**Uxbridge, Co-Chairs Jon McPhee & Brian Millage**

The 2022 year started off with a bang as a tornado ripped through the Uxbridge region, and others, and ORTA responded to the call. North Walker Woods trails were devastated with multiple trees uprooted and blocking most trails. Three ORTA chainsaw crews went to work and 200 combined hours later the trails were cleared and safe. Volunteers from Green Durham and Durham Mountain Bike Association cleared many other trails in the region. The town of Uxbridge is still dealing with the aftermath of the storm.

  Later in the year five members of ORTA trail crews took a day long safety course regarding chainsaw operation and handling. Our thanks to Green Durham for organizing the course. This certification increases the number of certified members who can respond to treefalls along our trails. Both of our groups have been transitioning our equipment from gas to battery powered, with the exception of the self propelled mowers that are the real workhorses when it comes to keeping meadow grasses (and ticks) back from our trails. We have recently added long handled hedge trimmers in addition to our string trimmers for trail maintenance. We are fortunate to have a good number of dedicated volunteers in some chapters and are grateful when new volunteers step forward to adopt and monitor sections of trail.

  Our thanks to the folks at Trans Canada Trail- yes, it has officially been rebranded- as they again awarded ORTA with a $1K grant for the purchase of lumber and new equipment. The funds went towards the construction and repair of Boardwalks in the Secord Forest of Uxbridge on trails we share with the TCT, connecting with the Goodwood Tract and the Rouge Park (RNUP).

Parking fees collected at four Uxbridge parking lots, @$6 per car, are being put towards bridge reconstruction, a portable toilet and winter parking lot plowing. Holders of seasonal passes may now register any additional family cars at the same address. We have suggested that future plans should include more trail maintenance and mowing by paid employees, work currently done by aging volunteers.