

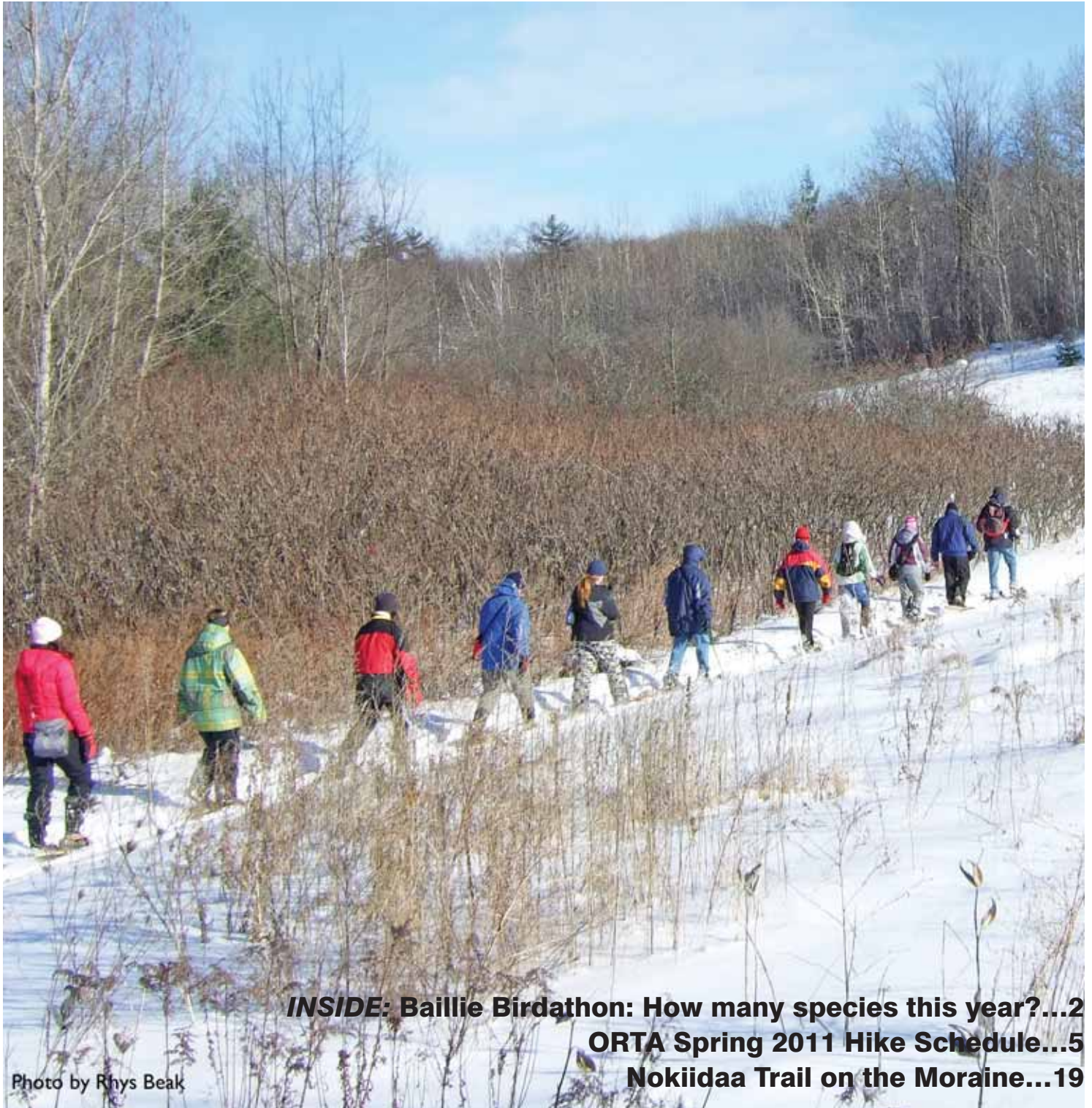
TRAIL TALK



Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

ISSN 1481-5982

Spring 2011



INSIDE: Baillie Birdathon: How many species this year?...2
ORTA Spring 2011 Hike Schedule...5
Nokiidaa Trail on the Moraine...19

Photo by Rhys Beak

NOTICE OF MEETING

OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Thursday April 14, 2011

All members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association, to take place on Thursday April 14, 2011 at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

The business session will include some constitutional changes to be voted on. These changes are in the form of a minor clean-up of language and to achieve consistency. We urge you to visit the ORTA website (click on Documents, then click on ORTA Constitution) to review the changes. You can also request a hardcopy from our office. There will be no separate mailing, but there will be a few copies of the constitution and the proposed changes available at the meeting.

Our guest speaker will grab your attention with an interesting feature presentation, combining with the regular monthly ORTA "Discovery Night" meeting.

Mix and mingle beforehand, from 6:00pm. A light meal and refreshments will be supplied, along with a beer and wine donation bar. A \$5 contribution will be charged to defray costs.

Why not get into the swing of things with a warmup hike prior to the meeting?

Join us and enjoy this opportunity to catch up on your association's activities and meet fellow members. Mark your calendars for what promises to be an interesting and informative evening.

Location: Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Ballantrae, Ontario

Timings: 4:00pm pre-AGM Hike (see Hike Listings for details)

6:00 Food & Social

7:00 Business Session

Presentation: "Bears in Algonquin Park"

Rick Stronks, Ministry of Natural Resources



11th Baillie BIRDATHON – ORTA Fundraiser

By Diana Piche

Some of you may think that birding is an easy and not so dangerous outdoor activity. That changed for me in May 2010 on what I now refer to as a day of 'extreme' birding, during my 10th Baillie Birdathon. On that day as I neared the end of the 24-hour birding marathon with only 10 minutes to go and hoping to spot an Indigo Bunting I broke my ankle. I had been hoping to break records of birds heard or spotted and funds raised not bones! But alas I had to settle for the bone breaking... you see Indigo Buntings are typically spotted perched on the tops of conifers and so as I was hiking back to the car I was focused on scanning the tree tops and not watching the trail - I was after all very familiar with this section of trail. Unfortunately there was a large rut in the



trail which I did not see as I was scanning the treetops, and when I stepped on its edge my ankle went out and snapped beneath me. I learned the very hard way to always watch where you are going.

But I am not deterred and once again I am looking forward to May when I will take to the Oak Ridges Trail to participate in the Baillie Birdathon in support of ORTA. I will be more careful in 2011 and hopefully only records and no bones will be broken. I hope you will consider pledging your support to me for 2011. To pledge support, either as a flat amount or a rate per species, please contact me at diana.piche@sympatico.ca or 647-237-4837. In return for your pledge, you will receive:

1. \$10 or more, a tax receipt from BSC; and
2. \$35 or more, 4 issues of "BirdWatch Canada" outlining Bird Studies Canada's (BSC) work, research and volunteer

projects. At this level you are considered a member of BSC and can therefore participate in any of their monitoring programs, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey and more without having to pay the program fee.

For more information on Bird Studies Canada please go to their website at www.bsc-eoc.org.

If you are interested in learning more about the birds, flowers and herpetofauna of the ORT consider joining me on a slow-moderate paced Baillie pledge hike this spring. The following is my list of Baillie pledge hikes. Please call me at 647-237-4837 at least two days in advance to register and for the exact meeting location and any time adjustments. As with all ORTA hikes sturdy foot wear, water and a snack are necessities.

- Sat. 16 April 6:00pm Porritt Tract (Map 4) herp surveying (spring peepers)
- Sun. 1 May 3:30pm Millar Side Trail (Map 2) Spring Wildflowers
- Sun. 15 May 4:00pm Happy Valley (Map 2) the birds of Happy Valley & Herps
- Sat. 4 June 3:30pm Secord Wildlife Area (Map 5) nature study

ORTA NEEDS YOUR TALENT AND ENERGY

By Peter Schaefer, President

Two of our long-standing Directors, Jill Doble, who served with great dedication as the Association's Secretary over recent years, and Diana Smyth, who provided excellent leadership with much enthusiasm as our Publicity Director, will be retiring at the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 14, 2011. I do appreciate their respective personal reasons for this decision. On behalf of their fellow members on the Board and all ORTA members, I wish to express sincere thanks to Jill and Diana for their valuable contributions to our Association. I am looking forward to their continuing support in other activities within our organization.

These two positions will need to be filled at the AGM. The Nominating Committee would like to talk with anyone who is ready to help lead our Association and become a Director and member of the Board.

The Secretary maintains and secures an up-to-date archive of the important documents of the Association, including articles of incorporation, by-laws, minutes of Board, Executive Committee and Membership meetings, and takes the minutes of these meetings. The Secretary is also a member of the Executive Committee.

The Publicity Director promotes the Association, the Trail and the Moraine to the public by providing publications and press releases to the media regarding the Association as a whole. The Publicity Director will also liaise with the publicity representatives of the Regions as they are working with local organizations and media to promote ORTA within their communities.

This appeal for members to quickly step up to replace our Secretary and Publicity Director reflects a fundamental problem of most volunteer organizations and so obviously presents the greatest challenge to ORTA in being a total volunteer organization: the need to build a sufficiently large network of volunteers with interests in local or Association wide activities, one that can fill the many positions required to govern and lead the organization and provide for a smooth succession in the future.



Oak Ridges Trail Association

We rely totally on our members to be willing to help plan, organize and administer the many activities and duties of an organization that has nearly 700 members, looks after approximately 350 km of main and side trails across the whole of the Oak Ridges Moraine and does so in cooperation with 20 municipal bodies, 6 conservation authorities and over 40 landowners. Our work is vital to increasing public awareness of the great need to preserve the Moraine. We do so by participating in many outreach events, annually organizing and holding our amazing Adventure Relay, leading over 250 group hikes each year and by continuing to improve and publicize our Trail. There is so much more work to be done to provide good value for our membership and to fulfill our mandate "to plan, promote, create and maintain public recreational trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine for the recreational and educational use, benefit and enjoyment of the general public".

How can you get involved and become a volunteer? One way would be to think about what you are interested in at the time of your membership renewal and to indicate such on the renewal notice. Since the time of signing your original membership form it may have become clearer as to what you would really like to do to help. You can also discuss your interest with either your Chapter Chair or with any active volunteer (just go to the website's Contact Us page). If you are interested in serving on the Board, perhaps as Secretary or Publicity Director, or any other position, please contact Stan Butcher as Chair of this year's Nominating Committee at past-pres@oakridgestrail.org.

Family Fun and Learning on the Trail!

Here's a resource from Environment Canada that is sure to give your next outing in the great outdoors a fun twist. Gather information as you go and learn about Canada's Biodiversity by gathering information on your hike. The end result

can be a great keepsake or, it can become a nice "natural" journal of several hikes. And it's free to download! There is a BioKit for out in nature or in the city. Through a series of interactive outdoor activities, you can discover biodiversity and learn how you can take care of it. Take the time to listen, feel, touch and observe your surroundings using the BioKits!



Nominations

By Stan Butcher,
past-pres@oakridgestrail.org

As we prepare for the Annual Members' Meeting on Thursday, April 14th there are several opportunities where ORTA Members have a responsibility to make nominations. To allow us time for processing please respond as soon as possible - before the end of March.

ORTA BOARD. This year we will be implementing the new board structure provided by the revised Constitution. 13 Directors-at-Large will be elected for a one year term of service at the Annual Meeting who will then appoint to the following positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President
- Vice Presidents - two
- Regional Directors – four
- Trail Director
- Membership & Recruitment Director
- Publicity Director

These changes require us to bring some new faces aboard. In the first instance please phone a Member of the Nominating Committee if you wish to know what's involved or have a nomination to make. We can then fill you in on the details and send a Nomination Consent Form.

WANTED!

Nominating
Committee: Wilma Millage
905-853-2407,

Audrey Fullerton 416-782-9593
and Stan Butcher 905-737-3966.

ORTA AWARDS. Awards are made to honour those who have served the Association in a variety of ways. We are particularly keen to learn about those quiet contributors who may not be known to the Directors. For details of the scheme and the names of past recipients, see our website www.oakridgestrail.org and please do let the Awards Committee have your suggestions.

Awards Committee: Wilma Millage
bw2travel@rogers.com

Audrey Fullerton hugmorsj@aol.com
Stan Butcher stangb@rogers.com

END TO END HIKERS: if you have completed an End-to-End – Mono Mills to Warkworth or Castleton - series of hikes along the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail as per the new 5th. Edition of our Guidebook, please submit details so we can inscribe a Certificate acknowledging your achievement. The qualifying hikes may have been completed over the years and need not have been part of a particular program, to which you have added hikes along the new lengths of main trail.

Do you need snowshoes or icers?

During winter it is important that hikers adjust to different situations. From October through to March/April variable weather and trail conditions will be encountered. We have to be adequately prepared at all times, regarding footwear in particular, and clothing in general.

Snowshoes and icers should be considered essential equipment. **Note:** Both these items should be put in your vehicle at the start of winter and left there, ready for whatever conditions are found at the trailhead – they don't do any good at home in the garage or basement! Conditions on the trail can vary considerably from your backyard!

Inexperienced hikers often underestimate the effort involved in sloging through snow on trails, without snowshoes. As a result they may tire rapidly, and sometimes have to turn back. In addition, icers (grippers for the bottom of boots) are necessary for personal safety, particularly during the 'shoulder' ends of winter.

Hike leaders will advise which gear is best at the start of each hike, but come prepared for anything. **Leaders reserve the right to refuse hikers who are not adequately equipped.** Those who have not yet acquired snowshoes or icers are encouraged to get advice from a number of our members who have a great deal of experience with these items. They will often have strong opinions about particular models, and indeed can babble on at quite some length, unless restrained. ☺

Of course, snowshoes or icers are not always needed. In all cases wear suitable boots and socks. Also, in general, bring clothing appropriate to the expected temperature, wind, precipitation and sun/cloud conditions. An extra sweater, touque or mitts might prove invaluable.

groundworks
geopathic stress & EMF removal

Gloria Marsh

fee: \$300 - tax receipted donation to
York Region Environmental Alliance

E: toadhall225@rogers.com
T: 905-773-4028



Trail re-routes to note:



The main trail has been re-routed in the Hall Tract. (Guidebook Map 4)



A new 3.4 km Porritt Tract Side Trail has been created. (Guidebook Map 4)

ORTA Spring 2011 Hike Schedule:

HIKERS SHOULD ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE ADVERTISED HIKE TIME.

Please take note of hikes listed on the ORTA website, occasionally there are additional hikes or corrections added after press time.

Remember that it is your responsibility to dress appropriately! Hat, gloves, gaiters, umbrella, icers, snowshoes may be needed. Wear sturdy hiking boots appropriate to changing precipitation and temperature (see article on page 4); no cotton socks, use a liner sock plus a hiking sock. Dress in layers as conditions can vary widely within a short time or distance. Waterproof boots, jacket and pants recommended. Hiking poles optional. Keep these in the car: plastic bags for muddy boots, spare footwear, spare dry/warm clothes.

Drinks and snacks recommended for all hikes and lunch may be needed for longer ones.

Wed, Mar-2-2011, 9:30AM, Seneca/Mary Lake

ORTA Map 2; 10-15km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:3-4hr. T&B. Distance will depend on trail conditions. Varied terrain. Snowshoes/icers, as appropriate. Meet at parking lot of Campus Community Bible Church; 14430 Bathurst St (W side); just S of Henderson Dr/16th Sideroad.

Contact: Garry Niece @ 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Fri, Mar-4-2011, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 8+km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. Hike or snowshoe. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Joan Taylor @ 905-477-2161.

Sat, Mar-5-2011, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:1+hr. Hike or snowshoe. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor @ 905-477-2161.

Sun, Mar-6-2011, 10:00AM, Township of Scugog just east of Long Sault C.A.

ORTA Map 7 & 8; 11km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:3hr. There and back hike; on unopened road allowances, woods and some country road; bring lunch & drinks; dress for the weather; may need snowshoes and/or icers. From Hwy. 57 go east on Regional Rd.20, just east of Long Sault C.A. to Longsault Rd. -turn north (left) on Longsault Rd.to roadside parking (2+km).

Contact: Grace Moores @ 905-263-4340.

Sun, Mar-6-2011, 10:00AM, Seneca Lake (King)

ORTA Map 2; 6km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2hr. Family hike. We'll start at Keele St., go east towards Seneca campus, past Eaton Hall, around Seneca Lake and back, ending with a loop on Millar Sidetrail. Water and snack. Drop-out point available. Families, children, dogs on leash, welcome. Meet at R, about .5 km north of 15th Sideroad.

Contact: Ken Kishibe @ 647-866-7834.

It is the hike leader's decision whether to allow dogs on hikes. Hikers should call first if the listing is not specific.

In case of inclement weather, call leader to confirm the hike.

Hikers should arrive at least 15 minutes before the advertised hike time. Be aware that parking areas are public places; refrain from keeping ANY valuables in your car.

CA = conservation area

T&B = there and back hike

Select hikes most suitable for your ability:

Slow 3km/h

Moderate 4km/h

Fast 5km/h

Very Fast 6km/h

Map references in the following hikes are based on ORTA Guidebook 5th edition.

Mon, Mar-7-2011, 9:30AM, Dainty and Clarke Tracts, Ballantrae

ORTA Map 4; 6km; Pace:Slow; Estimated Hiking Hours:2.5hr. Wooded trails. Boots, icers and/or snow shoes recommended depending on conditions. Bring a hot drink and snacks. Meet in parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd., 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Fatema Amini 905-508-9050.

Wed, Mar-9-2011, 9:30AM, Long Sault

ORTA Map 7; 10-14km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:depending on the amount of snow. Hike or snowshoe. Meet at Long Sault Ca. Take Durham Rd. 57, 11 km south of Hwy 7A at Blackstock or 17 km north of Hwy 401 at Bowmanville to Durham Rd. 20, then east 2.5 km to Woody Rd. then north to parking. Parking is 4 dollars.

Contact: Joan Taylor @ 905-477-2161.

Fri, Mar-11-2011, 9:30AM, Glen Major Brock Track Uxbridge

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. Loop hike or snowshoe some hills. Meet at parking area on E side of Uxbridge Conc. 6 0.6 km N of Uxbridge Town Line of 5.5 km. S of Durham 21.

Contact: Russ Burton @ 905-830-2862.

Sat, Mar-12-2011, 7:00AM, Al Shaw

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:1.25hr. Loop hike or snowshoe some hills. Meet at entrance on w side of 6th Conc. 1.5km South of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton @ 905-830-2862.

Sun, Mar-13-2011, 9:30AM, York Region Forest

ORTA Map 4; 7+km; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. Boots, icers or snowshoes depending on weather are recommended. Bring warm water and snacks. Meet at the roadside parking on the west side of McCowan Road, about 2km north of Vandorf Sideroad.

Contact: Mina Kazemnia @ 905-770-9954. mkazemnia@hotmail.com

Mon, Mar-14-2011, 9:30AM, Uxbridge Countryside Preserve Trail

Proud to Support our Local Trail Network

Williamson Uxbridge Canada

www.williamsonuxbridge.com

Continued from page 5

ORTA Map 5; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2-2.5hr. Snowshoes? Boots? Iciers? Rolling meadowland and woodlands located at the southern boundary of Uxbridge. Bring water and snack. Lunch after in Uxbridge. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Meet at parking area behind Wal-Mart/Rona shopping complex, near hwy 47 and the 6th C.

Contact: Brian or Wilma @ 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Wed, Mar-16-2011, 9:30AM, Walker Woods Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 14km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:4hr. Loop hike or snowshoe some hills. Meet at trail parking lot west side of 7th Conc. 2.1 km S of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton @ 905-830-2862.

Thursday March 17: Discovery Night Kevin Callan, The Happy Camper

Thinking of your next outdoor adventure? Get your idea book out and take note! Join us for an informative and entertaining evening with Kevin Callan, "The Happy Camper". Kevin is the author of numerous books on canoeing and camping, and a frequent, popular speaker at outdoor and canoeing events. 7-9 p.m. Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville (just east of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd, on the north side). \$5 contribution at the door gets you a ticket for some great prizes! Please lug a mug!

Questions? Contact Garry Niece gcniece@yahoo.ca or Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca

Fri, Mar-18-2011, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

10+km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. Hike or snowshoe. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48 ½ km north of Vivian Sdrd, or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr.

Contact: Joan Taylor @ 905-477-2161.

Sat, Mar-19-2011, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:1+hr. Hike or snowshoe. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor @ 905-477-2161.

Sat, Mar-19-2011, 9:30AM, Jefferson Forest

ORTA Map 3; 8 km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:3hr. Preview the new ORTA main trail which will be established through 400 magnificent acres of TRCA Jefferson Forest property. Steep hills, make sure you have good footwear for the day of the hike. Join me at Famous Sam's after hike for a nosh. Meet at Sunset Beach parking lot. Bayview Ave. East side at Bethesda Sdrd. Approx 2 km north of Stouffville Rd.

Contact: Rhys Beak @ 905-237-1826, cellphone on day of hike only 289-221-7154. In case of bad weather, call day of hike for cancellation.

Sat, Mar-19-2011, 7:30PM, Uxbridge

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2.5hr. Full Moon hike. If it is a stormy night, call Chris prior to 6:30pm to confirm.



Photo by Heinz Nitschke

Dogs welcome. Meet at 3789 Con 7 main parking lot.

Contact: Chris Johnston @ 905-852-7524.

Sun, Mar-20-2011, 2:00PM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 7km; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:3hr. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Bring icers or snowshoes. Meet at the parking lot at 7th Concession and Albright Road (northwest corner).

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark @ 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726.

Sun, Mar-20-2011, 2:00PM, Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, Aurora

ORTA Map 3; 4.5km; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:1+hr. We'll follow the loop trail from Sheppard's Bush C.A. to Vandorf Side-road and return. Well mannered dogs welcome, but must be on leash. Bring drinks and a snack. Meet in the north Sheppard's Bush C.A. parking lot at the south end of Industry Street; take Mary St. off Industrial Parkway South or Wellington St.

Contact: Victoria Arshad @ 416-781-7339.

Mon, Mar-21-2011, 9:30AM, Headwaters Park, Richmond Hill

5km; Pace:Slow; Estimated Hiking Hours:2hr.

Loops alongside three tributaries forming the western Headwaters of the Rouge River system. Maybe we'll see some early migrants. Iciers and/or snow shoes recommended depending on conditions. Bring a hot drink and snacks. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option. Meet at parking lot on west side of Redstone Rd. 0.7 km S of Elgin Mills Rd., 0.4 km W of Leslie St.

Contact: Stan Butcher @ 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Mar-23-2011, 9:30AM, Brock/Wilder/Walker/Glen Major

ORTA Map 5; 14+km; Pace:Moderate to Fast; Estimated Hiking Hours:4+hr. "4 Tract" Loop taking in 4 TRCA Conservation areas. Hike or snowshoe. Hilly. Meet at parking area on E side of Uxbridge Conc. 6 0.6 km N of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km. S of Durham 21.

Contact: Bob Comfort @ 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543.

Fri, Mar-25-2011, 9:30AM, Seaton Trail

10+km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. Seaton trail there and back, the route follows historic hunting and fishing routes on the creek, used for centuries by aboriginal people. Dress for the weather with a snack and drink. Hiking boots required. Iciers or snowshoes may be necessary. Meet at the trailhead located on the south side of hwy 7, east of Green River.

Contact: Kevin Lowe @ 416-655-2256 (hike day only).

Fri, Mar-25-2011, 7:00AM, Al Shaw

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Pace:Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:1.25hr. Loop hike or snowshoe some hills. Meet at entrance on w side of 6th Conc. 1.5km South of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton @ 905-830-2862.

Sun, Mar-27-2011, 9:30AM, York Region Forest

ORTA Map 4; 7+km; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr.

Boots, icers or snowshoes depending on weather are recommended. Bring warm water and snacks. Meet at the roadside parking on the west side of McCowan Road, about 2km north of Vandorf sideroad.

Contact: Mahnoosh Aminian @ 647-968-4533. mahnoosh30@yahoo.com

Sun, Mar-27-2011, 2:00PM, YRF Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 6.5km; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2hr. Hiking boots, possibly icers recommended. Bring snacks and water. Meet at the parking lot west of Hwy. 48, 0.7 km north of St.John's Sideroad, or 2.7 km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Vida Grosi @ 416 921-0491.

Mon, Mar-28-2011, 9:30AM, York Region Forest – Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; Pace:Slow to Moderate; Estimated Hiking Hours:2-2.5hr. Boots? Icers? Depends on the weather... Forested and meadow trails. Some moderate hills and sandy areas. Bring water and snack. Join us for lunch afterwards. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Meet in parking lot, W side of Hwy 48, 2.7km N of Ballantrae/Aurora Rd.

Contact: Bob and Diane Hughes at 905-833-5908.

Wed, Mar-30-2011, 9:30AM, Durham Forest

ORTA Map 5; Pace; Estimated Hiking Hours:2+hr. We will go to Scrambles for lunch after the hike. Meet at the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of the 7th Conc. 1 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Joan Taylor@ 905-477-2161.

Fri, Apr-1, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-2, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-2, 9:30AM, Caledon

ORTA Map 0; 16km; Moderate pace; 4+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #1 - The Far West. Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at Duffy's Lane and Finnerty Side road.

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

Sat, Apr-2, 9:30AM, ORT King

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Seneca and Miller Side Trail. Pleasant woodlands and along fields. Bring snacks and water. Please no dogs. Meet at road



Photo by Judy Comfort

Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

Non-profit organization offers five 6-day wilderness base camps in the Canadian Rockies from mid-July



ist 2011. Hikers carry only a day-pack, but must be fit for mountain hiking. Hike fee approx. \$950 p/p, per camp; includes return bus transport from Banff, all meals, tent accommodation, guided day hikes, hot water, camp

staff, evening program.

For more information contact:

e-mail: registrar@skylinehikers.ca

website: www.skylinehikers.ca

Telephone: 1-866-445-3774

Ontario contact: Harry Moerschner: 705-445-0267

side of Keele Street, 2.8 km north of King Road.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Sun, Apr-3, 10:00AM, East and West Walker Loops

ORTA Map 5; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Walker Woods: East Duffins Headwaters. East and West Walker Loops. (Option to continue on the TransCanada Trail for additional 8 km). Bring water, snack and lunch. Hiking boots a must. Children, families, dogs on leash welcome. Meet in P of East Duffins Headwaters on 7th Concession, about 2 km south of Goodwood Road (#21). To CARPOOL from Aurora, please call.

Contact: Ken Kishibe at 647-866-7834. (For those in training, we will continue north on TransCanada Trail for another 8 km, T&B.)

Mon, Apr-4, 9:30AM, Palgrave: Albion Trail to Mill Pond

ORTA Map 1; 6.7km; Slow pace; 2.5hr. Car Shuttle to Albion Trail. Trek ORT and Trans-Canada Trail mostly on lightly trafficked side roads. Open vistas. Fish ladder at the restored site of Palgrave Mill. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option in Schomberg afterwards. Meet at Palgrave Mill Pond parking lot on east side of Hwy 50, 2.5 km south of Hwy 9.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Apr-6, 9:30AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; 16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4.5hr. T&B loops. Some hills. Bring food & drink. Meet at millpond parking lot, east side of hwy 50, just north of village of Palgrave, 3 km south of hwy 9.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Fri, Apr-8, 9:30AM, Durham Forest

ORTA Map 5 & 6; 8 to 10km; Moderate pace; 2.5-3hr. loop hike through reforested areas, hilly in parts. Meet at parking lot on 7th concession south of Durham #21.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256.

Fri, Apr-8, 9:30AM, YRF Eldred King
Continued on page 8

&Hall Side Trails

ORTA Map 4; 11+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2.5hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Meet at parking area 1km. North of Aurora Side rd. on east side of McCowan Rd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Apr-9, 7:00AM, Al Shaw side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Loop hike with some hilly

**Millage Anniversary Hike and ORTA Hikers' Christmas Party**

sections. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Apr-9, 10:00AM, Eldred King trail + All Shaw trail

ORTA Map 4; 12km; Moderate to Fast pace; 3+hr. Eldred King & Hall side trail. Lunch option after the hike. Meet in parking area 0.3 Km south of Cherry street on the West side of HWY 48.

Contact: Sid at 416-822 6750.

Sat, Apr-9, 10:00AM, Toronto, Beaches Area

10km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hr. We will walk through Kew Beach Park and take the boardwalk beside the lake. Toronto Bruce Trail Club joins us in this hike. Meet at the beaches Public Library, Queen St. East and Lee Ave.

Contact: Victoria Arshad at 416-781-7339. Email: ilfo@yahoo.ca

Sun, Apr-10, 10:00AM, Tottenham County Forest

ORTA Map 1; 10km; Moderate pace; 3hr. Loop hike around Tottenham County Forest with several steep hills, but great scenery. Meet at Parking Lot 2nd line, Tottenham, which is one block north of Hwy 9 east of Tottenham Road.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446. Email: david.francis.trails@gmail.com

Sun, Apr-10, 10:00AM, Ganaraska Forest East Area

ORTA Map 9; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Mostly forest road, some hills, there & back; dress for the weather-may still need icers in the forest; bring snacks and drinks. Possible lunch in Bewdley at end of hike. Meet at roadside parking at forest entry at Woodvale School Rd. and 9th Line. From Hwy.115 at Kirby, take Regional Rd.9 (Ganaraska Rd.) east past Garden Hill to Woodville School Rd. Go north (left) to 9th Line roadside parking.

Contact: Grace Moores at 905-263-4340.

Sun, Apr-10, 2:00PM, Clarke/Dainty Tracts, YRF

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hr. Two loops, possibility

to drop out after 3 km, families welcome, gentle topography, beautiful forest. Meet at the parking lot W side of McCowan Rd., about .5km S of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Vida Grosi at 416 921-0491.

Mon, Apr-11, 9:30AM, York Region Forest Hall Tract

ORTA Map 4; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hr. Well mannered dogs welcome. Sheltered, sandy forested trails. Bring a drink and snacks. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at parking lot on east side of McCowan Rd. 1km north of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Brian or Wilma at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Wed, Apr-13, 9:30AM, Eldred King, Scout & Mitchell

ORTA Map 4; 15+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. Hilly. Meet at Eldred King parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 2.7 km north of Aurora Side Rd. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Thu, Apr-14, 4:00PM, ORT in the York Region Forest

ORTA Map 4; Moderate pace; 2hr. Hall Tract. Pre AGM Hike. Meet in parking lot on east side of McCowan Rd., north of Aurora Rd. (west of Ballantrae).

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

DISCOVERY NIGHT**Thursday April 14: ORTA AGM and Guest Speaker, Rick Stronk**

Please note that in April, our AGM and Discovery Night will be on the 2nd Thursday. Come out to celebrate ORTA's 2010-11 year, review ORTA business and greet our guest speaker, Algonquin bear expert Rick Stronk. Look for more AGM info in this Trail Talk issue. 7-9 p.m. Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville (just east of Hwy. 48/ Markham Rd, on the north side). \$5 contribution at the door gets you a ticket for some great prizes! Please lug a mug!

Questions? Contact Garry Niece gcniece@yahoo.ca or Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca.

Fri, Apr-15, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract.

10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5 km north of Vivian Sdrd. or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-16, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-16, 9:30AM, Caledon

ORTA Map 1; 14.5km; Moderate pace; 4+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #2 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at roadside parking at Albion Trail and Hall's Lake Road.

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

Sat, Apr-16, 9:30AM, ORT King

ORTA Map 3; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Millar Side Trail, Mary Lake, Pine Farms Side Trail and Seneca. Bring snacks and water. Please no dogs. Meet at road side of Keele Street, 2.8 km north of King Road, 8 km past 15th Sdrd.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Sun, Apr-17, 2:00PM, YRF Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 5.7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hr. Families and well man

continued on page 10

Continued from page 8

nered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Meet at the parking lot west of Hwy 48, 0.7 km north of St. John's Side road, or 2.7 km north of Aurora Road.

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726.

Mon, Apr-18, 9:30AM, Northumberland County Forest

ORTA Map 11; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4.5hr. T&B loops. Hilly. Bring food & drink. Take Road #9, on south side of Rice Lake; east, past Bewdley and Gores Landing; south on Isaac Rd (before Beagle Club Rd and Road #45), 1.2 km to Bowmanton Rd; west, 0.8 km to address #692, the Great Pine Ridge Club House, on north side.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Mon, Apr-18, 9:30AM, Whitchurch to Aurora

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Slow pace; 3hr. Car Shuttle to Woodbine Avenue. Trek ORT on lightly trafficked side road with a detour to a viewpoint and then joining the Nokiidaa Trail through the Alliance and Vandorf Woodlots. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option in Aurora afterwards. Meet at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area north parking lot off Mary Street, Aurora - see ORTA Town of Aurora Map.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Apr-20, 9:30AM, ORT Clarington East including Bluebird side Trail

ORTA Map 8; 19km; Moderate to Fast pace; 5hr. T&B mainly forested with some road. Lunch on trail. Meet at roadside parking area Darlington-Clark Town line and Darlington Conc. 8.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Fri, Apr-22, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-23, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Mon, Apr-25, 9:30AM, Uxbridge Walker Tract, loop hike

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hr. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Sheltered, winding trails through mature forest. Moderate hills. Bring a drink and snacks. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at trail parking lot, W side of 7th C, 2.1km S of Goodwood Rd. (Dur 21).

Contact: Brian or Wilma at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Mon, Apr-25, 9:30AM, Newmarket to East Gwillimbury

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow pace; 2.5hr. Easter Monday loop Trek on easy trails beside the Holland River to Rogers Reservoir. Abandoned locks for a proposed canal system and the line once followed by the Radial Railway. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Meet at the SE corner of the Old Tannery parking lot, north side of Davis Drive between Mable Davis Conservation Area and the GO Station.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Apr-27, 9:30AM, Walker Woods/Clubine/Norton

Comfortable Hiking Holidays

(416) 445-2628

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

THE DYNAMIC DUO OF HOLIDAYS

August 29 to September 11, 2011

CROATIA

First, come with us to Croatia for a week along the Dalmatian Coast. Hike along pristine pebble beaches, enjoy al fresco dining & swim in the Adriatic.



& SLOVENIJA

Then cross the border into Slovenija with its Julian Alps and medieval castles. Hike behind the thundering Slap Pericnik waterfall, up the challenging but rewarding Mt. Triglav and around glacier-fed Lake Bohinj.



Two completely different weeks combined for one perfect holiday!

CALL (416) 445-2628 FOR DETAILS

ORTA Map 5; 14+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. Hike T&B with side trails to 4th Concession Uxbridge. Some hills. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc. 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd.

Contact: Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543.

Fri, Apr-29, 9:30AM, YRF. Bendor & Graves Tract



8+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2hr. Hike. Meet in parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd., north of Davis Dr. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-30, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Apr-30, 9:30AM, King

ORTA Map 1 & 2; 14km; Moderate pace; 4+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #3 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at roadside parking on 8th Conc., 1 km south of 18th Side road.

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

Sun, May-1, 10:00AM, Palgrave Forest and Wildlife

ORTA Map 1; 8km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Starting at new P on #50, we'll hike the Palgrave Forest, continuing to Finnerty Side road and looping back. (Option to continue on the TransCanada Trail for additional 9 km). Bring water, snack and lunch. Hike boots, sunscreen and mosquito repellent a must. Children, families, dogs on leash welcome. Meet at new P on west side of #50 just before the "Palgrave" sign. To CARPOOL from Aurora, please call.

Contact: Ken Kishibe at 647-866-7834. (For those in training, we'll continue on the TransCanada Trail for 9 more km T&B.)

Mon, May-2, 9:30AM, Nokiidaa Trail and Sheppard's Bush, Aurora

Town of Aurora; 5km; Slow pace; 2hr. Loop hike on Nokiidaa Trail to Sheppard's Bush where we will take a gentle stroll around to identify and photograph the Spring Wildflowers. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option in Aurora afterwards. Meet at the red doorway, SE corner of Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Industrial Parkway North.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, May-4, 9:30AM, Rouge Valley

15+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4.5hr. T&B loops. Varied, scenic, hilly terrain. Bring food & drink. Pub stop nearby, afterwards. Meet at parking lot beside Glen Rouge Campground. Entrance on north side of Kingstons Rd (hwy 2), east of Port Union Rd/hwy 401 junction, west of Altona Rd (Pickering).

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Fri, May-6, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, May-7, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, May-7, 9:30AM, Northumberland County Forest.

ORTA Map 10 & 11; 16km; Moderate pace; 5hr. Discover the newest section, and longest off-road section, of the ORT. Beautiful forest, some very big hills. Car shuttle - pls have fuel. Parking lot on E side County Rd 45, opposite Morris Rd. (Map 11). 13.4km N of Hwy 401 Exit 474 at Cobourg; or 5.1km S of County Rd 9.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. Hike day only 416-930-9761.

Sun, May-8, 9:30AM, Northumberland County Forest.

ORTA Map 11 & 12; 11km; Moderate pace; 3hr. Hike Forest's new Purple Trail loops, then drive to Peter's Woods Provincial Nature Reserve to stroll in awe of majestic trees in a rare old-growth forest. Optional drives to an interesting, picturesque pioneer cemetery and perhaps a winery. Parking lot on E side County Rd 45, at Woodland Rd. (Map 11). 16.9km N of Hwy 401 Exit 474 at Cobourg; or 1.6km S of County Rd 9.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. Hike day only 416-930-9761.

Mon, May-9, 9:30AM, York Region Forest – Eldred King Woodlands and Scout Tract

ORTA Map 4; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hr. Loop hike - Forested and meadow trails. Some moderate hills, ponds and sandy areas. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Bring a drink and snacks. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet in parking lot, W side of Hwy 48, 2.7km N of Ballantrae/Aurora Rd.

Contact: Brian or Wilma at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Tue, May-10, 7:00PM, YRF Porritt Tract

ORTA Map 4; 2km; Slow pace; 1.5hr. Stroll a loop of the new Porritt Side Trail to identify spring wildflowers and learn their stories. Parking lot at 15470 Kennedy Rd (W side, 0.5km N of Aurora Rd.)

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. That evening only 416-930-9761.

Wed, May-11, 9:30AM, Humber Valley Heritage Trail (south section)

16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. Hike T&B, Hilly. Meet at the bridge on Castlederg Sdrd. West of Duffys Lane. Take Reg. Rd. 50 (formerly

Continued from page 10

Hwy 50) 4.5 km. North of King Rd. in Bolton or 10 km. South of Hwy 9, then west 2 km. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Fri, May-13, 9:30AM, Bendor and Graves Forest

8 to 10km; Moderate pace; 2.5-3hr. loop hike through pretty forest, hilly in parts. Meet at parking area at the end of Kennedy Road, north of Davis Drive.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256.

Fri, May-13, 9:30AM, Brock Tract

ORTA Map 5; 12km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2.5hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Meet at parking area on east side of Conc. 6 0. 5.5km South of Durham 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-14, 9:30AM, King

ORTA Map 2; 14km; Moderate pace; 4+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #4 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at roadside parking on Keele Street approx. 1 km north of 15th Side road.

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

Sat, May-14, 7:00AM, Al Shaw side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of 6th. Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 2.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-14, 8:30AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Moderate pace; 3.5hr. We will hike Eaton Hall loop and Mary lake and continue to Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with TBTC. Meet at Roadside parking on Keele Street about 3 km North of King Road.

Contact: Mina Kazemnia at 905-770-9954.

Sun, May-15, 10:00AM, Tottenham Side Trail

ORTA Map 1; 5km; Moderate pace; 2hr. Shuttle hike from Caledon Rail Trail up to Tottenham. After the hike we can eat at the Cedar Kitchen in Tottenham. Meet at Richmond St, Tottenham behind Prudential Office which is on the east side of the Tottenham Rd, just past Foodland.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446. Email: david.francis.trails@gmail.com

Sun, May-15, 2:00PM, Porritt Tract, YRF

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hr. Loop hike, families welcome, beautiful forest, gentle topography. Meet at the parking lot on the W side of Kennedy Rd. about .5 km N of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Vida Grosi at 416 921-0491.

Mon, May-16, Ganaraska Trail, Wilderness Section

16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 6hr. From Victoria Bridge on the Black River we will hike the Ragged Rapids loop on the Ganaraska Trail. Rugged, scenic Canadian Shield terrain. Rigorous hike, must be in shape. Bring food & drink. Car-pooling advised. Must contact me in advance for further details, times and meeting place.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Mon, May-16, 9:30AM, Aurora to King City

ORTA Map 2 & 3; 8km; Slow pace; 3hr. Car shuttle for one way Trek along ORT from Aurora's Confederation Park to Keele Street through Seneca College's King Cam-

pus. Some rugged trail with steep hills. Maybe we'll see more spring flowers. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option in King City afterwards. Meet at the Roadside Parking where the main ORT crosses Keele Street, King City, 0.7 km north of 15th. Side road.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, May-18, 9:30AM, Glen Major Tract

ORTA Map 5; 16km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4.5hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Lunch on trail. Meet at parking area on east side of Conc. 6 0. 5.5km South of Durham 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

DISCOVERY NIGHT

Thursday May 19: Turtle Tally and Frog Watch with the Toronto Zoo

As we walk the trail in spring, we begin to hear voices in the water. Bumps on logs move. Are we going a little soft? No, it's frogs and turtles making their springtime return! Join Erin Nadeau of the Toronto Zoo as she helps us identify the most common frogs and turtles we're likely to see and hear. 7-9 p.m. Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville (just east of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd, on the north side). \$5 contribution at the door gets you a ticket for some great prizes! Please lug a mug!

Questions? Contact Garry Niece gcniece@yahoo.ca or Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca.

Fri, May-20, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Hike. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, ½ km north of Vivian Sdrd. or 1.3 km. south of Davis Dr. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, May-21, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sun, May-22, 10:00AM, Happy Valley forest



Photo by Fatema

ORTA Map 2; 9km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2.5-3hr. King East. Fantastic trail with lovely hills, bring water and snacks. Kids welcome. Lunch/coffee options after the hike. Meet at parking NE corner, on Weston Road/16th Side road.

Contact: Sid at 416-822 6750.

Mon, May-23, 9:30AM, Brock Tract and Wilder Forest



ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hr. Well mannered dogs on leash are encouraged to bring their owners. Scenic vistas and hilly, forested terrain. Bring water and snacks to enjoy this lovely area. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet in parking lot E side of Durham 1/Brock Rd, 5km S of Coppins Corners.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862 and Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543.

Mon, May-23, 9:30AM, Oak Ridges (north Richmond Hill)

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow pace; 2.5hr. Victoria Day. Loop treks along the Oak Ridges Trail between two of the most significant Kettle Lakes on the Moraine which were a day out for Torontonians in the 1920s and 1930s - Bond Lake and Lake Wilcox. Well constructed trail in the Oak Ridges Corridor Park with pleasant trees and a short length on quiet local streets. Meet at the Trail Parking Lot on the south side of Old Colony Road 0.5 km west of Bayview Avenue, 1.6 km east of Yonge Street in the community of Oak Ridges.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, May-25, 9:30AM, Mono Cliffs P.P.

16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. Loop walk along sections of Bruce Trail through diverse hilly landscape with many geological features. Meet at the Mono Community Centre parking area 100m S of Mono Centre. Take Airport Road 12.7 km, north of Hwy 9, then west 6 km on C.R. 8 (Mono Centre Rd) through village of Mono Centre to parking area.

Contact: Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543.

Fri, May-27, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Meet at parking area on west side of 7th. Conc. 2 km South of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-28, 7:00AM, Al Shaw side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of 6th. Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, May-28, 8:30AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Moderate pace; 3.5hr. We will hike Eaton Hall loop and Mary Lake and continue to Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with TBTC. Meet at Roadside parking on Keele Street about 3 km North of King Road.

Contact: Mina Kazemnia at 905-770-9954.

Sat, May-28, 9:30AM, Aurora

ORTA Map 2 & 3; 12.5km; Moderate pace; 4+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #5 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet in parking lot at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area south of Mary Street in Aurora.

Contact: Jill Doble at 705-293-0573.

Sun, May-29, 10:00AM, Bluebird side trail

ORTA Map 8; 9.5km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. There and back; forest and field; hope to see nesting bluebirds; bring snacks and drinks. Possible stop at Tyrone Mill after hike. To meet, take Hwy. 115 to Hwy 35 cut-off; once on Hwy.35 take first exit to the left; bear left past first parking area to a large parking area further on.

Contact: Grace Moores at 905-263-4340.

Sun, May-29, 2:00PM, YRF Hall Tract

ORTA Map 4; 5km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hr. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Meet at the parking area on the east side of McCowan Road, 1 km north of Aurora Road.

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726.

Mon, May-30, 9:30AM, King Township

ORTA Map 2; 7.5km; Slow pace; 2.5hr. Car shuttle for one way Trek along ORT from Keele Street past Mary Lake and over Hwy 400 close to the crest of the Moraine. Some rugged trail with steep hills; section of lightly travelled side road. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option in King City afterwards. Meet at Roadside Parking SE corner of the junction of 7th. Concession and 16th Side road.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Jun-1, 9:30AM, Kendal Crown Lands & Inniskillen C.A.

15km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4.5hr. T&B loops. Some hills. Bring food & drink. We will do a 3km warm-up with a pleasant walk in Inniskillen C.A., then drive to the main event near village of Kendal, east of hwy 35/115. Meet at Enniskillen CA, south end. Take conc. 7 (Winchester Rd, extended), west of Durham Rd 57; north (0.7 km) on Holt Rd, parking by building on right side after turning into CA. (Note: Holt Rd is not drivable from the north end, near village of Inniskillen).

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Fri, Jun-3, 9:30AM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. Hilly. Meet at parking area on the east side of the 6th Conc 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Jun-4, 7:00AM, Al Shaw Side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Join us for breakfast after the

Continued on page 13

hike. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. No dogs please.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Jun-4, 9:30AM, ORT King

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. T&B from 7th Conc. to Pine Farm Side Trail. Bring snacks and water. Please no dogs. Meet at 7th Concession and 16th Side road, 4km north of King Road.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Sat, Jun-4, 9:30AM, Jefferson Forest

ORTA Map 3; 8km; Moderate pace; 3hr. Preview the new ORTA main trail through 400 magnificent acres of TRCA Jefferson Forest property. Steep hills. Please arrive early, we will be using a car shuttle to change locations. Meet at Sunset Beach parking lot. Bayview Ave, West side at Bethesda Sdrd, 2 km north of Stouffville Rd.

Contact: Rhys Beak at 905-237-1826, cell phone on day of hike only 289-221-7154.

Sun, Jun-5, 10:00AM, Mary Lake - Seneca Lake

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Slow to Moderate pace; 4hr. Starting on Keele, around Mary Lake to Jane, to Pine Farm and back across Keele. Around Eaton Hall and Seneca Lake and back. Opportunity to drop out after 6 km. Bring water, snack and lunch. Sunscreen and mosquito repellent a must. Children, families, dogs on leash welcome. Meet on Keele St. about .5 km north of 15th Side road, at bottom of hill.

Contact: Ken Kishibe at 647-866-7834.

Sun, Jun-5, 2:00PM, Eldred King Woodlands, YRF

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hr. Loop hike, families welcome, beautiful forest, gentle topography. Meet at the parking lot on the W side of Hwy. 48, approx. .7 km N of St. John's Side Rd., or 2.7 km N of Aurora Rd.

Contact: Vida Grosi at 416 921-0491.

Mon, Jun-6, 9:30AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hr. Slow/mod social outing along a variety of scenic forested trails. Bring water and snack. Join us for lunch afterwards in Schomberg. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Meet in parking area North of Mill Pond at north end of Palgrave, E side of Peel Rd. 50, 2.7km S of Hwy 9.

Contact: Brian or Wilma at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Wed, Jun-8, 9:30AM, Seaton Hiking Trail

16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. T&B hilly. Meet in the village of Whitevale at the park on the west side of the river south off Whitevale Rd. No dogs.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Fri, Jun-10, 9:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands

ORTA Map 4; 8 to 10km; Moderate pace; 2.-2.5hr. loop hike through pretty area, some hills. Meet at parking lot off Hwy 48 south of Cherry Street.

Contact: Kevin Lowe at 416-655-2256.

Sat, Jun-11, 7:00AM, Al Shaw side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of 6th.



Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-11, 8:30AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Moderate pace; 3.5hr. We will hike Eaton Hall loop and Mary lake and continue to Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with TBTC. Meet at Roadside parking on Keele Street about 3 km North of King Road.

Contact: Mina Kazemnia at 905-770-9954.

Sat, Jun-11, 9:30AM, Uxbridge

ORTA Map 5 & 6; 11km; Moderate pace; 3+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #10 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at roadside parking 0.3km north of Scugog Line 2 on Smith Side Road @ High Point Road.

Contact: Linda Tyndall at 647-702-9444.

Sat, Jun-11, 10:00AM, Palgrave Forest

ORTA Map 1; 5km; Slow pace; 2hr. Loop hike around Palgrave Conservation Area with some hills. Meet at Palgrave Conservation Area parking lot on Hwy 50 just north of Palgrave on west side of Hwy 50. Drive into the Conservation Area.

Contact: David Francis at 905-936-4446. Email: david.francis.trails@gmail.com

Sun, Jun-12, 9:30AM, Ballycroy Tract.

ORTA Map 0; 9.5km; Moderate pace; 3hr. Explore most of the trails in these 120 hectares. Angle parking on E shoulder, opposite #1316 Concession 5, Adjala-Tosorontio, 1.2 km N of Hwy 9.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. Hike day only 416-930-9761.

Sun, Jun-12, 2:00PM, Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 7km; Slow to Moderate pace; 3hr. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Meet at the parking lot at 7th Concession and Albright Road (northwest corner).

Contact: Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757, cell phone on day of hike 416-618-1726.

Mon, Jun-13, 9:30AM, Whitchurch - Stouffville

ORTA Map 4; 7.5km; Slow pace; 2.5hr. Car shuttle for one way Trek along ORT from McCowan Rd. via Robinson Tract to Whitchurch - Stouffville Museum. Two sections of lightly travelled roads through forest. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the parking lot of Whitchurch - Stouffville Museum on west side of Woodbine Avenue, 2.8 km north of Bloomington Road.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Mon, Jun-13, 7:00PM, Oak Ridges Corridor Park.

ORTA Map 3; 10km; Slow to Moderate pace; 1.5hr. Bike a smooth, rolling trail through former farm land, past pretty kettle lakes and wetlands, learn the history. From Bayview to Bathurst and back. Helmets required. No dogs. Cancelled if rain. Take Bayview Ave for 1 km N of Stouffville Rd in Richmond Hill to first street (Old Colony Rd), turn left and go 0.5km to small parking lot on left.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. That evening only 416-930-9761.

Wed, Jun-15, 9:30AM, Walker Woods, Al Shaw

ORTA Map 5; 15km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4hr. T&B mainly forested with some road. Lunch on trail. Meet at parking area on west side of

7th. Conc. 2 km South of Durham Rd 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

DISCOVERY NIGHT

Thursday June 16: Tales from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

As the Oak Ridges Trail makes its way through Vandorf, we come across the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's heritage buildings, reminding us of the early days of the community. In whose footsteps are we walking? Stephanie Foley joins us to share the history of the museum, tales of the Vandorf area and brings us to the 21st century with news of the museum's brand new expansion opening soon. 7-9 p.m. Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville (just east of Hwy. 48/ Markham Rd, on the north side). \$5 contribution at the door gets you a ticket for some great prizes! Please lug a mug!

Questions? Contact Garry Niece gcniece@yahoo.ca or Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca.

Fri, Jun-17, 9:30AM, Unionville Urban Hike

10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2+hr. loop around Toogood & Walden Ponds. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St. Unionville north from Carlton Rd. 0.5 km. turn west on Toogood Pond to parking.

Contact: Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Jun-18, 8:00AM

5th Annual ORTA Moraine Adventure Relay.

From Rice Lake to Seneca College - King Campus.

Mark your calendars! Would you like to compete or volunteer for this exciting event? For more information check out the website

<http://www.oakridgestrail.org/>

Sun, Jun-19, 9:30AM, Eldred King Woodlands.

ORTA Map 4; Slow pace; 3hr. Tree enthusiast and ORTA member Rick Berry shares his knowledge and passion. Parking lot at 16232 Hwy 48, Whitchurch-Stouffville. 2.7 km N of Aurora Rd., 0.7km N of St. Johns Side road.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935.

Sun, Jun-19, 10:00AM, Uxbridge Township Land

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Forest trail and some road and hills; bring lunch and drinks. Meet at roadside parking at Brock Rd. and Albright Rd.

Contact: Grace Moores at 905-263-4340.

Mon, Jun-20, 9:30AM, Uxbridge - Secord-Goodwood Tracts

ORTA Map 5; Slow to Moderate pace; 2-2.5 hrs. T&B and loop hike - Well mannered dogs are welcome. Scenic ponds, meadows and forested trails. Bring water and snack. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at Secord Parking Lot, 2km south of Goodwood Rd (Durham 21) in Goodwood on Concession 3, E on Secord Rd.

Contact: Brian or Wilma at 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512.

Tue, Jun-21, 9:30AM, ORT King

ORTA Map 5; 9km; Moderate pace; 2.5hr. Happy Valley. Hilly, through woodlands and along fields. Bring snacks and water. Hiking boots recommended. Please no dogs. Meet at dead end of 7th Concession, 5.5 km north of King Road, 1.3 km north of 16th Sdrd.

Contact: Peter Schaefer at 905-476-0413 or on day of hike 905-967-3004.

Tue, Jun-21, 6:00PM, Seneca King

ORTA Map 2; 6 to 8km; Moderate pace; 2hr. Summer Solstice Sunset Supper. Potluck picnic 6 p.m. sharp: bring food to share, and own dish-ware. Hike trails 7-9 pm, then watch sunset. No dogs. 13990 Dufferin St.,

King City, 0.5km N of 15th Sdrd ("Bloomington Rd"). Enter first parking lot on right, just past gatehouse.

Contact: Peter Attfield at 905-773-3935. That evening only 416-930-9761.

Wed, Jun-22, 9:30AM, Glen Major / Walker Woods

ORTA Map 5; 16+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 4+hr. Hilly. Meet at parking area on E side of Uxbridge Conc. 6 0.6 km. N of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km. S of Durham 21.

Contact: Bob Comfort at 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543.

Fri, Jun-24, 9:30AM, YRF North Tract

10+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 2hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48 .5 km North of Vivian Side Rd.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-25, 7:00AM, Al Shaw side Trail

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate pace; 1+hr. Loop hike with some hilly sections. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance on the west side of 6th. Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21.

Contact: Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Jun-25, 8:30AM, King City

ORTA Map 2; 12km; Moderate pace; 3.5hr. We will hike Eaton Hall loop and Mary lake and continue to Pine Farm for refreshments. This is a joint hike with TBTC. Meet at Roadside parking on Keele Street about 3 km North of King Road.

Contact: Mina Kazemnia at 905-770-9954.

Sat, Jun-25, 9:30AM, Scugog

ORTA Map 6; 11.5km; Moderate pace; 3+hr. End to End (E2E) hike #11 - Please arrive prior to 9:30 am, as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9:30. Meet at roadside parking @ Russell Road and Byers Rd.

Contact: Linda Tyndall at 647-702-9444.

Mon, Jun-27, Hardy Lake & Torrance Barrens, Gravenhurst

15+km; Moderate to Fast pace; 5+hr. Double the bang for your buck hike! First we'll walk around scenic Hardy Lake, near Gravenhurst, in forested, hilly Canadian Shield terrain. Then drive to nearby Torrance Barrens for some loops on a completely different, distinct topography. Bring food & drink. Car-pooling advised. Must contact me in advance for further details, times and meeting place.

Contact: Garry Niece at 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138.

Mon, Jun-27, 9:30AM, Whitchurch - Stouffville

ORTA Map 4; 7.8km; Slow pace; 3hr. Car shuttle for one way Trek following the main ORT from Hiway 48 through YRF Forest Tracts and then around Clarke Tract Side Trail. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. Meet in the YRF Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Road, 0.5 km south of Aurora Road.

Contact: Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471.

Wed, Jun-29, 9:30AM, Clarington East

ORTA Map 8; 10 and 14.5km; 3-3.5hr. Ganaraska Forest loop hikes thru gentle terrain in hardwood forest. Short hike -10km, Moderate pace, 3-3.5hr. Longer hike - 14.5km, Moderate to Fast pace, 3-3.5hr. Dogs on leash welcome. Strawberry Social at John Windatt's after hike. From Hwy 35/115 go East on Regional Road #9 for 10km, then north 4km on Cold Springs Road to Ganaraska Forest Centre parking lot. \$2 donation to cover permit cost.

Contact: John Windatt at 905-786-2546 or on day of hike 905-718-2098.



Join the Discovery Night Team

Discovery Nights are ORTA's monthly 'off trail' social nights, with a different guest speaker each month.

We're in need of new team members to join forces and focus on maintaining a strong calendar of speakers and executing a smooth event each month. YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE! A core team, sharing duties, spreads out the overall time in putting the evenings together.

This is a great opportunity to:

- * shine as a public speaker
- * grow as an event organizer
- * host and greet ORTA members and visitors
- * develop teamwork skills
- * develop relationships with other ORTA members in a friendly, collaborative group

If you are interested, can begin to transition into the team immediately, and begin planning for September 2011 onward, we will make your transition smooth and happy!

Questions: Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca or Garry Niece trails@oakridgestrail.org



**Oak
Ridges
Trail
Association**

ORTA welcomed 31 new members during our last quarter.

01 Oct 2010 - 31 Dec 2010

Elizabeth Arcon	Rosa Lo-Chu
Sam Borsuk	Elsie Lui
Walter Brunner	Victor Ramautar
Joan Burton	Eerik Randsalu
Susan M. Caswell	Marilyn Rice
Mahjabeen Chowdhury	Clare Ross
Larry Columbo	Jane Schmidt
Gail Doehler	Si Tang
Michele & Michael Donnelly	Jannette Thompson
John Edwards	Germaine Tohme
Ann Enright	Stephanie & Joe Vorstermans
Laurie Ann Forbes	Janet Wood
Rochelle & Seymour Frydrych	Hanning & Xiao Lu Xie
Marilyn Hagan	Kristina Zeromskiene
Suzanne & Bill Kishonti	Bernard Mailach & Elaine Zuck
Mark Lemieux	



**Oak
Ridges
Trail
Association**

CHAMPIONS

October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Thank you to all donors who have made gifts of \$10 or over to support the ORTA:

General Program Fund Land Acquisition Reserve Fund Strategic Development Fund

Doreen Allen	Mark Lemieux
Victoria Arshad	Gino & Eda Mancini
Leila Ram & Rhys Beak	Brad McDonald
Heike Beckemeyer	Keith McKewen
Miriam Ber	Harry Metham
Robert G. Bertram	Ruth T. Mori
Sharon & Jim Bradley	Barbara Muirhead
David Reid Brown	Bill Patterson
Anne-Marie Burrus	Ruth & Andy Patterson
Russell Burton	Simon M. Potter
Noel & Judy Carey	Bill Pressmar
Kim Chen	Diana & Louis Provenzano
James P. Cleghorn	Eerik Randsalu
R. Comfort	Marilyn Rice
Heather Cooper	Bill Roberts
Harry Dahme	Mike Shackelford
Val Dodge	Mrs. B. Shave
Gail Doehler	Mark & Mira Shnier
Norman Donaldson	Bev Siydock-Thom
Stephen & Mary Dunn	John Smale
John Fuchs	Ron Thiel
Audrey Fullerton	Sharon Trbovich
Lillian Green	Richard Tremblay
Ellen & Richard Hoffman	Dennis & Jean Trowse
Bob & Diane Hughes	Eustrate Tseretopoulos
Murray & Margaret Jelley	George & Carol Twine
Judith Jensen	Peggy Wrightson
Prisca Kenel	George & Terry Young
Myrla Kilburn	Dorothy Zajac
Suzanne & Bill Kishonti	

If you would like to make a donation to one of the ORTA Funds in your name or in memory of a special person or event, call 905-833-6600 or visit ORTA's website www.oakridgestrail.org for more information.

Oak Ridges Trail Association

ORTA OFFICE:

Office Manager info@oakridgestrail.org
Michele Donnelly 905-833-6600
Toll-free 1-877-319-0285 Fax: 905-833-8379

ORTA Office Address:

The Gate House,
13990 Dufferin St. N.
King City ON L7B 1B3

ORTA Mailing Address

P.O. Box 28544 Aurora ON L4G 6S6



Snowshoe Hike a Big Success

Story and photos by Rhys Beak

There was a special Snowshoe hike held on Sunday, January 16 to celebrate the first draft Trail Plan for the main ORTA route through the Jefferson Forest tract of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park. The weather for the day was a test; cold, bright and sunny with a steady wind from the west. There was still a maximum turnout of 42 registered hikers ready to brave the steep hills and cold weather for the combined rewards of beautiful views and hot chocolate.

Sunset Beach Park at the east end of Lake Wilcox was the starting point for the hike. Staff members from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority were on hand to answer questions about the new Management Plan for the property as well as to provide snowshoes for all the hikers ready to try on a new winter experience. The turnout was so large that two separate hike groups set off south from Bethesda Sdrd and down into one of the largest dry kettles on the Oak Ridges Moraine; led by local ORTA members from the Richmond Hill Chapter. Descending down into the sunny confines of the dry kettle eliminated the effect of the west wind and concentrated the power of the bright sun. Soon everyone was enjoyably warm from both the sunny conditions and the effort of snowshoeing through the deep and soft snow.

This area of the moraine contains the headwaters for both the Humber and Rouge river systems as well as unique land-



forms with vegetation and wildlife not found elsewhere in southern Ontario. There is evidence of human habitation for the last 12,000 years. This area was also occupied by a golf course and cottage community from the 1920's until the 1980's when the homes and grounds were abandoned and reverted to nature. Hardly a trace of these occupations remain other than the occasional hedge row, now grown into towering trees.

Two hours of snowshoeing uncovered deer, rabbit and coyote tracks; with several species of birdlife accompanying the hike. Climbing back up out of the shelter of the trees and deep bowl revealed the steady west wind still blowing, ready to provide more discomfort on the walk back to Sunset Beach Park. The hot chocolate was a welcome relief after all that effort. As the now weary hikers returned the borrowed snowshoes, all of the participants were invited to a Public Meeting on January 18 hosted by TRCA to review the new Trail routes and Management Plan. Anyone wishing to see this area for themselves can join in the guided ORTA hike on Saturday March 19th as listed in the Hike Schedule.



TICO#50015540

Hiking Cruise Tour
Join our hiking group
in a *Princess* Cruise Tour
at Alaska or Exotic Areas



Enjoy balance of good food,
refreshing hiking and
the beauty of nature

visit www.China-Hiking.com
contact: info@China-Hiking.com

Photo by Bob Hughes

ORTA Spring 2011 Discovery Nights

Enjoy an evening out with ORTA! Share in amazing worldwide journeys, make new connections from home and catch up on 'off trail' socializing. Join us for the Oak Ridges Trail Association's Discovery Night! ORTA members and the public are invited to come along and bring a friend!

Do you or someone you know have a great story to share? You could be an upcoming Discovery Night speaker! Drop a line to publicity@oakridgestrail.org.

COME OUT FOR OUR GREAT WINTER LINEUP:

Thursday March 17: Kevin Callan, The Happy Camper

Thinking of your next outdoor adventure? Get your idea book out and take note! Join us for an informative and entertaining evening with Kevin Callan, "The Happy Camper". Kevin is the author of numerous books on canoeing and camping, and a frequent, popular speaker at outdoor and canoeing events.

Thursday April 14: ORTA AGM and Guest Speaker, Rick Stronk

Please note that in April, our AGM and Discovery Night will be on the 2nd Thursday. Come out to celebrate ORTA's 2010-11 year with an afternoon walk and light refreshments following, then a review of ORTA business and our guest speaker, Algonquin bear expert Rick Stronks. Look for more AGM info in this Trail Talk issue.

Thursday May 19: Turtle Tally and Frog Watch with the Toronto Zoo

As we walk the trail in spring, we begin to hear voices in the water. Bumps on logs move. The rain brings out choruses from the woods and wetlands. Are we going a little soft? No, it's frogs and turtles making their springtime return! Join Erin Nadeau of the Toronto Zoo as she helps us identify the most common frogs and turtles we're likely to see and hear, and tells us how we can help report sightings for the Zoo's database.

Thursday June 16: Tales from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

As the Oak Ridges Trail makes its way through Vandorf, we come across the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's heritage buildings, reminding us of the early days of the community. In whose footsteps are we walking? Stephanie Foley joins us to share the history of the museum, tales of the Vandorf area and brings us to the 21st century with news of the museum's brand new expansion opening soon.

Where and When: 7-9 p.m.

Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Road, Stouffville
(just east of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd, on the north side)

\$5 contribution at the door gets you a ticket for some great prizes!

Questions? Contact Garry Niece gniece@yahoo.ca or Diana Smyth hikingdi@sympatico.ca.



ON YOUR MARK –
GET SET – GO!
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
PADDLE-
CYCLE-
RUN...

Brian & Wilma Millage, Relay Directors

The 5th Annual ORTA Moraine Adventure Relay is starting to take shape, thanks to a dedicated ORTA committee of volunteers. Last year this unique event attracted a record 33 teams of up to 15 members each to paddle, run and cycle across the scenic trails of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This annual challenge is the main fund-raiser for the Oak Ridges Trail Association as teams pay a basic entry fee, and team members canvass friends and family to sponsor their efforts with tax deductible donations of \$10 or more. Joey and Toby Tannenbaum have been generous event sponsors for the last three years. State Farm, through a generous donation, and Golder Associates, through a corporate sponsored relay team, have also been contributors to the success of this fundraising event. Hopefully, there will be additional corporate sponsored teams this year to join in the fun. All funds are used to support the maintenance, signage and structures on the trail which now extends over 300 Km from east to west across the Moraine.

Teams will race 160 km, this year on Saturday, June 18. They will be directed and assisted at the 14 checkpoints along the route by over 100 enthusiastic volunteers - perhaps this year you would like to be a volunteer and receive a relay T-shirt along with the thanks of the more than 500 competitors?

Many of these competitors return year after year to beat a record, to better last year's time, or perhaps for the sheer enjoyment of competing on the spectacular forest and meadow trails. Elite, Recreational and Corporate Teams will experience that rush of adrenaline as they await their turn to meet the 'Challenge of the Moraine'.

Our thanks to the teams, the sponsors and the volunteers - you will again raise awareness for the Moraine, discover new trails and support the efforts of the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

For Registration or details- www.moraine-adventure.com or Michelle Donnelly at the ORTA Gatehouse office- 905-833-6600

adventure
relay JUNE 18
traversing the
Oak Ridges Moraine

Help the Herps

By Diana Piche

What are herps you ask (short for herpeto-faunal) well they include frogs, salamanders, snakes, lizards and turtles. Frogs and salamanders are also known as amphibians. You may be most familiar with frogs in the spring when their choruses resonating from wetlands and forests can be deafening. The remainder of the year most people give amphibians little consideration and as a result they are poorly understood. But did you know that there are greater numbers of amphibians living in forests than any of the land vertebrates such as birds and rodents. Amphibians have an aqueous and land phase and as a result they are important indicators of environmental change.

Ontario Nature is working to further our understanding and knowledge of these vital creatures through the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas project. The project began in 2009 and will wrap up in 2014. Working with partners such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest they have undertaken to map the distribution of Ontario's herps. The collaboration will also include records from other monitoring projects such as Turtle Tally and FrogWatch. As with many large scale monitoring projects the bulk of work will be done by volunteers known as citizen scientists. This is where you come in you could be a citizen scientist just by reporting the observations you gather while you are out hiking, biking or even in your own backyard – reporting any sightings of these creatures is vital to the project's success.

In 2010 it was reported that 41% of the worlds nearly 6,000 known amphibian species are at risk of extinction. Ontario has 27 species and sub-species of frogs & toads (14 species) and salamanders (13 species). Of these 8 are designated as threatened, endangered or extirpated on provincial lists Ontario and 7 are also listed as species-at-risk at the national level.

To help out and get instructions see www.ontarionature.org/atlas all reports are wanted – dead or alive, rare or abundant. Species name, verification (photo or description), location, date, and information on the weather are important details. Information from ON Nature Winter 2010/2011 issue



The red eft is a salamander photographed on the Baillie Birdathon in Happy Valley last May. Photo by Janice van Leeuwen

One Million Dollars!

By Judy Gilchrist

What would you do with \$1,000,000? The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has answered that question as part of their first ever major fundraising campaign, kicked off at the celebration of the Trust's 10th Anniversary in September of 2010.

The \$1 Million Stewardship Campaign, chaired by the Hon. H.N. (Hal) Jackman has three areas for which it is seeking support.

The first is to assist the Trust, over the next three years in securing further protection of moraine lands. As of January 2011, through 37 individual agreements, over 3,300 acres of moraine properties have been protected beyond that which moraine legislation alone offers. Most of these lands remain in private landowner hands, but all provide public benefit by protecting waters, species and open space functions of the moraine. Some ensure that the passage of the Oak Ridges Trail is secured – forever – on those lands where the Trust has worked together with ORTA and the landowner.

While many other conservancies or trusts utilize outright purchase of lands to protect sensitive areas, costs for purchasing so close to the GTA would require enormous amounts of capital and incredible fundraising. Instead, ORMLT frequently uses Conservation Easements to secure protection. It's economical compared to purchase, but the Trust still incurs anywhere from \$20,000 to 50,000 in expenses per agreement. Leaving responsibility for protection of lands in private ownership has the added bonus of encouraging an ever widening circle of support – it's not just a passionate few who are interested in protecting the moraine. Citizens are the backbone of protection and with 90% of the moraine in private ownership, securement activities are vital.

The second use of the funds raised in this campaign will support stewardship of the agreements and properties already secured, and those to come. Each property, after an initial inventory

and preparation of a property management plan, is visited annually to ensure that the conditions of the agreement are being met. These visits inevitably turn into an excellent chance to encourage and facilitate activity by the landowner to undertake further stewardship actions. Support of these on-site monitoring visits will be addressed for three years. Part of the funds raised through this campaign will be leveraged against other grants to help landowners offset costs like tree and shrub purchase, or more expensive streambank and wetland restoration. Securement is effective, but the work isn't done, stewardship takes us further.

Supporting both securement and stewardship activity is easier when the value of the moraine's functions, the need for protection and the variety of tools for doing so are all well understood. An active, targeted outreach and communications plan will address a number of 'multiplier' audiences to build ever increasing popular support for moraine protection. All involved in protecting and using the moraine, no matter how, will benefit from having a larger base of citizens who are equally concerned about what the future holds. To know the moraine is to love it, and when we love it we'll work harder to protect it.

Like a hike across the moraine, a fundraising campaign starts out with small steps. You can join the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) on the path to \$1,000,000 by adding your contribution now. Make a contribution of your own, encourage fellow hikers, friends and family. The Moraine is for Life. What you give, you get back. If each person who gets their drinking water directly from the moraine were to give just \$4 each we'd have our million.

You can make your donation – specific to the \$1 Million Campaign Fund – through the CanadaHelps secure area of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust recently redesigned website: <http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org> or send contributions to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, The Gatehouse, 13990 Dufferin Street North, King City L7B 1B3

Nokiidaa Trail (No-ke-daa) “Walking Together”

*By Cathy Morton, Current President
Betty Pedersen, Recording Secretary
Jürgen Friedrich, Committee Member
Nokiidaa Trail Association*

Nokiidaa (No ke daa) is an Ojibwe term meaning “walking together.”

The Nokiidaa Trail was created as a Millennium Project with the hard work of a very dedicated group of local volunteers. The Trail is a very unique concept. The ultimate goal for the Nokiidaa Trail Committee is to see a continuous trail from the south boundary of the Town of Aurora reaching all the way up to Lake Simcoe. This is indeed a lofty goal, however with your support and the support of all four municipalities of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, and Georgina, this trail will become a reality.

Currently the Nokiidaa Trail passes through three municipalities and provides hikers and cyclists a tremendous opportunity to view and appreciate many natural resource areas, cultural, historic and heritage features as well

as many other links to other trails systems in each municipality as well as a connection at the south end to the Oak Ridges Trail.

The Nokiidaa Trail Association Committee has had strong leadership since its inception:

- Ernie Crossland, Founder, President and Chair from 2000 to 2006
- Harold Sellers, President and Chair from 2006 to 2009
- Cathy Morton, President and Chair from 2009 to present

“Walking Together” events are fundraising events to support local charities, raise awareness of the Nokiidaa Trail, and the benefits of walking for healthy living.

The May 2010 “Walking Together” event raised \$5,000 for the Regional Cancer Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The committee is currently in the planning stages for the next “Walking Together” event anticipated to be held in late September or early October of 2011.

We look forward to “walking together” on the Nokiidaa Trail.



First aid on the trail – First aid in the home...

When will you need the knowledge, skills and confidence to be the one who steps forward in the case of an accident, a heart attack, or other crisis to provide first aid and comfort until the professionals arrive...

On January 23rd, the first of several planned First Aid and CPR courses was held as 21 ORTA hike leaders and trail volunteers received training on situations from abrasions and allergic reactions to broken limbs, heart attacks and CPR. We saw your hike leaders in a totally different way as they were splinted, bandaged and wrapped as never



before in our years of leading hikes on the Oak Ridges Trail.

The class was presented by Chuck Morgan, an experienced EMS worker and certified First Aid Trainer from ACA Emergency Response Training Inc. At the end of the course partici-

pants received their Canadian Red Cross Standard First Aid Certificate which is valid for three years. This education should be useful both on the trail and at home. Thanks to Malcolm Hahn for making all the arrangements for this worthwhile day of training.

There is potential for ORTA to host another first aid class in the fall, provided there is enough interest to fill a class of 20 participants. If you are interested in participating in a future first aid class please send a note to hikes@oakridgestrail.org expressing your interest in attending.

ORTA Around the World!



ORTA adventure at the bottom of the world

Bob and Judy Comfort were hiking in Patagonia Argentina in December 2010. This picture is taken in front of the glacier Perito Moreno, one of the largest non-retreating glaciers in the world.

Look up the
Oak Ridges Trail group!

facebook

The ORTA gratefully acknowledges
the financial support of:

THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO



Trail Talk Editor: Jacqueline Gazley, editor@oakridgestrail.org
Advertising space available
Submission deadline 01 May 2011

Address Changes: mem-db@oakridgestrail.org

Online newsletter: <http://www.oakridgestrail.org/newsletter.htm>
(in colour)

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Oak Ridges Trail Association
PO Box 28544, Aurora, ON L4G 6S6

Publication Mail Agreement #40069570

Return Postage Guaranteed

The Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) does not warrant or make representations or endorsements as to the quality, content, or accuracy of ads placed in Trail Talk. Ads are paid for entirely by the sponsor.