



# Trail Markings

GVTA Newsletter.....Summer 2022

## Quick Links

[Board of Directors](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Calendar](#)

## In this issue

- Update from the Board
- Work parties keep trails clear
- GVTA presents Volunteer Awards
- Hiking season underway
- New Trail Markings editor announced
- GVTA selling neck buffs

*For best results, view this newsletter in your web browser. Click the link above.*

## **Update from the Board**

by Annie Côté-Kennedy

### **Highlights of Annual General Meeting**

Thank you to all who attended our virtual Annual General Meeting held May 31, 2022. If you missed the meeting and would like to receive the AGM information package, you can access the [AGM information online](#). Below are highlights in three key areas:

Below are highlights in three key areas:

#### **Landowner Relations**

Part of our operating plan last year was to develop closer relationships with municipalities and landowners. We have made good progress in this area in the past year, with partnership agreements signed or in the works with various public landowners:

- Last fall we entered into an access agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority that allows us to continue the trail in the Elora Gorge Conservation Area. The agreement also offers members passes to walk the Elora Gorge. (There is still time to obtain your pass – email [info@gvta.on.ca](mailto:info@gvta.on.ca).)
- In Brantford, GVTA maintenance volunteers now work closely with the city's park staff to maintain the trail. A formal agreement with Brantford is in the works.
- In Woolwich Township, a partnership agreement has been signed and we are in the process of signing a maintenance agreement.
- We have started discussions with the Centre Wellington Township, and we look forward to building this relationship this year.

#### **Hike Program**

In 2021-22, the hike program was suspended until July because of COVID. While the program had a slow start, 22 hikes were offered over the following months. Hikes are now offered throughout the year and members are encouraged to check the [hike calendar](#) to join an organized hike.

#### **Trail Maintenance**

Thank you to our very competent, qualified and dedicated trail directors, trail captains and volunteers who maintain the trail in good and safe condition. Trail directors are Jessica Léger in Belwood (formerly Pinnacle), Ryan Wicks in Black Walnut and Fred Standeven in Carolinian Crest. We continue to look for a trail director for the Towpath Section.

## **Upcoming event – Plan to join the June 25 hike!**

In recognition of National Indigenous History Month, the GVTA is hosting an organized hike and event on Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. in Brantford. The group will meet at the Gilkison Flats for an 8 km hike followed by a tour (free admission for members) at the Woodland Cultural Centre. [Click here](#) for specifics on meeting place, hike details and preregistration requirements.

### **Give us your feedback**

Again this year, the board will be meeting in July to set out its objectives for the upcoming year. If you have issues or areas that you would like us to tackle this year, please send me your ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer on the trails!

Annie Côté-Kennedy  
President, Grand Valley Trail Association  
[president@gvta.on.ca](mailto:president@gvta.on.ca)





*Thank you to our Trail Directors (from top-left) Jessica Léger, Fred Standeven and Ryan Wicks for keeping trails in good and safe condition.*

## **Work parties continue to keep trails clear**

by Emily Bennett

New GVTA Trail Captain Tony Kelly worked with Carolinian Crest Trail Director Fred Standeven to refresh several trails along the Carolinian Crest section during the past year. Fast forward a few months and hikers are appreciating the significant reroute along Tutela Heights.

Jamie Hember, a long time GVTA supporter, wrote, “WOW! We compliment all those who played a role in accomplishing this necessary reroute to the GVT. The work done, including very thorough signage/blazing is great.”

If you want to join a work party that helps improve the Grand Valley trail system, and learn new skills along the way, please contact [volunteering@gvta.on.ca](mailto:volunteering@gvta.on.ca).

## **GVTA Presents Volunteer Awards**

The Grand Valley Trails Association (GVTA) Board honoured Trail Director Ryan Wicks and Trail Captain Tony Kelly with this year’s Volunteers of the Year Award. The awards were announced during the organization’s May 31, 2022 annual general meeting.

“Ryan and Tony have shown leadership in forging new trails for us,” says Emily Bennett, GVTA’s volunteer director.”

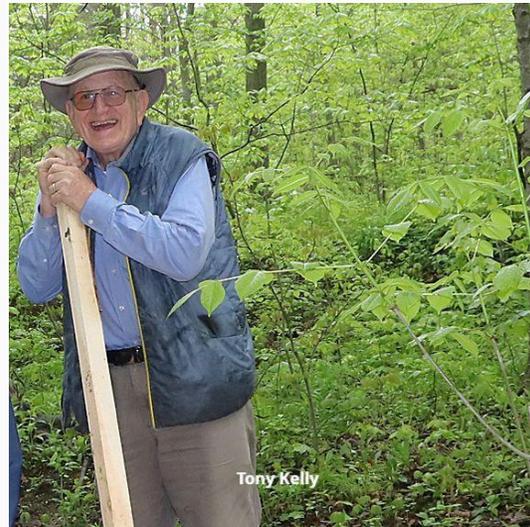
Both Ryan and Tony have been leaders in:

- designing trail maintenance projects,

- leading work parties,
- liaising with landowners,
- being ambassadors for GVTA.

“Ryan Wicks did a great job last fall when he worked with Woolwich Township to design, plan, prepare and implement the building of a 26-foot span bridge along a portion of the trail off Middlebrook, says Ms. Bennett. “Tony Kelly used his deep knowledge of trail construction to solve issues and lead several refresh projects in the Brantford area.”

Congratulations to Ryan and Tony for their dedication and passion for the trails!



## Busy Grand Valley Hiking season underway

by Petra Suffling

Hiking season is underway, with Grand Valley Trails Association (GVTA) hike leaders making sure your experience is enjoyable, informative and safe. The latest addition to the hike leader team is Joanna Mazur, who will be a very able and enthusiastic addition to our team.

GVTA wants to continue to grow the roster of certified hike leaders with the view of expanding the hike program. If you are a certified hike leader but have not maintained your First Aid certification, you may still lead hikes on an interim basis if you have someone on your hike who is certified. If you wish to be a certified hike leader, contact Petra Suffling at [hikes@gvta.on.ca](mailto:hikes@gvta.on.ca).

A variety of GVTA hikes are currently scheduled and more are being added periodically. Next up will be the Indigenous Day Walk in Brantford on June 25, followed by Guelph Lake/Jesuit Centre

June 30, and Elora/Fergus on July 15. For more information, and to register, please go to our [hike calendar](#).

End to end hikers continue to make their way along the Grand Valley Trail, section-by-section. The latest end-to-ender, Wojtek Ilnicki, took a mere fourteen days to do the entire trail – including four rest days!

Follow us on the Grand Valley Trails Association [Facebook](#) page for more news, updates and interesting information for GVTA members and for all hikers.



*Joanna Mazur, pictured above, is the GVTA's newest certified hike leader. Hike Director Petra Suffling says Joanna "will be a very able and enthusiastic addition to our team."*



## **GVTA BUFF ® neckwear now on sale**

by Charles Whitlock

Sleek unisex neckwear tubes are now available for sale through the GVTA web site. These comfortable BUFF™ brand tubes (shown above) can be worn in many ways to keep your neck, face, and head warm and protected from the sun. The stretchy BUFFs come printed with the GVTA logo. Not only do they keep you warm, BUFFs also look great around your neck like a silk scarf. Go to <https://www.gvta.on.ca/Store.htm> to see all merchandise for sale.

***"The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness."***

**-- John Muir**

---

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Gombos Environmental - 51 Glendale Rd - Kitchener, ON N2H 2Z7 - Canada

Grow your business with  mailchimp

*Copyright © \*|2022|\* \*|GVTA|\*, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

info@gvta.on.ca

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

