



# The Ganaraska News

SPRING / SUMMER 2026 (May 1 to August 31, 2026)

## Under the Stars –

A Hike Haliburton experience

Cara Oleksuik, GHTA Wilderness Club (Feb.7, 2026)

The winter edition of the Hike Haliburton Festival\* was looming and I was undecided whether to organize a night hike. Past experiences of moonlight hikes had proved both well received but stressful. The stress comes from not knowing what Mother Nature will deliver and whether participants will be up to the challenge. (You can imagine it is harder to assess preparedness and monitor situations in the dark.) I decided to go ahead but with a revised plan that featured an easier terrain, a shorter distance and offered a heated building on site with washrooms. What could go wrong? -30C is what could go wrong. That plus the belated realization that a week after a full moon doesn't just mean a less full moon...It means the moon rises much later – in this case it wasn't due until just past midnight. Oof. Our hike was scheduled for 8pm.

With the frigid temperatures I also falsely assumed folks would stay home.

Upon pulling into the parking lot of the Dharma Centre\*\*, where our walk was taking place, I was stunned to see some folks had arrived almost half an hour early. I encouraged them to stay in their cars to stay warm until everyone had arrived.



After a very quick 'hello' we headed out, snow squeaking loudly beneath fifteen pairs of winter boots. Lanterns revealed clouds of puffed breath and voices were muffled behind scarves and coats zipped up to cover chins and noses. It certainly was crisp...and dark.

When we stopped a short distance along to check-in with the group of brave registrants we noticed the hush of the woods, the echoing snap of the trees (like a loud single woodpecker's knock) and...oh my...a sky decorated with crystals of stars. We were in awe. But not for too long...foot stomping and mittens clapping together signaled that it was time to move along – stay warm.

A short walk brought us onto a frozen snow-covered lake. Another few moments of hushed nature, cracks and snaps and stargazing and...lo and behold...shooting stars! At least three were spotted. We found the trail again and retraced our steps to our cars. There were some genuine expressions of gratitude shared for this magical star-lit hike experience as car doors were unlocked, engines fired up, headlights diminishing the darkness and red taillights fading off down the driveway no doubt with heaters blasting. And then it was silent once more.

As leaders we had booked an overnight stay at the Dharma Centre and had a bit of a pajama party until midnight when the moon was scheduled to rise. We all suited ourselves up once more and shuffled outside to gaze at a beautiful night sky. The trees were still snap-cracking. A few minutes was enough, and we were all tired and eager to settle into our cozy beds in heated rooms.

Was it worth the time and effort put forward? Well, it was a once in a lifetime experience...in so much as that night will never come again. It existed and we were there to breathe it in – even if it froze our nose hairs – while making wishes on shooting stars.

This is why I hike. For experiences in nature. And sometimes it means getting uncomfortable to capture the moment.

A special thank-you to Caroline, Carolyn and Jeremy – my co-leaders and crazy-making friends. Thanks to Hike Haliburton and the Dharma Centre of Canada for hosting. The Hike Haliburton Festival has achieved major recognition, winning the Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) Impact Award in early 2026 for its 2025 fall event. It is recognized as one of Ontario's top festivals, it was lauded for expanding programming, including Indigenous-led events. This award-winning event offers free guided hikes.

\*\*The Dharma Centre of Canada: A centre for the study, practice and conduct of all three cycles of the Buddha's teaching - in the spirit of our Founder, Namgyal Rinpoche, located in Kinmount ON.

# MEET YOUR GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION TEAM

## EXECUTIVE

**President:** Frieda Baldwin  
**Secretary:** Steve Pogue  
**Vice President:** *vacant*

**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 ), Joe Davis  
**Orillia – Leslie Raymond**, Carol Strickland  
**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:** Rosalind Daschuk

**Bookkeeper:** Pascal Monat  
**Webmaster:** Billy Cudmore  
**Social Media Coordinator:** John Mumford  
**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://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/GHTAmadriverr](https://www.facebook.com/GHTAmadriverr)  
**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](http://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!*



## **Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.**

### **President's report**

### **Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2026**

Unless you are an avid snowshoer (like me) or a cross-country skier, you are probably excited about the current spring thaw, despite the wet and slippery sections that seem to still be hanging on. So, I wish you all a very enjoyable hiking season!

For many of our clubs, one of the first activities this spring will be to clean up after the winter, especially as we expect more trees and branches will have come down because of last year's ice storm. We have therefore organized a 1-day chainsaw course for May 2 & 3. The course filled up in 24 hours. But hopefully it will help some clubs with their trail maintenance activities. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with these club trail work parties. For work parties, especially those involving chainsaws, a waiver must be signed by participants. This waiver can be found on our website under *Resources*.

Hikers need to remain cautious, especially on windy days. Hike Ontario recommends cancellation of hikes if winds are predicted to be 40 km/hr sustained (regardless of the gusts).

The Hike Registration platform that was trialled by the Midland club over the past 6 months is now being rolled out to other Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association (GHTA) clubs. The form captures participants' names and contact info, their emergency contact info, and compliance with our Waiver of Responsibility/Assumption of Liability. Hike leaders no longer require waivers to be signed by non-members. Storage of waivers will be done automatically on the GHTA storage facility. It is also easier for the hike leaders to contact participants in case of a cancellation or change of time, location, etc.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 18, at beautiful Tiffin Conservation Area (between Barrie and Angus). I hope that by the time you read this, we will have appointed a new Vice President, as **Isaac Strang** has indicated he will step down, but will remain involved with the GHTA. Similarly, **Lana Johnson**, **Fern Splichal** and **Tracy Parsons** decided to step down from their respective roles. We are extremely appreciative of their commitment to the GHTA, and of the time and effort they have contributed over the last few years. **Tracy Parsons** is staying on as the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association representative on the board of Hike Ontario. We also thank **Gary Norton** for joining the Risk Management Committee, **John Mumford** for accepting the role of Social Media Coordinator, and **Rosalind Daschuk** for taking on the role of Newsletter Editor. Also, thanks go to **Billy Cudmore** who has agreed to manage a new big project: the modernization of our website, member registration platform, etc. Billy will be our new WebMaster.


Now that the weather is improving, get out there and hike! Getting outside is good for your inside! (Plagiarized from the Trans Canada Trail website).

Frieda Baldwin  
President

## Open Positions in the GHТА

Isaac Strang has served as our Vice-President and took on the special project of designing and launching our new hiking registration platform.

Isaac has remitted his resignation as Vice-President due to time commitments. The GHТА has begun to advertise and encourage applicable members to consider stepping into this role. Please see the job description below:

	<p><b>Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.</b></p> <p><b>VICE PRESIDENT, GHТА JOB DESCRIPTION</b></p>
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This position is elected by the members, annually at the AGM.

Average time commitment: approximately 2 hours per month.

Qualifications: the ideal candidate will possess:

- a passion for hiking,
- ability to communicate online, and in person
- a commitment to help make the Association thrive.

Duties:

1. Take on the responsibilities of the President when the President is unable to fulfill those activities.
2. Attend meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Executive.
3. Provide input to operational issues being discussed during meetings and ad-hoc between meetings.
4. Take on certain projects, as needed and time permitting.

The other open position within the association is that of Publicity Officer.

	<p><b>Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.</b></p> <p><b>GHТА INC. PUBLICITY OFFICER</b> Job Description</p>
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The duties of the Publicity Officer include:

1. Ensure the Association Facebook Page or other social media have up to date postings and information. Encourage club FB coordinators to post on a regular basis.
2. Research for physical venues to promote the Ganaraska Hiking Association Inc., such as Toronto Outdoor show, health fairs; organize GHТА Inc. presence there.
3. Write and send articles to local newspapers promoting the GHТА.
4. Update and coordinate printing of the membership brochure as needed from time to time.
5. Arrange distribution of the membership brochures to the clubs according to their needs.

## New Faces within GHTA

Lana Johnson has been the newsletter editor since the Fall of 2023. She has made the decision to step down and open this position to a fresh voice. Lana's comments:

"It has been a pleasure to work on the newsletter. It has been interesting to learn about all the clubs. Everyone has been generous with their reports and specialty articles. I won't be putting my feet up and sipping tea! I will continue to support my own club, ( Mad River ), and will participate in local hikes. So many great spots in Simcoe County left to explore! My family and other volunteering keeps me busy.

**Rosalind Daschuk** put her name forward to assume the position of your new Newsletter Editor starting with the Fall 2026 edition.



As the new newsletter editor, Rosalind brings with her a lengthy employment history in desktop publishing and marketing. She retired in 2019 from a position as Marketing Coordinator for a sink ware manufacturer. This entailed updating the website and producing product catalogues and brochures in two languages. Previously, she was the sole graphic designer for a local Midland print shop.

Rosalind is a member of the Midland club of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc. She also enjoys biking and swimming. She is passionate about creating mosaics and hanging mobile suncatchers which she sells locally and online.

**John Mumford** is GHTA's new Social Media Coordinator.



Hi! My name is John Mumford. I'm excited to be helping with the GHTA's social media. I'm a member of the Wilderness Section and was born, raised, and still live in Haliburton County.

As an avid backcountry camper, hiker, and paddler, I love being outdoors and exploring new trails. One of my goals this year is to complete another section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail as I work toward hiking it end-to-end.

Feel free to drop me a note, [social-media@gha.ca](mailto:social-media@gha.ca), with suggestions for social media—or just to say hi! I hope to connect with you on Instagram, Facebook, or even better... out on the trail.

## 2026 Volunteer Award Winners

During the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday April 18, 2026, the Volunteer of the Year awards were announced. The following Ganaraska members were recognized for their exceptional volunteer contributions to the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association and their local clubs:

1. George Boyd of the Kawartha Club
2. Dale Hanna of the Barrie Club
3. Bob Wilson of the Orillia Club

Thank you for doing such a great job.



George Boyd



Dale Hannah



Bob Wilson

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

Spring - the time of year when deciding on the appropriate footwear for a hike can be a bit of a guessing game. There can be very little or no snow in town but still lots in the wooded areas where we hike. Even in the forest there will be bare and covered spots, with the hiking trail usually being the last to clear due to packed snow on it from winter use. While it might be tempting to opt for comfort and convenience, keep safety as your priority. That packed snow on the trail often turns to ice after a thaw and freeze cycle and it is always a good idea to wear icers (aka crampons or spikes) or even snowshoes to prevent slips and ankle twists until the ice and snow is completely gone.

It has been a year since the ice storm devastated so much of our trail, but things are pretty much back to normal (with a couple of spots still to be remedied). All-in-all a remarkable achievement. While we hope to never experience something like this again, it also seemed prudent to think about what we learned in order to be better prepared for a similar future event. To this end, we have created a checklist of things that need to be considered before, during and after a severe weather event. Each situation will be different, so the purpose of this list is to provide a reminder of all the things that might need to be put in place. The specific circumstances of any future event will dictate how much of the list is relevant. The Bruce Trail Conservancy is also documenting a procedure for future severe weather events, and we are sharing ideas with each other. The checklist will be available in the near future.

New trail junction signs are being put in place to provide clarity to hikers who come to the end of one trail section and are about to start the next. Thanks go out to the club members involved with the planning and installation. Thanks to Pat Tuero for designing and procuring the signs.

There have been a couple of map updates since the last newsletter. Tiny and Midland maps have been updated to show a new junction point, a new and larger parking lot near the junction point, and a couple of new side trails from the new parking lot to the main trail. Mad River has been updated to reflect a reroute that was needed due to a private landowner asking us to discontinue our trail on their property (because some trail users were not following our hiker code of conduct rules). Be sure to check you have the latest version of our maps if hiking on these trail sections. Victor Tolgyessy continues to improve our Trail Guide maps. He will have an interesting Trail Guide map option to show us at the next Board meeting.

Our Risk Management Plan has been updated based on feedback received at the last Board meeting and will be on the agenda for our next Board meeting for approval once again.

I started off this update talking about Spring - let me end the update on the same subject. As soon as things dry up enough to start trail maintenance there is typically a flurry of activity this time of year to get as much done as possible before 'bug season' arrives. Pitch in if you can, and if you are hiking and meet some folks doing trail maintenance be sure to say thanks. Their time and energy make our trails available to all of us.

*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).



### **Certified Hike Leader Training**

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.

### **Supporting the Association**

Annual Membership fee is \$ 30.00 per household.

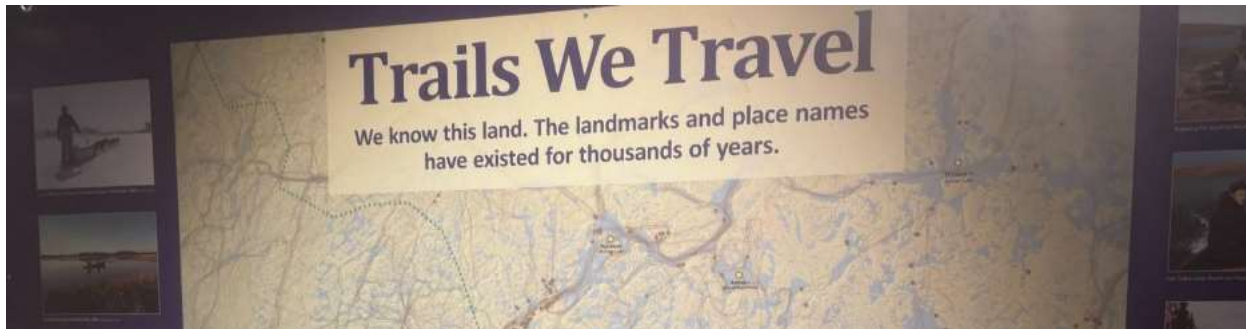
The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is a registered charitable organization (Charitable Registration No 84744 7414 RR0001), and issues tax receipts for donations over \$25.

You can easily add a donation when renewing your membership or use the Donate page on the website to submit a donation at any time. 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.



## Honourably Harvesting Knowledge

Carolyn Humphreys, Wilderness Club | Indigenous Engagement Committee



I recently attended an Indigenous Food Lab. The event was centred around discovering ingredients that are native to Ontario. The organizer suggested that the event was a land acknowledgment; by recognizing and making a connection to the ecosystem we are acknowledging that we are an intimate and inescapable part of the land. Taylor Parker, the chef, connected us to his clan and the treaty lands where the ingredients had been gathered, including stories about the challenges of sourcing *Country Food*\*. We ate family style where the 'Dish With One Spoon' principle became a literal point of guidance. One serving bowl, one serving spoon for each item, 12 dinner plates and a table of strangers. We had a shared responsibility to make sure everyone was fed. Even with the guidance, the results were mixed; it's way easier to take one piece vs estimate what your fair share is from a communal bowl.

Hiking in nature together feels similar to my recent dining experience. I've enjoyed many a hike along an unknown landscape with strangers where conversations about native plants, somehow morphed into a discussion about responsibility (often the impacts of development and climate change). Trying to figure out how each person can make a positive difference is daunting. It's really hard to see the impact of your individual efforts.

The Indigenous Engagement Committee continues to consider reconciliation efforts and measuring our contributions to the hiking community. We are aided by your feedback. It's not a linear path or an easy journey. We see opportunities and struggle with approaches - kind of like getting the right amount of salt.

We are looking for member feedback. First person accounts, historic documentation and/or new research are ways we are trying to connect indigenous lives to our trail.

\*Country Food – Typically game and foraging. Food that comes from the land vs commercially produced. Selling game is illegal which makes an Indigenous commercial menu basically impossible.

Summer Pow Wow Schedule — Most Pow Wows take place from May through October. Below is a selection of notable Pow Wows scheduled for 2026:

<https://northernontario.travel/indigenous/pow-wows-ontario-complete-list>

<https://www.destinationontario.com/en-ca/articles/indigenous-events-and-celebrations#id-pow-wows-and-festivals>

## CLUB REPORTS

**Barrie**

**Submitted by John Rudnickas, President**



Wow! That was a spectacular winter! Again!

After a few so-so winters we thought that last winter was something. Well, this winter was at least its equal with total snowfall in the area approaching 5 metres. No ice storm this time, but that's ok.

The weather provided an extended snow season with some spectacular scenery. It did pose challenges as well. Just getting to a trail was often a challenge. Some of the parking areas we normally use were not plowed and were inaccessible. In at least one case you couldn't even see the lot over the snowbank. Once there, we often found that we had to break trail in very deep snow. Maybe we had too much of a good thing? We often found that some trails were very sparsely or not at all travelled and had to rely on our blazes to keep on track. Lots of snowshoeing this winter!



One spectacular hike this past season was led by Gary Norton through the Torrance Barrens dark sky preserve. This was an evening snowshoe under the light of the moon. Attendees found it to be a "breathtaking" experience in a wild and wonderful winterscape. Unfortunately a second, moonless, adventure had to be cancelled due to the weather.

We had a significant number of organized hike cancellations due to weather alerts, travel conditions, or conditions on the trail this past winter. Some cancellations were last minute decisions based on the latest weather projections. Sometimes I felt that the flip of a coin would have been just as informative as the online weather. What do you do when the forecast appears horrendous but you see a clear sky and the radar does not support the outlook? It's nice if you've outguessed the weather and had a fine day but disappointing if you cancel a hike only to find that the day ended up fine! Oh well, better safe than sorry. That's it, just a short rant.

As for the coming season, our organized hikes will be posted on the GHTA calendar. Due to our ongoing shortage of hike leaders (hint, hint) the schedule will be added to as the season progresses. We will be trying out the newly developed online registration process. A link will be found on the GHTA calendar postings which will take you to the registration page. If the implementation works out well, the registration process should be simplified for both attendees and hike leaders. The existing method will be used for those who prefer it.

Please keep an eye out for the posting of trail maintenance days. Spring, after the snow melts, is the time to assess our trail condition and plan cleanup and remediation efforts. While this may sound like work, I can't think of a better place than on the trail for enjoying a sense of satisfaction for a job well done. We are also planning more bridge work. One more new bridge being constructed and the installation of handrails on existing bridges in the Orrock Creek Tract. These activities are essential for keeping our trails safe and enjoyable. Please volunteer where you can.

A couple of trail notes:

1. The detour in Midhurst, due to a washout and bridge undermining, is still in effect. On leaving the Midhurst Community Centre, one has to follow Finlay Mill Road to the bridge across Willow Creek and then follow the trail along the creek until reaching the blazes of the formal trail. If coming from the west, you have to turn right at the closed bridge and follow the trail along the creek to Finlay Mill Road and then turn left on the road to the Community Centre.
2. No trespassing signs have been posted by a new landowner on a section of our trail adjacent to the Minesing wetlands. We are working on this and hope to have a resolution in the near future.

## **Kawartha**

After a beautiful but short Fall, a long winter descended upon the Kawartha area. From late November to late March the snow came and then came over and over again. During this period 5 hikes were cancelled due to weather. In some cases, trails were near to impassable. In other cases, the temperatures were hovering around -20 C, which made hiking more difficult. Then April hikes changed to mud.

This year we changed how our hikes were coordinated. With over 60 hikes planned per year, the amount of



planning for one Hike Coordinator proved to be too much. As a result, we have formed two Hike Coordinator Groups. One is responsible for the Wednesday hikes which are usually 7-8 km in length, another for our longer 10-12 km that are usually on the weekends. Both groups use our hike catalogue, created over several years, featuring 158 hikes led by club leaders. This has proved to be successful approach while sharing the workload. Club membership has risen to 98. In 2024 it was in the low 70's. Indeed, almost every hike this fall saw new members in attendance.

After a hiatus caused by COVID, we have returned to regular club get togethers, with four occurring this year. The annual welcome back fall get together was well attended. It featured shared summer activities, a yummy potluck dinner and interesting travelogs of South Africa and PEI. A Christmas evening hike was hosted by Fred and Karen. We enjoyed neighborhood lights followed by a holiday dinner. We celebrated (nearly) spring with a mid March pizza lunch get together. The next potluck will be May 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the club annual meeting.

In May trail maintenance is planned for the south end of leg 4 which we did not quite reach last year. We are also planning to revisit leg 5 in the fall as we still have about 2 km that was missed in 2025. Plans to maintain about 4 km of ATV trail are also on the books.

Work is underway to run another "Challenge" over the summer. Details are still being planned.

In the fall we made the decision to no longer publish our hike schedules in the GHTA Newsletter. Members will receive the complete detail of the Wednesday hikes by email. The email will also include a list of the longer hikes that can be accessed on the GHTA Hike Calendar. Hike schedules will to be published month by month on the club Facebook page also. The GHTA is developing a new Hike Calendar, with added features. In the future all our hikes will be published there. Please see our Facebook page for photos of recent hikes. They are a great source of inspiration for future hiking.

In November, our club purchased two first aid kits with a total cost of \$45.18. One is the custody of the shorter hike leaders and the other for the longer hike leaders. We also acquired a projector screen at a cost of \$22.08, which will be very useful when we have travelogues at our evening socials. These items were funded from the \$5.00 per member allowance from the GHTA.

**Mad River** Sharon Striegl, President



Well, winter has come and gone. One must admit, it has been one heck of a winter. Between the white-out conditions and “snow day” cancellations, the club was still able to get out and enjoy snowshoe hikes. Everyone who came out to enjoy what this winter had to offer was not disappointed. We also managed to squeeze in our moonlight hikes this season well into March, which was a bonus.

The club also enjoyed two separate X-country ski days: one at Highlands Nordic in Duntroon and the other at Blueberry Trails in Wasaga Beach. Ganaraska Hiking Trail Club members enjoyed perfect temperatures, lots of snow and many groomed trails to suit all participant ski levels.

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. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped



lead! Our hikes are attended with Tuesdays being our longer hikes and Thursdays being our shorter hikes.

Our members enjoyed a winter outdoor party with a wiener roast hosted by one of our social committee members. It was a perfect afternoon with warm sun. We are fortunate to have a great group of fun-loving outdoors people!

In March we held our Annual Meeting in the Avening Hall. Our members stepped forward to help with all the details of running our club. Good discussions were held. It was an ideal time to share both club news and the updates from the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

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



Trail maintenance dates will be coordinated by our new Trail Manager, Pierre. This year we will be placing trail markers which have the Ganaraska Hiking Trail logo on them throughout our trail system. These trail markers will be placed on the newly opened rail trail from Angus to New Lowell. We are also working closely with the EBC (Escarment Biosphere Conservancy) regarding their property in Glencairn with the clearing of Wild Parsnip and cooperative trail maintenance. EBC provides funds for bridges or crossovers of muddy areas. Mad River and Bruce Trail volunteers provide the workers to erect them!

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

## Midland

Co-Presidents: Christina Adamson and Joanne Sanders

The Midland Ganaraska Hiking Club has been busy filling positions in the Club. Karen Chaplin retired from her position of e-mailing hike dates and times to the membership. Elise Robitaille has stepped into that role and is doing a fabulous job. Larry Piitz also retired after serving as our Trail Director. Thank you Larry! Joe Davis has stepped into this role. We are very happy he has decided to take this position and know he will do a great job. We would also like to thank Tracy Parsons for her work as the social media coordinator and for staying on as the GHTA representative to the Hike Ontario board. Rosalind Daschuk has agreed to take over from Lana as the Newsletter Editor for the GHTA. Monica Key has also volunteered to do some publicity for the club. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up.



Members participated in the Coldest Night of the Year raising \$3,485, for the Guest House in Midland. A good time was had by all. Chili was served at the end of the walk.

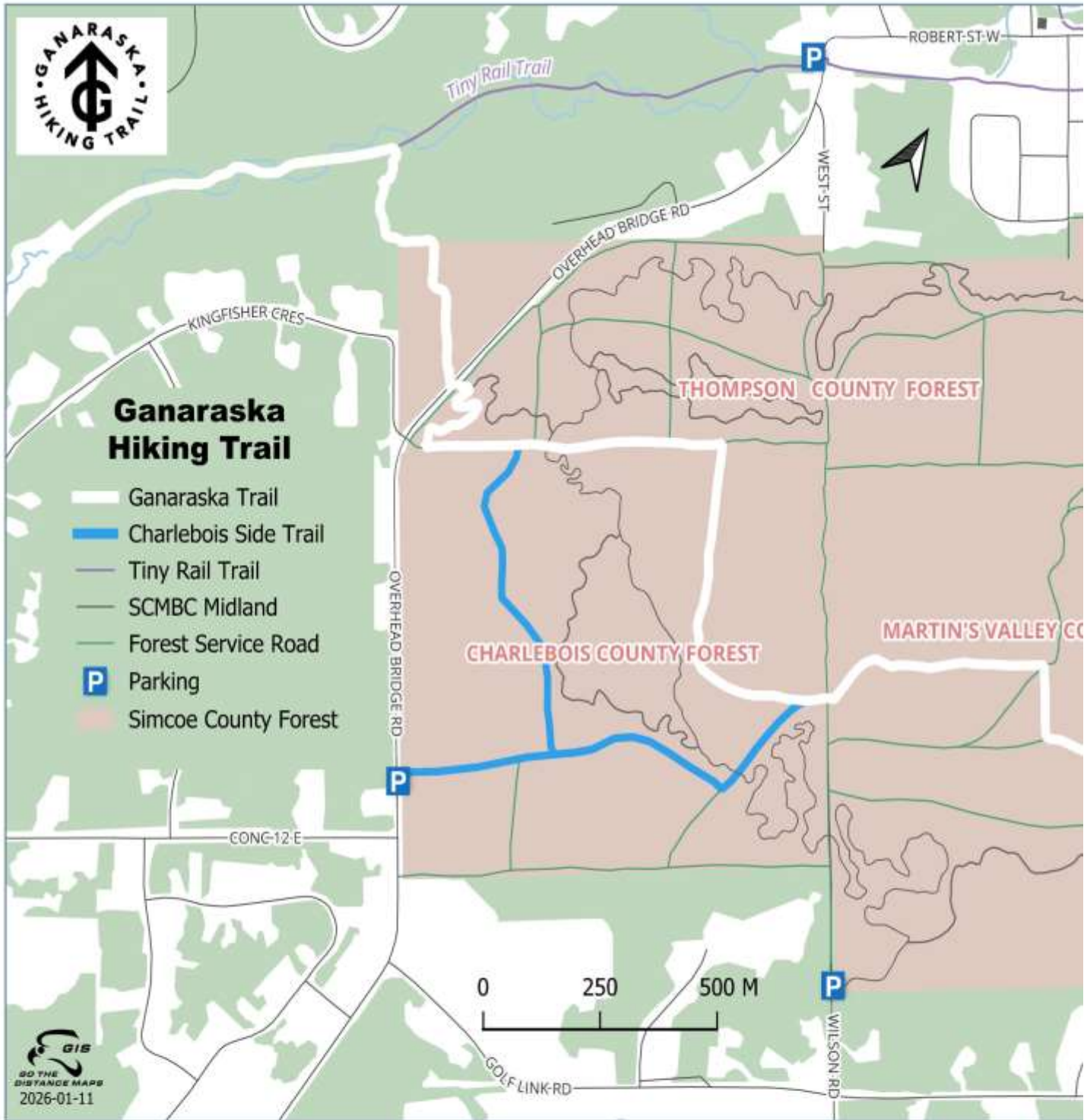
We had several members get their 'Over 80 and still hiking' crests at the Christmas party held in Balm Beach. To date the Midland club has given out 10 of these 'Over 80' crests.

A great many members took part last year in the Terry Fox Run raising approx. \$1000 for cancer research. It was a great day for a walk. Refreshments and Pizza were offered at the end of the hike. A great time was had by all.

Another successful Killbear Camp was held with two different groups of hikers. The weather could not have been better. Participants enjoyed snowshoeing, skiing, a fire, good food, celebrations, and games complete with prizes.

The Midland club held its Annual Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Domino's Pizza graciously donated 7 pizzas for attendees.

Construction and mapping have been completed from the main trail to the Charlebois parking lot. These side trails, in combination with the main trail, form a 1-hour hike. See the map below.



## Orillia

Submitted By **Leslie Raymond, President**

If you like snow and snowshoeing this was a stellar winter. Some of our hikes had to be cancelled due to very high winds. We continue to see new branches that have fallen because of the extreme winds. This is a reminder of the risk that high winds pose, and for us to be vigilant.



In the late fall we attended a Seniors fair at the Rotary place, which was very well attended. There was a lot of interest in the club. I am hopeful that the event will generate some new members. Many thanks to Carol Strickland who coordinated our attendance and to those who volunteered to staff our booth. We also attended the Great Canadian Outdoor Show at the end of March and there was a lot of interest in the club. Thanks to John Rudnickas for coordinating the event and to those who attended on behalf of the club. We are hoping to attend more events like this in the future to increase publicity of the club.



Several of us participated in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk to raise funds for the Lighthouse. I am proud to say we raised over \$3700!

The Orillia club has made huge strides in the cleanup of our trail since the last report. There are some sections that have had to be rerouted to the road due to a change in land ownership.

One section on private property still needs to be cleaned up, and we are hoping to start that this spring. Keep an eye on the hike calendar for possible trail maintenance days.

We have had several new members join and I am forever trying to recruit new hike leaders!

Many thanks to Pat Tuero who is our Hike Coordinator. Thanks are extended to Bob Wilson who is our Trail Maintenance Coordinator. Congratulations to Bob for his 2025 Volunteer award winner. Bob

shares this recognition with 2 other GHTA members. Great work done throughout the year.

We will continue to offer our regular schedule of hikes this season. Mondays are local 1 hour hikes. Tuesdays are 2 hours and Thursday and Saturday are 3-4 hours. All the information about hikes will be posted in the GHTA hike calendar on the website.

Hope to see you on the trails.

## Oro-Medonte

Submitted by **Sue Benjafield, President**

After a hiatus from hiking this winter, we are looking forward to resuming hikes this April.

We have three hikes in April which are listed in the winter newsletter and on the calendar on the website of the GHTA.

We are hosting the following spring events along with our regular hikes. Please see the hike calendar.

- Sunday, May 3 1:30 PM Friday Harbour Contact
- Sunday, May 10 Little Lake Barrie 1:30 pm
- Sunday, May 24; Copeland Forest P4 1:30 pm;
- Sunday, May 31; Old Second South 1:30 pm;
- Sunday, June 7; Baldwick 1:30 pm;
- Sunday, June 14; Midhurst 1:30 pm;

We are excited to be hiking again and hope you will join us!

## Pine Ridge

Cynthia Warn, President

**“All those hours exploring the great outdoors made me more resilient and confident.” David Suzuki**



Ah, Spring! Each day we are challenged to discern whether it is spring or winter or some tempestuous offspring of the two seasons. This year, our hike leaders had to re-route their hikes or change to a completely different hike more often than I can remember in previous years. Hikes with unmaintained roads sections had to be altered due to the depth of the snow, or mud, or ice. Quite often they were rerouted due to all three conditions on the same trail, at the same time. What does one wear in this season of weather roulette? Hiking boots still slightly damp from yesterday's rain? Icers? Bringing those almost guaranteed dry roads! Snow shoes? Snow boots? And that's just footwear. This winter marks the first

time I ever abandoned a hike because I wasn't dressed warmly enough, yet the day before I was peeling off layers and applying sunscreen. I think many of us feel like the daffodil, pictured.

However, as hope springs eternal, the Pine Ridge Hiking Club schedule, from now through August 30, is up on our website: [pineridgehikingclub.ca](http://pineridgehikingclub.ca). Though I hope fewer weather-related changes will crop up going forward, please remember to check the schedule for before heading out. Our hike leaders all pre-hike their chosen routes – usually within a few days of the scheduled day – and advise our Web Master if updates are necessary. As well, our Communication Director usually receives an email from the hike leaders advising if there are any changes or challenges. The Communication Director then sends emails out to our membership ahead of the hike.

This summer we are trying out a small change. We will have a short evening hike, between 4 and 6km, every Wednesday (formerly bi-weekly) to see if there is an appetite for more frequent jaunts that end with the enjoyment of refreshing beverages. We will be marching in the Cobourg Canada Day Parade.

We held our annual Hike Talks on March 31 at the Port Hope Legion. This much anticipated event features three or four of our members presenting photos and giving a talk on a recently completed hiking trip. All the presentations are interesting and inspiring – places that one may not have been considered often become part of a ‘must do’ list. This year we had Scott Harris and Melissa Holmes present on their month-long hiking trip to New Zealand; Lee Wakelin and David Didur each covered a separate trail in eastern Newfoundland; and John Oyston spoke about his *refugio to refugio* hike on the Alta Via 1 in the Dolomites (northern Italy).

We also had our third annual “Where in Northumberland...” contest. Twelve photos of Northumberland County are posted and beneath each photo is an ‘a’, ‘b’, or ‘c’ choice for the location of the photo. It was very difficult this year as the winning score was 8 out of 12!

All social gatherings of the Pine Ridge club involve potlucks, and this evening was no exception. We don’t have a sign-up sheet and there are no requests or rules on what to bring. Magically, a balance between main courses, salads and desserts is always achieved. This year, when the first 10 people that came through the door bearing desserts, we thought our luck had run out. Turns out the savoury dishes were just running a little late! It was the same generous and delightful spread that we are so grateful to enjoy on every occasion.



Below is a note from the last newsletter, but as the situation is ongoing (likely for years) I include the information here for anyone planning on hiking our end of the Ganaraska Hiking 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).”*

Happy trails!

## Wasaga Beach

Submitted By Lorraine van Vlymen, President



Winter 2025/2026 was quite the challenge for our club, snow, snow everywhere. A lot of our club members are not around in the winter or find the deep snow or icy conditions too difficult. For those of us who ventured out, it really was a winter wonderland. We had the absolute best snowshoeing conditions. Almost too good as judged by the many times we struggled along the snowed in trails. The snow got seriously deep in the Provincial Park.

We stuck close to home on the Wasaga Beach Provincial Park trails or others nearby as the driving conditions were a challenge. We didn't even make it

out to the beach because of deep snow and high winds, and the huge snowbanks created barriers for most of us. When inclement weather hit like snow squalls, freezing rain and high winds, some hikers worked out at the indoor track at the arena just to stay fit. Despite everything, some of us made it out most weeks all winter long. That is a testament to the keenness of our club's members to be out in the great outdoors.



Our club 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. The largest number of hikers appear in the spring and fall when they are not challenged by winter cold or summer heat and bugs. Many in our age group regularly disappear on vacation so our numbers fluctuate all year long.

Thanks to all the regular hikers who consistently support our club's efforts to provide healthy hiking activities in the great outdoors. There is really nothing that can replace it. A few of our members have even been hiking for 25+ years with the club. Some of our club leaders have also been leading hikes for many years and have invaluable information on the trails and seasonal challenges. We are welcoming some new leaders to our team. They are getting to know the trails and gain the satisfaction of leading a hike.

Our club sends out a weekly email detailing upcoming hikes and locations. Information on protective clothing and gear is included along with other safety tips. This year we held a snowshoe clinic for willing members. Club emails have photos of outings and participants which is a big hit with those who are travelling. It keeps them connected to the club.



With spring here and much of the snow finally melted, we can now make it out to the beach. We also begin to think about hikes further afield to areas we don't visit in the winter. Tiny Marsh and the Niagara Escarpment are good examples. We generally plan to visit the trails in special areas and maybe some new ones, that are located within an easy travel distance. We also try to visit birding and key

wildflower spots scattered around the area to see highlights like orchids and trilliums bloom.

Over the spring and summer, we get involved in some community events which include 'Adopt a Road' and the Wasaga Beach Senior Expo. We use these events as an opportunity to advertise the news of our hiking club and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

2026 is still part of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Plans are underway for some hiking events to commemorate this milestone:

- 30 Hike Challenge
- recognition of the official Wasaga trail opening in October 2026
- An end-to-end hike

Enjoy the glories of the season. Stay safe and healthy!

Membership fees are currently \$30 per family. Please see information at bottom of newsletter.

**From your Editor**

Feel free to message me at [newsletter@gha.ca](mailto:newsletter@gha.ca) with any ideas for articles or pictures for future publications.

Thank you

## Wilderness

Submitted by **Rob Halupka – President**



I love this quote for those of us with XX chromosomes:

***"Some women want diamonds. Others just want boots, a backpack, a campfire and some peace and quiet."***

And what a winter it has been - so much snow! At time of writing, winter has not yet relinquished its icy grip. The white flag is up - I surrender! The trails will soon be snow-free; I can hear them calling - can you?

For the coming season, the Wilderness Club is amping up efforts to tackle the further reaches of our trails in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. Reports from various hikers indicate that we have our work cut out for us in continuing to clear debris and in re-blazing trail markers. We will be planning maintenance hikes while seeking support from our friends from Ontario Parks, the good folks from Wilderness Union and of course our own members.



You may recall that the pedestrian bridge over Black Creek at the east of the Wilderness section was washed out (and away downstream) during last year's spring floods. Last fall, Ontario Parks staff hauled the bridge back up to its original location; however, the final step of reinstalling it will be postponed to after July 15th to avoid disturbing the white sucker spawning run.

A reminder that the western end of the Wilderness section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail is closed to vehicular traffic until May 15<sup>th</sup>. That is the date for the final 10 km of Black River Road from Lewisham Lane to Victoria Falls to reopen. The floating bridge over Montgomery Creek will be reinstalled on May 15<sup>th</sup> using a work party comprising of four Ontario Parks staff and three Wilderness volunteers. We are also hoping to round up a work

team of Wilderness volunteers to tackle much-needed maintenance on the NW arm of the Montgomery Creek loop on that same day.

The Wilderness Club's **Annual Meeting** was held online on April 8th. We were delighted by 2 guest speakers:

1) **Glynn Richardson**, Park Steward of Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, brought to our attention a Parks initiative to reroute portions of the trail crossing private land. The intent is to contain all portions of the trail on park property. The four sections identified include a section owned by the Black Lake Property Owners Association, a portion near Cooney Lake and finally two segments on the Ragged Rapids loop. Parks staff will be flagging reroutes and may be asking for assistance from Wilderness volunteers. Timing and details are not yet available. Glynn also discussed the possibility of sharing a map upon which trail locations requiring special attention (downed trees and the like) could be marked.

2) **Isaac Strang** wears two hats - one as outgoing GHTA VP and the other as "Chief Wanderer" of Wilderness Union, a Toronto-based outdoor adventure club founded by Isaac. Isaac got to know and love the Wilderness section of the GHTA as the special place that it is. WU hikers have explored the park on several occasions. WU members have also contributed time and effort on maintenance hikes. Isaac assures us they will continue to help going forward. Wilderness hike leaders and members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new **Hike Registration** form introduced to GHTA by Isaac (who assures me that it is easy to use).

Congratulations to the Wilderness members who have stepped up to take on roles with GHTA:

1. **John Mumford** is replacing Tracy Parsons as the new **Social Media Coordinator**
2. **Billy Cudmore** is replacing Isaac Strang as **WebMaster**

The **Wilderness Club Executive for 2026** is confirmed as follows:

- President - Rob Halupka
- Vice President - Carolyn Humphreys
- Trail Director – Jeremy Graham
- Calendar Liaison - Teri Campbell
- Board Members – Billy, Carolyn, Rob
- QEII Wildlands PP Rep – Rob
- Couchiching Conservancy Rep – Billy Cudmore

## 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 / SUMMER 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. Clubs who will be using the new registration system will have all hikers confirm waivers at the time of signing up on a hike. These waivers will be saved on the GHTA website. Hike leaders will not need to request and store paper copy waivers for any hiker who accessed this new system.

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

### KAWARTHA HIKES

#### General Information

- Wednesday hikes are 1.5 -2 hours/5-7 km and are usually on easy terrain/well defined trails at a moderate pace
- Weekend or Challenge hikes are 3-4 hours/10-12 km (sometimes longer) and are usually on easy or moderate terrain at a moderate pace. Distance and weather conditions can make these hikes challenging
- Please gauge your capabilities based on the full hike description or call the hike leader for advice**
- Google maps co-ordinates for the meeting location are included in each hike description
- Hikers should arrive 10 minutes before hike starts
- Individual hike leaders may require hiker registration
- Hikers must wear appropriate footwear including ice grippers when conditions warrant. Other hiking gear/aids (e.g., pole, sunscreen, bug repellent, rain gear) may be used at the discretion of the hiker
- Occasionally hikes are cancelled or locations change, so check your email, the club Facebook page or contact the hike leader

Longer Hike details can be found in the Calendar on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association (GHTA) website. The calendar can be accessed using the

following link: [https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page\\_id=4586](https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=4586). This link will take you to the 'Hike Schedules' page. Scroll down the page until you find the Google Calendar (ignore the reference to the Midland Club positioned above the calendar) Look for 'Kawartha Club' entries on the calendar and click on the entry to find all the relevant hike details. If you are interested in participating in a scheduled hike, please don't forget to register with the hike leader.

### 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

Local Wednesday hikes will continue as usual. Meet at Food Basics at 1 PM in May, then at **10 AM** for June, July and August. The hike location will be chosen on the day of hike.

General Information for all hikes:

- ✓ Hikers will meet at Food Basic 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 sun, cold, warm or rain. As spring progresses bug repellent and sunscreen is a must.
- ✓ Walking poles are recommended on most hikes.
- ✓ Sign up for all hikes can be done via the Ganaraska Trail website:

[https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page\\_id=4586](https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=4586)

Click on Find a Hike and select link from calendar.

- ✓ 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.

### 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](#). Regular hikes will use the new registration system.

### 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.

For details and information regarding meeting times and locations, please refer to our website at [Hike Schedule | Pine Ridge Hiking Club | Ontario](#)

### 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>.

Alternately, please see:

[https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page\\_id=4586](https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=4586)  
Click on Find a Hike and select link from calendar.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



**GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.  
MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT - April, 2026**

<b><u>CLUBS</u></b>	<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>
	Winter	Fall	Summer
BARRIE	52	76	71
INDEPENDENT	5	8	8
KAWARTHA	72	94	86
MAD RIVER	37	37	37
MIDLAND	94	110	109
ORILLIA	45	76	72
ORO-MEDONTE	24	36	35
PINE RIDGE	90	120	119
WASAGA BEACH	61	77	72
WILDERNESS	52	81	78
<b>PAID MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>687</b>
LIFE MEMBERS	26	26	27
<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>714</b>
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	21	21	21
LAND OWNERS	82	81	81
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>816</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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**The East Coast Trail**  
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@ghta.ca](mailto:Newsletter@ghta.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@ghta.ca](mailto:president@ghta.ca)  
[info@ghta.ca](mailto:info@ghta.ca)

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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