

TRAIL TALK



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Photo Credit Clock-
wise: Vesna Miller,
Ann Love, and
Heather Cooper

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE: PRESIDENTS MESSAGE;
CHAPTER NEWS FOR CALEDON, UXBRIDGE AND
NORTHUMBERLAND; MEET YOUR NEW MEMBER-
SHIP CO-ORDINATOR CAROLINE SCHWEITZER.**

Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle

Presidents Message—Kevin Lowe

With the cancellation of two Adventure relays your Board has been looking carefully at our costs and expenditures. It is clear that we cannot continue to operate as we have in the past and must reduce our costs. All expenses are being scrutinized and will lead to a different way of “doing business”. Potentially changes in practice will be our rented office space, communications and paid staff support.

We are in early stages of our work and will communicate with you on an ongoing basis once our path is clearer.

On another note I have postponed the planned hike leader training until the new year as there were not enough candidates. If you would be interested in taking on this role let me know and we can add you to the wait listed candidates. ORTA needs your support in this process as our guided hikes are what defines us.

Contact me at pres@oakridgestrail.org



A MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE

As part of ORTA's program to Celebrate Life's Milestones or In Memory of friends & family, donations were received:

In Memoriam
Beatrice Fanning
May 1933—Sept 2021

In Celebration
of Jois Mundell
Happy birthday and a
wonderful year ahead Jois!

Please remember ORTA if you have someone special to remember or an event to celebrate.

Photo credits this page: Heather Cooper

Uxbridge & Caledon Chapters – Brian Millage—Regional Director

Trail crews have been busy this year as so many people have been out using the trails. With the near tropical summer we have all experienced, we worked hard at keeping the trails wide and thus ticks at bay. Many of the recent hikers are new to our trails and the outdoors and are realizing the benefits of outdoor activity - another product of the lockdowns (one of the few good points). Thanks to our trail captains and a new mower, but it still takes time and effort. One example of our activities in Uxbridge was the boardwalk repair and fallen tree removal accomplished just recently on the Secord sidetrail as a group of 5 ORTA volunteers spent three hours working in balmy temperatures and brought the trail up to par. This one takes a lot of attention.

Another note, close to Uxbridge, is the work that Parks Canada is doing on the Rouge Park trails. They are busy establishing a connection between Webb Rd at Glasgow south to the Reesor Rd/Elgin Mills trail hub. This is their connection to the ORTA sidetrail in the Goodwood Tract of TRCA. What a trail system we will have in our backyards! Soon you will be able to take a trail from Markham to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail and also to Stouffville via an existing sidetrail. Much of the new construction is done with completion expected by spring.

In Caledon, we have kept busy by mowing the Trail through the Groombridge farm west off Hwy 27- some great views from the high point of those fields. Neil McGeachy and Cheryl and Steve Fisher have helped us there, while Neal Stein has monitored the trails at the west end. Following his suggestion we have made two adjustments to the ORTA trail. One is an extension eastwards along the Caledon Trailway to Mt Wolfe Rd., then south to the existing trail. The second is a sidetrail at Palgrave from the east side of Hwy 50 opposite the TRCA parking lot, south through the Rotary Park, under the bridge and continues as a loop trail along the West Humber River. This is a short, hidden gem where one of Ontario's oldest mills once was situated. Both sides on Hwy 50 now have sidewalks to avoid roadside walking.

Many thanks to Bill McCullough for his multiple trips each year transporting one or both of the ORTA self powered mowers to mow trailheads in Uxbridge and Caledon. On two occasions, several other trail captains from Uxbridge joined in as we did a trailhead blitz with both of our mowers and string trimmers.

Wilma and I were pleased to host a hike leader meeting in our yard- yes, the weather co-operated. The purpose of the meeting was three-fold. We bid farewell to Malcolm Hann as he headed west after many years as ORTA hike co-ordinator, then welcomed Derek Cowbourne as our new co-ordinator. Thirteen of our hike leaders attended and several stated their eagerness to restart the guided hike programme. A good start-remember you can join in on a guided hike by registering online.

Meet Your New Membership Coordinator – Caroline Schweitzer

Caroline is an avid walker and hiker and is out every day with her two dogs in one of the many York Regional forests near her home in the northern part of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Working full-time and raising a family took up most of Caroline's time but upon selling a small chemical manufacturing company in 2019 she took early retirement beginning January of the following year. This left her with an abundance of free time that she wanted to put to constructive use. Having always loved nature, especially trees and forests, she joined a number of nature-based volunteer organizations in 2020 and, despite the pandemic shutdowns, has had the opportunity to participate in several tree planting programs. Caroline also volunteers as a trail captain with the Whitchurch-Stouffville chapter of ORTA. As ORTA's new membership coordinator she encourages members to share any ideas or concerns with her.

Caroline can be reached at membership@oakridgestrail.org



On Monday September 28, 2021, Marg & I were at Trent University, Peterborough and setup a presentation table-top from 10am to 2pm. We used the ORTA display board behind with us standing in front, speaking to students as they passed by using the information on the board to speak to.. It was very busy. I was unable to stop for lunch until near the end of the event. 21 signups were received on our volunteer sign up sheet and we spoke to many more than that. Unfortunately we were so busy that we didn't get a picture to showcase the day. But it was successful.

GUIDEBOOK UPDATE: An error found on Map 10 and 11 back in June had us putting a temporary halt into our sales. The Trail Distance between the markers was inaccurate. So the maps were corrected and sent to the printers. We now have guidebooks ready for sale again.

Anyone who purchased the guidebook through the office have been mailed the new Maps 10 and 11 already. Any person that purchased the guidebooks from one of our retailers are asked to email or call the office and we will be happy to mail you the update. Map10 and 11 will show 2021 in the bottom corner.

Periodically you should check the ORTA website for updates [Oak Ridges Trail Association :: Route Changes & Trail Conditions.](#)

FOR THIS EDITION

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