

TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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SPRING 2022



OAK RIDGES TRAIL USERS CODE

Photo Credit: Rolland Hervieux

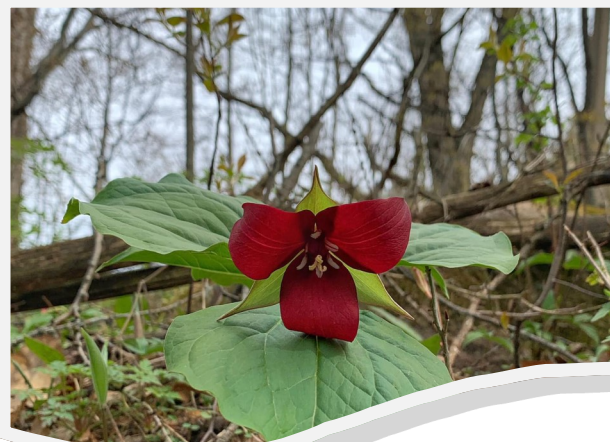


Photo Credit above / below: Cathy Brown

For more Trillium or spring flower pictures please visit our [Facebook page](#).



Climbing STILES with STYLE!

Photo Credit: Cheryl Fisher

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Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle

UXBRIDGE and CALEDON/KING CHAPTER MEETING—BRIAN MILLAGE—REGIONAL DIRECTOR

On a warm and sunny morning in early May the two chapters met in the Millage backyard to plan spring projects and share ideas and concerns. Once again we all agreed that trails have seen increased use since the early covid period- nice to see all generations out there including families with children. Trails have already been surveyed for fallen trees - a fair number have been removed already - and shortly, spring maintenance will get underway as meadow grass in particular will shoot up along the trail. Our main focus will be to keep trails wide enough that there will be little chance for ticks to latch on to passing hikers, and their pets. Tight pant cuffs, insect spray on pantlegs and post hike personal checks will all help keep the unwanted insects at bay, and avoid possible lyme disease issues.

Boardwalk repairs and upgrades in several areas will be undertaken by small teams of maintenance trail captains and other volunteers. One major discussion by the group was the need for upgrading equipment used to keep trails in good condition. Much of our inventory dates back to about 2002 and there have been significant improvements in lighter models and it was decided that we would make the transition to battery powered equipment as we renew and replace older trimmers and even chainsaws. Several sources of funding have been applied for to assist equipment and lumber purchases. There will also be a focus on upgrading signage on some trails, especially for new trail users who may not be as familiar with blazes or the use of trail maps- the new ORTA guidebook is now available if yours is out of date.

In the near future we plan to feature the newest hike meeting point in Uxbridge. It was formerly known as Skyloft Ski Resort, but is now The Trail Hub, located on Chalk Lake Rd., about 1.5km west of Lakeridge Rd., or just east of the 7th concession. It is open from 11am Wed-Friday, and 930am Sat-Sunday, with cafe catering by Annina's of Goodwood. This could be a good starting point, or half way, for a hike. Some ORTA hikes will start there this year.

Enjoy the trails and if you want to get involved with trail maintenance in your favourite area, let me know.

Email Brian at Uxbridge @ oakridgestrail.org

Board of Directors 2022-2023

**Executive*

President	Vacant
Past President *	Kevin Lowe
Trail Director *	Garry Niece
Secretary *	Lissa Dwyer
Treasurer *	Robert Alexander
Regional Director (East & West) *	Brian Millage
Regional Chair (Central)	Vacant
Discovery Night Coordinator *	Wilma Millage
Board Member at Large	Weibo Cheng
Board Member at Large	vacant

Annual Report and Financial Statements are available from the website in the Library documents.
<https://oakridgestrail.org/library/documents/>

MEET YOUR NEW SCUGOG CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS — MIKE & JOANNE BAKER



The couple met and were brought together via the University of Waterloo in the late 80's, although growing up in much different landscapes within Canada with Joanne from the Rocky Mountain city of Calgary, Alberta, and Mike from the Lake Erie Region of Niagara here in Ontario. The couple shared the desire to be surrounded by beautiful landscapes and the desire to explore. After marrying in 1999, Mike & Joanne set off on a Northern adventure and moved to Yellowknife, NWT where they enjoyed hiking and canoeing under the midnight sun and snowshoeing across the barren lands. A return to Southern Alberta in 2001 allowed Mike and Joanne the chance to further explore the foothills, rivers and mountains west of Calgary. Recently in 2020, they took a leap of faith and returned to Ontario, settling into the Durham Region with their two teenage boys and Welsh springer spaniel Cooper in tow. Always placing a high value on living near forests, the abundance of nature trails and conservation areas in Durham Region were an added bonus to the move that brought them closer to family and friends. Mike & Joanne look forward to volunteering and contributing to ORTA and continue exploration of the area and all it has to offer!

You can reach Mike & Joanne at: Scugog @ oakridgestrail.org

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD—FRANK ALEXANDER



When Frank joined ORTA and then became the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chapter Chair, it was quickly evident that he was a motivator. Drawing on his managerial skills he effectively organized his volunteers to monitor, blaze and maintain the Oak Ridges Moraine trails in his area.

As Regional Director, Central Region, he has organized Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill and Aurora, into a very effective management group for our trails in the region. This has involved many volunteers in each Chapter encouraging them to be active in their communities and involving more members in each area to participate and communicate about their various activities in the Region both locally and on our ORTA website.

He has also maintained an important liaison with York Region as our representative on their trail user Advisory Team where he makes the other groups aware of the many ORTA activities and trail concerns.

For many years Frank has been one of the main organizers of volunteers for ORTA's Moraine Adventure Relay as well as participating on the Relay committee. His organizing skills were effective as he managed the staffing of the fifteen Relay Checkpoints and in the past few years he also organized the most complex of them – the Finish Line at Seneca College. He also managed the overall publicity of the Relay

across the 160 km of the race.

Frank's enthusiasm, cheerfulness and organizational skills will be sorely missed, but we know he leaves a well trained team to carry on.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR—BILL MCCULLOUGH

There are a lot of ORTA members who volunteer to monitor trails for fallen trees, pick up litter and write seasonal reports. Only a few devote many months of the year to clear fallen trees, mow meadow trails and repair boardwalks - again and again! Bill has been one of those consistent volunteers who has helped blaze and reroute trails, build boardwalks, string trim and mow a variety of trails and all this in addition to being one of the most regular Monday hikers.

Bill has put in hundreds of hours on Uxbridge trails and Caledon and King West trails as he transports our heavy duty self-powered grass mowers and string trimmers in his pickup, and stores and maintains the equipment from season to season.

Thank you Bill McCullough!



ORTA GOES REMOTE—Michele Donnelly

There was a lot of hustle and bustle going on the last two weeks of April as ORTA prepared to move our office to a remote method of business. We still have storage located at All Saints Anglican Church in King City which takes the shape of a smaller room indoors for all the guidebooks, files, tent and display equipment that must remain dry and safe, as well as the outdoor storage shed for posts, diggers, trail signs and past Relay bins for our future events.

First, we had to clean out the shed and two volunteers, my brother Jaye Smith and his friend Danny Moniz said they were up to the task. They came up for the day from the city to clean out 5 bags of squirrel trash, organize the shed items and made it much neater if you need to come retrieve any items.



Inside purging, shredding and archiving some documents with scanning was helped by Janet Jordan, Charles Shagass and Lissa Dwyer. Stan Butcher had dropped off the documents and boxes he had used for his important historical document. (If you haven't read this yet, it is available on our website under History, The Oak Ridges Trail Association Story—25 Years Across the Moraine: 1992 – 2017). Thank you, Stan Butcher for your efforts and guidance along with Wilma Millage and Bob Alexander for reviewing our mountain of “stuff” and deciding what's important to keep so the transition could proceed. You may be happy to know that Archives of Ontario are quite interested in helping us retain important historical documents too! Look for updates on that in the future.

There were several boxes and filing cabinets that had to be moved into the unit downstairs and I kindly thank Ed Millar and Bill Fines for their help with the heavy lifting.

Cheryl Fisher cleaned up the rest of the guidebooks, making sure that they each have one of every map, updating Map 1 and 3B with those small corrections and replacing Maps 10 and 11 where needed. Cheryl will be holding a few copies for people who want to pick up the insert or the guidebook too.

Thanks to Kristen Doyle and Denise Whalley from All Saints who, over the years, always had

my back or a roll of packing tape when I used up mine. Our relationship will change slightly as I won't see you as often, about once a month now when I go in to file some paperwork or pick up more guidebooks to restock my home supply. I will endeavour to pop in to say a quick hello and catch up on some news. Maybe we'll actually get a lunch date in more often.

Working remote worked for ORTA. The pandemic required us to swivel in our concepts about how to make it happen and as the year (s) went on it became clear that this could turn out to be a good thing financially. Thank you to Kevin Lowe and Bob Alexander who helped explore methods and your guidance on implementing the changes.

Using a new iPhone, ORTA still has the same number 905-833-6600 and you can reach me Tuesdays or Thursdays. I will miss those members that would come into the office once a year and pay their membership in person or just drop by to say “hello”. I guess we'll just have to meet up on one of the hikes or a future Discovery Night when they resume.

Happy Hiking!

Michele Donnelly



UPCOMING EVENTS—Drop by and say hello to the volunteers at the ORTA display table where we showcase all that we have to offer.

The Aurora Street Festival Sunday June 5, 2022

York Region's largest community event, the Aurora Chamber Street Festival, is a fun-filled family event for all ages with 500+ vendors, fantastic street performers, live music, food galore and so much more. Yonge Street is closed to traffic between Wellington Street and Murray Drive, allowing vendors and visitors full access to the street. Plan to attend rain or shine! Free parking and admission.

Markham Village Music Festival Saturday June 18, 2022

The annual Markham Village Music Festival will be back on the street 2022! Main Street Markham will be closed on Friday evening and all day and evening Saturday. Guidebooks will be available for purchase on Saturday. Take in all the music and entertainment, craft and food vendors. There will be historical tours of our street with the Town Crier. Crafts, games and activities for children – fun for the whole family! Free admission.

WE'RE OPEN!

Join us for food and drink after your adventure in the comforts of Trail Hub.



TrailHub.ca
WEBSITE

@TrailHubDurham
SOCIAL

Info@TrailHub.ca
EMAIL



TRAIL HUB

722 Chalk Lake Rd, Uxbridge



Hike Leader Cheryl Fisher on her inaugural group hike in King Cold Creek Conservation—May 11, 2022

SPRING 2022

MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES

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

**Kit Chapman Fund
Toronto Foundation**

**In Support of Trail Maintenance!
Tahir & Fazyah Mohammed**

FOR THIS EDITION

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Photo Credit: Vadimas Geguzinskis

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