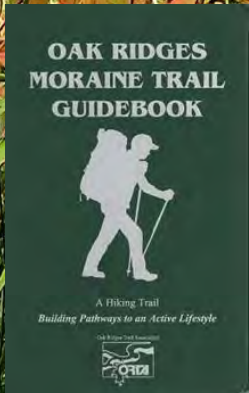


Oak Ridges Trail Association

ANNUAL REPORT

AGM April 2022

"Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle"



OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION -2022 ANNUAL REPORT

SHARED BY EMAIL DUE TO COVID 19

AGENDA for AGM to be held via ZOOM on April 21st, 2022

- 7:00 Welcome and call to order – Kevin Lowe
- Adoption of the agenda
- Approval of the Minutes for ORTA AGM 2021
- Recognition of Chapter Chairs & Recognition of Directors, Key Committee Members & Office Staff
- Motion to adopt reports contained in this Annual Report Treasurer's Report – Bob Alexander*
- Motion to adopt Financial Statements*
- Motion to authorize Board to reconsider Financial Review*
- Past President's Report
- President's Report
- Nominating Committee
- Motion to adopt Board of Directors for 2022-2023*
- Awards and Presentations
- Adjournment of the Business Meeting - Kevin Lowe
- 7:45 short break before presentation
- 8:00 Guest Speaker – Greenbelt Foundation

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Northumberland

Thank you to the many photographers who share their talents with ORTA through our Facebook page. Pictures used on the front cover clockwise: Heather Cooper, Robert Schieck and, background sumac picture: Vesna Miller

Director's and Key Committee Member's Reports:

Hike Program

Treasurer's Report and Summary Statement (2021 Financial Statements)

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Member of the Year

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held via ZOOM on April 22nd, 2021

The Annual Report for 2021 was delivered by email (by hand or post to 11 members) in advance and contains the various reports. Invitations to this meeting were delivered by email (or by phone to those without email) to our membership who responded with their interest, plus our guest speaker.

Kevin Lowe welcomed everyone to the Oak Ridges Trail Association's AGM and called the business meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Carol Dowell provided advice regarding the success of this meeting.

- ✓ All viewers will be muted and video turned off to improve quality of slideshows.
- ✓ The meeting will be recorded.
- ✓ All questions will be put through the chat window to be shared by Carol with the appropriate responder.
- ✓ Voting will be held by pop-up zoom poll with responses submitted in advance to all

The minutes were recorded by Lissa Dwyer, Secretary.

Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the AGM 2021 agenda as presented within the Annual Report given to the membership by email on Thursday April 15, 2021 or by mail (11 members).

Moved by Lissa Dwyer and seconded by Michele Donnelly Carried by 51 of 59 votes

Adoption of the Minutes of the 2020 ORTA AGM

Motion to approve the Minutes from the ORTA 2020 AGM as printed in the 2021 Annual Report distributed to the membership.

Moved by Lissa Dwyer and seconded by Kevin Lowe Carried by 47 of 61 votes

Recognition of Chapter Chairs, Directors, Key Committee Members & Office Staff

Kevin Lowe identified the ORTA Chapter Chairs, Directors, Key Committee Members and Office Staff, acknowledging their contribution during this extraordinary year and expressing the gratitude of the membership.

Motion to receive reports from Directors, Chapter Chairs and Key Volunteers as included in the 2021 Annual Report.

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Moved by Lissa Dwyer and seconded by Carol Dowell. Carried by 48 of 60 votes

Kevin Lowe thanked all the volunteers. He acknowledged the Board members and Key Contributors present and absent.

Awards and Presentations – Wilma Millage

The following awards were virtually presented to the worthy recipients by Wilma Millage representing the Awards Committee: The wonderful stories that support these impressive awards can be found in the Spring 2021 Trail Talk stored on our website.

Lifetime Achievement: Brian Millage

Commendation Awards: William Schoenhardt
Garry Conway and Pam Heron

Trail Builder Award: Jim Ryness

Outstanding Member of the Year: Michele Donnelly

Treasurer's Report - Bob Alexander

The audited statements had been approved by the ORTA Board on March 27th prior to the Annual General Meeting and reviewed by Paul Stainton with a clean report.

Please see the Annual Report for his comments.

Motion to accept the 2021 Treasurer's Report and adopt the 2020 Financial Statements prepared by Paul Stainton Accountant as presented.

Moved by Bob Alexander and seconded by Garry Niece. Carried by 60 of 65 votes

Bob reminded the membership that for the coming fiscal period, ORTA requires a limited review of engagement.

Motion to reappoint Paul Stainton CA as auditor to conduct a limited review of engagement of ORTA for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Moved by Bob Alexander and seconded by Huw Evans. Carried by 58 of 66 votes

Past President's Report – Wilma shared the highlights from her Annual Report submission

President's Report – Kevin shared the highlights from his Annual Report submission

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Nominating Committee Wilma advised that our Board member Ed Millar would be stepping down. New members can join at any time and are always welcome
All remaining board members have agreed to stand again.

Representing the Nominations Committee (Wilma Millage and Kevin Lowe), Past President Wilma Millage put forth the following:

Treasurer Bob Alexander,

Fundraising Huw Evans

Regional Director Frank Alexander,

Past President Wilma Millage

Member at Large Weibo Cheng

Regional Director Brian Millage

Communications Carol Dowell

Trail Director Garry Niece

Secretary Lissa Dwyer

President Kevin Lowe.

Motion that the membership approve the panel of Directors for the year ahead as listed in the 2021 Annual Report.

Motion was moved by Wilma Millage and seconded by Weibo Cheng.

Carried by 61 of 65 votes

Questions or comments?

...

Motion to adjourn the 2021 Annual General Meeting: Moved

by Frank Alexander at 7:55 pm, Thursday, April 21st, 2021. Carried by 60 of 64 votes

Attendance Statistics at AGM 2021 celebrating 2020 measured by registration for zoom meeting which was limited to ORTA Members only. Voting was restricted to one vote per member by shared email addresses and reviewed for verification following the meeting

66 people in attendance representing 66 memberships.

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CHAPTER CHAIR AND REGIONAL REPORTS 2021

WESTERN REGION REPORT

Brian Millage, Regional Director

King, Ed Millar, Chapter Chair

Moving into 2021, ORTA trails in Seneca and in the Happy Valley Forest owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) reopened and were well used as people looked for safe places to enjoy life and get some fresh air and exercise. Roadside parking was a challenge especially on weekends.

The trail in King was again linked together after being closed for over two years when the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) advised ORTA that the 16th Sideroad underpass under highway 400 would be reopened on June 4.

Routine maintenance including inspections and blazing, as well as grass cutting using the lawn mower and trimmer was carried out over the summer. Concern over liability and staff changes required protocols be established with Seneca College and King Township with respect to removal of tree falls on their property.

A cooperative project involving NCC staff and ORTA volunteers Bill Fines, Richard Elliott and Ed Millar cleared a number of Scotch Pines (invasive species) during October on the Goldie Feldman property. Trees and branches were used to provide better trail direction and close old trails going to private property. The public is encouraged to use this property which now has a parking lot on the 17th Sideroad, an accessible trail, as well as a link to the ORTA main trail on the 7th Concession.

November brought two major wind storms bringing trees down or, breaking them off to lean over the trail at a number of locations. Volunteer Bill Fines operated the cable puller while the chainsaw work was carried out successfully and the trails were opened up.

Caledon, Neil McGeachy, Chapter Chair & Brian Millage, Regional Chair

As in other regions, 2021 was again a busy year on trail in Caledon. Many individuals and small family groups were encountered on trail while ORTA maintenance crews were involved in clearing operations. Organized ORTA hikes were mainly held in the Palgrave forest tract of TRCA. Caledon trail captains Neal Stein and Rodney Harrison surveyed the trails and removed numerous fallen trees, and a contingent of Uxbridge trail volunteers helped keep meadow sections under control with the help of two self-powered mowers.

In several locations, the trail route was altered slightly to avoid steep hills that were either prone to erosion or were difficult to maintain. One major boardwalk was rebuilt over a water crossing while others only needed small repairs. At Neal's suggestion, he

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extended the trail section on the Caledon Trailway eastwards from Mt Hope Rd to Mt Wolfe Rd, at which point the trail continues south for a short distance, then continues eastwards on a road allowance as indicated in your guidebook. This change decreases the road walking by about 2km. Two other changes of note are from the eastern exit from the Palgrave Forest at Hwy 50. With the addition of a paved sidewalk on the west side of Hwy 50, the main trail continues south into the town along this route. A blue-blazed sidetrail has been added across Hwy 50 from the forest exit leading to the Rotary parking lot, continuing south along the pond edge, then under the bridge to access a loop trail along both banks of the Humber River. Mark this on your maps as it makes for a very pleasant walk. A fish ladder is also located at the bridge as well as a plaque outlining the history of one of Ontario's longest operating mills.

Cheryl and Steve Fisher of Schomberg have continued to monitor and maintain the ORTA trail from Hwy 27 west to Mt Wolfe Rd. When fallen trees are beyond hand saw removal, several of our experienced sawyers are called in to assist with chainsaws. Many of these trees are now removed with our battery powered saws but the gas powered machines still lead the way for large diameter trees. One unfortunate event was the loss of the trail section between the 10th and 11th concessions of King. The new landowner, a development corporation, declined to continue our trail passage which had been so generously supported by the O'Hara Family for the past twenty plus years. This leads to the addition of almost 3km of road walking in King.

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Frank Alexander, Regional Director

Aurora, Bruce Corbett, Chapter Chair

A brief look at our location and history:

- 12,000 to 10,000 human years ago, two lobes of glacier were melting as the Wisconsin glaciation period ebbed through a period of climate change. When the ice was gone, it left behind an east west kame and kettle moraine we now know as the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- Fast forward to 1793 when Upper Canada's first colonial administrator, John Graves Simcoe, needed a name for the rough road following a native path north between the two large lakes that now bear the names Ontario and Simcoe. J.G. Simcoe chose to honour his friend, Sir George Yonge, a British parliamentarian and an authority on ancient Roman roads. From that time on, this north south corridor continued its long and fabled history under the name, Yonge Street.

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- Fast forward to 1827 when flour and grist mills were built along Yonge Street and the community now known as Aurora had its beginnings, coincidentally very close to the watershed between the two lakes.
- Fast forward to 1992 when dedicated environmental conservationists who were also outdoor enthusiasts worked together to establish the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Their goal was to create a walking trail along the Moraine. Today, that trail stretches some 300 kilometres from the western terminus where it intersects with the Bruce Trail at Hwy 9 & Airport Road to Warkworth and Castleton in the east.
- Today, the thriving and still growing Town of Aurora straddles Yonge Street. It is here that the east west moraine trail crosses the north south Yonge Street.



- In the next very few years, the walking/ cycling trail (about 121 kilometres long) appropriately named the Lake to Lake Trail will connect the trails along Lake Ontario to those along Lake Simcoe.
- This makes Aurora the crossroads between the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail and the Nokiidaa Trail, the local portion of the Lake to Lake Trail.
- In Aurora, the Oak Ridges Trail crosses Bathurst Street in the west and proceeds through the Case Woodlot to a 7 kilometre marked route through the town streets and parks. The trail then enters a 2 kilometre walk through the Sheppard's Bush and Vandorf Woodlots. Next is an easy 2 kilometre walk along the roadside walkway of the

Vandorf Sideroad to Vandorf Park at Woodbine Avenue.

- Aurora trails are maintained jointly by ORTA volunteers and the Town of Aurora Parks. We enjoy a good working relationship. Any heavy maintenance is done by the Town crews while the volunteers attend to blazes and any trail obstructions.
- New off-road trails are coming to Aurora as the former Highlands Golf Course properties are now being transformed into a series of neighbourhoods and green space with trails that will eventually form an alternate link from Bathurst to Yonge Street.
- There is a special project in the Case Woodlot where volunteers under the leadership of Julien Robertson's "Homegrown Society" remove egg masses of

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the Lymantria dispar (Gypsy Moth) from the trees. Several ORTA families are active in this project which is expected to continue and will grow during this season to include the removal of Alliaria Petiolata (Garlic Mustard) plants.

Spring trail inspections will be planned for late April or early May. All trail sections have their captains who arrange any assistance they need.

Richmond Hill, Weibo Cheng, Chapter Chair

Another year of COVID lockdowns, ORTA leading hikes and public events have been restricted. For our chapter, we didn't have local Chapter meetings, festival booths and public meetings have not been organized. But our trail inspection still carried on by two great side Captains two times a year. **Thanks Gaye Spence, John and Linda Weston for East Side and Glenn Murphy for the West side.** Spring trail inspection: He conducted trail inspections from West side (All trails between Bathurst St and Yonge St, and Jefferson Rd and Newbridge Ave on May 24 by Glenn Murphy) from trail captain point view, the trail is in good condition and maintain well.

East Side (Main trail on east side of Bayview Ave between Stouffville Rd and Bethesda Sideroad. Trail passes under Bayview at an overpass was inspected on May 21 by Gaye Spence with John and Linda Weston) The inspection was completed successfully. TRCA has updated this trail and completed. Still some litter and recyclable materials were collected. New signs have been added at some trail entrance. See pictures below.



Our Fall inspection was planned for several days in October, 2021. Because of COVID restrictions, our trail captains made a personal effort to inspect on their own and meet in the middle for the East side. On the West side, only one trail captain did it by himself. **Thank you, Glenn Murphy and Gaye Spence and John Weston!**

Inspection results are by trail section. Note that TRCA has been apprised of the inspection issues along with photos of most of them, and TRCA intends to deal with them.

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West side report:

All trails between Bathurst St and Yonge St, and Jefferson Rd and Newbridge Ave were inspected by our trail captain Glenn Murphy on Oct. 22, 2021. His report was as follows: TRCA trails are hard packed screenings and well maintained with the exceptions noted below.

The trails around Grovewood Park are asphalt and are assumed to be maintained by the Municipality of Richmond Hill. Problems are noted and documented with photos attached with this report. The trails were very clean and no litter was collected. Trail erosion was noted at a few locations throughout. All are minor except for three areas: see one

100m west of Marker 9. See photos M9_100m_W1 thru W3



From left to right above, m9_100m_w3, m9_500m_East, Yonge_w7, Yonge_w8.

Overall, the trail is in good condition to use.

East Side Report:

On Oct. 23, East Trail Captains Gaye Spence and John Weston completed trail inspection on east side of Bayview Ave between Stouffville Rd and Bethesda Side Road. Trail passes under Bayview at an overpass were also inspected. They reported that TRCA has upgraded this trail and it is essentially complete. The gravel pathway is also complete. Some parking issues remain at the parking area. A few broken fences were noted (P3): 3 different sections of fencing with rails broken. See one of them in the adjacent photo.



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Amount of litter on the trail is minimal and there is less litter than last Spring.

During the pandemic and the social distancing recommendation, it was very hard for trail captains to carry on the inspection last fall. We really thank our trail captains for both sides. After the pandemic is over, we will be looking for more events such as Richmond Hill's Canada Day celebration to promote our hiking program and membership, recruit more volunteers to help out our trail inspection and maintain activity.

Whitchurch-Stouffville, Scott Heaslip, Co-Chapter Chair

2021 was certainly an "interesting" year. With COVID restrictions requiring hikes to be restricted or outright cancelled and all in-person events cancelled, I think I can speak for many ORTA members when I say that I really miss you guys! The last major ORTA activity in Whitchurch-Stouffville was the fall trail inspection, which went very well thanks to the concerted efforts of all of the trail captains - thank you! I have hiked most of the York Region Forest Tracts in Whitchurch-Stouffville over the winter and don't think I have ever seen so many freshly painted trail markers. Thousands of people from all across the GTA have hiked ORTA trails for the first time over the last two years of Covid restrictions. I am sure they appreciate the efforts of ORTA members to maintain the trail system. Hopefully some of them will join ORTA. With Covid restrictions lifting my Co-Chair Caiti McClelland and I look forward to seeing you again on hikes and at Discovery Night events.

EASTERN REGION REPORT

Brian Millage, Regional Director

Uxbridge, Co-Chairs Jon McPhee & Brian Millage

The explosion of trail use experienced in Uxbridge since the early days of covid continued in 2021. Walkers, cyclists and equestrians roam the trails year round, with the addition of cross country skiers when the snow flies. In addition to maintaining the safety of ORTA trails, our volunteers shared equipment with members of Green Durham and the Durham Mountain Bike Association using new self-powered mowers purchased with a grant from the Trans Canada Trail Association. The extra equipment and volunteers allowed the groups to maintain many more kilometres of local trail than in previous years. Another grant from the Trans Canada Trail combined with considerable input from Green Durham and Uxbridge enabled the doubling of parking spaces at Walker Woods on the 7th

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concession. In Uxbridge, every year is a busy and challenging year for the ORTA trail maintenance volunteers- what a team!

An Uxbridge landowner donated a volume of lumber, milled from his own trees, which was subsequently used to create 13 or more benches at scenic points on Uxbridge trails. These were constructed and installed by Green Durham and ORTA members and have been appreciated by many trail users. The Greenbelt Foundation sponsored the installation of over 40 trailhead signs at the entry points of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail onto TRCA properties. Work has continued over the winter on completion of the trail system of the Rouge National Urban Park southwards from Webb Rd to the Reesor Rd trail hub. This system will link with our Oak Ridges Moraine Trail via the Goodwood sidetrail at Webb Rd. Bravo Parks Canada.

Northumberland, Chapter Chair George Gordon

Hello to ORTA members. My name is George Gordon. I became the Chapter Chair for Northumberland Chapter in 2021. My first activity was to attend a volunteer day (yes, a live in-person event) at Trent University in Peterborough. I have spent the winter considering how to regroup the Northumberland Chapter which has been inactive for an unknown amount of time. Thanks to teams from other chapters for filling in during this period of activity. This spring, we are hoping to have the available chapter volunteers do a trail status review so that emergency items can be dealt with and a maintenance plan can be made for the summer and fall. If you wish to help in the renewal of the Northumberland Chapter, you can do so at the ORTA website or at Volunteer Northumberland Oak Ridges Trail Association - Northumberland Chapter | Volunteer Northumberland

No Scugog Report this year.

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HIKE PROGRAM

Derek Cowbourne, ORTA Hike Coordinator

Last July, I began my journey as ORTA's hike coordinator, taking over from Malcolm Hann. A very big thank you to Malcolm for the terrific job that he did over many years and for the help, hints and histories that he shared with me during the transition. All the best to Malcolm and his family in Alberta.

Only with the lifting of provincial government restrictions did ORTA's 2021 hiking program finally get going, with the first official hike on June 30. Here's a summary of what turned out to be a busy and very popular series of hikes to the year end:

- 85 hikes led by 18 hike leaders.
- 943 hike participants by 132 individual members.
- 774 km covered on the hikes, or 8,644 km if you sum the individual hikers.

These numbers are very similar to the also shortened 2020 program. My thanks to all the hike leaders but a special shout-out to Josie Klostranec who led the most hikes (18), covered the most distance (164 km), with the most participants (173). Thank you, Josie.

With numerous changes to government restrictions etc., keeping the hike registration system running smoothly was a challenge, but most ably managed by Michele – who I also thank for all the tutorials she gave me on how to navigate the Wild Apricot system. Thanks too go to Bob Comfort for managing the post-hike data base and providing me guidance on its use.

Members' increased familiarity with the registration system and desire to get outside and hike – both good things! - led to most hikes being at the limit and the waitlists being well used. This has been noted by our new members in particular. Lifting of government restrictions will help to address this issue to some extent, but it also points to the need for ORTA to add new hike leaders.

All ORTA hike leaders are required to be Hike Ontario certified, but the pandemic has meant a hold on the training program. Hopefully training sessions will start up again before too long, so please let me know if you are interested in becoming an ORTA hike leader.

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End to End: we had just one individual who recorded end-to-end completion of the trail in 2021, non-member Jamieson Hatt. Recorded is the right word, armed with the new Guidebook he completed it unsupported in four October days averaging over 65 km/day! Congratulations Jamieson!

Here's hoping that we can have a full year of ORTA hikes in 2022, enjoyed by an increasing number of members, led by an increasing number of leaders, from end to end of the Oak Ridges Trail.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Alexander, Treasurer

Our 2021 financial plan called for a shortfall of \$16.4K again due to the Covid pandemic and the resulting cancellation of the Adventure Relay. Our actual shortfall came in at \$13.9K, \$2.5K under plan. The main reasons were twofold.

1. We received \$6.8K from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program from the Federal government to help offset our wage costs.
2. We had additional unplanned guidebook expenses of \$3.5K.

Overall revenues were down \$9.2 from 2020. This was mainly due to a reduction in CEWS of \$5.0K, fewer one-time donations and grants of \$12.4K offset partially by guidebook sales of \$10.5K. Keep buying them, we have lots left!

Overall expenditures were up by \$9.1K. Main reasons were guidebook inventory and related costs of \$12.0K offset by minor positive variances in Trail Maintenance, Trail Talk and Professional Fees.

Our overall operations plan for 2022 calls for a net shortfall of \$12.2K, largely due to the cancellation once again of the Adventure Relay. I have also assumed that we will not receive any major donations or meaningful Government assistance. This reduced deficit reflects the partial year savings from our switch to cellular services and our move out of All Saints. On a full year basis our deficit would be \$7.2K. We intend to pursue other measures this year that will hopefully bring us to a breakeven position in 2023/2024. I anticipate that we will finish 2022 with a cash position of over \$60K.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the help and support of Simonetta Fellin and Michele Donnelly who do most of the accounting work and deserve all the credit.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary financial information (2021 and 2020 reconciled with externally reviewed statements)

(000's omitted)

	<u>PLAN 2022</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2021</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2020</u>
Total assets	<u>82.1</u>	<u>96.6</u>	<u>110.5</u>
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2.2	4.5	4.5
Net Assets	<u>79.9</u>	<u>92.1</u>	<u>106.0</u>
General Operations:			
Revenues	41.2	52.2	61.4
Expenditures	53.4	66.1	(57.0)
(Operating shortfall) excess	<u>(12.2)</u>	<u>(13.9)</u>	<u>4.4</u>
Adventure Relay:			
Revenues	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Adventure Relay net	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Overall net (shortfall) excess	<u>(12.2)</u>	<u>(13.9)</u>	<u>4.4</u>

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MEMBERSHIP

Michele Donnelly / Caroline Schweitzer, Membership Coordinator

Membership remains strong. ORTA membership totalled 661 in 2021 (single, family x 1.25*, lifetime and student members)

Family 300 (54 new)

Single 198 (44 new)

Lifetime 88 (1 new and 5 leveled up from Single/Family)

Student 0 (0 new)

2021 showed a slight drop in new memberships compared to 2020. The drop came from a decline in new family memberships: 54 new in 2021 versus 84 in 2020. Single memberships grew: 44 in 2021 vs 35 in 2020. Lifetime members had 6 new join the ranks vs 3 in 2020, with no new student memberships to report. Overall membership remains constant year over year as member dropout is equal to new members joining. Membership is exploring opportunities for increasing member retention.

*Note: Family membership is multiplied by 1.25 (300 x 1.25) to reflect our base.

Thanks to Eric Brown, part of the membership team, who for the past three years has been writing the personalized thank you, condolence or celebration cards to our members and donors. Thank you for your efforts. It is appreciated.

I encourage everyone with a mobile device to download the free “Wild Apricot for members” app. It is a very handy app to have because, amongst other things, it contains your ORTA card and membership information, including your renewal date and the ability to renew your membership directly through the app. In my opinion, the best feature, however, is that the app lists all of the organized hikes currently on offer and allows you to register for a hike directly through the app.

As your membership coordinator, I encourage you to share any thoughts, concerns or ideas with me. I can be reached at membership @oakridgestrail.org.

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PAST-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wilma Millage, Past-President

Once again, Covid severely impacted our activities in ORTA. However Board Activities, trail maintenance, re-routes, hikes, etc. continued to fill our time over the past year.

Our trail agreement with Nature Conservancy of Canada was renewed for Hazel Bird and Happy Valley. I am also working on our agreement with TRCA for the many locations where our trail crosses their properties.

Once again we are unable to meet in person to present our various annual volunteer awards for the third year. Based on current trends we are hoping to have an in-person BBQ to do the presentations at a later date this Spring. We will keep all those folks advised.

We have had several Board Members leave this year, (see Nominating Committee Report for details.) The most significant departure is that of Frank Alexander who for many years has been the Regional Chair for the Central Region.

I am looking forward to the coming year with more involvement of all ORTA members in activities that bring us together socially such as the Wedding Hike, Christmas party and perhaps even a Fall Hike Rendezvous. Hope to see you on the trails.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT **Kevin Lowe, President**

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that I will be stepping down following the AGM as the President of the Oak Ridges Trail Association. While I have enjoyed the six years in the role and feel much has been accomplished, it is time for me to move on and someone with new lenses and perspective to step forward to lead the organization in the coming years. I am proud of what the board has accomplished over this time as this brief recap will illustrate:

- Adopted a new member data base management using the Wild Apricot Platform
- Developed and implemented a new website by then Board member Vicky Chan
- Completely rewrote and adopted our guidebook led by Vice President Garry Niece
- Worked with IBM's business outreach creating our slogan "Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle"
- Built strong working relationships with our stakeholders and partners such as the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, the York Region Forestry authority and the Rouge National Urban Park
- Offered over 300 guided hike opportunities each year over the six year period
- Successfully managed multiple issues related to Covid
- Maintained well, the length of the trail and side trails in useable condition

I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to lead ORTA and thank you for putting your trust in me. I have learned much and met many, many interesting individuals. I look forward to seeing you out on the trails in my new role as hiker.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Wilma Millage, Past-President & Kevin Lowe, President

During 2021/22, we met regularly using the Zoom platform as we struggled to balance our desire to get out on the trails with Covid protocols. New voices are always welcome, so please let us know if you would like to join the Board in the future.

Carol Dowell – has stepped down from her work on the ORTA Board for the coming year. We thank her for her good work in updating the promotional materials for our association and wish her well in her new job.

Huw Evans – has stepped down from continuing his work on the Board and we thank him for his efforts in the fundraising area over the past few years.

Frank Alexander – will be stepping down from his role on the Board with ORTA after years of distinguished service. ORTA is indebted to Frank for his work on the Adventure Relay, rebuilding the Chapter Chair network and of course, his contribution to this Board.

Kevin Lowe - while not retiring from the Board, will be moving to the position of Past-President. Kevin has served as President since 2015. He will be conducting our Hike Instructor programme as overseen by Hike Ontario.

The following persons have consented to Nomination as Directors-at-Large for the year 2022-2023

Robert Alexander	Newmarket
Weibo Cheng	Richmond Hill
Lissa Dwyer	Aurora
Kevin Lowe	Markham
Brian Millage	Newmarket
Wilma Millage	Newmarket
Garry Niece	Brooklin

OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION -2022 ANNUAL REPORT

SHARED BY EMAIL DUE TO COVID 19

We will also be asking all of our Chapter Chairs to once again become members of the ORTA Board. This will enable them to be more involved in the day to day working of the overall organization and give us more resources for Board positions in the future.

At their first meeting, the Directors will appoint Officers in accordance with the applicable By-law#1

We move the acceptance of the above persons as Directors of the Association.

Wilma Millage and Kevin Lowe

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit nominations for the 2022 awards. As we are sharing the Annual Report in advance, only the categories will be shared. We hope that you'll join us on the 21st to learn about this year's honourees.

Commendations

Trail Builders

Member of the Year

Lifetime Achievement

HAPPY TRAILS!

HOPE TO SEE YOU OUT ON THE OAK RIDGES
TRAIL!