



## Trail Talk Newsletter

### PRESIDENTS REPORT SUMMER 2020

The circumstances of our changing world are going to mean that many organizations ORTA included will need to alter or revise the way they do business.

In our case we have made changes to the registration process for our guided hikes. Hikers now view the posted hikes online using our web page and by logging into their account. They will then register for the hikes that they wish to take part in.

Registrations are happening slowly as not all of us are ready yet to get out in groups. The important thing is we are working to regain the success we once had. Time will tell.

The structure we are using for registering for hikes may become the norm for the future or we may migrate to something else as time goes by. For now the practice is here to stay. Individuals who arrive without registering in advance will not be permitted to go on the hike. Hikes will be limited in number for the foreseeable future and limited to members only. At some point we may be able to accommodate non-members and guests.

As you know all our spring events including the AGM and the Adventure relay were cancelled due to Covid 19. Without the adventure relay, in particular, and the funds it brings not available we will be at a loss of \$13000 (approx). This will obviously affect us going forward. Our reserve fund can make up the difference in the short-term but over the long haul we need to take a long look at

our operations. This will be the first major agenda item for your board this summer and fall. Be prepared to see some changes.

Stay well and enjoy a return to the outdoors.

*Kevin Lowe*

Kevin Lowe  
President Oak Ridges Trail Association



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***Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle***



### **Oak Ridges Trail Association Board of Directors 2020—2021**

Kevin Lowe\*—President

Wilma Millage\*—Past President

Garry Niece\*—Vice President and Trail Director

Lissa Dwyer\*—Secretary

Robert Alexander\*—Treasurer

Brian Millage—Regional Director (East & West)

Frank Alexander—Regional Director (Central)

Ed Millar—Director at Large / King Chapter Chair

Huw Evans— Director at Large / Fundraising

Carol Dowell—Director at Large / Publicity

Weibo Cheng—Director at Large

## **AGM Report—Lissa Dwyer**

Our Covid 19 Edition Annual General Meeting, while it offered the least in food & drink, did elicit a resounding response. Thank you for your active participation in our organization. Between the email replies and the poll results, 116 members had their say. All motions which follow were carried.

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the ORTA AGM 2019 as printed in the report provided to the membership. Moved by Lissa Dwyer and seconded by Michele Donnelly.

2. Motion that the Annual Report which includes Reports provided by Chapter Chairs, of Directors, Key Committee Members & Office Staff be recognized and accepted. Moved by Lissa Dwyer and Seconded by Michele Donnelly.

3. Motion to adopt 2019 Financial Statements as presented in the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Bob Alexander and Seconded by Michele Donnelly

4. Motion to reappoint Paul Stainton as Auditor for 2020. Moved by Bob Alexander and seconded by Michele Donnelly.

5. Motion by the Nominations Committee to adopt the listed slate of Board of Directors for 2020-2021 as presented in the Annual Report. Moved by Wilma Millage and seconded by Kevin Lowe. This motion is amended to include Carol Dowell omitted in humiliating error but added to the final posted version.

It is hoped that you enjoyed reading the Annual Report which was created to share all the news with our membership from one end of the trail to the other. It is available on our website under News and Events.

## **Comfortable Hiking Holidays (416) 445-2628**

[info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) [www.letshike.com](http://www.letshike.com)

## **SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM C.H.H.**

### **TO ALL OAK RIDGES TRAIL HIKERS**

We want to thank each and every one of you who has reached out to us during these difficult times and expressed your support and well wishes.

Your incredible kindness means the world to us!

As much as we miss hiking with you, our focus today must be on staying healthy and safe. Let's look after one another and make sure that our communities, cities, provinces and country come back stronger than ever.

Then, when our world returns to normal, you can rest assured that Comfortable Hiking Holidays will be there to offer you more exciting hiking adventures and great travel memories.

Be safe, stay well and we look forward to hiking with you all again soon!

## **DREAMING OF 2021**

**In due time,**

**we want to be ready for 2021.**

If you have your heart set on a particular destination and want to book it immediately when it becomes available and safe to do so, ask to be put on our

### **INTERESTED LIST.**

We will notify you as soon as we are ready to accept reservations for that particular trip. There is no obligation on your part, nor does it guarantee your spot(s). We will still be taking reservations on a first-come, first-served basis as we always have. However, it means that you will be notified right away that we are ready to begin taking reservations, and then you can decide if you wish to book or not.

**The Nature Island of Dominica**

**Portugal \* Japan \* Ireland**

**Amalfi Coast (Italy) \* Corfu (Greece)**

**Kenya \* Provence & Cote d'Azur**

**Tour du Mont Blanc \* Slovenija**

**Galapagos Islands**

**Camino de Santiago (Spain)**



### *Stan Butcher —Member of the Year*



It takes a person who has, over many years, contributed very heavily in shaping ORTA to document its history. It takes a special person like Stan. Stan has been an ORTA member since 1996, had been very active in the Aurora Chapter since its formation in the year 2000, which he then represented on the ORTA Board. He became a Vice President on the Executive Committee in 2003. During that time, he also served on the Advisory Committee for the Oak Ridges Trail Strategy, initiated by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the result of which became the road map for the optimal trail route and for the sustainability of our trail for future generations. Stan became President of ORTA in 2004. Yet his responsibilities within ORTA became even greater as, after Harold Seller's departure, he also acted as ORTA's Executive Director, in addition to serving as President. Few would be willing to volunteer so much of their time and assume the stress required by Stan's workload. It appeared to those of us, serving on the Board, that Stan was potentially becoming our 'President for Life'. However, in January 2010, he passed that responsibility over to me. After the AGM in April 2010, Stan assumed the Past President position until 2012 and in 2013, became Regional Director for the Western Chapters. He remained heavily involved on the Board and helped in the clean up of files, in the completion of projects, and in many ORTA administrative matters. His judgement on ORTA governance issues have been well respected. It is clear that his past career as project manager has served ORTA well. After retiring from his position as Regional Director and from the Board at the 2015 AGM, Stan remained for us a valuable source of information on all ORTA matters. While he continued to get our files and archives in good order, he became interested in compiling the history of ORTA. He put more and more effort into this project and today we see the project completed. While it will not be found in the 'Library of Congress', this excellent historical work can be enjoyed by all on our ORTA website. Those of us who know Stan appreciate his wonderful personality and his easy smile. Many have enjoyed his pleasant bi-weekly Monday hikes which he led until he moved to his new residence far from the trail. Stan 'the Man' has earned our sincere gratitude and deserves to be honoured by all ORTA members.

Peter Schaefer



Donations to ORTA have been received in honour of Stan Butcher and his compilation of The Oak Ridges Trail Association Story: 25 Years Across the Moraine

"Wonderful job, Stan. Truly a work of dedication" Barb M.

"Thank you, Stan for writing this book on ORTA's history, I find it very interesting and quite an accomplishment on your part!" Elinor A.

"Congratulations on capturing such a worthy and remarkable history AND for a 25 year contribution to the community!" Kelly M.

"Thank you Stan. Your efforts are very much appreciated and will be for many years to come" Lissa D.

## *Wilma Millage—Lifetime Achievement*



For nearly two decades, Wilma has worked tirelessly to promote the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Recruited by former President Bob Ellison, she served as Publicity Director for many years during which she designed several ORTA brochures and had the display panels we still use at street festivals and other events, to promote ORTA activities, designed by students at St. Andrews School in a competition. She had the powerpoint presentation developed by Garry Conway and presented over the years to a wide variety of interest groups, including new Canadians. Wilma has helped lead ORTA hikes twice a month for the past 17 years, specializing in the introduction of new hikers to the forest trails. She has also been directly involved and been a strong supporter of the Adventure Relay. Wilma assumed the Presidency in April 2012 where she served until 2016, and now serves as Past President. Thank you, Wilma, for the thousands of hours of dedication to hiking and promotion of the ORTA trails.

## TRAIL BUILDERS

**Bruce Cohen** – Bruce is the Trail Captain for the Goodwood Tract in the Uxbridge Chapter making sure that trail conditions are monitored and annual maintenance within this area is done. He also volunteers for many projects across the trail including boardwalk construction, and mobile work parties. One example was helping to maintain the meadow trails in western King Township.

**Neil McGeachy** – Neil, as Chapter Chair, has been instrumental in directing the maintenance of the difficult meadow trails west of Hwy 27 in the Caledon Chapter. Neil and canine companion Spencer, walk these and Happy Valley trails regularly. Neil's local knowledge is a valuable asset to the ORTA activities in the area.

## COMMENDATIONS:

**Kevin Lowe** – is 1 of 9 Master Instructors for Hike Ontario's Hike Leaders' course. He has delivered the courses for four years and many ORTA hike leader graduates are now actively organizing a wide variety of hikes. He also has taught the course for Rouge National Urban Park, Dufferin Highland and Caledon chapters of the Bruce Trail as well as others. He has taught over 200 candidates so far.

**Lissa Dwyer** – Since 2011, Lissa has been actively organizing a group of ORTA folks each year for the Aurora Street Festival. This is one of the largest community events in the area and her group has been handing out brochures and promoting our hiking programme. As hike leaders, we have often heard from new hikers that they found out about us from this event.

**Dianne and Bob Charlton** – are retiring from their work providing the tasty refreshments for several years at our monthly Discovery Nights. That has meant coming early to get the coffee ready and staying late to clean up. As well they have made several very informative presentations for us on some of their interesting vacation trips.

**Mina Kazemnia** – has been a hike leader for ORTA over many years now. She typically does her weekend hikes on the Mary Lake and Seneca College trails and has a committed group of followers who enjoy her outings.

**David Francis** – has also been a hike leader for many years and specializes in taking his groups to interesting places off the Moraine. He has done hikes to Beausoleil Island which are very popular as well as other interesting places around the province.

**Bill Patterson** – If you have attended the Relay you have likely seen Bill and his camera shooting pics of volunteers and the Relay participants throughout the day. Bill travels the whole route of the Relay which makes for a very long day. Thanks to him we have a wonderful record of the fun and adventure everyone has on this busy day each year.

## MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES

As part of ORTA's program to Celebrate Life's Milestones or in Memory of friends or family, gifts were received.

In celebration of my teacher Mr. Komar, "It was great having you teach me what I know today. You helped me be the inventor I am" Kai W.

Mr. Komar and his family hike the ORTA trails on a daily ba-



sis, and it's been especially important to them during the pandemic.



## CHAMPIONS

January 1, 2020—March 31, 2020 Thank you to all donors who have made donations of \$10 or more:

Seniors for Nature Outdoor Club, Elinor Allison, Brenda & Paul Arkell, Janet Atkinson, Thomas Barrett, Peggy Belcher, Sharon & Jim Bradley, Margaret Brock, Derek Connelly, Jay Corr, Donna DeBacker, Stephen and Mary Dunn, Lissa Dwyer, Alexandra Forer, Lynn Havard, Charles Holmes, Renate Juelich, Josipa Klostranec, Kelly Mathews, Judy McIntyre-Smith, Ed Millar, Ruth Moffat\*, Grace Moores, Lois Nordin, Charlotte Owen, Ruth & Andy Patterson, Debbie Schaefer, Cornelius Sommer, Elizabeth Stewart, Clare & Alex Sudy, Anna Sunn, Joan Taylor, Linda Tyndall, Deb Vangalen, Andrew Wilton, Jude Yaksich, Dianne Zieman, (\*from previous quarter)

If you would like to make a donation to ORTA, call 905-833-6600 or visit ORTA'S website: <http://www.oakridgestrail.org/donate/> for more information





## TO VIEW OR REGISTER FOR HIKES

**Members will be required to sign in** to review the hikes offered and to pre-register to attend any hikes offered.

***Go to: [www.orta.wildapricot.org](http://www.orta.wildapricot.org) and enter your email and password.***

**How many Hikers allowed?** Each hike has a maximum number of hikers allowed. As such we thank you for only signing up to the hikes you are going to attend and leaving other hikes for your fellow members so we may all have the opportunity to enjoy the hikes offered.

Once you are signed in, the link will be visible. The link to view available hikes or to register for one is called **Register for Hike (members only)**. It can be found at the bottom of your membership profile home page.

**Selecting a hike.** Please review the hike listings and then REGISTER yourself for the one you want to attend; fill in the required information; If you need to cancel your registration, do so as soon as possible to give other members the opportunity to attend. There is a waiting list should the maximum number of hikers be reached.

Need help? Please call or email the office. The ORTA office is open Tuesdays and Thursday. We'll be happy to help.

Oak Ridges Trail Association:  
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 28544  
Aurora, ON  
L4G 6S6

# Lake Superior



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