

Spring
2019



TRAIL MARKINGS

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Waterloo Region Crossing Raises Money for the Working Centre

By Madeline Rosamond

The Waterloo Region Crossing fundraiser, now in its second year, occurred Feb. 9-10, 2019. The event challenges hikers to walk from Cambridge to West Montrose (65 km), non-stop over 24 hours in winter. The goal is to raise awareness about the risk of exposure to the homeless and raise funds for The Working Centre. As of publication, over \$39,000 was raised.

The GVTA has been heavily involved since the beginning. Thanks to GVTA members Petr Bakus, Joy Geiger, Emily Bennett, Jane Kenyon, Jamie and Jan Hember, Ildiko Tiszovsky, Charles Whitlock, and Petra Suffling for volunteering to help organize the event. One hundred people participated, including some long-standing GVTA members. Eighty-five hikers joined the GVTA.

Petr Bakus, who completed the hike, describes the experience: "The trek was amazing, one of the toughest challenges, but also a very humbling experience. From the amazing volunteer trek crew who kept our spirits up, to the trekkers I met and who all genuinely wanted everyone to succeed and cross the finish line, to the home owners along the route who greeted us with baked goods and stood on their porch at 1am clapping as we walk by, to the wonderful children from Christian Foundation School in Winterbourne who made these awesome buttons that we got at every stage."

Check out Petr's photographs of the event on page 4! Thanks again to all who volunteered and participated.

President's Message

By Jim Senn

This will be my final President's message. After over seven years on the Board, I resigned from the GVTA Board at the end of 2018. I have enjoyed my time with the GVTA and I am continuing as a volunteer, working on a couple ongoing projects. The GVTA is a great organization doing very worthwhile work creating and maintaining a footpath through the Grand River watershed which is enjoyed by members and non-members alike. The leadership of the organization is now in the capable hands of Annie Côté - Kennedy, acting President until the Annual General Meeting (May 29), and a hard-working and capable Board. All the best to them and to all of you.

Our board has positions open!

- Secretary
- Marketing Director
- Landowner Relationships Director
- Towpath Trail Director (Haldimand County)
- Pinnacle Trail Director

To volunteer, please sign up at:

www.gvta.on.ca/BoardVolunteering.htm

Volunteers Needed!

- Trail Maintenance
- Hike Leaders

**To learn more about these roles,
please visit:**

www.gvta.on.ca/OnTheTrail.htm

Welcome, New GVTA Members!

November 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019

Cardinal, Marguerite
Currie, Mary-Ellen
DeVries, Theresa
General, Michele
Green, Sandra
Keays, Daryl
Miranda, Vanessa
Morris, Neal
O'Dell, Margaret



Shantz, Evelyn
Stubley, Gordon
Wells, Deb

GVTA Board Meetings

Upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 9

**Location: Allan Reuter Centre
507 King St E. (in Preston)
Cambridge, ON N3H 3N4**

Time: 7:00 PM

GVTA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 7:00 PM

**Location: Edelweiss Tavern
600 Doon Village Rd.
Kitchener, ON N2P 1G6**

All welcome!

Board of Directors, 2018 - 2019

ACTING PRESIDENT

Annie Côté-Kennedy

president@gvta.on.ca

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treasurer@gvta.on.ca

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Emily Bennett

volunteering@gvta.on.ca

HIKE ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE

Charles Whitlock

hikes@gvta.on.ca

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Steve MacIntyre

carolinian@gvta.on.ca

MEMBER AT LARGE

Shawn Weisar

Lake Superior



Guided Sea Kayak Trips
> Pukaskwa, Slates, Sibley, Superior Park

36 ft Voyageur Canoe Tours
> Musical & Pukaskwa & Group of Seven

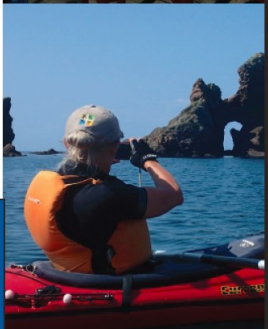
Paddle Canada Certified Instruction
> Sea kayak, Canoe & SUP

Hike: Pukaskwa & Lake Superior Park



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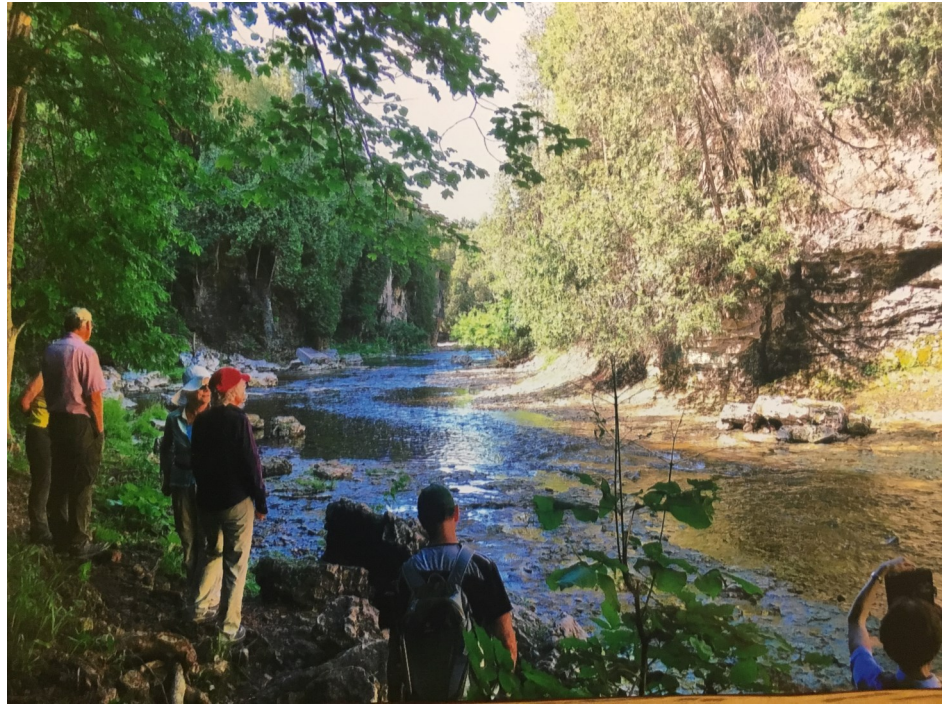
info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca

haltonoutdoorclub.ca

Visit www.gvta.on.ca for more information

2018 GVTA Photo Contest Winner

Congratulations to **Petra Suffling**, whose photo, *Elora* (right), won the 2018 GVTA Photo Contest! Start snapping now; the 2019 photo contest will occur at the annual Holiday Party in December of this year. Stay tuned for details, but all photos must be taken during GVTA activities, but not necessarily in the Grand River watershed.



Photos from the 2019 Waterloo Region Crossing



*All photos
by Petr
Bakus.*



GVTA Christmas Caroling



Left: GVTA took to Victoria Park, Kitchener to bring some cheer in December 2018. Photo by Brenda Wiegand.



Right: Carolers in the Victoria Park Gazebo. Photo by Brenda Wiegand.

worldwide.on.ca

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MALTA & SICILY: Fall 2020—Malta a perennial favorite returns with a new partner in 2020—**SICILY!** Now open for advance registrations.



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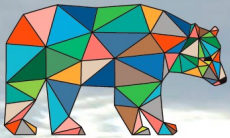
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- > Leave the trail cleaner than you found it; carry out all litter
- > No camping or fires permitted
- > Leave flowers/plants for others to enjoy
- > Do not damage live trees or strip bark
- > Protect and do not disturb wildlife
- > Leave nothing but thanks and take nothing but photographs
- > Use trails at your own risk
- > Walk around the edge of fields
- > Keep dogs leashed
- > No motorized vehicles, bicycles or horses except where permitted by sign posting

Great Gift Ideas

GVTA T-shirts: short sleeved, navy blue. Women's S—XL and men's M—XL. \$25.

GVTA Hats - one size - \$10.50

GVTA Guidebook, 7th ed. - \$15 + \$6 shipping (or contact Jan Hember, 519-745-1375, to pick up your copy). Guidebooks require a 6" X 9" binder, which can be purchased at your local office supply store.

For more information, and to order, visit www.gvta.on.ca/Store.htm.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

To continue receiving **Trail Markings**, send a change of address to Membership Coordinator, membercoordinator@gvta.on.ca

GVTA memberships EXPIRE
March 31, 2019!

Renew online at: www.gvta.on.ca/Join.htm



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MACHU PICCHU, PERU

September 13 to 25, 2019

Explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range.

Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – **rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps!**

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LAST CHANCE! THIS TRIP WILL NOT BE OFFERED IN 2020

JAPAN

October 6 to 20, 2019

An intriguing destination offering a mix of traditional customs intertwined with modern realities. Its history and culture are always at the forefront - from a soak in a hot spring to touring ancient Shinto shrines & dining in yukatas. Discover the beautiful hiking trails from Tokyo to Kyoto, including Kamikochi, the slopes of the iconic Mt. Fuji, and Takayama. Accommodations include western-style hotels & traditional Japanese ryokans, and the vibrant fall colours are at their peak in October.

1 SPOT LEFT FOR LADY TO SHARE ACCOMMODATIONS.

INTERESTED LIST 2020

If there is a trip that interests you for 2020, email us and we will notify you when it becomes available to book.

No obligation necessary.

**Dominica * Portugal * Amalfi Coast
Ireland * Provence & Cote d'Azur
Corfu * Camino de Santiago * Japan
Galapagos * Iceland * Slovenija * Ireland**

TICO # 50018498

About Trail Markings

Submissions (Please submit electronically before issue deadlines)

Content Articles: Managing Editor,

newsletter@gvta.on.ca

Advertising: Advertising Coordinator, advertising@gvta.on.ca

Scheduled Hikes, Work Parties, Other Outdoor Activities: Hike Coordinator, hikes@gvta.on.ca

(If you have not submitted before, please contact hikes@gvta.on.ca for formatting instructions)

Deadline Dates for Publication

February 5, May 5, August 5, November 5

Advertisement Rates and Inquiries

Contact the Advertising Coordinator,

advertising@gvta.on.ca

Reporting Errors and Omissions

Please report to the Managing Editor,

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The Wanderer

By Geoff Bell

For quite possibly the first time in its long history, the North Magnetic Pole has been in the news lately. The reason? Well, there are two. First, the North Magnetic Pole is galloping away from the Canadian Arctic straight to Siberia. Secondly, the recent shutdown of federal agencies in the United States prevented updates from being made to the World Magnetic Model, the basis for calibrating commercial Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Hikers and trekkers, amongst others, have long understood the significance of knowing the precise location of the North and South Magnetic Poles. The Earth's magnetic field is controlled by the activity of the molten iron and nickel in the Earth's core, 3000 kilometres below our feet. The focus of the magnetic field in each of the northern and southern hemispheres establishes the location of the two magnetic poles. Ever since the location of the North Magnetic Pole was first pinned down in 1831, navigators have known that the Pole typically meandered slowly around Canada's Arctic Islands. Anyone who has used a compass and topographic map for striking a bearing knows that the compass needle points to magnetic north, rather than geographic north. A corrective adjustment, usually contained in the margin of the map, must be factored in to avoid going off course. Canada's National Topographic System maps provide adjustments to users based on typical movement of the Pole over time. According to the media reports, the Pole moved about 400 kilometres between 1831 and the late 1940s. However, the Pole has shifted an eye-opening 965 kilometres in the last 30 years, and it is currently moving at 50 to 60 kilometres per year. The Pole has made a fairly straight beeline away from Canada towards Siberia, and about a year ago, crossed the International Date Line into the eastern hemisphere. The Magnetic South Pole, by contrast, hasn't exhibited this unusual pattern.

The World Magnetic Model is a joint effort by the governments of the United States and United Kingdom. It forms the basis for commercial and government GPS applications. Normally the Model is updated every five years. According to the media reports, because the Pole is sprinting instead of walking, the Model had become unreliable for some purposes. It was necessary to produce an update a year earlier than normal, but release of the Model to the public was caught in the shutdown imposed on American federal functions by the White House (the updated Model was made available on February 4). The accuracy of the Model is most important for navigation and other uses in latitudes above 55 degrees north, so the effect of errors in the Model for GVTA members who use a GPS for hiking in the Grand River valley would likely be barely perceptible. A more notable impact of the wandering Pole could be sightings of the aurora borealis. Because the aurora is centred on the Magnetic Pole, it may move farther away from Canada over time.

Sources for this article include *The Observer*, *The Washington Post* and *National Geographic*

The Grand River Watershed—End to End

By Debbie Crandell and Madeline Rosamond

A group of hikers from the Thames Valley Trail Association has decided to hike the entire Grand Valley Trail this winter—weather permitting!

Debbie Crandell and some friends started in Alton on November 17th and began working their way south. They are pleased to report that if all goes as planned, they will have completed the whole trail by March 7th, 2019. As of publication, they have only 80.8 km left to complete, most of that being the Towpath section. Despite some very cold starts (-25 °C), much fun as been had. Debbie says, “We never dreamed we would accomplish this trail this winter. We try to get out there once a week and do approximately 20 km each time. It has been a great way to enjoy this winter!”

The Geological History of the Grand River Watershed: Eskers

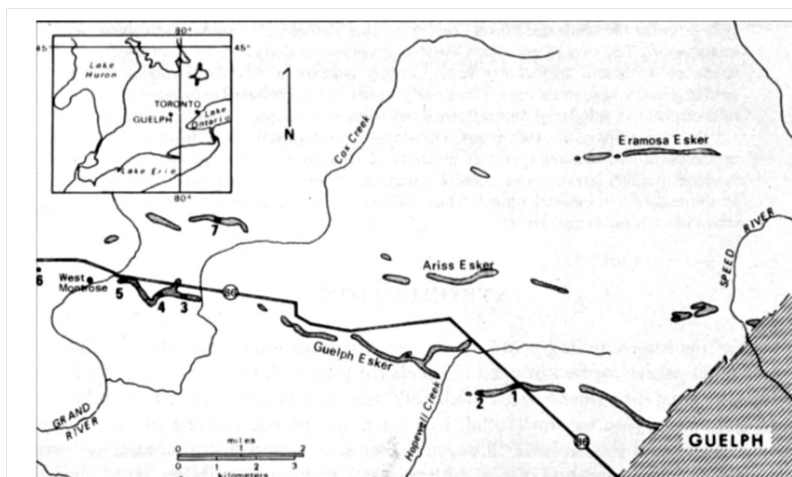
By Madeline Rosamond

Eskers are my favourite glacial landscape feature. They are wiggly hills left behind by streams that ran under glaciers. The stream melted out the ice, and the holes were filled with sand, rocks and silt carried by the stream. Basically, they look like a meandering stream but made of gravel, sand, and other material. Eskers can be found in most landscapes that have been glaciated—and the Grand River Watershed is no exception!

Eskers tend to be discontinuous because streams only deposit sediment in some areas. They are typically steep-sided and can act as areas of groundwater recharge—they can be important aquifers for drinking water in some areas. They are also attractive sources of aggregate and sand; many have been dug out and removed.

The most prominent esker in the region might be the Guelph Esker, which goes all the way from Guelph to West Montrose, with various gaps along the way (see map below). It is visible from Katherine St. just south of Highway 86 near West Montrose. Many eskers exist in our area—keep your eye

out next time you’re hiking!



Left: A map showing the Guelph, Eramosa, and Ariss Eskers. Image from Saunderson (1977), Sedimentology 24: 623-638.

Connections: Companion Trails to the GVT

Over its 280 km length, the Grand Valley Trail intersects with, or overlaps a number of other trails, ranging from short side trails to long-distance trails. Many GVTA members have hiked on these trails or have them on their “to do” lists. This article series, called *Connections*, is intended to provide some insight into these associated trails with first-hand information where available. *Connections* is intended to be an ongoing, occasional feature in the GVTA Newsletter. Do you have a story about a trail that connects with the GVT? Contact the editor of *Trail Markings* at newsletter@gvta.on.ca.

The Aboyne and Trestle Bridge Trails

By Madeline Rosamond

The Aboyne and Trestle Bridge Trails are located near the Grand River in Centre Wellington, between Fergus and Elora. They are operated by Wellington County. The Aboyne trail is a short loop beside the Grand River, accessible from North River Road, just east of the Wellington County Museum. The trail goes through a mature beech and cherry forest before going down to the Grand River, giving a great view of the old railway trestle bridge from below. There are also abandoned lime kilns and a cemetery associated with the former House of Industry (now the museum).

The Trestle Bridge Trail goes over the Grand River on a railway bridge dating to 1909. The track was abandoned in 1989 and turned into a trail in the 1990s. The surface is wide and flat, suitable for biking as well as walking. The trail is 4 km long and connects Fergus and Elora, mostly through farmland. The trestle bridge is high up and affords a good view of the museum and the river gorge.

I tried these trails in February after the ice storm and though they were a bit slippery, they were well-marked and the scenery was lovely. I look forward to trying again in spring and summer!

More information: <https://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/trails.aspx>.



Above: A view of the trestle bridge from the Aboyne Trail. Photo by the author.

Species of Interest in the Grand River Watershed: The White Trout Lily

By Madeline Rosamond

The white trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*) is a handsome spring wildflower. Found in forests across eastern North America, is perhaps less common in the Grand River Watershed than its cousin, the yellow trout lily. White trout lilies grow up to about six inches (15 cm) tall. Their white flowers can be larger than one inch (2 cm) across. They are easily recognized by their six white petals, which often bend backwards, exposing yellow stamens. They also have distinct, spotted, broad leaves, which are supposed to resemble spotted trout.

This flower has many aliases, such as white dog-tooth violet, white fawnlily, and adder's tongue. Strangely, white trout lilies have four copies of all their genes, while other trout lilies only have two copies, like we do. This means that white trout lilies can't interbreed with other trout lilies to make hybrids.

White trout lilies typically bloom between mid-March and mid-April, depending on the weather. Look for them when other ephemeral spring wildflowers are out, such as hepaticas, but before the trilliums bloom. I have seen them on the Walter Bean Trail near Riverbend Drive in Kitchener (Economical Insurance trailhead) and also at Breithaupt Park, Kitchener. Keep your eye out for these beauties when spring comes!



Above: A white trout lily. Image by Eric Hunt, via Wikimedia Commons.

Tips for Enjoying Spring Hikes

- 1) Bring layers and a rain-coat as the weather is changeable
- 2) Don't forget your camera
- 3) Keep an eye out for spring flowers, buds, and leaves
- 4) Look for migratory birds and cold-blooded animals sunning
- 5) Bring plenty of water and snacks
- 6) Know your route—may we suggest the GVTA Guidebook?

SUSQUEHANNOCK LODGE and TRAIL CENTRE
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EASTER April 19 - 22, 2019

Spring training on the trails, snow will be gone with spring on the way. Ed promises a Polish Easter dinner.

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For more information, including driving directions, please see hikevincent.wordpress.com or contact Greg Vincent at 519-579-8210 or vincent.greg@gmail.com

For reservations call Carol Szymanik at 1-814-435-2163

Last-Minute Hikes

Check the GVTA website

www.gvta.on.ca

Hikes and Events

By Charles Whitlock

♦ denotes Independent Outings, possibly without Certified Hike Leader.

The GVTA accepts no responsibility for notices identified as Independent Outings (♦). These notices appear for the convenience of members.

Note: Multi-day hikes are listed at the back of the Hikes section.

March Hikes

Saturday, March 2: Taking Sides on the Bruce Trail- Mountain Brow Views and Wentworth Steps - Iroquoia Section

Distance 13 km. Level 2. Moderate pace 3 to 4 km/hr.

Jane Kenyon. 226-750-8263

or janekenyon64@hotmail.com

Georgia Mulholland. 519-884-4638

or glm@csg.uwaterloo.ca

Depart: 9:00 am. Meet at BT guide book, edition 29.0 MAP 7 at marker 38.7km (parking lot - Chedoke Civic Golf Course on Beddoe Drive off Aberdeen Ave, N 43.246205, W 79.906935)

We will carpool close to marker 27.2km at Mountain Brow Side Trail Parking Lot on Mountain Brow Blvd N 43.211737, W 79.815689.

Join us as we walk on the mountain brow in Hamilton with great views over the city and harbour.

Optional Dinner post hike at La Luna (Lebanese Cuisine) - <http://laluna.co>

650 Concession St, Hamilton.

Please bring lunch/hot/cold drinks/dress warmly with hats/gloves/scarves and Icers.

If possibility of bad weather, please check with hike leaders at least a day in advance to confirm hike is happening.

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Sunday March 10: Early Spring on KW Community Trails

Distance is approximately 12 km. Level 1. Moderate - 3 - 4 km/hr pace

Jane Kenyon, Phone: 226-750-8263. janekenyon64@hotmail.com

Depart: 9:30 AM. Meet at the shopping plaza at Westmount Road and Ottawa St. intersection in Kitchener near the Mel's Diner restaurant. We will carpool to the Zehrs Plaza at Fischer Hallman Rd and Erb St. W. in Waterloo.

Come out and enjoy some of the great community trails we have in KW. We will be walking through Monarch Woods; Concordia Park; Lakeside Park; Filsinger Park; and Red River Park.

Please be prepared for winter conditions with icers and poles as needed. Bring a hot drink/ water and snacks. If possibility of bad weather check with hike leader/ website at least a day in advance for cancellations.

Optional lunch at Mel's Diner after the hike.

March 11—15: Multi-day hikes on the Avon Trail

Distance 113 km. See Multi-day hikes at the back of this section.

Ruth Moffatt: 905-928-7056. ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Saturday, March 16: FWR Dickson Wilderness Area, south of Ayr

Map: 9 but not on GVT. Approximately 7 km. Level 2. Slow pace 2-3 km/hr.

Nick & Anita Kuret: 519-740-1449 or cell: 519-221-2357 nickkuret@yahoo.ca

Depart: 9:30 AM. Find your way to Cedar Creek Rd West (Hwy 97).

Turn on to Dumfries Rd. (#47) go south to the stop sign. At the dead end turn left (Wrigley Rd.) next road (Spragues Rd. also known as Waterloo Rd. 75) turn right and the next road to your right is Brant-Waterloo Rd. Follow this road about 1/2 km. Parking lot is to your right. (43.279778, -80.395910)

This trail will guide us through swampy areas over board-

walks into mature forest and along some ponds to Banister Lake and back. Bring some sunflower since the chickadees are waiting for us.

If old man winter is still sticking around, we recommend icers.

Saturday, March 23: Taking Sides on the Bruce Trail- Dundas Valley Conservation Area- Iroquoia Section.

Distance 13.7 km. Level 2, moderate pace 3 to 4 km/hr. Parking Fees.

Jane Kenyon. 226-750-8263 or janekenyon64@hotmail.com

Georgia Mulholland. 519-884-4638 or glm@csg.uwaterloo.ca

Depart: 9:00 am. Meet at BT guide book, edition 29.0 Map 8 at marker 45.2 - Tiffany Falls Side Trail Parking Lot - Just off Wilson Street East. N 43.240646, W 79.959858 (Fee \$5 for the day)

Car shuttle to Map 8 at marker 55.1 km - Davidson Blvd Side Trail Parking Lot on Davidson Blvd N 43.265251, W 79.990490

Come hike in the beautiful Dundas area enjoying the winter scenes.

Option of pub stop after the hike in Dundas. Location to be decided.

Please bring lunch/hot/cold drinks/dress warmly with hats/gloves/scarves and icers.

If possibility of bad weather, please check with hike leaders at least a day in advance to confirm hike is happening.

Saturday, March 30: Doon Public School to Wilson Ave. and back

Loop hike 8 km. (GVT map 10). Moderate pace 3 to 4 km/hr.

Wendy Shaw 519-579-6607 or mishaw@golden.net

Depart: 9:00 am. Meet at Doon Public School. (GPS 43.38824, -80.42001) GVT map 10. Hike from approximately 19.7 km marker to 23.6 km marker near Wabanaki Drive and return; total distance approx. 7.6 km.

Pace moderate 3-4 km/h.

Sturdy footwear needed and poles recommended. Icercers may be required. Excellent views of the Grand River with no leaf coverage yet. Watch for ducks, hawks, owls and geese and if we are lucky maybe a bald eagle. Bring drinks and snacks and dress for the weather.

Sunday March 31: Lynn Valley Trail. Loop Hike.

Distance 24km. Level 2: Moderate pace 3 - 4km/hr.

Greg & Jeanette Vincent. 5195798210 vincent.greg@gmail.com

Depart: 9.30 AM. Memorial Park parking lot, Simcoe. Hwy 24 south through Simcoe left on Woodhouse St. right turn on Owen St. to parking.

This rail trail in Carolinian Canada is one of Canada's best, following the Lynn River to Port Dover. Trail surface good for a spring hike. We will watch for signs of spring along the way. Lunch in Port Dover and we re-trace our steps to Simcoe.

April Hikes

Saturday, April 6: Taking Sides on the Bruce Trail- Winona to the Devil's Punch Bowl - Iroquoia Section

Distance 13 km. Level 2. Moderate pace 3-4 km/hr.

Jane Kenyon. 226-750-8263
or janekenyon64@hotmail.com

Georgia Mulholland. 519-884-4638
or glm@csg.uwaterloo.ca

Depart: 9:00 am. Meet at BT guide book, edition 29.0 Map 6 at marker 19.4km (parking lot – Devil's Punch Bowl Conservation Area parking fee applies N 43.211275, W 79.754991). We will carpool to marker 9.2km roadside parking at the top of the Escarpment on Fifty Road N 43.195380, W 79.647397.

Today we explore the Devil's Punch Bowl and conquer 7 Bruce Trail side trails. Are you up to the challenge?

Please bring lunch/hot/cold drinks/dress warmly with hats/gloves/scarves and Icercers or other appropriate hiking gear.

If possibility of bad weather, please check with hike leaders at least a day in advance to confirm hike is happening.

April 11-12: Elgin Trail - Port Stanley to St. Thomas

Distance 41 km over two days. See multi-day hikes at the back of this section.

Ruth Moffatt 905-928-7056. ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Saturday, April 13: Grand Valley Trail, Black Walnut section

Map 10. Distance 12.5 km. Level 2: Moderate pace 3 - 4km/hr.

Nick & Anita Kuret: 519-740-1449 or cell: 519-221-2357
nickkuret@yahoo.ca

Depart: 9.00 AM. Meet at Walter Bean parking lot off Shirley Dr. GVTA map11, km41, across from the BMW dealership. (43.479206 -80.425867)

We will car pool to the Tube Park off River Rd. and hike back on community trails and scenic forest along the river. Including Natchez Woods and Kolb Park. Bring a snack and Water; Hiking boots recommended.

April 13-14: Lambton Shores

See multi-day hikes at the back of this section. Ruth Moffatt: 905-928-7056, ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Thursday, April 18: Walk to the Airport on the GVT

Level 2. Pace: 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). 12 km.

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from the M.R. Good Family Walter Bean parking lot near the end of Otterbein Road (43.460195, -80.420032).

The Grand Valley Trail (GVT) takes us through Natchez Hills (ESPA 24) to the Fairway Road bridge (one of only a

small number of segmental bridges in the province). Here we leave the GVT and cross “the Grand” from Kitchener to Cambridge to Woolwich Township (no passports required). We proceed to the airport and stop at the Runways Café for lunch. After, we re-cross “the Grand” and return to the Otterbein Rd parking lot using the Walter Bean trail only. NOTE: It is possible to shorten this walk from 12 km to 9 km on your own by placing a car in the K.D. Woerner Family Walter Bean parking lot ([43.444795, -80.401927](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.444795,-80.401927)) at the end of Woolner Trail (formerly Zeller Drive) and avoid the longer walk back to the Otterbein Rd parking lot. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

Saturday, April 20: Tour de Belwood

GVTA Guidebook, 7th edition, Map 14. About 20 km, moderate pace: 4 km/hr, about 5 hours. Hike level 2 (moderate), terrain has few difficulties but please be aware of the length of the hike.

Depart: 9:00 AM, from the shelter next to Belwood Hall, near the intersection of Queen St and 5th Street N (GPS [43.791003, -80.322486](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.791003,-80.322486)). Parking is available in the village of Belwood or at the baseball diamond on Smith St., ~ 100 m from the meeting place.

Carpool from Kitchener— depart 7:45 AM sharp from Victoria Pavilion, Victoria Park, Kitchener (GPS [43.445541, -80.499283](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.445541,-80.499283)).

Leader: Didier Thevenard, 519-888-0894 (h), 519-497-9387 (m) or didier.j.thevenard@gmail.com.

This walk will take us on a loop around Belwood Lake, one of the seven reservoirs built to regulate the Grand River and prevent floods downstream in its watershed. From the village of Belwood we will follow the Grand Valley Trail to the South, along the western shore of Belwood Lake. We will then connect with the Elora-Cataract Trailway, follow it on Shand Dam at the south end of the lake and then head back North along the Eastern side of the lake, closing our loop at Wellington 26 Road. Along the way we will enjoy a variety of landscapes (forests, open fields, agricultural land, low-density residential) and wildlife. Some parts of the trail are close to the lake, some further inland. Hiking shoes are recommended. No dogs. Pack lots of water, a lunch and munchies, sun-screen and a hat, rain gear, and optionally bug repellent.

Directions: From Kitchener, take Lancaster St., turn right on Bridge St., and after crossing the Grand River take a left on Bloomingdale Rd N. The road becomes Sawmill Rd. After about 2 km, take the fork to the right towards Winterbourne, Invernaugh, Elora and Fergus. In Fergus, take a left on Beatty Line, then a right on Garafraxa St. W and continue towards Belwood. Arriving in Belwood, take a right on Queen St. and then a right on 5th Street N. Park in the village, or continue a short distance past the meeting place and turn right on Smith St. for parking at the baseball diamond.

April 23—24: Bruce Trail: Iroquoia Top Half

Distance 64 km over two days. See multi-day hikes at the back of this section.

Ruth Moffatt 905-928-7056. ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Thursday, April 25: Glasgow-Petersburg Hydrocut Loop

Level 2. Pace 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). ~ 9 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from the Glasgow Street parking lot, 1670 Glasgow St, Kitchener ([43.428911, -80.563366](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.428911,-80.563366)).

We walk west on trails along the hydrocut to the Petersburg Regional Forest (the Pines Side), do a big loop, including the picturesque and short Kamikaze section, and then return. Bring water and a snack. Directions: From the Ira Needles Bvd/Highland Rd roundabout go west on Highland Rd for about 350 m, turn right (north) on Glasgow St & travel about 1 km (across railway tracks) & turn left into parking area. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

Saturday, April 27: Huron Natural Area/ Brigadoon Loop

Level 2-3. Pace: 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). ~ 9 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from the parking lot at Huron Natural Area, 801 Trillium Dr., Kitchener ([43.398943, -80.481975](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.398943,-80.481975)).

We will walk southward along some of the Huron Natu-

ral Area (HNA) trails. Shortly after the start, we leave the HNA on new community paths and head south of the historic Huron Road into the central-western portion of Brigadoon. Some of the Brigadoon loop takes us through a woodlot & around Wards Pond caused by the damming of Strasburg Creek (e.g. Battler's Pond) on the north side of Huron Road where George Davidson planned to build the village of New Aberdeen in about 1856. We head back to our cars at HNA. Be aware that there are some short segments where we must "bushwhack"; that is, there is no path & we must make one. Hikers may wish to bring trekking poles. A brief "nutrition" stop is planned during the trek so pack a drink & a snack. If the weather conditions are extreme, I will shorten the walk to 5 km or less in the HNA. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

Sunday, April 28: Crawford Lake loop

10km, Level 1. Slow pace 2 to 3km/hr. Park entrance fees. Duration about 3.5 hrs.

Greg & Jeanette Vincent. 519-579-8210
vincent.greg@gmail.com

Depart: 9.30 AM. Hwy 401 to exit 321, south on Regional Road 1 (Guelph Line) to Conservation Rd. Left, east, to Conservation Area entrance. Meet in parking lot beside entrance.

Today we will hike around Crawford Lake, a rare example of a meromictic lake, enjoying the spring flowers on our way to look-outs over the Nassagaweya Canyon, looping back to the visitor's centre and the Iroquoian village. Entrance fee required.

May Hikes

Thursday, May 2: Woolwich-Waterloo & Avon Trail Loop

Level 2. Pace: 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). 9 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from the parking lot ([43.508366, -80.557796](http://43.508366,-80.557796)) outside the [Country Bulk](#) store on Apple Grove Road (near the St. Jacobs Farmers Market on

Weber Street North).

Initially we proceed westward for 4.5 km on the Avon Trail enjoying fresh, spring odours ("corral-number-5") as we pass among farm buildings and across farmland following Martin Creek. Quality hiking boots are a must since the trail is rugged and potentially muddy. Passing through a sugarbush we cross into the City of Waterloo and leave the Avon Trail by heading eastward in Stamm Woodlot. Leaving the woodlot, we walk a section of the Trans Canada Trail through Benjamin Park before re-entering Woolwich Township and returning to our vehicles. You may wish to remain at St. Jacobs Farmers Market for lunch and other shopping. Note: This same hike is offered on Saturday, May 18th. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

Saturday, May 4: Forks of the Credit / Belfountain

Bruce Trail Reference Guide, 29th edition, map 15. About 22 km, moderate pace: 4 km/hr, 6 to 7 hours. Hike level 2-3 (moderate/difficult), terrain is challenging on occasions.

This is a long hike with significant changes in elevation and is not suitable for beginners. Depart: 9:00 AM, from parking lot of Forks of the Credit Provincial Park (GPS 43.824909, -80.004053). The park charges an entry fee per vehicle so please make sure to carpool.

Kitchener carpool – depart 7:30 AM sharp from Victoria Pavilion, Victoria Park, Kitchener (43.445541, -80.499283).

Leader: Didier Thevenard, 519-888-0894 (h), 519-497-9387 (m) or didier.j.thevenard@gmail.com.

We will take the Trans-Canada Trail and the Bruce Trail towards the East, loop outside the park and make a side trip to Belfountain, before re-entering the park and using the Cataract side trail to see the waterfall. We will then head back to our starting point. Lots of wooded areas but also some historical artifacts and spectacular views of the Credit River. Trails can be challenging and rugged at times. Hiking shoes are required (no sneakers please). No dogs. Pack lots of water, a lunch and munchies, sunscreen and a hat, rain gear, and optionally bug repellent.

Directions: From Kitchener, take Victoria St / ON-7 to Guelph and beyond, then Wellington Rd 124 towards Eramosa and Erin. Rd 124 becomes County Rd 24; follow that road until it intersects with McLaren, take a right on McLaren. The entrance to the Provincial Park is about 2 km down the road, to the right.

Saturday, May 11, 2019: Taking Sides on the Bruce Trail- Winona to Grimsby - Iroquoia Section

Distance 16 km. Level 2. Moderate 3-4 km/hr.

Jane Kenyon. 226-750-8263 or janekenyon64@hotmail.com

Georgia Mulholland. 519-884-4638 or glm@csg.uwaterloo.ca

Depart: 9:00 am. Meet at BT guide book, edition 29.0 Map 5 at marker 0.0km – Grimsby Lions Community Pool enter at 1 Elm St located at the south end of Coronation Park N 43.193201, W 79.565301. Car shuttle to Map 6 at marker 9.2km roadside parking at the top of the Escarpment on Fifty Road N 43.195380, W 79.647397.

It all starts here at km 0.0 on the Iroquoia Section! Come join us for some fun hiking at the start of the Bruce Trail Iroquoia section. We will enjoy Woolverton Conservation Area, Beamer Falls, Grimsby and Forty Mile Creek.

Please bring lunch, drinks (2 L water recommended) and snacks. Sunglasses, sunscreen and hats will make sure you are protected from the sun.

If possibility of bad weather, please check with hike leaders at least a day in advance to confirm hike is happening.

Saturday May 11: GVTA Carolinian Crest Loop Hike

GVTA Map: 8. Distance 12 km. Level 2. Moderate pace 3 - 4km/hr.

Nick & Anita Kuret: 519-740-1449 or cell: 519-221-2357 nickkuret@yahoo.ca

Depart: 9:00 AM. Meet at the end of Powerline Rd. km 53.3 (43.174408,-80.351000)

From Cambridge take Hyw.24 to Brantford. After the Hyundai dealer turn right, follow this road past the Olde School Restaurant to the Rail-Trail Parking lot at the end.

We will hike this scenic section of our main, blue and rail-trail with good views of the Grand River. Good shoes a must. Bring water and lunch.

Sunday, May 12: Mother's Day Geo-Time Trail Walk, Waterloo

Level 2. Pace: 2-3 km/h. ~ 5 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 1:00 p.m. from the GeoTime Trail parking lot ([43.459408, -80.597221](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.459408,-80.597221)) at [588/590 Sundew Drive, Waterloo](https://www.google.com/maps/place/588+590+Sundew+Drive,+Waterloo+ON).

This will be a leisurely walk on parts of the Waterloo Moraine suitable for beginning and experienced hikers and families. Thanks to the City of Waterloo and Dr. Alan Morgan, the circuit contains 18 educational stations explaining the various geological stages including associated life forms. Let's hope some of the spring, ephemeral wildflowers are blooming. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and some form of insect protection. For further information about the GeoTime Trail visit www.hember.ca/hikes/GeoTimeTrail.html. Directions: The GeoTime Trail parking lot is relatively new. From the traffic light at the intersection of Erbsville Rd and Columbia St West, travel west on Columbia St. W. past Ladyslipper Dr. and then straight through a roundabout. Exiting the roundabout Columbia St becomes Sundew Drive and parallels Wilmot Line off to the left. Remain on Sundew Dr. for about 1.4 km. Just past Mayapple St. (on your left) you will arrive at the entrance to the parking lot (on your right) at coordinates [43.459408, -80.597221](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.459408,-80.597221). Check www.hember.ca/group hikes for last-minute changes.

Saturday, May 18: Woolwich-Waterloo & Avon Trail Loop

Level 2. Pace: 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). 9 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from the parking lot ([43.508366, -80.557796](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.508366,-80.557796)) outside the [Country Bulk](#) store on Apple Grove Road (near the St. Jacobs Farmers Market on Weber Street North).

Initially we proceed westward for 4.5 km on the Avon Trail enjoying fresh, spring odours ("corral-number-5") as we pass amongst farm buildings and across farmland following Martin Creek. Quality hiking boots are a must since the trail is rugged and potentially muddy. Passing through a sugarbush we cross into the City of Waterloo and leave the Avon Trail by heading eastward in Stamm Woodlot. Leaving the woodlot, we walk a section of the Trans Canada Trail through Benjamin Park before re-entering Woolwich Township and returning to our vehicles. You may wish to remain at St. Jacobs Farmers Market for lunch and other shopping. Note: This same hike was offered on May 2nd. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

May 18—21, 2019: Sydenham Bruce Trail Loops

See multi-day hikes at the end of this section.

Ruth Moffatt 905-928-7056. ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Sunday, May 26: Schneider's Farm, Waterloo

Zehrs parking lot 450 Erb St. West Waterloo. Loop hike. Distance 12 km. Level 2. Slow pace 2 to 3km/hr.

Greg & Jeanette Vincent. 519-579-8210 vincent.greg@gmail.com

Depart: 9.30 AM. We will gather at the Zehrs parking lot and take all of our cars to the start, about 20 minutes to the entrance to Schneider's Woods.

Schneider's Woods is a privately-owned piece of land on the Waterloo moraine. Good trails with spring flow-

ers. A drop out if required at 7 km.

June Hikes

Saturday, June 1: Winterbourne/West Montrose Area

Level 2. Pace: 2-3 km/h (slow-moderate). ~ 8 km

Leader: Jamie Hember (519-745-1375).

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from Letson Park, West Montrose ([43.585520, -80.479824](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.585520,-80.479824)). A car shuttle will be required so arrive with space in your vehicle for other hikers. The Grand Valley Trail takes us from Winterbourne (Short Street) along Cox Creek, the Grand River to Buggy Lane, and proceeds north through West Montrose before we return to Letson Park on a short section of the Kissing Bridge Trailway. Check www.hember.ca/grouphikes for last-minute changes.

Saturday, June 8: Hilton Falls Conservation Area

Iroquois Club/Toronto Club, Kelso (Map 11 ed. 27). 21 km, moderate pace: 4 km/hr, about 6-7 hours. Hike level 2-3 (moderate/difficult), terrain is challenging at times.

Depart: 9:00 AM. Hilton Falls parking lot (entry to conservation area is required - \$7), 4985 Campbellville Road, Milton, ON. Meet at North end of parking lot at the start of the Philip Gosling side trail (GPS: 43.506241, -79.961150).

Kitchener carpool – depart 8:00 AM sharp from Victoria Pavilion, Victoria Park, Kitchener (43.445541, -80.499283).

Leader: Didier Thevenard, 519-888-0894 (h), 519-497-9387 (m) or didier.j.thevenard@gmail.com.

We will follow the Bruce Trail north of the 401 along the Niagara Escarpment for about 7 km, and come back on the Hilton Falls side trail which gently meanders for 15 km back to our starting point. We will see a variety of landscapes, including a rehabilitated quarry, a reservoir, mill ruins, and the Hilton Falls. Trails can be challenging and rugged at times, particularly in the Bruce Trail section. Hiking shoes are required (no sneakers please). No dogs. Pack lots of water, a lunch and munchies, sun-

screen and a hat, rain gear, and bug repellent.

Directions: From Kitchener, take the 401 toward Toronto. Take exit 312 for Guelph Line toward Regional Road 1/Campbellville/Burlington. Turn left onto Reid Sideroad, after 140 m turn left onto Guelph Line/Halton Regional Rd 1, after 600 m turn right onto Campbellville Rd. Hilton Falls Conservation Area is about 3.2 km on the left.

June 14—16: Annual Excellent Orchid Adventure - Bruce Peninsula National Park

Independent Outing ♦

Pre-registration required. Confirm participation and hotel bookings with hike leaders. Average day walks 6 kms. Daily hike duration: 5 hr. Level 1. Slow paced. Park entry fees required.

Greg & Jeanette Vincent. 519-579-8210. vincent.greg@gmail.com

Meet: 6.00 PM, Friday, 14th June 2019.

Join Jeanette and Greg as they explore the "Tip o' the Bruce Tobermory" in search of orchids and other flowers. Arrive Friday, 14th June and depart Sunday, 16th June, two nights. Our search will extend to Flower Pot Island (cost approx. \$55.00 for the glass bottom boat and Parks Canada fee. All fees and other incidentals are the participants' responsibility. Walks are slow paced to enjoy the plants, trees and geology. We stay and have our meals at the Princess Hotel in Tobermory, a comfortable hotel overlooking Little Tub Harbour. This outing is restricted to those staying with Greg and Jeanette at the Princess Hotel. For more information please contact Greg Vincent, as shown above.



Multi-Day Hikes

Ruth Moffatt is a certified hike leader with the Niagara Bruce Trail Club. She is an accomplished hike leader and a long-distance walker. She has sent her hikes and we encourage GVTA members to join her. [Pre-registration is required for all outings.](#)

For details & to register, please contact hike leader Ruth Moffatt, 905-928-7056.

ruthdmoffatt@gmail.com

Avon Trail

March 11 to 15, 2019. St. Mary's to Conestogo. 113km over 5 days during Spring Break.

Meet at 8:30am & carpool to start. End to end badge available.

Brisk pace / moderate terrain.

Elgin Trail

April 11-12, 2019. Port Stanley to St. Thomas - 41km over 2 days.

Meet at 8am & carpool to start. End to end badge available. Brisk pace / moderate terrain.

Bruce Trail: Iroquoia Top Half

April 23-24. Distance 64 km over two days.

Lambton Shores

April 13 and 14, 2019. Hike 7 nature trails ranging in length from 2km to 8km over 2 days for a total of 31km in the Port Huron area.

Meet at 8am. Free badge available for finishers. Brisk pace/moderate terrain.

Sydenham Bruce Trail Loops

May 18 to 21, 2019. Hike 24 loops over 4 days plus Silent Valley.

Meet at 8am. Badge available for finishers. Brisk pace/strenuous terrain.

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Participants in the Waterloo Region Crossing fundraiser are interviewed by CTV at Chickopee Ski Hill, February 2019. Photo by Petr Bakus.



Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

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