

TRAIL TALK

Oak Ridges Trail Association Quarterly

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Photo credits from
ORTA FACEBOOK

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Building Pathways to an Active Lifestyle

THIS IS A MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT ! Sunday, October 22, 2023 - This is your annual opportunity to meet fellow hikers and swap stories of the trail, and perhaps get some ideas for future adventures. The Rendezvous is an event that starts with a series of slow, moderate AND faster hikes - your choice, and continues with lunch and an opportunity to share trail stories with other hikers. Join us in the Uxbridge area on a hike of your choice followed by a potluck lunch at the **Goodwood Community Centre** 268 Hwy 47 Goodwood.

There will be three guided hikes to choose from:

1. Slow/moderate, with Noel Bain and Brian & Wilma Millage
2. Moderate, with Karen Graham and Anna Sunn
3. Moderate/fast, with Russ Burton and Bob Comfort

Even if you are not hiking you can still join the party and come make or meet new friends at the potluck.

For more detailed information click [HERE](https://oakridgestrail.org/news-events/rendezvous-sunday-oct-22-2023/) or copy and paste this into your browser <https://oakridgestrail.org/news-events/rendezvous-sunday-oct-22-2023/>

Register for a hike or lunch-only here: <https://orta.wildapricot.org/Register-for-Hike>

Lunch set up starts at 11am for those volunteering with Scott Heaslip. Thanks for your help!



It was a beautiful day for Mike and Joanne Baker, Scugog Chapter Chairs hosting the ORTA booth at the Brooklyn Fall Festival held September 16th, 2023. Pictured here (right) is Brian Millage helping out, along with Mike. The booth set up attracted a lot of attention and ORTA has gained some new members because of their efforts. Welcome to ORTA!



www.oakridgestrail.org

Pictured above:

Left: Wilma, Cheryl, Brian & Steve.

Right: Brian & Scott

July 22nd an opportunity arose, for local not for profit community groups to promote themselves at a 1st time event. On a closed off Main Street in Schomberg, for their Side-walkable Saturday.

ORTA was well represented with five members present. Not as busy as we would have preferred, but the word was spread, and some good conversations and contacts were had. Brian & Wilma Millage, Cheryl & Steve Fisher and Scott Heaslip



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Uxbridge News

The main news from Uxbridge this past year has been the pay parking issue in the main parking lots along the 6th and 7th concessions. To date, \$100k has been collected through day and season permits. Portions of this amount have been used for bridge construction, winter snow plowing of parking lots, one porta-potty at the Towers lot and most recently, a \$1200 grant to ORTA for lumber used on the recent boardwalk build. Funds have also been allotted to TRCA for mowing trails other than ORTA trails, which are still maintained by ORTA volunteers.

Thanks go to Green Durham for organizing the chainsaw safety course and the purchase of battery powered maintenance equipment- chainsaws, hedge trimmers, string trimmers and gas powered mowers (these last are still more dependable than battery units for heavy use on our trails).

Unfortunately, most ORTA hikes and many other group and family outings now avoid the main Uxbridge trail systems due to the complexity of daily passes, lack of phone data or just the cost of repeated short term visits. The discussions continue about the future of this program.

Brian Millage

Regional Director



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Discovery Night Thurs. Oct. 26th 2023

Colouring Courtship:

Studies on Hummingbird Colouration and Courtship Dances.

Our Guest Speaker:

Dr. Rick Simpson,

Program Director, Central Ontario—West
Nature Conservancy of Canada

Dr. Simpson studied 6 species of hummingbirds in the Southwest United States: Allen's, Anna's, Costa's, Calliope's, black-chinned, and broad-tailed hummingbirds. The presentation will start by going over some general information on how animals use colour to communicate, then talk about hummingbirds and why they are so interesting, and finally about his specific PhD dissertation research on hummingbird courtship dances and colouration.

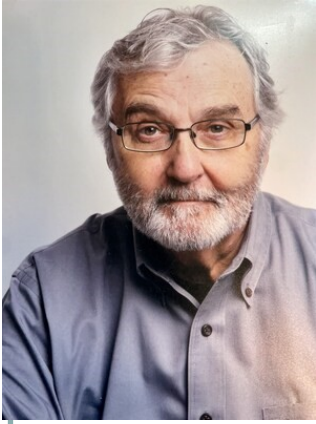
For a sneak preview, his work was featured in a segment of Attenborough's Life in Colour on Netflix, specifically in Episode 1: Seeing in Colour. For the link to the Netflix trailer and for more information about this event [CLICK HERE](#).

Discovery Night is open to members and the general public. Join us for this series of speakers on worldwide journeys, fascinating nature stories, adventure treks and other stories on a wide variety of subjects. It is also an opportunity to get together with your ORTA friends to catch up on what is happening in our organization. Come along and bring a friend to enjoy these pleasant evenings.

Location: Ballantrae Community Centre, 5592 Aurora Rd., Whitchurch Stouffville

Date & Time: Thursday October 26/23 7-9pm

Bring: \$10 fee covers the hall rental and refreshments. Lug a mug.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Bill Roberts. ORTA member since its inception, Membership Coordinator 1995-2000. Bills efforts led to an increase in ORTA Membership and he once handled over 150 new memberships in nine months because of those efforts. More information and pictures of Bill can be viewed in [Chapter 2: The Developing Years 1994—2004](#) in the Oak Ridges Trail Association Story 25 Years Across the Moraine: 1992—2017 by Stan Butcher.

Harold Sellers fondly remembers Bill.

“Bill Roberts gets a lot of the credit for igniting my passion for day hiking. When I retired from the federal government in 1997, I decided to try hiking with ORTA. Bill led the first hike I was on,

on the trail through Mary Lake and Seneca College. As they say, the rest is history.

Over the next few years I enjoyed many hikes with Bill, as well as working with him on club business, once I joined the Board. We spent many enjoyable times together. Bill and Chris hosted several ORTA Christmas parties in their Newmarket home. It was quite crowded!

Years have passed, we moved to BC, Bill’s health deteriorated, and we no longer saw each other. But my memories of good times with a good friend will always be a joy to me.”

Stan Butcher reminisces .

“I also remember Bill well, starting with his prompt processing of our Membership application.

In the history of ORTA it's recorded that when he retired as Membership Coordinator it was necessary to recruit a team of three to handle the duties.

He often hiked with my group when I became a hike leader.

One day we came to a challenging hill and Bill said "race you to the top!"

I believe he won by a step or two . . .”

ORTA wishes to thank all of our donors who contribute on various platforms, whether in addition to your annual membership fee or as a separate donation throughout the year to our organization. It is very much appreciated.

Some of the platforms you can use:

Canada Helps / My Tribute / United Way / Benevity / Wild Apricot

If a cheque is still your preference, it can be sent to P.O. Box 28544, Aurora, ON L4G 6S6

You may also ask at your place of employment to see if they have a Gift Giving Program in place. Some company’s match your donation dollar for dollar!

In memory of
Norm Erickson

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in Honour
of Ed Millar & Craig Bairns
for their “superlative trail clearing in the Happy Valley Forest.”

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Photo Credit Karen Graham

"Derek and Martin were good sports as I tried to take a photo while they were trying to eat lunch."

(on one of Karens many hikes)

Oak Ridges Trail Association:
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Aurora, ON
L4G 6S6

National Hiker Award

Challenge for Canadian Hikers is almost here! Launching Nov 15th 2023!!

The National Hiker Award has been created by Hike Canada en Marche with a number of goals and exams for each level. There are two award sections, one for youth under 21 and one for adults with badges for each level to achieve.

Each age group has three levels of award. You must complete the first level before proceeding to a higher level. Upon registration, you will be sent the program details.

Adult - National Award
Adult - Advanced Award
Adult - Distinguished Award

Youth - National Brown Earth Award
Youth - National Green Growth Award
Youth - National Blue Sky Award

Each Award level will have its unique numbering up to the elite Distinguished Hiker Level top #100. There will be several steps for each level, with greater challenges as you work up to the Advanced, then Distinguished Hiker Levels

Registration starts November 15, 2023.

- \$20 Adult Registration Fee
- \$10 Youth

Once registered, you can access the program content and your personal log. These will be set out as a physical component and an online hiking skills component with multi-choice questions.

Physical component will consist of a hike, trail maintenance work and working at a community hiking event.

Online skills section will test your knowledge of long-distance hiking trails in Canada, historic trails, values, safety, first aid, weather, natural history and Indigenous trail connections.

Each award level will add to the depth and range of questions as well as requiring more physical challenges as you progress to the Advanced and Distinguished levels.

Be ready to challenge yourself to be a knowledgeable and proficient hiker as you proceed from level to level, and be recognized by your hiking peers across Canada.

For details and more information, contact David Francis at david.francis.trails@gmail.com

FOR THIS EDITION

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