

TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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PRESIDENT'S CHAT

BY WILMA MILLAGE



Hello ORTA members! I hope you had as wonderful a summer as we did. The trails were great this year and we spent many hours on the new Western section of the trail introducing it to ORTA folks and getting to know the area residents who may be fellow members in the future. What a beautiful area of trail!

Brian and I completed our first chapter E2E for Caledon and by the time this note comes out we will have also finished the King Chapter. I am looking forward to seeing sections of trail that I have not been on for years as we lead folks across the entire 270+km of main trail on shorter, more moderate speeds than has been done in the past couple of years. You don't have to be planning to do the whole trail but you might want to join us as we cover some of the 'trail less travelled' on our treks. So often we only go to our favourite sections and forget about the rest. Look out for our next moderate E2E listings in the upcoming Spring Trail Talk.

By the time you read this the new data base should be up and running. I hope you have updated your personal information so that we have up to date files on all our members. We have found that many who originally didn't have an email address may now have one or may have changed it over the years. We are looking at being able to communicate more over the Internet and social media channels as we move ahead with this new membership information. Our goal is to increase membership and supporters, especially in the younger age brackets as we tap the new resource of early retirees coming from the Boomer generation.

There are several articles I would like to make sure you notice in this issue. Check out the article on the new Scugog Chapter. Monica Rothman and Jim Morrison are enthusiastic Co-Chairs of the chapter and they held their first chapter meeting in October. What an enthusiastic group of ORTA members attended the meeting! Our plan to re-generate our Chapters across the trail will enable us to be more in touch with local issues and have ORTA more visible in the various communities. Joy Cornell, one of our Uxbridge trail captains has submitted a poster for this issue, designed by her grandson. Cornelius Summer completed the Hike Leader course in October. See his write-up on why he wanted to become a hike leader. Now that we have two Hike Ontario certified hike leader trainers, Kevin Lowe and Brian Millage, we can put on courses as and when we need them for new hike leaders. If you would be interested in taking the course contact either of them for details on the next course to be offered.

We are looking forward to some great hiking and snowshoeing coming up in this quarter.

HOPE TO SEE YOU OUT ON THE TRAILS!

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PATAGONIA

March 5 to 17, 2016

Explore both Chile and Argentina!

In Chile, visit penguins on Isla Magdalena, then journey far south into the heart of Torres Del Paine NP and stay in ECO-DOMES. Hike on the shores of Grey Lake to see the icebergs & glaciers, and do the famed hike up to "The Towers". In Argentina, travel to El Chalten and El Calafate for hikes in Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Hike over to view Mt. Fitz Roy and even visit the renowned Perito Moreno Glacier. This adventure concludes in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires.

CORFU, GREECE

May 9 to 21, 2016

This Greek island is the perfect combination of European flare and tranquil sea-side living. Hike to the heavens to visit holy monasteries and trek in shade of ancient olive groves. We promise - you will never tire of the deep, deep blue of the sea that surrounds you. Opa!

IRELAND

June 7 to 17, 2016

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 along the way!

ICELAND

August 9 to 19, 2016

Iceland is the land of the midnight sun!

Trek on volcanic terrain, marvel at the view atop Iceland's "Grand Canyon", stand the edge of the most powerful waterfall in all Europe, & relax in the soothing thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. From Reykjavik all the way up to the northern fishing village of Husavik, days are packed full of awesome sights and experiences. This is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure!

MACHU PICCHU

September 16 to 28, 2016

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.)

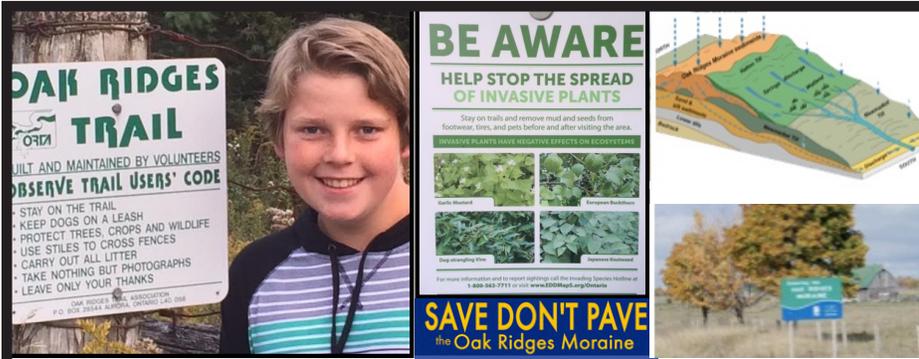
ALSO AVAILABLE IN 2016

Slovenija * Amalfi Coast (Italy) * Turkey * New Zealand

TICO # 50018498

SAVE THE MORAINE

POSTER BY NATHAN COOK



Save The Moraine!

A major review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is set for 2015 - educate yourself and get involved now before it's too late.

- Do you drink water?
- Do you like to hike, trail run or mountain bike?
- Do you live in Uxbridge?
- Do you like birds and other wild animals?



Then the Oak Ridges Moraine is important to you!

The Ontario governments conservation plan contain's nine objectives to help conserve the Oak Ridges Moraine. Essentially the government is trying to control growth by not letting people do whatever they want in the moraine and protecting species that live in the moraine.

I think the conservation plan is a great idea because it can help in so many different ways like help save habitats for so many animals, help keep 250km of hiking and biking trails for people and most of all help one of the most important water sources in Ontario. This is one of the most important ecosystems in Ontario and the conservation plan is helping keeping it safe from urban developers.

Many communities that occupy the moraine are developing and builders want them to grow bigger and bigger. This moraine is right in the way of their plans and many developers want to tear it down and replace it all with houses, office buildings and schools.

The conservation plan is already pretty good but I think that they should make it illegal to hunt or kill anything in this moraine. Also I think that the government of Ontario should just make a final decision instead of reviewing and changing the plans every 10-12 years. Protect this land forever!

The Moraine is a large ridge formed by 2 massive melting chunks of ice. As the ice melted a glacial lake was formed. The glacial lake produced a large amount of sand, gravel, clay, silt, rocks and boulders Known as a Water Barrel, one of its most important functions is as a water recharge/discharge area. The water collects deep in the gravel which cleans it and allows it to flow to 65 other streams and rivers and supplies water to thousands of people.

The Moraine runs from the Trent River in the East to the Niagara Escarpment in the West



"Of course I was pleased when Grandson Nathan had to make a poster about the Moraine. It was an assignment for grade niners at Uxbridge Secondary School and some great posters were created. The important thing is that those young people are now more aware of the importance of this land form."

-Joye Cornell

INTRODUCING... CORNELIUS SOMMER



I have enjoyed my hikes with ORTA for many years, but especially since my retirement. Through my involvement, I noticed that there are times and areas when no group hikes are scheduled. Since going out on my own is a less interesting and less of a social affair, I decided to become a Hike Leader and share my enjoyment of some of these less travelled tracks of our trails.

In addition , as someone very much interested in botanical matters (and with some knowledge on the subject) I am looking forward to sharing my knowledge and showing some of the varied and wonderful plants, trees, and flowers. In sum, I think this is something I will enjoy doing and hope that you will join me for a hike soon!

- Cornelius Sommer

experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

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HIKING END2END WITH ORTA

BY MALCOLM HANN



This year a group of ORTA hikers trekked the length of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

Congratulations!

All started with a personal challenge to 'do it' but that was task oriented, when all was said and done the hike became a way of life for 26 weeks of 2015.

All were apprehensive at the start on the morning of April 6th in the parking lot of the Palgrave Forest. Several hikers came from far afield - including one who traveled for each hike from Ottawa. Many hikers didn't know each other when the group gather for the first hike in the Palgrave Forest parking lot, but have since formed firm friendships.

Tales from each hike and pictures have been recorded on the ORTA website:
<http://www.oakridgestrail.org/hikes/hike-diary-photos/> See 'E2E hike #__'

Here are some of the highlights from our hikes:

- Having to use icers on Easter Monday
- Shoulder-high wet grass that was as good as hiking in a heavy downpour with the rain coming up!
- Crossing gumbo mud fields and submerged plank bridges
- One rainy day we found a café to sit for a spell to warm up and perhaps dry off slightly.
- In another place we took advantage of eating lunch on a golf club patio while absorbing the view of rolling hills to a distant lake
- Dusty sections of the trail where a face mask would have been handy
- All kinds of animals were seen, from pet pigs to exotic peacocks
- Viewing the preparations underway for the Pan Am games
- The ballet dancer hiker who delicately danced over muddy pools
- The red neck who demonstrated how a 4x4 effortlessly plows through deep muddy pools followed by a tremendous rooster tail from the rear wheels
- Long hot and humid days when 3 litres of water were barely enough and ice packs were placed in underwear to cool off
- While there was rain, but mostly the hikes were been blessed with beautiful weather.

But as with all good things, they come to an end. This challenge was completed with a hike into Castleton on September 8th. Wilma Millage welcomed us at the ORTA Kiosk in Castleton and helped the group demolish a celebratory cake, washed down by a melon slushy. Those who completed all thirteen sections of the hike received a congratulation letter from Wilma and the coveted E2E badge.

Of course the true satisfaction comes from realizing the personal goal of hiking the whole length of the Oak Ridges Trail and that was the best reward of all.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING E2E HIKERS:

Cornelius Sommer

Eva Csendes

Julie Hayes

Malcolm Hann

Marco Durepos

Melvyn Rosenfeld

Mike Denny

Suzanne Field

Vicky Chan

THE SCUGOG CHAPTER IS REORGANIZING

BY BILL MORRISON



ORTA President Wilma Millage welcomed a very supportive group of local members who assembled in Port Perry on October 17, to reorganize and reactivate ORTA's Scugog chapter. About 35 local members in Scugog and the adjacent communities (including Whitby and Oshawa) had been contacted in advance.

Discussions focused on four key areas:

- Vision, and ideas on what the Chapter might do: broad discussion touched on included possible hikes and outreach activities, potential affiliations with other groups, and trail improvements
- Trail-related needs: discussion on how to approach the necessary trail monitoring and maintenance functions
- Publicity: Three geographical focal areas were proposed for publicity and communications: 1. Port Perry / Nestleton; 2. Brooklin / Whitby; and 3. Oshawa
- Events: A range of possible spring, summer and fall events to introduce ORTA and the chapter to the public were considered

Many individuals have already expressed interest in helping out with trail monitoring, maintenance, publicity and/or events.

Monika Rothman and Bill Morrison will be acting as the co-chairs for the reorganized chapter. Monika will focus on publicity and events, Bill will work at organizing the monitoring and maintenance of the trails, and hiking.

Anyone interested in learning more about what the Scugog Chapter, or wishing to become involved in its activities, can contact Monika or Bill.

Monika Rothman

Phone: 416-994-4567

Email: monika@wynnfitness.com

Bill Morrison

Phone: 905-985-2624

Email: billandmaryare@gmail.com

Thanks goes out to Frank Alexander, Regional Director for Central Region, for his vast support in organizing the meeting, and helping to prepare Monika and Bill for their Chapter roles.

INCREDIBLE PERU - JUNE 15, 2016 (16 DAYS, NOT-FOR-PROFIT)



A fantastic journey to the heart of the INCA EMPIRE, CUSCO and the SACRED VALLEY of the INCAS.

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NEW - END2END - MODERATE STYLE

BY BRIAN AND WILMA MILLAGE



These last few years there have been several End2End series of hikes enjoyed by ORTA hikers and others sharing our beautiful trail. They have mostly been accomplished in a series of 13 speedy outings, each over 20km. Now Wilma and I are in the process of offering a similar challenge, but at a more leisurely pace. The Moderate End2End Series of hikes was initiated in September as fall colours started to appear- and what a view from our new west end trail! Bill Patterson has recorded some of our Caledon/King memories- thanks for the photos Bill! So far we have completed the Caledon Chapter and also the King Chapter (by the time you receive this). Each of our hikes is planned as a moderate speed/10-12km trek. We meet at the end point and do a short shuttle back to the day's start- then we're off.

This is one hike series where you don't need to sign up ahead of time or commit to every hike. It allows us to revisit sections of the trail not seen for quite a while or to fill in sections some of you may never have hiked. As we cross the Moraine we will trek through a wide variety of forests, fields and along country roads eventually arriving in Warkworth or Castleton at the far east end of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail. Our series will take a break over the winter to avoid shuttles on snowy roads, but plan to join us again in the Spring. Look for the next scheduled hikes in the Spring edition of Trail Talk.



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



NEW YEARS Dec. 28- Jan 1, 2016

Time to ourselves after the hectic season.

Outside everyday and a little longer by the fireplace.

EASTER March 25 - 28

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 www.execulink.com/~gvincent or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or vincent.greg@gmail.com

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

Keep on Trekking!



> B&B: no tv, just wind & waves
> Storm Watching & Fall Colours

> Painting Lake Superior
^ Taimi Poldmaa ~ Mid October
> Gales Photography Workshop
^ Rob Stimpson ~ Oct/Nov

On Lake Superior
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rockislandlodge.ca



NEW MEMBERS

ORTA welcomed the following new members and families during our last quarter.
JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Alain Arsenault | Nancy Hunt |
| Pat Baldwin | Kelly Kang |
| Craig Bamford | Liudmila Kryvitskaya |
| Etleva Bimo | Larry Levi |
| Deborah Caruso | Kate Meehan |
| MC Cheung | Madeleine Miller |
| CJ Chiddy | Ann-Margaret Mozola |
| Tracy Chu | Jennifer Sawyer |
| Pat Cota | Eran Segev |
| Bob Darlington | Kevin Simmons |
| Michael Downes | Shahram Soltanpour |
| Sucilla Harrikissoon | Jane St Germain |
| Jane Hu | Marjorie Stephenson |
| Xiaoxing Huang | Janet Wilson |

A MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE

As part of ORTA's program to Celebrate Life's Milestones or In Memory of friends or family, the following gifts were received

In Memory of

the late
Uwe Schrage
to celebrate his life



CHAMPIONS

July 1 - September 30, 2015

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

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| IBM Canada Ltd. | Jean Heys | Elisabeth Oberparieiter |
| Rick Berry | Linda Johnstone | Mimi O'Leary |
| Paul Chronis | Barnet Kussner | Judy Pergau |
| Peter & Cynthia Coates | Ian Lord | Michael Pruss |
| Stephen Cockle | Eleanor Lowe | Peter Schaefer |
| Jeff Cowan | Brad McLellan | Keith Smith |
| Julia Croome | Mike McQuaid | Gaye & Robert Spence |
| Bruce Engell | Brian & Wilma Millage | Michael Swartz |
| Susan Field | Barbara Muirhead | Lorna Van Bergen |
| Sean Foran | Garry & Grace Niece | Joan Watson |
| Juergen Friedrich | Lois Nordin | Millie Wan |



- Robert Warren
- Anne Welch
- Jean Williams
- Gayle Whitehead
- Claus & Elke Wolfe
- Bill Young



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

ORTA WINTER 2016 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

Sat, Jan. 2, 2016 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

Sat, Jan. 2, 2016 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 7.5+km; Moderate; 2.5+hrs.; Hike on beautiful Happy Valley trails. Some steep hills. Dress for the weather in layers. May need snowshoes or icers depending on conditions. Bring warm drinks and snacks. Meet at roadside parking northeast corner of Weston Rd & 16th Sdrd. GPS: 43.954224, -79.586575

Fatema Amini, 905-235-6676 or on day of hike 416-616-8780, email: taran_amini@yahoo.com

Sun, Jan. 3, 2016 1:00 PM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; 5km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike. May need snowshoes or icers depending on conditions. 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

Sun, Jan. 3, 2016 1:30 PM, King - Cold Creek Conservation Area (Conc. 11)

8km; Moderate; 2+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.

If conditions are icy please wear icers on sturdy hiking boots. 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)

Mon, Jan. 4, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville – YRF Hollidge Tract (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Starting from the reopened Hollidge Tract, we will do a loop hike east through the new trails of the former Drysdale Tree Farm and back. Sheltered forest and open meadow trails. Let's hope for snowshoe weather. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch afterwards. Meet in parking lot east side of Hwy 48, 3km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.067322, -79.304117

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

Wed, Jan. 6, 2016 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)

ORTA Map 3; 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 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 (day of hike) 905-809-5138

Fri, Jan. 8, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on mainly footpaths with some hilly sections. Dress suitably for the weather with icers / snowshoes. Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

John Fuchs, 289-500-2212 (hike day only)

Fri, Jan. 8, 2016 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. Icers and or snowshoes a must. 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, Jan. 9, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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, Jan. 9, 2016 9:30 AM, Durham East Cross Forest CA - Devitts Rd

ORTA Map 7; 12km; Moderate to fast; 3hrs.; Joint hike with the Durham Outdoors Club. Icers or snowshoes may be required. From Regional Road #57. Turn east onto Devitts Road. Destination is at 4560 Devitts Road GPS: 44.10063, -78.73180
Scott Nokleby, email: scott.nokleby@gmail.com, cell 905-259-3896

Sun, Jan. 10, 2016 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

Mon, Jan. 11, 2016 9:30 AM, Aurora - Nokiidaa Trail (Industrial Parkway North)

ORTA Map Aurora; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; Easy terrain. Route dependent on weather - probably visiting the Aurora Arboretum in winter snow. Icers probably required, if recent heavy snow bring snowshoes if you have them. Dogs welcome but must be on leash. Bring drinks and a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet at the south parking lot of the Aurora Family Leisure Centre, 135 Industrial Parkway North GPS: 44.006878, -79.459456
Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Wed, Jan. 13, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor - (Old Colony Rd.)

ORTA Map 3; 9+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; T&B hike from the meeting place through the Jefferson Forest. Come prepared for the weather (icers/show shoes). Bring a drink and snack. The length of the hike will be dependant on the weather. No dogs please. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Old Colony Rd. 550m. west from Bayview Ave. GPS: 43.938785 , -79.435619
Malcolm Hann, 905-477-7260 (before 10:00PM) cell 416-333-1440 (hike day only)

Fri, Jan. 15, 2016 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

Fri, Jan. 15, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on mainly footpaths with some hilly sections. Dress suitably for the weather with icers / snowshoes. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761
John Fuchs, 289-500-2212 (hike day only)

Sat, Jan. 16, 2016 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

Sat, Jan. 16, 2016 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 8+km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; Joint hike with the Durham Outdoors Club. We will do two loops. Icers or snowshoes required. 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
Scott Nokleby, email: scott.nokleby@gmail.com, cell 905-259-3896

Mon, Jan. 18, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord/Goodwood/Glasgow (Conc. 3)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Sheltered forest and meadow trails with some hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners to this very scenic area. 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, Jan. 20, 2016 9:30 AM, Vaughan - Langstaff EcoPark

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Easy terrain, T&B hike on gravel trail Meet at Langstaff EcoPark, short distance east of Keele St on south side of Langstaff Rd (north of Hwy 7). GPS: 43.8200236, -79.4970013
Cornelius Sommer, 905-953-7949



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. 20, 2016 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

Thu, Jan. 21, 2016 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night. "New Zealand": Where there is only the scenic route. Exploring a young country; the land of the Maori, Kiwis, earthquakes and volcanoes, not to mention cricket. Presented by Pam & Andy Wright. 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 phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Jan. 22, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; We will hike a loop in the Brock Tract, some hills, icers or snowshoes needed 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

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Jan. 22, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Icers and 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

Fri, Jan. 22, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; We will hike a loop in the Brock Tract, some hills, icers or snowshoes needed 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

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Sat, Jan. 23, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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. 24, 2016 9:45 AM, Cobourg - Uplands Vista (Cold Springs) - (Taylor Rd.)

12km; Moderate to fast; Joint hike with Pine Ridge Club (PRC); 12km hike or 7km snowshoe. Be prepared with both snowshoes and icers, which may be mandatory if conditions dictate. Bring drink, lunch or snacks. PRC hike leader, contact: Colin Banfield, 905-372-7120. From Rd #28 (near Bewdley); east on Rd #9; south on County Rd 18 to village of Camborne; west on Kennedy Rd, approx. 0.5 km, to parking at bottom of the end of Taylor's Rd. GPS: 44.042552 , -78.219821

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

Mon, Jan. 25, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Richvale Greenway (Central Library)

6.5km; Slow; 2.25hrs.; Dress for winter weather. Icers probably necessary. Dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet outside the front entrance of Richmond Hill Central Library, SW corner of Major Mackenzie Dr. and Yonge St. GPS: 43.865243, -79.452633

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Wed, Jan. 27, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Secord/Goodwood/Glasgow (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 (day of hike) 905-960-0543

Fri, Jan. 29, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major West (Conc. 6 - aggregate pit)

ORTA Map 5; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; 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

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Jan. 30, 2016 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. 31, 2016 1:30 PM, East Gwillimbury - Holland Landing Prairie Provincial Park Reserve (Queensville)

6km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Hike along packed trails through Holland Landing Prairie to Anchor Park and back. Flat terrain with steep hill to lookout. Dress for the weather. Icers may be required. Well mannered dogs on leash welcomed. Note start time. Meet at Queens Court trail head, south side of the Queensville Side Rd 500 m. east from Yonge Street. GPS: 44.129277 , -79.490855

Robert Alsop, cell phone on day of hike 905-717-3718

FEBRUARY

Mon, Feb. 1, 2016 9:30 AM, Caledon - Palgrave Forest north (Finnerty SR)

ORTA Map 1; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Hike with us on exceptional mixed forest trails with some hills. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch 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

Wed, Feb. 3, 2016 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Brown Hill Tract (Ravenshoe Rd.)

10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Come prepared for the weather (icers/shoe shoes). Bring water and snacks. The length of the hike will be dependent on the weather. Take 404 north to Woodbine Ave. North

to Ravenshoe Rd. East on Ravenshoe Rd. for 5.3Km. Meet in the parking area on the south side of Ravenshoe Rd. GPS: 44.212050 , -79.377786

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

Fri, Feb. 5, 2016 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (Kennedy Rd)

8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on mainly footpaths with some hilly sections. Dress suitably for the weather with icers / snowshoes. Meet in the parking area at the dead end of Kennedy Rd, north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.087113 , -79.360133

John Fuchs, 289-500-2212 (hike day only)



Fri, Feb. 5, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Eldred King Woodlands (Hwy 48)

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; We will hike Eldred King, Scout and Mitchel Tracts, conditions permitting. Icers and or snowshoes a must. Meet in parking lot west side of Hwy 48, 2.5 km north of Ballantrae. GPS: 44.059809, -79.302761

Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161

Sat, Feb. 6, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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. 7, 2016 1:00 PM, Schomberg - Urban - Hwy 27

5km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Urban loop hike exploring Schomberg main street and back wood trails twisting around Schomberg Meet in the Tim Hortons parking lot at the junction of Hwy 27 and Dr. Kay Drive. This location is on the west side of Hwy 27, 600m south from the junction of Hwy 27 and Hwy 9. GPS: 44.005451, -79.677814

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

Mon, Feb. 8, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor/Jefferson Forest (Oak Ridges Community Ctr.)

ORTA Map 3; 5km; Slow; 1.75hrs.; If Ice conditions are suitable part of this hike will be on Lake Wilcox. Icers essential; bring snowshoes if available. Dress for winter conditions. Bring a drink - maybe hot. Dogs welcome. Afterwards you may wish to have a swim in the beautiful pool or join us for a hot soup lunch. 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 416-770-7550

Wed, Feb. 10, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest & Crow's Pass CA. (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 phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Feb. 12, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major East (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike through pretty forest, hilly, vistas over Toronto skyline, icers or snowshoes needed Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering town line or Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4. GPS: 44.0060802, -79.0692565

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Feb. 12, 2016 9:30 AM, Pickering - Seaton Hiking Trail (Whitevale Rd)

10+km; Moderate to fast; 2+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

Fri, Feb. 12, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major East (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike through pretty forest, hilly, vistas over Toronto skyline, icers or snowshoes needed Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering town line or Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4. GPS: 44.0060802, -79.0692565

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Feb. 12, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Glen Major East (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike through pretty forest, hilly, vistas over Toronto skyline, icers or snowshoes needed Meet at parking lot off Uxbridge Conc 7, 6 km south of Durham Route 21 or 1 km north of Uxbridge/Pickering town line or Conc 5 Pickering on Sideline 4. GPS: 44.0060802, -79.0692565

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Sat, Feb. 13, 2016 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. 15, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Meadows - George St.

4km; Slow; 1.5hrs.; A short easy Family Day hike on the Town of Richmond Hill's award winning East Humber Trail in Oak Ridges. Families with children and dogs on leash welcome. Dress appropriately for the weather. The trail is flat and easy, has paved, woodland and boardwalk sections - but there may be snow or ice. Please phone the leader over the weekend to find out about trail conditions. Meet at roadside parking on north side of George Street, halfway between Parker Avenue and Schomberg Road, Oak Ridges. Parker Ave. is off the north side of King Sideroad 800m. west from Yonge St. Drive 150m. north on Parker Ave and turn east on George St. GPS: 43.944435, -79.461983

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Mon, Feb. 15, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; Join us for a Family Day hike on the wide, sheltered trails of Durham Forest. You bring your kids/grandkids and we'll bring ours. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to come along too. 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

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

Wed, Feb. 17, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods West (Conc. 6. / Albright 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 Albright Rd. GPS: 44.033851, -79.1141206

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

Thu, Feb. 18, 2016 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night. Presenter TBA. Please check ORTA website closer to the event for details. 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 phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Feb. 19, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 8+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; T&B Durham forest and Skyloft. Snowshoes 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, Feb. 20, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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. 21, 2016 1:00 PM, Scugog - Oak Ridges Trail - (Boundary Rd.)

ORTA Map 7; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; there and back hike ; forest road and road allowance ; 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 Ridge Trail entry. GPS: 44.056631 , -78.804805

Grace Moores, 905-263-4340

Mon, Feb. 22, 2016 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Whipper Billy Watson Park)

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; A challenging hike if we make it to the 99 Steps. Icers probably necessary. Dress appropriately for the weather. Dogs on leash welcome. Bring drinks and a snack. Lunch option afterwards. 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

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Wed, Feb. 24, 2016 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

Wed, Feb. 24, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Dainty & Clarke Tract (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 8.5km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; loop hike through Clarke, Dainty and Patterson forest tracts Meet at Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.027923 , -79.319657

Cornelius Sommer, 905-953-7949

Fri, Feb. 26, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Dainty & Clarke Tract (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; We'll do a loop on the Dainty Tract then try the trail to Hwy 48 on the Clarke Tract. Dress suitably for the weather with icers or snowshoes. Meet at Dainty Tract parking lot on west side of McCowan Rd, 0.4 km south of Aurora Rd. GPS: 44.027923 , -79.319657

John Fuchs, 289-500-2212 (hike day only)

Fri, Feb. 26, 2016 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: 44.059809, -79.302761

Russ Burton, 905-830-2862

Sat, Feb. 27, 2016 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

Sat, Feb. 27, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor Park - Bathurst Glen GC - (Bathurst St.)

Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; An introduction to snowshoeing and instruction for those who have not previously used snowshoes. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) personnel will host this activity. Pre-registration is required. TRCA will provide snowshoes for those who are registered. To register, send email to hikes@oakridgestrail.org, with the name of each applicant and age if a child before Wednesday, February 25th. Bring a warm drink and snacks. Meet in the parking lot of the Bathurst Glen Golf Course at 12481 Bathurst St. 1.3Km south from King Rd. or 1.1Km north from Jefferson SR. GPS: 43.926150 , -79.478202

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

Sun, Feb. 28, 2016 1:30 PM, King - Seneca King Campus/Mary Lake (Keele St.)

ORTA Map 2; 8+km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; We will go from Keele St. to Seneca and hike around these beautiful trails. There are some rough and hilly sections. Well behaved dogs welcome. Marianne encourages a love of nature, so bring your camera as we will stop to admire the view. If conditions are icy please wear icers on sturdy

hiking boots. Meet at roadside parking on Keele, 3 km north of King Road on both sides at ORTA trail sign. GPS: 43.955220 , -79.535400

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

Mon, Feb. 29, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; Slow to moderate; Wide, sheltered forest trails. Let's hope for snowshoe weather. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Join us for lunch after. 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

MARCH

Wed, Mar. 2, 2016 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, into CA, past gate to main parking lot. GPS: 43.898568, -79.058256
Garry Niece, 905-655-8040, cell phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Mar. 4, 2016 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. Icers and or snowshoes a must. 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. 5, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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. 5, 2016 9:30 AM, Long Sault CA (Woodley Rd)

ORTA Map 7; 12+km; Moderate; 3+hrs.; Joint hike with the Durham Outdoors Club. We will hike two or three loops. Icers or snowshoes may be required. 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

Scott Nokleby, email: scott.nokleby@gmail.com, cell 905-259-3896

Sat, Mar. 5, 2016 10:00 AM, Caledon - Rail Trail - (Old Church Road)

8km; Slow to moderate; 2hrs.; 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 at Gabes bakery in Caledon East. e-mail inquires tjshelvey@yahoo.com.

Cell on day of hike 416-320-8555. 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, 905-850-1507 (before 9:00PM)

Sun, Mar. 6, 2016 1:00 PM, New Tecumseth - Beeton Forest -10th. Sideroad

6km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop trail around Beeton Forest exploring beaver dam forest streams 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

Sun, Mar. 6, 2016 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 wind ; 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. 7, 2016 9:30 AM, Aurora - Sheppard's Bush (Industry St.)

ORTA Map Aurora; 7km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike going south to Benville Crescent. Winter clothing and Icers probably necessary. Dogs welcome but must be on leash at all times. Bring drinks and a snack. Lunch option afterwards. Meet at C.A. parking lot. Turn east on Mary St. off Industrial Parkway (south of Wellington St) , turn south on Industry Street. GPS: 43.998100, -79.455696

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Wed, Mar. 9, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF Hall & Eldred King (McCowan Rd)

ORTA Map 4; 9+km; Fast; 2hrs.; From the meeting place we will hike Hall Side Trail, Eldred King Woodlands, Paterson & Dainty Tracts. T&B and loop hike. Mostly a flat hike with some hills. Length of hike will be dependent on weather. Bring a drink and snacks. Come prepared for weather with icers / snowshoes.

Meet at parking lot 1 km north of Aurora Rd on the east side of McCowan Rd. GPS: 44.0410721, -79.3228268

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

Fri, Mar. 11, 2016 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, Mar. 12, 2016 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. 14, 2016 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

Mon, Mar. 14, 2016 9:30 AM, Richmond Hill - Oak Ridges Corridor/Jefferson Forest (Oak Ridges Community Ctr.)

ORTA Map 3; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; An easy March Break hike for families with children. 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 but must be on leash all the time. 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 416-770-7550

Wed, Mar. 16, 2016 9:30 AM, East Gwillimbury - YRF Bendor & Graves (McCowan Rd)

8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Top hike through open fields and forest Meet at 17858 McCowan Rd at parking lot on west side 1.3 km north of Davis Dr. GPS: 44.101330, -79.338555

Cornelius Sommer, 905-953-7949

Wed, Mar. 16, 2016 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 phone on day of hike 905-960-0543

Thu, Mar. 17, 2016 7:00 PM, Whit-Stouffville - ORTA Event - Ballantrae Community Centre

ORTA Map 4; Discovery Night. "Forest Invasives – Priority Species in York Region"

A presentation on invasive tree species threatening forests in York Region, as well as a few invasive plants to look out for while on a hike. How you can report sightings of invasive species. Find out what's threatening your neighbourhood! Presented by Dayna Laxton, Invasive Species Specialist, York Region. 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 phone on day of hike 905-809-5138

Fri, Mar. 18, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Walker Woods East (Conc. 7 - microwave towers)

ORTA Map 5; 8km; Moderate; 2hrs.; Loop hike, some hills, icers or

snowshoes required Meet at parking lot on west side of Uxbridge Conc 7, 2 km south of Durham Road 21. GPS: 44.0394862, -79.0892224

Kevin Lowe, 416-655-2256

Fri, Mar. 18, 2016 9:30 AM, Whit-Stouffville - YRF North Tract

ORTA Map 4; 10km; Fast; 2hrs.; Icers and 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. 19, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. Icers and 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. 19, 2016 9:30 AM, Ganaraska Forest - (Pinegrove Lane)

ORTA Map 9; 12km; Moderate to fast; Joint hike with Pine Ridge Club. 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 drink, lunch or 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

Mon, Mar. 21, 2016 9:30 AM, King - Happy Valley North (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 2; 6km; Slow; 2hrs.; T&B hike with steep hills. Mostly sheltered forest. Dogs on leash welcome. Dress appropriately for the weather. Hiking boots essential; Icers could be required. Bring drinks and a snack. Lunch option afterwards, 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

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Wed, Mar. 23, 2016 9:30 AM, Uxbridge - Durham Forest (Conc. 7)

ORTA Map 5; 10+km; Fast; 2+hrs.; Hilly loop hike including Skyloft. May still need icers! 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

Fri, Mar. 25, 2016 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Jokers Hill (Bathurst St)

ORTA Map 3; 8km; Moderate; 2.5hrs.; Loop hike on forested trails of Jokers' Hill and Thornton Bales Conservation areas with some hilly areas. Icers/snowshoes may be 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

John Fuchs, 289-500-2212 (hike day only)



Sat, Mar. 26, 2016 7:00 AM, Uxbridge - Al Shaw (Conc.6)

ORTA Map 5; 4+km; Moderate; 1hr.; Join us for breakfast after the hike. May still need icers! 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. 27, 2016 1:30 PM, King - Happy Valley (Weston & 16th Sdrd)

ORTA Map 2; 7+km; Moderate; 2+hrs.; Oak Ridges Trail, Love Mountain and Humber Scource 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. If conditions are icy please wear icers on sturdy hiking boots. 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, Mar. 28, 2016 9:30 AM, Newmarket - Nokiidaa Trail to Mackenzie Wetland (Newmarket Municipal Offices)

ORTA Map 3; 7km; Slow; 2.5hrs.; Easter Monday hike suitable for families with children, including infants in strollers. Bring drinks and a snack. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet in the parking lot behind the Newmarket Town Hall, 395 Mulock Dr, 0.7km west of Bayview Ave. GPS: 44.0416762, -79.4585222

Stan Butcher, 905-737-3966, cell phone on day of hike only 416-770-7550

Mon, Mar. 28, 2016 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. 30, 2016 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

ROUTE CHANGES TO GUIDEBOOK MAPS

Route changes may have occurred since the current issue of the Guidebook was published. In addition, changing seasons and weather may effect trail conditions. Remember to always check the "Route Changes & Trail Conditions" page on the ORTA website for the most up-to-date information.

(<http://oakridgestrail.org/hikes/current-trail-conditions-route-changes>)

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 21, 2016

Presented by Pam & Andy Wright

"New Zealand", where there is only the scenic route. Exploring a young country; the land of the Maori, Kiwis, earthquakes and volcanoes, not to mention cricket.

Thursday February 18, 2016

Guest Speaker To Be Announced

Please check the ORTA Website closer to the date

Thursday March 17, 2016

Presented by Dayna Laxton, Invasive Species Specialist, York Region.

"Forest Invasives – Priority Species in York Region"

A presentation on invasive tree species threatening forests in York Region, as well as a few invasive plants to look out for while on a hike. How you can report sightings of invasive species. Find out what's threatening your neighbourhood!

Advance Notice: Thursday April 21, 2016

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

As part of the program, look forward to an exciting guest speaker. Check website for details at a later date.

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.

Do you or someone you know have a great story to share? You could be an upcoming Discovery Night speaker. Let us know!

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**

DATABASE CHANGES

As you may be aware ORTA is moving to a new membership database system. It will bring numerous benefits for ORTA – better tracking of members and members interests, ease of application by new members, stronger renewal process for existing members, much simpler emailing capabilities, reduced staff time as well as significantly reduced mailing costs.

As part of that change, all members were recently sent a message encouraging them to log on to the ORTA site, create an account and update their personal information. If your membership has recently expired you are encouraged to renew your membership either by online payment or by completing the online registration and forwarding a cheque with your payment at your earliest convenience.

Again you are urged to register and set up an account so that we have accurate records of all our members.

Kevin Lowe
ORTA Board of Directors

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Membership: New and Renewals Pay on-line:

www.oakridgestrail.org/membership