502

#### PINE RIDGE HIKES

Hikers Should Arrive At Least 10 Minutes Before the  
Advertised Hike Departure Time.

Please visit the Pine Ridge Hiking Club website at  
[www.pineridgehikingclub.ca/hikeschedule](http://www.pineridgehikingclub.ca/hikeschedule) for the  
most up-to-date information and details.

**Thursday, January 1** <EASY> 5 km  
5.0 km: Port Hope, Downtown, East

**Saturday, January 3** <EASY> 10 km  
Rural Port Hope, Deer Park Rd

**Sunday, January 4** <EASY> 5.8 km  
Canton Area, Knoxville Rd/Barrie Rd.

**Wednesday, January 7** <MODERATE> 13 km  
Carstairs – Elderberry, Dragonfly, Stonewall

**Saturday, January 10** <MODERATE> 7.6 km  
Centreton area, Bradley Hollow Rd

**Sunday, January 11** <MODERATE PLUS> 11.8 km  
Creighton's Hill, Boyle Rd.

**Wednesday, January 14** <MODERATE> 10.3 km  
Castleton area, Wolfram Rd.

**Saturday, January 17** <MODERATE> 13.6 km  
McBurney's Hill

**Sunday, January 18** <MODERATE PLUS> 9.4 km  
'B' is for Burnley

**Wednesday, January 21** <MODERATE> 9 km  
Woodland Trails, Purple Finch, Sweet Fern

**Saturday, January 24** <MODERATE> 10.1 km  
Catharine Parr Trail route, Lander Rd.

**Sunday, January 25** <EASY> 5 km  
Ball's Mill, Lime Kiln Trail

**Wednesday, January 28** <EASY> 5 km  
Hazel Bird Nature Reserve

**Saturday, January 31** <EASY> 5 km  
Oak Hills Farm

**Sunday, February 1** <MODERATE> 6 or 12 km  
Boyles Rd., Telephone Rd., Massey Rd.

**Wednesday, February 4** <MODERATE> 13 km  
Racetrack Rd., east of Precious Corners

**Saturday, February 7** <EASY> 9 km  
Osaca area loop (off Hwy 65)

**Sunday, February 8** <MODERATE> 10.7 km  
Eddystone area, Abbey Lane

**Wednesday, February 11** <EASY> 5.8 km  
Bethel Grove Rd., Vimy Ridge Rd.

**Saturday, February 14** <EASY> 6 km  
Port Hope Waterfront Trail

**Sunday, February 15** <MODERATE> 9.8 km  
B.C. Flying Squirrel, Fisher Ridge, Luna

**Wednesday, February 18 – TBD**

**Saturday, February 21** <MODERATE> 13.3 km  
Percy Rose Rd., Whitney Howard Rd.

**Sunday, February 22 – TBD**

**Wednesday, February 25** <MODERATE> 7 km  
Woodland, Purple Finch, Lookout Mountain

**Saturday, February 28** <EASY> 12.5 km  
Wilmot Creek Waterfront Trail

**Sunday, March 1** <MODERATE> 10.7 km  
Baltimore area, The Scots Line

**Wednesday, March 4** <EASY> 8 km  
Port Hope, Rapley Blvd./Haskill Rd.

**Saturday, March 7** <MODERATE> 8 km  
Wicklow area, Telephone Rd., Dudley Rd.

**Sunday, March 8** <EASY PLUS> 4, 6 or 11 km  
Bonebakker Land Trust Property

**Wednesday, March 11** <MODERATE> 14.1 km  
Port Britain

**Saturday, March 14** <MODERATE> 9 km  
Camborne Area, Williamson Rd.

**Sunday, March 15** <EASY PLUS> 8.7 km  
Baltimore Area – Van Luven Rd.

**Wednesday, March 18** <MODERATE> 10.6 km  
Sandy Flats, Spring Sugarbush

**Saturday, March 21** <MODERATE> 10 km  
Nelson Rd., Baptist Rd.

**Sunday, March 22** <MODERATE> 9 km  
Alderville, Roseneath Landing

**Wednesday, March 25** <MODERATE> 13.8 km  
Cold Springs area, Ferguson Rd.

**Saturday, March 28** <MODERATE> 11.2 km  
Rice Lake views & Donkey Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 29** <MODERATE PLUS> 10 km  
Campbellcroft, Stone House Rd.

**Wednesday, April 1** <EASY> 7.6 km  
Newtonville Area, Gilmore Rd.

**Saturday, April 4** <EASY PLUS> 5.4 km  
Port Hope, Downtown, West

**Sunday, April 5** <MODERATE> 14.7 km  
Eddystone Loop w/frying pan extension

**Wednesday April 8** <EASY> 7.6 km  
Bewdley East, Rice Lake Conservation area

**Saturday, April 11** <MODERATE> 7 or 12 km  
Lockhart Rd., Noonan Rd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Alnwick Township

**Sunday, April 12** <MODERATE PLUS> 9.8 km  
Vernonville area, Shelter Valley Rd

**Wednesday, April 15** <EASY> 8 km  
Rural Port Hope, Baulch Rd/Haskill Rd.

**Saturday, April 18** <MODERATE> 13 km  
View of Two Lakes

**Sunday, April 19** <MODERATE> 8.5 km  
Canton Area, Dodd's Rd.

**Wednesday, April 22** <MODERATE> 9.3 km  
Richardson's Lookout, Oak Hill Rd.

**Saturday, April 25** <MODERATE> 11.3 km  
Beagle Club Rd to McDonald Rd.

**Sunday, April 26** <EASY> 11 KM  
Grafton, Nawautin Shores

**Wednesday, April 29** <MODERATE> 9.7 km  
Kingle Trail from Beagle Club

#### 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. Details will be emailed to members and posted in Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/GHTAwilderness>.

The wilderness club will be offering weekend pop hikes based on weather conditions. Hikers will have the opportunity to meet the entire wilderness hike leader team for off trail adventures. January and February hikes will require snowshoes.

### Thursday, Jan 1 @9:45

Cooper's Lookout <Challenging>

Cara & Jeremy [woodstove481@gmail.com](mailto:woodstove481@gmail.com)

### Saturday, Jan 17 @9:30

QEII Pond Circle via Devils Lake <Challenging>

Carolyn & Rob [chumpboat@gmail.com](mailto:chumpboat@gmail.com)

### Hike Haliburton Feb 7/8

Check website to register and for details

<challenging> Jeremy, John

[winter.hikehaliburton.com](http://winter.hikehaliburton.com)

**Saturday or Sunday Feb 14/15th @9:00** (family day wknd)

QEII via south <Challenging> Carolyn w Paul/Jeremy  
[chumpboat@gmail.com](mailto:chumpboat@gmail.com)

### Saturday or Sunday Feb 28/March 1 @9:00

QEII via west <Challenging>

[Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com](mailto:Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com)

### Saturday or Sunday March 14/15 @9:00

QEII via north <Challenging>

[Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com](mailto:Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com)

### Friday April 3rd (Easter wknd) @9:00

Carden Plain | North Bear Alvar <Moderate> Paul &

Meaghan [paul.flude@gmail.com](mailto:paul.flude@gmail.com)

### Saturday or Sunday April 18/19 @9:00

QEII via east <Challenging>

[Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com](mailto:Wilderness.GHTA@gmail.com)





## 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) **		32.00	
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](mailto:badgeofficer@gha.ca) and [treasurer@gha.ca](mailto:treasurer@gha.ca) the completed form (and your hike log if required), and e-transfer the appropriate amount to [treasurer@gha.ca](mailto:treasurer@gha.ca).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comment for  
GHTA: \_\_\_\_\_



**SNEAK PEAK**  
*for 2026*

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**

**Portugal Hiking**  
7 Days: Spring

**Hike Saskatchewan**  
10 Days: June 17

**Yukon Hiking**  
12 Days: June 19, July 10

**P.E.I. Hiking**  
7 Days: July 5, August 30

**Newfoundland West Hiking**  
7 Days: August 15

**Newfoundland East Hiking**  
7 Days: August 23

Use code **GANARASKA** and for each tour booked by your club for 2026, we will donate \$25 to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

Yukon Hiking

hico.ca  
Registration: 1-888-716-5523

 **DeLuxeHiking**  
*Ready for Adventure*

**1-888-716-5523**  
**deluxehiking.com**

Official brand of  
DeLuxe Tours  
71 Mount Hope St.  
Lindsay, ON K9V 5N5

**GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT - NOVEMBER, 2025**

<b><u>CLUBS</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>
	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>
<b>BARRIE</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>KAWARTHA</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>MAD RIVER</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>MIDLAND</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>ORILLIA</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>ORO-MEDONTE</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>PINE RIDGE</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>WASAGA BEACH</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>WILDERNESS</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>PAID MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>632</b>
<b>LIFE MEMBERS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>659</b>
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LANDOWNERS</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>759</b>



**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) \$30.00  
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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

experience  
**The East Coast Trail**  
with  
**Brown Rabbit Walkabout**

Hike 250 kms of  
beautiful coastal trails  
on the Avalon  
Peninsula in  
Newfoundland  
with our help.

We provide  
transportation from &  
to St. John's Airport,  
and three meals a day  
with accommodations.

For prices and  
information contact Isa.



Phone: 1-709- 334-2208

Email: brownrabbitcabins@gmail.com

Fax: 1-709- 334-3601

www.brownrabbit.nf.ca

**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](mailto: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: [president@gha.ca](mailto:president@gha.ca)  
[info@ganarasaka-hiking-trail.org](mailto: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  
CANADA PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40031549