



Oak  
Ridges  
Trail  
Association

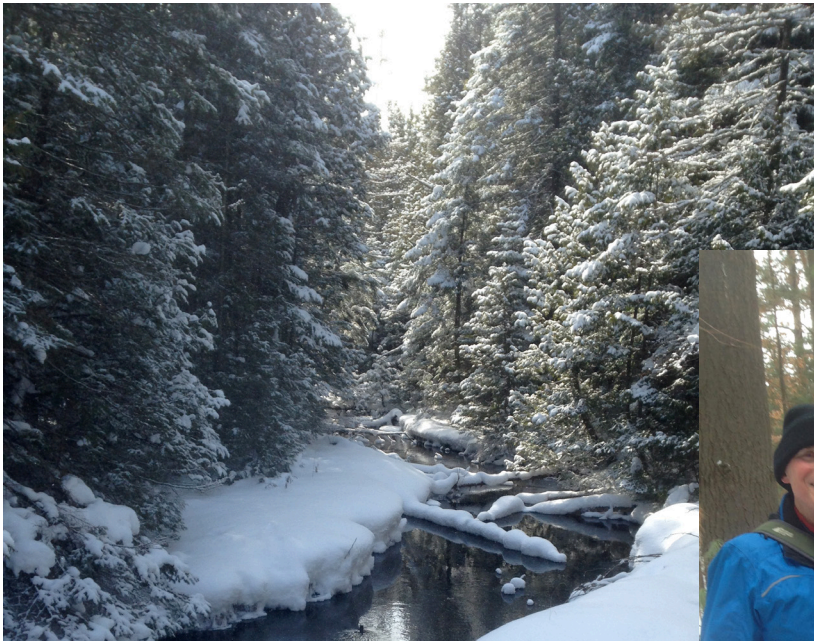
# TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

ISSN 1481-5982



Winter 2017



Front page photo credits: Garry Niece

Save the AGM date,  
Thursday April 27 2017.  
Details in Spring issue



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## President's Chat



What a beautiful fall for hiking! We have offered a significant number of hikes this fall for all abilities providing many opportunities for members and non-members to get out and enjoy the beautiful fall.

I want to acknowledge our volunteer hike leaders who

give generously of their time and expertise to provide the large range of hikes for all of us to enjoy. Their hikes are the heart and soul of our organization and without them we would be in dire straits.

Your Board met this fall to continue the work on preparations for our 25th anniversary, revisions to our guidebook and updates to our brochure. A committee has been struck to develop the activities to celebrate and recognize our anniversary. If you would like to join this group please let me know. The Board meets again in early December to continue the work on the guidebook and other items.

Our western kiosk was officially opened this fall with representatives of ORTA, Bruce Trail, IBM – who funded the cost of the kiosk, as well as representatives of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority in attendance. More details and photos can be found on the Latest News and Events link of our website.

I recently attended the opening and dedication event of the Richmond Hill section of the Lake to Lake cycling trail and walking route. This is a trail that when completed will bridge from Lake Ontario in downtown Toronto to Lake Simcoe. It also intersects with our trail in Richmond Hill. More information can be found on the York Region cycling pages.

Minor reroute changes were needed to be made to a section of the trail in Aurora when the property the trail traversed was sold. This put this section back onto the roadside. This situation should serve as a ongoing reminder to us all that a long term goal is to move as much of the trail as possible off roadsides.

All and all a busy time for your Board of Directors.

**Kevin Lowe, President**

### Comfortable Hiking Holidays

**(416) 445-2628**

info@letshike.com www.letshike.com

### PATAGONIA Chile & Argentina

**March 5 to 17, 2017**

In Chile, visit penguins on Isla Magdalena. Then journey even further south to Torres Del Paine NP - sleep in geodesic ECO-DOMES, hike up to "The Towers", and see icebergs & glaciers on Grey Lake. Then join the gauchos in Argentina. Travel to El Chalten and El Calafate in Los Glaciares NP, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Hike over to view Mt. Fitz Roy and even visit the renown Perito Moreno Glacier. This exciting adventure concludes in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires.

### AMALFI COAST, ITALY

**April 17 to 29, 2017**

Italy never fails to captures the hearts (and stomachs) of its visitors, and the Amalfi Coast lives up to that reputation - towns perched impossibly on mountainsides, one of the most famous stretches of coastline in the world, sapphire-blue water in every direction, an infamous volcano and some of the finest Limoncello anywhere. Come hike in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and on the posh island of Capri.

### THE "CAMINO", SPAIN

**May 1 to 13, 2017**

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 160km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, including many "extras" in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this famous trail.

### IRELAND

**June 6 to 16, 2017**

With more shades of green than you can imagine, the **Emerald Isle** lives up to its deserving reputation. From historical Dublin to picturesque Killarney & parts in between, we will take you hiking through some of the most sought-after scenery the country has to offer - and we'll even make a few pub stops!

### KENYA WALKING SAFARI

**July 9 to 21, 2017**

Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too! Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsman in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?

### MACHU PICCHU

**September 15 to 27, 2017**

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!**

(Note: This trip does not involve ANY camping – all accommodations are in hotel & lodges.)

TICO # 50018498



## Regional Director's Report

By Brian Millage



We would also like to recognize and thank IBM Canada for their financial contribution towards our west trailhead map kiosk. Dave Robitaille attended and spoke of IBM's commitment to community involvement. Previous assistance came in the form of volunteers from IBM who spent a volunteer day working on trail improvement in Uxbridge and building boardwalks. Dave recognized that outdoor pursuits such as hiking are part of a healthy lifestyle for present and past employees, as well as the general public.

Frank Alexander and Lena MacDonell, past IBM employees, helped facilitate the grant application and are among the many former IBMers who are members of ORTA.



### Oak Ridges Moraine Trail West and Kiosk Dedication September 15, 2016

ORTA made a big leap forward when we rerouted our west end trail between Palgrave and Glen Haffy where we now meet the Bruce Trail. This former main, then sidetrail, was deemed secondary by the BTA as put by Joan Richards "this section is actually on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Bruce Trail focus is on the Niagara Escarpment". This was the reasoning that led to ORTA assuming responsibility for this beautiful series of trail segments- a fitting beginning for anyone starting an End2End hike

series, or going on a shorter hike. An added bonus is that most sections are on TRCA lands. Mike Bender added words of support for ORTA's trail work.

One local family allows passage across their property. We thank the Jonczyk family for their continued support .

The opening was a great success with attendance from Bruce Trail members, TRCA, IBM and of course ORTA, President Kevin Lowe and Regional Director Brian Millage spoke on our behalf. Coverage of the event in the Orangeville news will help spread the word about this excellent trail opportunity "take a hike- enjoy Ontario Trails".



## OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION

**CHAMPIONS**

July 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2016

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

Kim Aagaard

Kelly Allaire

Kristine Anderson

Peter Attfield

Alison Badali

Craig Bamford

Kale Boehmer

Stanley Butcher

Noel &amp; Judy Carey

Peggy Casey

Dianne Charlton

Stephen Cockle

John Comfort

Ruth Comfort

E. Jean Comfort

Vic &amp; Sandra Davis

Laura de Haas

Alicia Dibben

Toni &amp; Tom Dorey

Vicki Elsinga

Reza Farmand

Mark Fisher

Don Ford

Jane Glenen

Alfred Grigg

Robert &amp; Linda Hansen

Paul Harper

Jean Heys

Wilfred Ho

Ellen Hoffman

Diane Hughes

Angela James

Joanne Massig &amp; Greg Jaski

Linda Johnstone

Mary Anne Silver &amp; Rob Lawrence

Wooseop Lee

Ilona Lehtokoski

Susan Liver

Kathleen Love

Fang Ma

Lauren Mandarino

Karen McMillan

Barrie Moir

Jairo Morelli

William Morrison

Elisabeth Oberparleiter

Amelie Parenteau-Comfort

Sang Hyun Park

Paul Pergau

Bob &amp; Judy Pergau-Comfort

Brian &amp; Colleen Pigozzo

Teresa Porter

Michael J. Pruss

David P. Rawcliffe

Nora Ryan

Peter Schaefer

Susan Sellers

Fayeza Shahid

Cathy Simpson

Kin Po Siu

Keith L. Smith

William Snel

Linda Stapleton

Sue Vella

Millie Wan

Joan Watson

Sue Weigand

Orval White

Melissa Williams

Bill Young

Jehan Zeb

If

you



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## MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE

As part of ORTA's program to *Celebrate Life's Milestones* or *In Memory* of friends or family, a gift was received to honour **Gwen Pociluyko** whose enthusiasm, knowledge and friendship encouraged so many to persevere in the gym and on the trails of Uxbridge. We wish her all the best as she forges ahead to new adventures.

## SPECIAL THANKS

We take the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Katrina Bin for the past several years as editor of the Oak Ridges Trail Association newsletter.

She raised the bar and we hope to emulate her standard. We wish her continued success in her future endeavours.

Marilyn and Michele

## NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomes the following new members and families in the last quarter.

JULY 1, 2016 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Sylvie Bouffard, Heather Brodie,  
Brian Cantreras, Carol Corcora,  
Laura de Haas, Sandra Dipietrantonio,  
Theresa Fawcett, Edmond Fung, John Holt,  
Mark Jacobs, Ellen Ji, Debra Loughli,  
Fang Ma, Darlene & Dale Mathews,  
Sylvia Morris, Vanessa Penwell,  
Elizabeth Perlikowski, Bev Ryan,  
Fayeza Shahid, Gordon Simmons,  
Rhona Weidner



## Discover Your World

Join us for the Oak Ridges Trail Association's Discovery Night! Enjoy an evening out sharing in interesting worldwide journeys and listening to speakers on a wide variety of subjects. Catch up on 'off trail' socializing. ORTA members and the public are invited to come along and bring a friend!

### Thursday January 19, 2017

#### *Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay*

Discover the wonders of these countries while exploring traditions such as raising cattle, playing soccer and drinking mate, and admiring impressive sites such as Itaipu Dam and Iguazu Falls.

**Presented by Daniela Bezede**

### Thursday February 16, 2017

#### *The Silk Road*

The Silk Road is not only an ancient international trade route, but also a splendid cultural bridge linking China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greek, and Rome. The scenery, sights and stories along the China part of the Silk Road. **Presented by Song Choo and Kim Choo**

### Thursday March 16, 2017 *Canoe Race to the Midnight Sundown the Yukon River. Exploring Alaska and the Chilkoot Trail.*

Mike and Karen Bender will present their experience in the 2016 Yukon River Quest, a 714 km canoe and kayak race from Whitehorse to Dawson City, with 93 teams from around the world. Come explore the Alaskan coast from Skagway to Juneau on a wildlife ferry. See humpback whales, sea lions, seals and eagles.

### JOIN THE DISCOVERY NIGHT TEAM:

Help us continue to bring fun and informative evenings to ORTA and the community at large. Many hands make light work, as they say. Please lend a hand to secure lively speakers, organize the night's smooth running and keep the Discovery Night tradition active.

**When:** 7-9 p.m.

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

A \$5 contribution is requested at the door to offset expenses. Coffee, tea, juice and cookies served. Please lug-a-mug!

**Questions? Contact Garry Niece:**

**905-655-8040, gcniece@gmail.com**

## Kelly Mathews Record End-to-End Hike

It's over! I can't believe after all the fundraising, planning, training, etc. the #ORMT300 is now a not-so-distant memory! I can't thank all of you enough for the tweets, retweets, texts, emails, calls, etc. I tried my best to keep up with them all.

Without a doubt, that was the toughest thing I have ever done both physically and mentally. I could not have done it without the overwhelming support from key people at the ORTA! Special thanks to Brian and Bob my trusty trail guides and to Michele at the ORTA office for keeping everything and everyone updated and on schedule. I would also like to thank Wilma and Judy (my extra trail mom's) in addition to my parents. My thanks to others who also accompanied me on route; Kevin Lowe, Frank Alexander, Russ Burton, Kim Agaard and Kathy & Bill Patterson. This turned out to be the most UN-solo, solo-hike ever hiked and I am so grateful for it!

Some of the highlights include:

Finishing the darn thing!

The head massage by a raccoon through my tent wall at Mussleman's Lake in the middle of the night (true story)!

The ice cream delivery from the Patterson's in the middle of nowhere – thank you!

The lawn chair and snack delivery out in Trent on the last day – merci Michele.

The lemonade and bathroom break at ORTA Kim Agaards.

The incredible views...

Counting monarchs... 13 in one day was the record!

Buttertarts! Honey! Peanut Butter... oh and fruit leather – that stuff was magic!

All the different words to use EXCEPT the word "HILL" which was forbidden at some point during the hike: elevation, rise, slope, grade, knoll, mound, incline, speed-bump, mass, pile... you name it!

Old Swamp Road Trail in Clarington – I will be back!!

Ice cold creeks... ahhhhhhh...

The laughs, the cries, the packages and packages of mole skin...

Coming out of the forest and seeing the Hwy 115 and Hwy 35 sign on the highway... it hit me how far I had come that day...

The ice cold Heineken from a stranger at the finish line in Warkworth ON!

That amazing cake, the champagne and Villa Conti!

Pushing through a great deal of pain every single day... P.S. last Friday September 2nd was unofficially sponsored by Tylenol #3!

Receiving Honourary Lifetime Membership with the Oak Ridge's Trail Association at the finish line – I will always treasure my End to End Badge!!!

Raising \$9,500 for 2 organizations that mean a great deal to me!

Sharing this Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Record experience with all of you! That was the icing on the cake for me!!

Fundraising Update:

Seneca College: \$4,000

ORTA: \$5,076

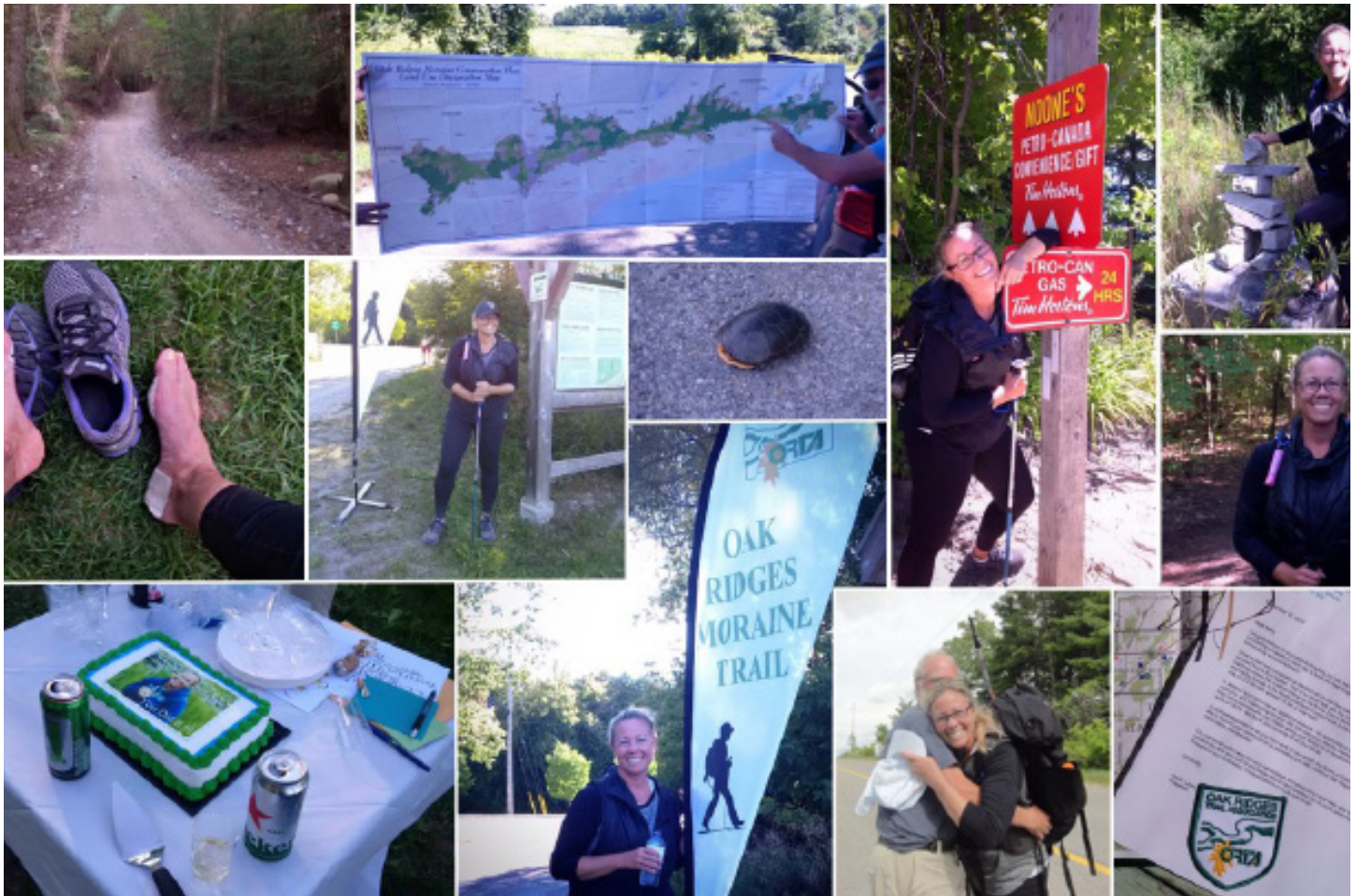
Funds Raised: \$9,076

Thank you again... all of you... your enthusiasm and support kept me going.

Kelly Mathews

"Not all who wander are lost"





MD Editor's Note: Every person who completes an End To End heartily deserves congratulations. Kelly's 2016 record End To End brought new awareness to the moraine, the trail and to our association. Her marathon-a-day trek was inspirational and was followed up with interviews: Rogers TV on "Your week with Shay", Toronto Star and various local newspapers too.

THANK YOU KELLY MATHEWS on a hike well done! Your smile never wavered and your enthusiasm was contagious. Congratulations on your #ORMT300: The fastest recorded trek across the entire Oak Ridges Moraine Trail August 28, 2016 – September 3, 2016.

### SUSQUEHANNOCK LODGE and TRAIL CENTRE Hiking in the Highlands of North Central Pennsylvania



#### NEW YEARS Dec. 28 - Jan 1, 2017

Time to ourselves after the hectic season.  
Outside everyday and a little longer by the fireplace.

#### EASTER April 14 - 17

Welcome spring on the trails.

*The Lodge is located in Potter County, Pennsylvania, 2.5 hours south of Buffalo. There is no agriculture or industry in the area, just great trails. Daily hikes of 10 to 15 km are led through hardwood forest, many beside mountain streams. Our lodge provides comfortable accommodation & excellent meals for \$70.00 semi-private or \$75.00 private USD per day per person. These outings have proven to be popular with the lodge filling quickly.*

**For more information**, including driving directions, please see [hikevincent.wordpress.com](http://hikevincent.wordpress.com) or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or [vincent.greg@gmail.com](mailto:vincent.greg@gmail.com)

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

# ORTA Winter 2017 Hike Schedule

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF HIKE LISTED ON THE ORTA WEBSITE. OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE ADDITIONAL HIKE 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

### **Sun, Jan. 1, 2017 1:00 PM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)**

ORTA Map 3; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Wear icers. This will be a loop 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. 2, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)**

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Let's hope for snow on these beautiful, slightly hilly forested trails. You might want to bring your icers along if conditions merit them. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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**

### **Wed, Jan. 4, 2017 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)**

ORTA Map 3; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; 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 on day of hike 905-809-5138**

### **Fri, Jan. 6, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)**

ORTA Map 5; 8+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; East Walker Woods and beyond. Snowshoes or icers are a MUST. 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. 7, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc. 6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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. 8, 2017 10:00 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)**

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes required. 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)**

### **Mon, Jan. 9, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)**

ORTA Map 4; 7km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Boots, Grippers and or Snow Shoes required according to snow and ice conditions. Bring a snack and drink - maybe hot. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**



**Wed, Jan. 11, 2017 9:30 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 11+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; Sideways hike. Today we will hike the Gate house and Miller Side trails. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring a drink and snack. 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, Jan. 13, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Snowshoe or hike in Glen Major very hilly section. 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, Jan. 14, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Icercs or snowshoes may be required. 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, Jan. 15, 2017 1:00 PM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)**

ORTA Map 7; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Hike on ORTA and other Long Sault trails; bring snacks and water; may need snowshoes and/or icers. 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. - \$5/ vehicle/day or \$2/ hour. GPS: 44.049939, -78.741937

**Grace Moores, 905-263-4340**

**Sun, Jan. 15, 2017 1:30 PM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)**

ORTA Map 2; 7+km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Oak Ridges Trail, Love Mountain and Humber Source Woods. Beautiful forests and meadows with some hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature so we stop to admire the view and take photos. Icercs on hiking boots required if conditions are icy. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

**Marianne Broome, 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)**

**Mon, Jan. 16, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract**

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Broad, sheltered forest trails make for a great winter hike. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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

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

**Wed, Jan. 18, 2017 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**

**Wed, Jan. 18, 2017 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)**

ORTA Map 3; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; A hike to Thornton bales CA and back. some hilly sections. Icercs required 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, 905-953-7949 before 8 pm, 905 717 7641 hike day only**

**Thu, Jan. 19, 2017 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre**

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night: "Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay". Discover the wonders of these countries, explore their traditions, visit Itaipu Dam & Iguazu Falls. Presented by Daniela Bezede. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

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

**Fri, Jan. 20, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Icercs 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. 21, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icercs or snowshoes a must. 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. 22, 2017 10:00 AM, Vaughan - Woodbridge - Trails (Rutherford Rd)**

8km; Moderate; 3hrs.; We will hike north along the Granger Greenway 4km to the McMichael Gallery where we can warm up and then re-trace our steps the same way. There are a couple of hills. Icercs may be needed. No dogs please. e-mail inquires tjshelvey@yahoo.com. Cell on day of hike 416-320-8555. 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**

**Mon, Jan. 23, 2017 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Bayview Hill Community Centre - (Spadina Rd).**

6.5km; Slow; 2hrs.; T&B hike along Beaver Greenway to the loop around Beaver Ponds which was renewed last summer. Boots, Grippers and or Snow Shoes suggested according to ice and snow conditions. Dogs on leash welcome. Bring a drink - maybe hot. Lunch option afterwards. From Bayview Avenue take Weldrick Road East to the junction with Spadina Road. From Major Mackenzie Drive take Spadina Road south; from 16th. Avenue take Spadina Road north to the junction with Weldrick Road East. Enter the parking lot of Bayview Hill Community Centre and Pool parking lot to the west

**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

off Spadina Rd. 100 metres south of this junction - enter opposite Brookhill Crescent. GPS: 43.871219, -79.401974

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

**Wed, Jan. 25, 2017 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 on day of hike 905-960-0543**

**Fri, Jan. 27, 2017 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)**

10km; Fast; 2hrs.; May need icers or snowshoes 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, Jan. 28, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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, Jan. 29, 2017 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; icers and 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. 30, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Dainty & Clarke Tract (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Easy, forest trails in this winter wonderland. Icers or snowshoes? Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet at Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.028935, -79.319816

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

## February

**Wed, Feb. 1, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Houston Rd)**

ORTA Map 6; 12+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; T&B. Quite 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 drink, lunch or snacks. Meet at the dead end of Houston Rd., west from Lakeridge Rd. (2.4 km. north of Chalk Lake Rd.). GPS: 44.044566, -79.067489

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

**Fri, Feb. 3, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)**

ORTA Map 4; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; We will hike Eldred King, Scout and Mitchel Tracts. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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. 4, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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. 5, 2017 10:00 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)**

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; icers or snowshoes required 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, Feb. 5, 2017 1:00 PM, Scugog - Oak Ridges Trail - (Boundary Rd.)**

ORTA Map 7; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; there and back hike ; forest road and road allowances ; bring snacks and drink ; may need snowshoes and/or icers. West on Boundary Road, 650m. from the intersection with Old Scugog Rd. in Burketon. Park at the dead end and meet at the Oak Ridges Trail entry. GPS: 44.056631, -78.804805

**Grace Moores, 905-263-4340**

**Sun, Feb. 5, 2017 1:00 PM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest (Hwy 50)**

ORTA Map 1; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop Hike 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

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

**Mon, Feb. 6, 2017 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor/ Jefferson Forest (Oak Ridges Community Ctr.) Revised**

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; If Ice conditions are suitable we will hike across Lake Wilcox. If not we will make a local loop hike towards Yonge Street. Bring Grippers and Snow Shoes; dress for winter conditions. Bring a drink - maybe hot. Dogs welcome. Afterwards there's the option of lunch at Gramma's Oven. South parking lot of Oak Ridges Community Centre, west side of Bayview Ave, 1.5 km north of Stouffville Rd. GPS: 43.947384, -79.427794

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

**Wed, Feb. 8, 2017 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 Glen Major. 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 on day of hike 905-960-0543**

**Fri, Feb. 10, 2017 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. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

**Sat, Feb. 11, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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**



**Mon, Feb. 13, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord Forest (Conc. 3)**  
 ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Very scenic area with some challenging hills so wear your icers or snowshoes. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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. 15, 2017 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)**  
 ORTA Map 2; 10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; Sideways hike. We will hike Humber Source Woods and some trails in the Love Mountain area. Dress for the weather including icers or snow shoes as necessary. Bring water and a snack. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575  
**Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)**

**Thu, Feb. 16, 2017 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre**  
 ORTA Map 4; Join us for Discovery Night: "The Silk Road" The Silk Road is not only an ancient international trade route, but also a splendid cultural bridge linking the cultures of China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greek and Rome. The scenery, sights and stories along the China part of the Silk Road will be presented. By Song Choo and Kim. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552  
**Garry Niece, 905-655-8040, cell on day of hike 905-809-5138**

**Fri, Feb. 17, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)**  
 ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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, Feb. 18, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**  
 ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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. 19, 2017 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**  
 ORTA Map 2; 8km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; icers and 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, Feb. 20, 2017 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - North Nokiidaa Trail (Green Lane)**  
 ORTA Map 3; 7.5km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; We should be able to make a loop hike on the new trail around Rogers Reservoir. Dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and maybe a snack. Lunch option in Newmarket afterwards. 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  
**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

**Wed, Feb. 22, 2017 9:30 AM, King - Cold Creek Conservation Area (Conc. 11)**  
 8km; Moderate; 2.5+hrs.; This is a very picturesque hike with forests, fields and ponds. Some hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the view. Icers on your hiking boots will be needed if conditions are icy. Meet at park entrance east side of Concession 11, 3.5 Km north from King Road. GPS: 43.919444, -79.706778  
**Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)**

**Wed, Feb. 22, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit- Stouffville - YRF Porritt Tract - Pangman Springs (Kennedy Rd.)**  
 ORTA Map 4; 8km; Fast; 2.5hrs.; We will hike over a loop including to Pangman Springs CA parking lot and back and to Warden and back. Icers required Meeting in the YRF parking lot on the west side of Kennedy Rd. 550m. north from Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.031875, -79.347087  
**Cornelius Sommer, 905-953-7949 before 8 pm, 905 717 7641 hike day only**

**Wed, Feb. 22, 2017 9:30 AM, Lindsay - Pontypool Fleetwood Creek (Solanum Way)**  
 10+km; Moderate to fast; 4+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**

**Fri, Feb. 24, 2017 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. 25, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**  
 ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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**

**Mon, Feb. 27, 2017 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest north (Finnerty SR)**  
 ORTA Map 1; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; The trails of Palgrave are among our favourites. Icers may be needed on the moderate hills in this beautiful forest. Well mannered dogs are welcome. Join us for lunch in Schomberg afterwards. 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**

## March

### **Wed, Mar. 1, 2017 9:30 AM, Ajax - Greenwood Conservation Area (Greenwood Rd)**

12+km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; T&B. Quite 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 drink, lunch or snacks. Meet at C.A. parking lot. From Westney Rd, go W on Greenwood Rd (3.5 km S of Hwy 7; 1 km N of Taunton Rd), turn left at T-junction; then right. Park in front of entrance gate. GPS: 43.898568, -79.058256

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

### **Fri, Mar. 3, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Albright Rd.)**

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

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

### **Sat, Mar. 4, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers or snowshoes a must. 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. 4, 2017 10:00 AM, Vaughan - Kortright Centre (Pine Valley Drive).**

8km; Slow to moderate; 2.5hrs.; Nice winter hike on trails around the Kortright Centre. This is the first weekend of the Maple Syrup Festival so admission fee of 10.00 applies. We will gather in the main parking lot. Note: Bring icers, snack and water. e-mail tjshelvey@yahoo.com West side of Pine Valley Dr., 1.2Km south from Major MacKenzie Dr. W, Follow the long driveway into the park until it ends at the meeting place in the main parking lot. GPS: 43.829281, -79.584065

**Tessa Shelvey, 416-320-8555**

### **Sun, Mar. 5, 2017 10:00 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; you might need icers Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.0604749881, -79.3080759980

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

### **Sun, Mar. 5, 2017 1:00 PM, New Tecumseth - Beeton Forest -10th. Sideroad**

5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike Directions to meeting place: from Hwy 9 go north on 10th Sideroad for 8.3Km to the junction with 7th. Line. Or from Beeton, go south on 10th Sideroad to 7th Line. GPS: 44.066997, -79.778579

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

### **Mon, Mar. 6, 2017 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor/Jefferson Forest (Oak Ridges Community Ctr.)**

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; We will go around local trails east of Bayview Avenue and return via the spectacular Lake Wilcox Park on the shore of Sunset Beach. Bring drinks and a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Lunch option afterwards. South parking lot of Oak

Ridges Community Centre, west side of Bayview Ave, 1.5 km north of Stouffville Rd. GPS: 43.947384, -79.427794

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

### **Wed, Mar. 8, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)**

ORTA Map 5; 12km; Moderate to fast; 3hrs.; Sideways hike. From the meeting place we will hike to and around Crows Pass CA. Dress appropriately for the weather, be prepared with icers or snow shoes. Bring water and a snack. 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

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

### **Fri, Mar. 10, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Loop hike with some hilly sections, icers snowshoes may be required. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.0604749881, -79.3080759980

**Russ Burton, 905-830-2862**

### **Sat, Mar. 11, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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**

### **Mon, Mar. 13, 2017 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges (Regatta Ave)**

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; March Break hike around community trails suitable for families with children and strollers. Bring water and maybe a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at parking lot on the north side of Regatta Ave, west off Yonge St, 4 stop lights north of King Rd. GPS: 43.950968, -79.459267

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

### **Mon, Mar. 13, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Countryside Preserve (Hwy 47)**

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; March Break gives us a chance to bring our kids/grandkids along for a fun outing on the trails of Uxbridge. Wide field and forest trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch after. 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. 15, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

ORTA Map 5; 12km; Moderate to fast; 4hrs.; Loop hike very hilly, icers snowshoes may be required 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**

### **Wed, Mar. 15, 2017 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)**

8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Some forest, some open area, Icers required Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113, -79.360133

**Cornelius Sommer, 905-953-7949 before 8 pm, 905 717 7641 hike day only**



**Thu, Mar. 16, 2017 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre**

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night: "Canoe Race to the Midnight Sun down the Yukon River. Exploring Alaska and the Chilkoot Trail". Mike and Karen Bender present their experience in the 2016 Yukon River Quest, a 714 km canoe and kayak race from Whitehorse to Dawson City. Afterwards, exploring the Alaskan coast from Skagway to Juneau on a ferry to view local wildlife. Plus hiking to the Mendenhall Glacier and along the start of the Chilkoot Trail. Meet in Community Centre, on north side of Aurora Road, 1Km east from Hwy #48. GPS: 44.040733, -79.286552

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

**Fri, Mar. 17, 2017 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)**

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+hrs.; Loop hike in the Brock tract some hills, Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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

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

**Sat, Mar. 18, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4.5km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might still 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

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

**Sun, Mar. 19, 2017 10:00 AM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)**

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate to fast; 2hrs.; you might need icers. 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)**

**Sun, Mar. 19, 2017 1:00 PM, Oshawa - Purple Woods C.A. (Coates Rd.)**

ORTA Map 6; 9km; Moderate; 2hrs.; there and back hike ; in woods and on country roads ; bring snacks and water ; dress for the weather ; may need icers . Meet at Purple Woods C.A. parking area, 70m. east of Simcoe St. north on the south side of Coates Rd. GPS: 44.037431, -78.919935

**Grace Moores, 905-263-4340**

**Mon, Mar. 20, 2017 9:30 AM, Aurora - NW Aurora Trails - St. Andrew's Loop.**

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Slow; 3hrs.; Loop hike including a new section around the north of St. Andrews. Short road sections link town parks and school playing fields. Dogs welcome but should be on leash. Bring water and a snack. Optional lunch afterwards. Meet at south end of the parking lot of Aurora Community Centre, south off Aurora Heights Dr., west off Yonge St, 0.6 km north of Wellington St. GPS: 44.003408, -79.471130

**Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-434-3471**

**Wed, Mar. 22, 2017 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. - \$5/ vehicle/day or \$2/ hour. GPS: 44.049939, -78.741937

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

**Fri, Mar. 24, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Icers or snowshoes. 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. 25, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. you might still 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, Mar. 26, 2017 1:30 PM, Vaughan - Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Huntington Road)**

7km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Forest, upland meadows and riverside trails with some fairly steep hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the view. From Kleinburg go west on Nashville Rd. to Huntington Rd and then go north for 2.5km to the trailhead at the intersection with Kirby Rd. Roadside parking is on Huntington. GPS: 43.860372, -79.668579

**Marianne Broome. 905-939-7007 Cell 416- 409-1980 (hike day only)**

**Mon, Mar. 27, 2017 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)**

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; A forest and meadow area with rolling hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. 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. 29, 2017 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)**

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Hilly. You might still need icers or snowshoes. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.042433, -79.323129

**Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161**

**Fri, Mar. 31, 2017 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)**

ORTA Map 2; 10km; Moderate to fast; 3hrs.; Loop hike some hills lunch after hike at Pine Orchard. Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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, Apr. 1, 2017 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)**

ORTA Map 5; 4km; Moderate; 1hrs.; Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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, Apr. 2, 2017 10:00 AM, New Tecumseth -Tottenham CA (Mill St. W.)**

5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop Hike Meet in Tottenham CA south parking lot off Mill Street West GPS: 44.014140, -79.810593

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

## ORTA HISTORY

Do you remember the blue binder for the First Edition of the Guidebook?

Or the four original maps painstakingly drawn by Peter Attfield and friends?

I'm compiling a History of the Oak Ridges Trail Association to mark our 25th Anniversary next May. There are many historic documents in our archives – reports, plans, minutes of meetings, photographs and other items which I am scanning in. The format will allow plenty of full colour pictures.

We need to supplement these official records with personal recollections, because 'ORTA is People.'

Note I say compiling . . . this is where I'd like your assistance. Could you assist by:

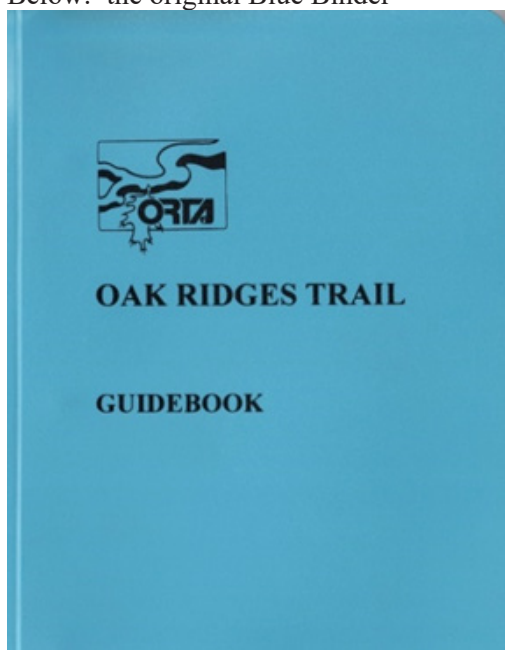
- A. Reading through and commenting on one of the ten draft chapters available early in 2017?
- B. Drafting an item; say up to 250 words, about one of the significant ORTA people? In some cases past editions of Trail Talk provide a start which may need to be updated and condensed. I could help by finding these articles if you've not kept past copies. If you have a photo of the person that would help – but once again we have many on file.
- C. Describing your favourite hike.
- D. Or your experience as a volunteer, say a humorous happening during trail maintenance?

A special email address has been opened for this project [history@oakridgestrail.org](mailto:history@oakridgestrail.org)

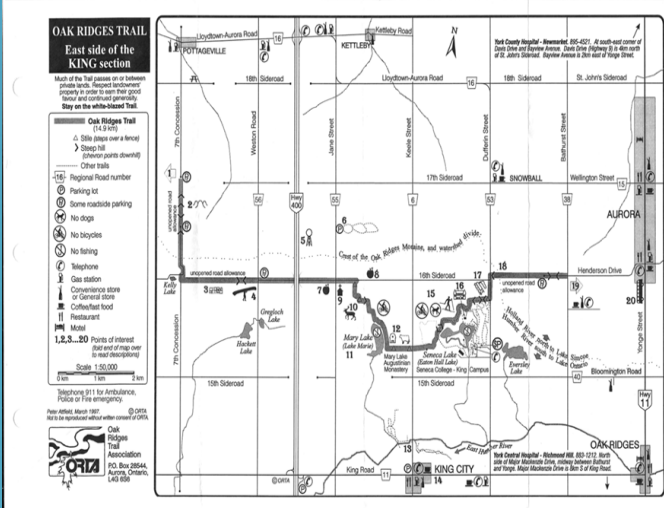
Please send me an email or phone to discuss: 905-737-3966

Stan Butcher

Below: the original Blue Binder



a portion of the original King section map.





## MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR, SANDRA DIPIETRANTONIO

[oakridgestrail.org](http://oakridgestrail.org)



Sandra Dipietrantonio has been with The Town of Georgina for ten years and is currently working in the Clerk's Department. Her leisure time is spent running, riding her bike, hiking and playing with her granddaughter who she resides with as well as her son and daughter n law in Markham, Ontario. Sandra can be reached at [membership@oakridgestrail.org](mailto:membership@oakridgestrail.org).

## MEET YOUR NEW CO-EDITOR, MARILYN BARDEAU



An Ottawa Valley girl, I earned two degrees at Carleton University in Ottawa, then worked as an editor of biological journals of research for the National Research Council, and later for The Canadian Field-Naturalist. This was in the days of typesetting and galley proofs, but by the time I was editing my late husband's golf maintenance books and articles, computers made editing much easier and faster. Growing up in small-town Ontario and spending thirteen years living in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea in New Brunswick, I've never quite adjusted to living in the ultra-urban Toronto area, where I've been since 1986. So hiking is my form of escape back to sanity and serenity. Until recently most of my hiking in Ontario has been on the Bruce Trail, and in addition, each year I do a major hike somewhere in the world, notably Europe, China, Vietnam, Peru, Kilimanjaro for a start. I am enjoying exploring the Oak Ridges area and meeting new people, and look forward to working with co-editor Michele in producing Trail Talk.



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### From the ORTA Office:

The office has a new desk! We were able to obtain some new office furniture in the form of desks filing cabinets and coat racks shared with the church office. This was a donation obtained through Green Standards. Special thanks to Lauren Beerman, Placement Coordinator for assisting us in fulfilling our request; also a big thank you to Denise Whalley, All Saints Anglican Church; William Schoenhardt, King City Secondary School; and the volunteers, Brandon, Diego, Sophia, Lissa Dwyer and Bob Alexander of ORTA. It was great to have your company, Michele Donnelly.



## ORTA Around the World

Brian and Wilma spent two weeks exploring the Greek island of Crete, both the many trails and remnants of the ancient Minoan Civilization. Crete is very mountainous with steep roads and challenging trails to match, including the European E4 trail. There are endless gorges throughout the island including the famous Samaria Gorge- 16km of rugged trail, shared with goats and needing a ferry ride back to the nearest town. This photo is in the rugged Zakros Gorge- the Valley of the Dead! The varied geological formations are fascinating.

Brian and Wilma Millage



@ortahikes



Oak Ridges Trail  
Association



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