



IN THIS ISSUE

- SHARING OUR NATIONAL PARKS
- HIKE SCHEDULE JANUARY TO MARCH, 2019
- ADVENTURE RELAY:
SAVE THE DATE SAT., JUNE 8, 2019
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE...



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2019

Location: Goodwood Community Center, 268 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0 (at the junction of Goodwood Road 21 and Bloomington Road)

All members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association. We look forward to seeing many supporters, hikers and friends on this occasion. While only current members are eligible to vote, guests are most welcome.

David Phillips, Senior Climatologist for Environment Canada has agreed to be our guest speaker. Always informative and engaging, please mark your calendars for this event. More details will follow.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hike Leader Training 2018

On Sunday October 21st 9 dedicated ORTA members spent the day with me in my capacity as a Hike Ontario Instructor taking part in the Certified Hike Leader Training. Candidates learned about preparation, risk management, leadership styles and insurance, amongst other topics, in a full day of activities. The location was the beautiful Bill Fisch education centre in the Hollidge tract of the York Region Forest. We were also joined by two York Region Forest staff members who were also taking part in the training.



A highlight of the day was the culminating simulated hike on the forest trails where participants were challenged with a range of problems needing solving ranging from lost hikers, to lack of confidence in the leader, to argumentative hikers, and medical emergencies.

All in all it was a full and rewarding day. Congratulations to the following ORTA members who qualified as hike leaders. Watch for their hike listings and support them in their hikes: Vicky Chan, Derek Connelly, Michele Donnelly, Carol Fraser, Doug Ingram, Anna Sunn, Alfred Wong, Paddy Wong, Deb Woods.

This is just one example of a growing partnership with the York Region Forest authority. We also recently collaborated with staff from YRF in presenting 7 sessions directed at seniors in the area and the benefits of both hiking and the out of doors. We have other initiatives in the planning stages to put forward in the months to come.

Kevin Love

President

Oak Ridges Trail Association

**adventure
relay**
traversing the
Oak Ridges Moraine
JUNE 8

**MORaine ADVENTURE
RELAY IS SATURDAY
JUNE 8, 2019**

This annual fundraising event wouldn't happen without the many volunteers at the various checkpoints making this such a fun and rewarding experience. It is because of you and your hard work that our Relay continues to be one of the best activities of its kind in the country! Mark your calendars now and plan to be involved in this unique event that brings all of ORTA members together.

Comfortable Hiking Holidays (416) 445-2628

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

NORTHERN LIGHTS NORWAY

February 13 to 23, 2019

A full itinerary of adventures like cross-country skiing, dog-sledding & snowmobiling plus Mother Nature's lightshow - the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). Home base is Tromso - one of THE best places in the world to see the **Northern Lights!**

Also visit the capital, Oslo, for some cultural exploration, including the Nobel Peace Centre.

Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.

ICELAND

August 17 to 27, 2019

The land of the midnight sun!

Trek on volcanic terrain, marvel at the view atop Iceland's "Grand Canyon", stand at the edge of the most powerful waterfall in all Europe & relax in the soothing thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. From Reykjavik to the northern fishing village of Husavik, explore the most dramatic landscape anywhere.

MACHU PICCHU, PERU

September 13 to 25, 2019

Explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range.

Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – **rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps!**

NO CAMPING – ALL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE IN HOTELS AND LODGES

JAPAN

October 6 to 20, 2019

An intriguing destination offering a mix of traditional customs intertwined with modern realities. Its history and culture are always at the forefront - from a soak in a hot spring to touring ancient Shinto shrines & dining in yukatas. Discover the beautiful hiking trails from Tokyo to Kyoto, including Kamikochi, the slopes of the iconic Mt. Fuji, and Takayama. Accommodations include western-style hotels & traditional Japanese ryokans, and the vibrant fall colours are at their peak in October.

5 spots left, including 1 for gentleman willing to share accommodations

2019 HIKING CALENDAR

Email us with your address to receive our much anticipated 2019 Hiking Calendar.

TICO # 50018498

MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR, BRIDGET BUTT

Thank-you ORTA members for welcoming me as your new Membership Coordinator! My name is Bridget, and I live in King City with my husband, Zachee, our 13-year-old son, Red the dog, and two talkative cats. We are avid hikers, and frequent users of the Oak Ridges trail.

Prior to moving to King City in 2012, we were resident in Burundi, East Africa, where we took long hikes through the green mountains and red-tiled villages of my husband's homeland. A hikers' paradise! Our son, has joined us on many day hikes in Burundi, Kenya, Switzerland, Cape Breton, Colorado, and Ontario. This past July, Zachee and I completed a 400-km section of the French Camino to Santiago, Spain. One of our many discoveries on the Camino was how much we enjoyed sharing our journey with a community of hikers. We returned with a new appreciation for the

trail outside our own back door, the beautiful Oak Ridges trail, and the ORTA members and landowners who have developed and

maintained this trail over the past 27 years. We also returned enthusiastic to connect with the community of hikers around us. We are delighted to have an opportunity to give back to ORTA after years of trail use. We are also excited to connect with you! Zachee has been actively involved in the King City Trail committee in the past, and looks forward to assisting with ORTA trail maintenance. I bring you experience in management and donor relations acquired during 25 years in the non-profit sector.

We look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming ORTA events, and we wish you all a very happy holiday season, and a New Year full of happy trails. May the road rise up to meet you....



NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following individual and family memberships during our last quarter, July – September 2018

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Joe Agg | Doris Kosch |
| Lora Bellino | Ron Matheson |
| Kathryn Bracken | Joe-Saintia Mornix |
| Eric Brown | Nancy Mungall |
| Bridget Butt & Zachée Nzeyimana | Chi Nguyen |
| Raj Choudhary | Marlene O'Neill |
| Tanya Cora | Brian Robinson |
| Diane Delaney, | Wendy Ryckm |
| Leeann Diamantopoulos | Troy Schilger |
| Wei Min (Frank) Dong | Scott Thomson |
| Eloid Drummond | Caitlin Vernon |
| Olesya Grigorovsky | Kwok Wong |
| Leslie Johnstone | |

CHAMPIONS

July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

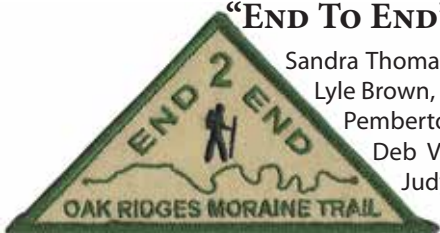
Thank you to all donors who have made donations of \$10.00 or more

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lyle Brown | Karen McMillan |
| Angela Bender | Jeanette McPherson |
| Anne-Marie Burrus | Lois Nordin |
| Noel & Judy Carey | Michael J. Pruss |
| Mack Chiu | Donna Quinn |
| Peter Coates | Tessa Shelvey |
| Stephanie Corvese | Pam Shepherd |
| Audrey Fullerton | Kin Po Siu |
| Robert & Linda Hansen | Keith L. Smith |
| Abdul Hassan | Scott Thomson |
| Jean Heys | Mark Warren |
| Greg Jaski | Joan Watson |
| Susan Liver | |

If you would like to make a donation to ORTA, call 905-833-6600 or visit ORTA's website www.oakridgestrail.org for more information

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO COMPLETED HIKING AN "END TO END" OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine TRAIL IN 2018!!

- Sandra Thomas, Clareleen Ivany, Jeff Budd, Gary Linton, Martin Roy, Melvyn Rosenfeld, Lyle Brown, Ernie Fullante, Imelda Santiago, Kathleen Henry, Margot Sexton, Norm Pemberton, Gail Manning, Rose-Marie Decaire, Deb Woods, Bob Comfort, Deb Vangalen, Sarah Vangalen, Sam Anderson, Leon Vandenhoven, Judy Carter, Donna DeBacker



ORTA WINTER 2019 HIKE SCHEDULE

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, may be needed. Wear sturdy hiking boots appropriate to changing precipitation and temperature; 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.
- Dogs: It is the hike leader's decision whether to allow dogs on hikes. If not specified in the hike listing, call the leader beforehand. Many landowners regulate that dogs shall be on leash. ORTA hikers and leaders will adhere to this policy. In all cases, dogs are expected to be well mannered and under strict control by their owners, out of consideration and safety for fellow hikers, other trail users and the environment.
- Winter Months: Late fall, winter and early spring are characterized by variable and unpredictable weather and trail conditions, in particular ice and snow. Conditions on the trail will often vary significantly from those outside your front door. For hiker and group safety, based on trail conditions, hike leaders may require participants to use icers or snowshoes to participate in the hike. If concerned, contact hike leader beforehand.
- In case of inclement weather, call the hike leader to confirm the hike.
- Be aware that parking areas are public places; refrain from keeping ANY valuables in your car.

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

JANUARY

Wed, Jan. 2, 2019 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 15km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; NOTE: Meet 9:15 for 9:30 start. Loops. Varied, hilly terrain. Bring drink & lunch/snack. For winter conditions, be prepared with icers and snowshoes, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Actual distance & time dependent on trail & weather conditions. Paid parking \$6. Meet at C.A. Parking Lot. Exit 401 at Waverly Rd. Travel North on Regional Rd. #57. Turn right at Regional Rd. #20. Turn left at Woodley Rd. Pay and Display Parking is in effect at a cost of: Max. - \$6/ vehicle/day or \$3/hour. GPS: 44.049939, -78.741937

Garry Niece, 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Jan. 4, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike Walker Woods east and beyond. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Jan. 5, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sun, Jan. 6, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail . Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway. Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Sun, Jan. 6, 2019 10:00 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers or snowshoes Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Sun, Jan. 6, 2019 1:00 PM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike around Jokers Hill. Bring icers, or snowshoes. Burn off the calories post Christmas Hike Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

David Francis, 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

Mon, Jan. 7, 2019 9:30 AM, Vaughan - Woodbridge - Trails (Rutherford Rd)

8km; Slow to moderate; 3hrs.; We will walk the trails in Boyd Park. Bring snack and water. No dogs please. Cell 416-320-8555. e-mail tjshelvey@yahoo.com Meet in the Pierre Berton Library parking lot, 350 m. east from the intersection of Islington Avenue and Rutherford Road. GPS: 43.817958, -79.596205

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Wed, Jan. 9, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; We will do a loop hike to Thorn-ton Bales CA (the 80 steps) and back. some hilly sections. Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

Cornelius Sommer, 905 717 7641

Wed, Jan. 9, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Allbright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; 12-16 km. depending on conditions. Loop hike through Walker Woods and Wilder. Icers or snowshoes, as required. Hilly. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Allbright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206

Bob Comfort, 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Fri, Jan. 11, 2019 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike some hills lunch after hike at Pine Orchard. Meet at the (dead end) on 7th. Conc. 2.8km south of Pottageville from the Lloydtown-Aurora Rd. NOTE, this point can only be accessed by vehicles coming south on 7th. Conc. GPS: 43.967134, -79.616811

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jan. 12, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jan. 12, 2019 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Jefferson Forest - (Bethesda Side Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jefferson Forest. Hilly, forested and unmarked trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Bethesda SR, 600m east from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.951676, -79.420876

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Mon, Jan. 14, 2019 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)

ORTA Map 1; 7km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; From the parking area we'll walk southerly to the Caledon Trailway, thence westerly to Duffy's Lane, north to the main ORM Trail, and thence easterly to the parking lot. Relatively flat terrain, but traction devices (icers) are always advised during the winter months. Dogs welcome. Meet at Palgrave Forest Parking Lot, W side of Hwy 50, 2.2 km S of Hwy 9 or 0.5 km N of Palgrave Village. GPS: 43.955354, -79.843260

Bill Patterson, 905-833-0391, cell phone on day of hike 289-380-0002

Wed, Jan. 16, 2019 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)

14+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; There and back very hilly icers or snowshoes with crampons are mandatory or you will not be allowed to hike Meet in the park on the west side of West Duffins Creek, south side of Whitevale Rd in the village of Whitevale. GPS: 43.8865, -79.1628

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Thu, Jan. 17, 2019 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Len May will take us on an exploration of some of his favourite New Zealand hiking trails. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Jan. 18, 2019 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes a must. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.082138, -79.307819

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Jan. 19, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Jan. 19, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jokers Hill and Thorn-ton Bales. Hilly, forested trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Mon, Jan. 21, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a winter walk along sheltered forest trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. NOTE- ICERS may be necessary. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

LEGEND

HIKE TERRAIN: Easy = mostly flat, good footing. Challenging = some hills and/or poor footing. Strenuous = hills with steep climbs

CA = conservation area
T&B = there and back hike
YRF - York Regional Forest

TRCA - Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
BT - Bruce Trail Conservancy
PP - Provincial Park

Select hikes most suitable for your ability:

Slow	3km/h	Fast	5km/h
Moderate	4km/h	Very Fast	6km/h

Wed, Jan. 23, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; T&B trek covering the Secord Forest and beyond. The actual distance will be dependant on the weather. Dress appropriately for the weather including icers and snow shoes. Bring a snack and drink. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Thu, Jan. 24, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail. Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway. Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Sat, Jan. 26, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jan. 26, 2019 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Jefferson Forest - (Bethesda Side Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jefferson Forest. Hilly, forested and unmarked trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Bethesda SR, 600m east from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.951676, -79.420876

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Sun, Jan. 27, 2019 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Jan. 28, 2019 9:30 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Dogs welcome. Wooded, moderate hills. May need Icers Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

Noel Bain, 905 470 8425, cell on hike day 647 261 6095

Wed, Jan. 30, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of the 7th Conc. 1 km south of Durham Rd 21. GPS: 44.050009, -79.093841

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

FEBRUARY**Fri, Feb. 1, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike or snowshoe in the Brock tract some hills. Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Feb. 2, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Feb. 2, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jokers Hill and Thornton Bales. Hilly, forested trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Sat, Feb. 2, 2019 1:30 PM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest north (Finnerty SR)

ORTA Map 1; Moderate; 2hrs.; Wide, sheltered, slightly hilly trails are what we will be enjoying this afternoon. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Icers may be necessary. Take Hwy 50 south 0.8km from Hwy 9 and turn west onto Finnerty SR. Drive 750m. to the Palgrave Forest parking lot on the south side of the road. GPS: 43.960580, -79.863394

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Sun, Feb. 3, 2019 1:00 PM, Newmarket - Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve (Bathurst St.)

4km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop Hike around this beautiful Nature Reserve. Bring icers Reserve's parking lot, 500 m. west of Bathurst Street, 400 m. north of Green Lane. GPS: 44.071031, -79.511700

David Francis, 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

Mon, Feb. 4, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a walk in this special area of streams, ponds and forest trails with moderate hills. Following the hike. join us for a local lunch. Dogs welcome to bring their owners. Icers may be necessary. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Feb. 6, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)

ORTA Map 3; 14+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; NOTE: Meet 9:15 for 9:30 start. Loops; varied hilly terrain. Exact distance & time dependent on weather & trail conditions. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Bring snacks/lunch/drinks. Meet at Whipper Billy Watson Park parking lot on Clearmeadow Blvd, east off Bathurst St, 0.4 km north of Mulock Dr. GPS: 44.0364833, -79.4960489

Garry Niece, 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Thu, Feb. 7, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail . Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway. Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Fri, Feb. 8, 2019 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; hilly loop hike. you will need icers or snowshoes Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.0604749881, -79.3080759980

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 9, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 9, 2019 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Jefferson Forest - (Bethesda Side Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jefferson Forest. Hilly, forested and unmarked trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Bethesda SR, 600m east from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.951676, -79.420876

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Sun, Feb. 10, 2019 10:00 AM, Markham - Unionville Urban Hike (Toogood Pond)

10km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers. Meet at Toogood parking area. Take Main St Unionville north, from Carlton Rd 0.5km turn west on Toogood Pond to parking. GPS: 43.872670, -79.314465

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Feb. 11, 2019 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Jefferson Forest - (Bethesda Side Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Gently rolling terrain with a mix of woods and open areas. Traction devices (icers) are advised on all winter hikes. Dogs welcome. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Bethesda SR, 600m east from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.951676, -79.420876

Bill Patterson, 905-833-0391, cell phone on day of hike 289-380-0002

Wed, Feb. 13, 2019 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; Blue trail hike of the Gate house and Miller Side trails. The actual distance will be dependent on the weather. Dress appropriately for the weather including icers and snow shoes. Bring a snack and drink. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Fri, Feb. 15, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6 / Allbright Rd.)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; West and East Walker Woods loop hike, hilly. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at parking lot on the east side of Conc 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Allbright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 16, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sun, Feb. 17, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail . Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway. Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Wed, Feb. 20, 2019 9:30 AM, Lindsay - Pontypool Fleetwood Creek (Solanum Way)

10+km; Moderate to fast; 3+hrs.; Loop hike or snowshoe. 10-12km depends on conditions. Drive north on CR32/Porter Rd. from Hwy 115 for 3 km or south on CR32/Porter Rd. from Hwy 7A for 4.3 km. Then west on Solanum Way for 1 km to roadside parking. GPS: 44.13673, -78.58596

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Wed, Feb. 20, 2019 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; A loop hike through this scenic forest with some hilly sections Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

Cornelius Sommer, 905 717 7641

Thu, Feb. 21, 2019 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Diane Charlton will highlight her recent experiences hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Feb. 22, 2019 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike some hills Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113 , -79.360133

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Feb. 23, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sun, Feb. 24, 2019 10:00 AM, Markham - Bob Hunter Memorial Park

10km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers. Meet in parking lot at 7277-14 Ave. Take Reesor Rd (south from hwy #7 or north from Steeles Ave), west on 14 Ave, south at first driveway with house numbers (this is the entrance to the Rouge National Urban Park). GPS: 43.863494, -79.211209

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Sun, Feb. 24, 2019 10:30 AM, Caledon - Rail Trail - (Old Church Road)

8km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Nice, easy walk along the Caledon Railway trail. We'll walk about an hour one way and then turn back the same way. Bring icers. No dogs please. Coffee after in town. e-mail inquires tjshelvey@yahoo.com. Cell on day of hike 416-320-8555. This is a joint hike with the Caledon Bruce Trail club. We'll meet at the Caledon Community Complex, at 6125 Old Church Road in Caledon East. Heading either north or south on Airport Rd into Caledon East, turn East onto Old Church Road at the T-junction traffic lights in the centre of town. Go approx. 0.5km to the Caledon Community Complex. GPS: 43.872852, -79.863903

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Wed, Feb. 27, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; 12-16 km. depending on conditions. Hike or snowshoe T&B with side trails. Hilly. Meet at Secord parking lot, 2 km south of Goodwood Rd, on Conc 3, east on Secord Rd. GPS: 44.017830, -79.182766

Bob Comfort, 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

MARCH

Fri, Mar. 1, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the Durham Forest parking area on the east side of the 7th Conc. 1 km south of Durham Rd 21. GPS: 44.050009, -79.093841

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 2, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 2, 2019 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Jefferson Forest - (Bethesda Side Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jefferson Forest. Hilly, forested and unmarked trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Bethesda SR, 600m east from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.951676, -79.420876

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Sun, Mar. 3, 2019 1:00 PM, Caledon - western ORTA trail head

ORTA Map 0; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop Hike exploring the trails around the Tai Chi centre. Visit two Tai Temples. Some hills. Bring icers. Drive south from Mono Mills (Hwy #9 and Airport Rd) for 3Km. Turn east on to Coolihans SR. and travel 1.1Km. At this point the Bruce Trail crosses Coolihans SR. (there are signs on both sides of the road). Park at the side of the road (Coolihans SR.). Meet in this road side parking. To get to the ORTA trail follow the Bruce trail south for 0.6Km to the ORTA trail head kiosk. GPS: 43.937745, -79.934971

David Francis, 905-936-4446, cell phone on day of hike 416-579-5432

Mon, Mar. 4, 2019 9:30 AM, Leader's Choice Hike

5.5km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Meet in the public parking lot on the north side of Rutherford Road, east side of the East Humber River and 923 m east of Islington Avenue. (GPS 43.8200° -79.5944) At 9:30 sharp we will shuttle to the Bindertwine Park parking lot on Stegman's Mill Road, and hike the Humber River Trail/William Granger Greenway back to Rutherford Road. Dogs welcome. Lunch option follows in the quaint hamlet of Kleinberg. If not reflected elsewhere in this information, contact the hike leader for the meeting place and trek details. GPS: 0, 0

Bill Patterson, 905-833-0391, cell phone on day of hike 289-380-0002

Wed, Mar. 6, 2019 9:30 AM, Ganaraska Forest - (Pinegrove Lane)

ORTA Map 9; 14km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; NOTE: Meet 9:15 for 9:30 start. Varied, hilly terrain. Exact distance & time dependent on weather & trail conditions. For winter be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Bring drink, lunch/ snacks. Take Ganaraska Rd (#9) to Garden Hill, go north (left) on County Rd #10 to Pine Grove Ln (2-3km) go west (left) on Pinegrove Ln to meet at roadside parking. GPS: 44.075235 , -78.409269

Garry Niece, 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Wed, Mar. 6, 2019 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - North Nokiidaa Trail (Green Lane)

ORTA Map 3; 8.5km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; We will hike along the Holland River on both sides. Flat level terrain. Meet at Rogers Reservoir front parking lot on the north side of Green Lane, 1.7 km west of Leslie St. GPS: 44.079958, -79.452813

Cornelius Sommer, 905 717 7641

Thu, Mar. 7, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail. Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway.

Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Sat, Mar. 9, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Mar. 9, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike in Jokers Hill and Thornton Bales. Hilly, forested trails. You will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr. north of town houses. GPS: 44.041408, -79.504148

Jane Hu, 647-692-8811, Email: Jane.hu.jane@gmail.com

Sun, Mar. 10, 2019 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate; 2hrs.; you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Mar. 11, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Countryside Preserve (Hwy 47)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; For this March Break hike we encourage you to bring your kids or grandchildren along for a hike on these level forest and meadow trails in the town of Uxbridge. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Icers may be necessary. Meet at conservation parking lot behind the Wal Mart store at the south end of Uxbridge, off Hwy 47. GPS: 44.088752, -79.132089

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Mar. 13, 2019 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Moderate to fast; We will hike in both the Eldred King and Hollidge forest trails. The actual distance will be dependant on the weather. Dress appropriately for the weather including icers and snow shoes. Bring a snack and drink. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.0604749881, -79.3080759980

Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Thu, Mar. 14, 2019 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail (Bayview Parkway)

Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; A walk along Holand River on mostly flat and beautiful Nokiida Trail. Please dress for the weather and have your icers along with you. From Yonge Street in Newmarket drive east on Davis Drive for 2.1Km., turn north on to Bayview Parkway. Proceed to the second parking area on the right (1.3Km. from Davis Drive). Meet in the parking area of the George Richardson Park. GPS: 44.071415, -79.454064

Fatema Amini, 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Fri, Mar. 15, 2019 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes a must. Meet at parking area on the west side of Hwy 48, 0.5km north of Vivian Rd or 1.3 km south of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.082138, -79.307819

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 16, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 16, 2019 1:30 PM, Leader's Choice Hike

Moderate; 2hrs.; Meet at the Pleasure Valley parking area, 2499 Brock Rd., Uxbridge. Walk through mature forest on hilly and winding trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. If not reflected elsewhere in this information, contact the hike leader for the meeting place and trek details. GPS: 0, 0

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Mon, Mar. 18, 2019 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 6km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; We will hike over to Eaton Hall Lake, go around the lake and back the same way. No dogs please. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA sign. phone 416-320-8555. e-mail tjshelvey@yahoo.com Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220, -79.535400

Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555

Wed, Mar. 20, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 16km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loop hike with lots of hills Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.006009, -79.101922

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Thu, Mar. 21, 2019 7:00 PM, ORTA Event - Discovery Night - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Algonquin Park noted biologist Rick Stronks will fascinate and inform us regarding black bears in Ontario. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

Fri, Mar. 22, 2019 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; There and back hike or snowshoe Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. NOTE: For 12 months from the fall of 2017 this meeting place is NOT accessible from the east via 16th SR due to reconstruction of the Hwy 400 overpass GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Mar. 23, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after hike. No dogs allowed. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sun, Mar. 24, 2019 10:00 AM, Scarborough - Rouge Park (Meadowvale Rd.)

10km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; Challenging terrain. T&B, hilly, forested, new members welcome. Bring snacks and water. Bring proper hike gear. you will need icers. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd, east side of Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd-follow signs for the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre. GPS: 43.8190238, -79.1709644

Josie Klostranec, 416-296-1408 (before 10:00PM)

Mon, Mar. 25, 2019 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; We will be walking on sheltered forest trails with moderate hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owner. Join us for lunch after the hike. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

Brian & Wilma Millage, 905-853-2407, cell phone on day of hike 416-722-6512

Wed, Mar. 27, 2019 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4+hrs.; Loop hike. Hilly. Snowshoes or icers as required. 12-16 km. depending on conditions. Meet at C.A. Parking Lot. Exit 401 at Waverly Rd. Travel North on Regional Rd. #57. Turn right at Regional Rd. #20. Turn left at Woodley Rd. Pay and Display Parking is in effect at a cost of: Max. - \$6/ vehicle/day or \$3/ hour. GPS: 44.049939, -78.741937

Bob Comfort, 905-473-2669, cell phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Fri, Mar. 29, 2019 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 11+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike Walker Woods east and beyond. You might need icers or snowshoes. Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Mar. 30, 2019 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 5+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you will need icers or snowshoes. Meet at road side parking on west side of Uxbridge Conc 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.039694, -79.116764

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

The new year finds our Discovery Night series presenting interesting and entertaining speakers.

Presentations take place in the Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Rd., on the 3rd Thursday of each month, starting at 7 p.m. A \$5 fee covers the presentation, coffee, juice and cookies. A very inexpensive cost for an interesting evening!

Join us for this series of speakers on worldwide journeys, fascinating nature stories, adventure treks and other stories on a wide variety of subjects. It is also an opportunity to get together with your ORTA friends to catch up on what is happening in our organization. Come along and bring a friend to enjoy these pleasant evenings.

January 17 has us hiking the trails in New Zealand with Len May. This country is one of Len's favourites for hiking and he wants to share some of his experiences with you.

February 21 finds us on the Camino Trail through Spain with Diane Charlton who completed her walk this past year. As always, Diane has a great presentation with the graphics put together by husband Bob.

March 21 brings Rick Stronks, one of our favourite speakers from The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, speaking about problems they are having with campers/hikers/canoes not understanding good forestry etiquette around bear populations and thereby causing problems with these gorgeous animals. Much of this information will also be relevant to those of us who are seeing more bears around our communities in this area.



Photo: Barb Muirhead

SHARING THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS

By Marlis Butcher

Not everyone can get to our Canadian national parks, and some parks are so extremely remote that very few have the opportunity to visit them. As a Park Bagger, I've been fortunate enough to be able to visit 46 of our 47 parks. The beauty in these parks has left me so awestruck that I felt I had to share my park experiences – and I'm doing so by writing a book about my adventures. This last summer I explored 3 parks:

I was one of the first 3 visitors to Grizzly Bear Lake in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in the NWT. As there are no roads or trails or any facilities of any kind, we went in by float plane, set up a base camp, and explored the area with map and compass. We did a lot of bush whacking during our 9 day visit. However Parks Canada has tracked our routes with intentions of building trails for others to follow more easily to some very breath-taking lakes and waterfalls, not to mention a very odd, very hot, natural spring.



Then I flew with 2 friends into Vuntut National Park in the Yukon – there haven't been any visitors to this park in several years because the only way to get there is by helicopter. Yes, we had close, friendly, encounters with wolves and Grizzly bears. We also got to see hundreds of the renowned Porcupine caribou herd as they migrated from their calving grounds at the Beaufort Sea!

Finally I drove on my own into Wood Buffalo National Park, straddling the Alberta/NWT border. The mosquitos were insane but the rest of the wildlife was just amazing: Black bears walked right up to me. Bison blocked the trails I was hiking on. I even scoped a nest of endangered Whooping cranes – I'm only sorry that I couldn't tell my friend and fellow Explorers Club member, Bill Lishman (Father Goose) who passed away last December, that I met some of the descendants of "his" cranes. Bill had used his ultra-light planes to help save those Whooping cranes from extinction in the late 1990's.

So this winter I'll be writing the chapters about my adventures in these parks. And, of course planning my visit to my 47th and final park, Ukkusiksalik in Nunavut. My book should be published in 2019. I hope you'll enjoy it, and the parks, as much as I did. Check it out: www.canadianparkbagger.com



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For more information, including driving directions, please see hikevincent.wordpress.com or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or vincent.greg@gmail.com

For reservations call Carol Szymanik at 1-814-435-2163



Editor: Marilyn Bardeau (editor@oakridgestrail.org)

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