

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Hike Ontario



Get Outside!  
Get Healthy!  
**HIKE.**

Hike Ontario

Annual Report 2007-2008

[www.hikeontario.com](http://www.hikeontario.com)

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## Introduction

Throughout the years Hike Ontario has had one goal – to encourage walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario.

Established in 1974, Hike Ontario is a non-profit, charitable organization governed and operated by volunteers. We are the sole provider of province-wide hiking information and services. Hike Ontario is also unique amongst Canada's provinces and territories in many of the services it provides to this province's hiking associations and citizens. Eighty-five percent of Canadians walk for leisure and recreation. Thus, Hike Ontario acts as the voice for over 10 million hikers and walkers in Ontario.

Hike Ontario recognizes and supports trails throughout Ontario and appreciates that every trail is unique. Every trail can't be all things to all people but all trails can play beneficial roles. Trails play roles in the economy, play roles in the environment and perhaps most importantly, play roles in our health.

While Hike Ontario recognizes the diversity of trails and trail uses, our focus is on the representation and promotion of pedestrian based trails and their benefits, focusing specifically on connectivity, economics, education, environmental, health, heritage, recreation and transportation.

Hike Ontario does not make or maintain trails, nor does it offer organized hiking/walking events, except through its member associations. Hike Ontario is the umbrella organization that provides these province-wide associations with resources and services to build on these long-established local and regional initiatives in a way in which complements and enhances them.

Our core objectives:

- To encourage walking for recreation, transportation and health
- To encourage and facilitate trail development for walking and hiking throughout Ontario
- To encourage good trail maintenance and hiking practices and the enhancement and quality of the
- walking experience
- To encourage and facilitate the development of trail building hiking clubs in Ontario
- To act as an advocate for a club or clubs when requested or when an initiative is deemed necessary
- To encourage education and research into the health benefits and other aspects of recreational
- walking
- To encourage conservation and appreciation of the natural environment
- To maintain and disseminate information on hiking and hiking trails

## Our Core Programs:

- Advocacy and Government Relations
- Best Practices for Increasing Trail Usage by Hikers and Walkers
- Hike Leader Certification Program
- Insurance Provision and Risk Management
- Young Hikers Program
- Safe Hikers Program
- Long Distance Awards Program
- Annual Hike Ontario Summit
- Sponsor of Ontario Hiking Week
- Partnerships and Linkages

### Program Descriptions:

**Advocacy and Government Relations:** Hike Ontario is an active voice and resource to our government partners in the Ontario trails community. We play a lead role in promoting, educating about and advocating pedestrian trail experiences through an active presence at local, regional, provincial and national trail events. We do this through strategic planning processes, active communications, conference and workshop participation, information distribution, special events and educational campaigns.

**Best Practices for Increasing Trail Usage by Hikers and Walkers:** Hike Ontario engaged in researching and collecting data on the strategies, methods and opportunities for increasing use of trails by walkers and hikers and was able to then publish a comprehensive manual of Best Practices. This manual is most useful for Hiking and Walking organizations, Parks and Recreation staff, Conservation Area & Parks staff, Municipalities and a broad range of Special Interest groups (Health Units, Resorts, private landowners, trail builders etc.)

**Hike Leader Certification Program:** Hike Ontario has developed standards and training programs for Hike Leaders that are used by our member clubs, community colleges, universities, activity clubs and outdoor training organizations for course delivery. Currently, Hike Ontario offers Standard Hike Leader, Youth Hike Leader and Wilderness Day Hike Leader certification courses.

**Insurance Provision and Risk Management:** Hike Ontario works diligently with its trail partners and insurance providers to provide the best possible policy conditions to suit the needs of its trail clubs. This in turn is working towards managing for safe and sustainable trails systems throughout Ontario for the pleasure of walkers and hikers. Hike Ontario plays a key role in risk

management through our dedication to pursuing best practices, sound advice and proactively engaging in and encouraging safe practices and education.

**Young Hikers Program:** The Young Hikers Program aspires to introduce youth to the joys and benefits of hiking, through a variety of mediums such as Activity Resource Kit, Provincial Youth Advisory Committee, Youth Hike Leader Certification, Youth Risk Management Training and youth volunteer opportunities.

**Safe Hiking Program:** This one day course introduces the new or novice hiker to the joys and benefits of hiking, walking and the trails of Ontario. Special focus is placed on safety, sustainability and enjoyment. Upon completion, participants are armed with the knowledge necessary to keep themselves safe while hiking; how to ensure their hikes are environmentally and socially sustainable and will help them develop the confidence necessary to join hiking groups and/or go on their own hikes.

**Long Distance Awards Program:** Hike Ontario has a mandate to encourage hiking for all ages and all athletic levels throughout Ontario. The Long Distance Hiker Awards celebrate dedicated hikers who have logged long distances on multiple Ontario trails. Hike Ontario offers three long distance hiking awards; the Red Pine Award for 550 kms, the Trillium Award for 900 kms and the Tamarack Award for 1500 kms.

**Annual Hike Ontario Summit:** Held annually in October, our Summit is a weekend long event that features timely workshops, presentations, award presentations, guest speakers, and a full schedule of invigorating hikes.

**Sponsor of Ontario Hiking Week:** Every year from October 1-7, Hike Ontario sponsors Ontario Hiking Week, encouraging people of all ages to get out and hike the many trails of this beautiful province. Ontario Hiking Week demonstrates the many faces of hiking and walking - as a recreational activity that's low impact, affordable to all, and promotes environmental sustainability and ecological awareness.

**Partnerships and Linkages:** Hike Ontario has formed and sustains strong ties with both government and nongovernmental partners related to pedestrian trails. We strive to represent the interests of all hikers and walkers, trail clubs and all pedestrian based trail interests throughout Ontario. Hike Ontario represents the interests of hikers and walkers on the Ontario Trails Council (OTC) Board of Directors and the through a nominated representative to the Hike Canada En Marche Board of Directors.

## **Governance**

Hike Ontario is governed by a board of directors that meets four times per year at various locations across Ontario. Our board consists of approx. 35 people.

80% of the board members are appointed to represent their member club (i.e. the Bruce Trail) with the remaining members being elected at our Annual General Meetings.

### **Executive Committee 2007 –2008**

Terri LeRoux	President
Tim Wood	Vice President
Ron Knight	Treasurer
Harold Sellers	Ontario Trails Council Representative
David Francis	Hike Canada Representative
Deanna Rando	Hike Canada Representative

### **Standing & Ad-Hoc Committees 2007-2008**

Certification & Awards	David Francis
Communications	Terri LeRoux
Government Relations	Bill Wilson
Fund Development	Terri LeRoux
Insurance	Harold Sellers
Membership	Henry Graupner
Risk Management	Tim Wood
Volunteer of the Year	Tom Friesen
Young Hikers Program	Terri LeRoux

## **Board Members – as appointed by our Member Clubs**

Karen Streich, Algoma Highlands Conservancy

Karen LeFrancois Hill, Avon Trail

Roger Lewington, Bayfield River Valley Trail

Ron Knight, Bighead River Heritage Association (Trout Hollow Trail)

Peter Leeney, Bruce Trail Association

Mary Perkins, Durham Outdoors Club

Brian Wilsdon, Elgin Hiking Trail Club

Raymond Soucy, Elora Cataract Trailway Association

John Flood, Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association

Charles Whitlock, Grand Valley Trails Association

Mike Curtis, Guelph Hiking Trail Club

Jerry Gorman, Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association

Deena Brooks, Huronia Trails & Greenways & North Simcoe Rail Trail

Ron Fletcher, Lost River Walks, North Toronto Green Community

Wendy Hoernig, Maitland Trail Association

Les Wilcox, Nastawgan Trails

Harold Sellers, Oak Ridges Trail Association

Barbara Burrows, Palmerston Trail Association Inc

Ron Hunt, Rideau Trail Association

Paul Mackle, Street To Trail Association

Tom Friesen, Thames Valley Trail Association

Peter Summers, Thunder Bay Hiking Association

Patrick Capper, Voyageur Trail Association

Peter Van Dyk, 4 Day Evening Walk Committee

## COMPASS 2010 – Our Strategic Plan

With the publication of COMPASS 2010, Hike Ontario articulated its collective vision to strengthen and build new partnerships, to seek opportunities and to promote initiatives that translate our vision, values and strategies into action.

This document represents a roadmap for the future. Our evolution as an organization will be guided by the framework that this document provides. By describing the benefits we can collectively work toward, and the outcomes that we are seeking to accomplish, this document provides a management framework that we can all commit to.

In sync with current trends in Ontario such as the Ontario Trails Strategy and Active 2010, COMPASS 2010, provides our organization with a measurable blueprint for action.

Our priorities as a provincial alliance of hiking clubs and trail management agencies and the emphasis that we place on our critical objectives may shift over time in response to many factors, both internal to and external from the organization itself. Yet, establishing an agreed-upon course of action is the first step to achieving our goals, individually and collectively. We invite you to work with Hike Ontario to support our efforts.

Hike Ontario board members have a shared responsibility of ensuring the implementation of our strategic plan and that all the work we undertake is within the scope of our identified priorities:

### Serving More People

Hike Ontario's vision is to be a voice for all Ontarians; reaching more people with our important programs and services.

Our goals include: Review of Individual Membership Program; Enhancing our ability to be a resource for hiking related information; Engaging more youth and Broadening our Outreach and Communication methodologies.

### Delivering Service Excellence

Ensuring optimum delivery of relevant, timely services is necessary for Hike Ontario to define its role as a provincial reference.

Our goals include: Expand upon existing Risk Management Program; Delivery of a Sustainable and Affordable Insurance / Liability Program; Expand upon existing Hike Leader Certification Program and; Enhance Long Distance Awards Program.

### Strengthening the Hiking & Walking Community

The promotion, advocacy and support of the hiking and walking community can do much to strengthen its presence and role in Ontario and Hike Ontario is committed to facilitating this through our voice and programs.

Our goals include: To better advocate our position on trail related issues; To enhance our relationship with our Member Clubs and; to make a strong investment and commitment to establishing new partnerships.

### Developing Effective Organizational Systems

The development of effective organizational supports and systems allow for the effective management of our goals, allowing us to appropriately achieve all of our important objectives.

Our goals include: To streamline accounting and bookkeeping methodologies; to streamline administrative functions and; to embrace a modern governance model.

### Achieving Sustainability

Sustainability is a necessity for all pedestrian based trails in Ontario and Hike Ontario as an advocate for these, needs to have sustainability itself.

Our goals include: Secure sustainable funding sources; Develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy; Expand our volunteer contingent and; strive towards reintroduction of paid staff.

#### **COMPASS 2010 is:**

Hike Ontario's Strategic Plan

An update to our 2003 Business Plan

A shared commitment to our vision

In sync with current trends in Ontario such as the Ontario Trails Strategy  
and Active 201

Our blueprint for action

Measurable

#### **We make it our business to be accountable.**

The Hike Ontario board of director's reviews and evaluates our success in reaching our goals at each quarterly meeting. The document is a living, active document that establishes our priorities.

## Advocacy Report

Hike Ontario is an active voice and resource to our government partners in the Ontario trails community. We play a lead role in promoting, educating about and advocating pedestrian trail experiences through an active presence at local, regional, provincial and national trail events. We do this through strategic planning processes, active communications, conference and workshop participation, information distribution, special events and educational campaigns.

In 2008, Committee progress has been made specifically with respect to our Compass 2010 strategic direction *Strengthening the hiking and walking community*.

### Ontario Trails Council Report, Submitted by Harold Sellers

Hike Ontario represents the interests of hikers and walkers on the Ontario Trails Council (OTC) Board of Directors and the through a nominated representative to the Hike Canada En Marche Board of Directors.

The Future of Trails conference and OTC AGM was held in Mississauga on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. At this event, President Jack De Wit said that sustainability of the OTC would be the main focus over the coming year.

The OTC Officers were re-elected for another term and a full Board of Directors was also elected, representing motorized and non-motorized trail groups, as well as municipal trail partners.

The first sale of Trillium Trail Network Gold Permits was set to begin October 1<sup>st</sup> on trails of the Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs and the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance. Under this program OFATV riders purchase a Gold Pass to ride on trails that they manage and operate.

Insurance Survey Report provided by PMG Intelligence to the OTC:

- Sample size was only 30 respondents
- No indication of how many of each trail user group included, so this can influence interpretation of reported data
- Grants are largest contributor to operating budgets of 45% of respondents
- Of respondents, 60% of trails used for motorized activities, 36% for non (may indicate who responded most)
- 30% pay under \$2,500; 40% \$2,500-\$5,000; 30% over \$5,000
- 82% use waiver forms
- 48% do not have a risk management plan, 52% do
- 48% have a lawyer, 52% do not

- 83% have had no claims in past 5 years
- Almost all indicated they would be interested in an insurance product offered by the province

The OTC website now has a database of over 1,200 trails representing 24,000 kilometres. Planned additions to the site include videos, trail safety, and trail etiquette.

## **Hike Canada En Marche**

Hike Ontario represents the interests of Ontario 's hikers and walkers at Hike Canada En Marche through a nominated representative to the Hike Canada Board of Directors. Our current representatives are David Francis and Deanna Rando.

For over thirty years, *Hike Canada En Marche* has been working on the vision of ***a footpath across Canada*** . But the trail is not an end in itself; it is a means of achieving these four goals:

- To promote general fitness through healthy outdoor activities;
- To help preserve places of natural, scenic, heritage, and historical values;
- To promote non-motorized tourism and education; and
- To promote bonding of unifying environmental interests across the nation.

Piece by piece, the scenic 10,000 kilometre foot trail is growing to connect the Atlantic to the Pacific. Our long-held vision of a greenway connecting existing natural-surface pedestrian trail systems with parklands and wild places is becoming a reality. Already, trails spanning much of British Columbia , Ontario , Quebec and New Brunswick are in use. Once established, the trail corridor will help to protect our heritage of natural landscapes and historic places, and provide passage, habitat, and refuge for wildlife.

## **Government Relations Committee Report, Submitted by Bill Wilson**

HEADWATERS TRAILS STRATEGY- On Oct. 24, 2007<sup>th</sup> I attended the Headwaters Trail Strategy Workshop in Mono Centre. I suggested that provisions for distinct and separate pedestrian-only and non- pedestrian uses be made as the Strategy advances arguing that these provisions could come into play when new trail connections are planned with existing trail segments and anticipate conflict before it exists and that these provisions could anticipate and preserve the opportunities for certain trails to become prime destinations for the needs of hikers, formal outdoor educators and informal nature experiences for young families as well as for bikers.

PEELE IS. TRAIL PLAN- On Nov. 13th, I responded to the Peele Island Trail Plan stating that HO believed that, no matter how high-level their plan is, that pedestrian and bike uses need to be treated and planned for as separate and importantly distinct interests and that HO further

believes that any trails strategy has to eventually deal with separate trail preferences. Use distinction could be done with general provisions that anticipate more detailed planning. However, in Peele Island's case of highly sensitive environmental features, it may be more important to plan, from the very start, pedestrian-only and bike-only trails as well as shared trails. To not anticipate separate trails at an early stage will lessen opportunities for achieving top class facilities in both pedestrian-only and bike trails which most explicitly satisfy hiker and biker needs.

YORK/ WESTERN VAUGHAN TRANSPORTATION EA- On November 22, I responded to Consultants, Mukherjee and Darch of the Western Vaughan Transportation Environmental Assessment being conducted by York Region.

COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA (King Twp) DECISION BY TRCA- I participated in several meetings of TRCA, King Twp and the Cold Creek Conservation Stewardship in December 2007 regarding the question of Mountain Bike use in the Cold Creek Conservation Area. TRCA issued a decision Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> to King Twp restricting bikes in Cold Creek only to Summer Day camp use during July and August on a short length of the trail only in keeping with (a) the site's value as a nature education centre and (b) the unanimous resolution of the local citizen's Cold Creek Conservation Stewardship, a not-for-profit group formed to restore Cold Creek CA to protect and enhance wildlife and natural resources for the enjoyment and education of the public.

In March, in cooperation with King Township nature education efforts, I introduced three outdoor nature educators to the 6.5 Kilometre Cold Creek hiking trail. These educators are now setting up lesson plans for Cold Creek summer camp sessions and fall programming using the trail interpretation signage and printed information.

KAWARTHA HIGHLANDS – In March the Chair of the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park Trail Development Committee, Paul Fournier (417-274-3687), contacted HO regarding the opportunities to provide input into the shaping of trails for hiking, backcountry camping and canoeing within the newly formed provincial park as participants start to lay the foundation for an extensive backcountry trail network. The park will not be operational until 2009 and the trail development will likely take a decade. This is a long term issue and the most contentious issue is hunting and allowed use of ATVs in the park. Participants, such as Mr. Fournier, have raised the issue of trying to create dedicated hike and ski trails encompassed in a hunting "no go" zone. Some of the proposed trails participants hope to develop would require the permission of private land owners, and setting up a volunteer trail association to help facilitate that with the land owners is being discussed.

(Kawartha Highlands-website <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/kawa.html>)

I have exchanged several emails with Mr. Fournier offering to meet at a time convenient to him. In the meanwhile, I have expressed the following to Mr. Fournier:

Hike Ontario does as a matter of policy also prefer hiking only trails as an essential part of any area planned for trails. There may well be other users of trails involved in the Park trail network plan and mixed use may be necessary at times in that plan. However use separation should be planned for in an overall planned system of trails in the beginning to allow for best experiences of each user.

-Hiking

only trails allow hiking users and those who work on those trails to create as near to a first class hiking experience as possible both for recreational and nature education purposes

The nature education value of hiking only trails are becoming more important than ever in our increasingly urban society and where school funding for outdoor education is very scarce.

Encouraged them in setting up a volunteer trail association both for the current planning and for a more permanent stewardship group. I referenced the just published excellent guide entitled "Best Practices For Increasing Trail Usage For Hikers and Walkers" which can be viewed on the Hike Ontario Web Site [www.hikeontario.com](http://www.hikeontario.com) under the program called Best Practices Project.

#### CLAIREVILLE (BRAMPTON) TRAIL PLANNING

The Claireville Conservation Area in Brampton is entering a crucial planning phase, particularly for trails. Toronto Region Conservation Authority is partnering with Brampton in planning an interregional (multi-use) trail.

I have advocated to TRCA to provide in their Claireville trail planning provisions for both pedestrian-only use trails and multi-use trails as separate and importantly distinct interests. I have explained (offering several reasons) that any trails strategy has to eventually deal with separate trail preferences. To not anticipate separate trails and use distinction at an early stage will lessen opportunities for achieving top class facilities in both pedestrian-only and multi-use trails which best satisfy both hiker and more general needs. I have suggested that early provisions for separate pedestrian-only uses be made as Claireville trail planning advances. These provisions could come into play when new trail connections are planned with existing trail segments and anticipate conflict before it exists. These provisions can anticipate and facilitate the opportunities for certain trails to become prime destinations for the needs of hikers, formal outdoor educators and informal nature experiences for young families as well as for bikers.

## HUMBER VALLEY HERITAGE TRAIL SOCIAL PROMOTED

On Sunday, May 18th, 12 to 4 PM, the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association invited its members and the public to a social barbeque at the Edelweiss Soccer Park on Glasgow Road in Bolton. The HVHTA is celebrating 14 years of successes and awards in providing a fascinating and safe hiking trail through the natural wonders of the Humber River Valley between Bolton and Palgrave. I promoted this event in local Caledon newspapers stating that the health and social benefits and nature experiences on the trail help us all to realize our greater potential. I branded the hiking experience and their support of their trail club as indeed "*powerful preventative medicine*"! If any trail club reps wish to use this phrase, it's yours!

DUNDAS VALLEY VISION STUDY- HO received notices of the above named study in May. I offered to become involved and was referred to Gary Wrathall, President of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club. He replied as follows:

"The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is a member of the Stakeholders Committee created by the Hamilton Conservation Authority to help guide this study. We will be representing the interests of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. I would imagine that if anything comes out of the study -- or arises during the course of the study -- that may have implications or interest for trail & hiking groups beyond the Conservancy, this information would be gladly shared with Hike Ontario."

BENEFITS OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP WITH HO- An HO "benefit factsheet" was composed by HO President, Terri LeRoux. It was sent to Humber Valley Heritage Association Executives at their request.

BOLTON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRACT PLAN- I have participated in several meetings of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority Plan Committee since Sept 23/07 in which visioning exercises and management zones and uses are being discussed.

CROWN LAND TOURISM SUSTAINABILITY ACT- Les Wilcox, President, Nastawgan Trails Club (HO member) has requested HO by his letter dated Aug 24<sup>th</sup> to be a signatory to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation recommending creation of the above ACT which would authorize recreation management planning, rather than relying on Forest Mgt Plans to deal with recreation of all kinds. The HO Board agreed Sept 27<sup>th</sup> to become a signatory and Mr. Wilcox was so informed.

HO BEST PRACTICES PRESENTATION- I presented highlights of HO's Best Practices Manual at the Bruce Trail Conservancy AGM Sept 20 in Georgetown.

## Hike Ontario Member Clubs

Hike Ontario's member clubs and associations fall into three categories:

**Hiking Clubs:** are predominantly urban and offer organized events and excursions to member trails, rail trails, Conservation Authority, Ontario Parks or municipal trails. Membership varies but can be quite large.

**Trail Building Clubs:** are associations who build and maintain recreational hiking trails in various parts of the province. They provide the full range of trail management services, including trail development, maps and guidebooks, maintenance, landowner relations, events, membership and newsletters, as well as promotion and publicity for their particular trails. There are approximately 3500 km of such trails in the province

**Affiliate Members:** are corporations, government agencies and organizations other than non-profit hiking or trail building organizations (commercial or non-profit) that support our mission, vision and values.

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### Algoma Highlands Conservancy

The principal focus of the Algoma Highlands Conservancy is that of a land trust (e.g. Robertson Lake Cliffs), but it also provides opportunities for undertaking educational programs (e.g. Lake Superior State University), for research into forest management techniques through the Canadian Forest Service, for the protection of species at risk (e.g. the peregrine release program) and for non-motorized recreational activities. [www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org](http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org)

### Avon Trail

100 km hiking trail from St Marys to Conestogo, northeast of Waterloo. The Avon Trail links the Thames Valley Trail with the Grand Valley Trail. Tel: (519) 273-6199

### Bayfield River Valley Trail

Local walkers/hikers as well as visitors will all enjoy physical and mental benefits from their outdoor experiences along the trails that this group plans to develop along the beautiful Bayfield River Valley. Box 531, Bayfield, Ontario N0M 1G0.

### Bighead River Heritage Association (Trout Hollow Trail)

A walking trail that travels through private property along both sides of the Bighead River. [www.bigheadriver.org](http://www.bigheadriver.org)

Bighead River Heritage Association: We manage the Trout Hollow Trail which travels both sides of the Bighead River in Meaford for about 7 Km. This has been a busy year with trail maintenance and re-routes. A number of guided hikes were made to introduce people to the historical ruins on the river. As a group, we keep alive the Canadian Friends of John Muir project and a walk on the trail often evolves into discussions about Muir who worked in the Hollow for a couple of years in the 1860's. There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of hikers/walkers this year.

### **Bruce Trail Conservancy**

The Bruce Trail is the oldest and longest continuous footpath in Canada. It runs along the Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory, spanning more than 850km of main trail. Nine Bruce Trail Clubs support the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Each Club manages a section of the Trail. [www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org)

During the past year, the Conservancy preserved 15 properties – this is a record number. Acquiring these lands for preservation cost \$2.2 million. Approximately 80% of that total came from our generous donors and the remaining balance of \$400,000 from grant programs. A total of 156 parcels of land (over 6,000 acres) along the Niagara Escarpment are now preserved and managed by the BTC.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has nine member clubs, each responsible for a part of the Bruce Trail. The Trail now extends 894 km from Queenston to Tobermory with a further 430 km of side trails. Notable additions to the Trail over the past year were the 58 km of the Bayview Extension near Owen Sound and the 28 km added by the Falling Water Section in Beaver Valley. The long-awaited bridge over the QEW in Niagara was opened, eliminating 5 km of road walking. About 44 % of the Optimum Route of the Trail is secure on BTC managed and public land.

Overall membership stands at 8,634, a 2.7% increase over the previous year.

The name change from Association to Conservancy as of September 2007 has been well-received and reflects our role as one of Ontario's largest land trusts.

### **Durham Outdoors Club**

The Durham Outdoors Club began with a small group of like-minded individuals who got together informally to enjoy outdoor pursuits in each other's company. Hiking, canoeing, cycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing are among the clubs more common pursuit. [www.durhamoutdoorsclub.ca](http://www.durhamoutdoorsclub.ca)

## **Elgin Hiking Trail Club**

South Western Ontario's jewel of trails with 41 kilometres of trails through the Carolinian Forests with trail elevations of approx. 70 meters. [www.elginhikingtrail.org](http://www.elginhikingtrail.org)

The Elgin Hiking Trail is a gem of a trail forming the southwestern leg of the network of Ontario Hiking Trails. It starts at the beach in Port Stanley, follows the Kettle Creek spillway valley north to St. Thomas, and veers Northwest along Dodd Creek tributary to Payne's Mills. The 41 Kilometre trail is connected to the Thames Valley Trail on Southdel Line.

The Elgin Hiking Trail Club is a solid group of 130 diverse members.

At the annual meeting on April 16, we had about 40 in attendance.

John St. Pierre, president of their local St. Thomas Photographic Guild presented slides on the Bruce Peninsula.

We surprised Paul and Jacquie Baldwin with a presentation of a new three colour badge called the Port Stanley to Tobermory End -To -End. The couple were the only ones who completed that trek which began with about 30 people a few years before.

The badges were given out free to members who have completed that 950 Kilometre stretch, and are sold to other hikers for \$15. Contact the club to order one. [www.elginhikingtrail.org](http://www.elginhikingtrail.org).

The club puts on several fundraising projects during the year, and these bring a good number of members together.

At the annual meeting we had a silent auction, on August 23 we had a garage sale at the barn at Payne's Mills, and we put on the annual SPIRIT Walk the first Saturday in December.

This annual candlelit Christmas SPIRIT Walk has grown into a large event, attracting about 700 people per year.

It is put on in partnership with the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority in Springwater. Various musical groups and a magician perform at stops in the woods, concluded by hot chocolate and a live appearance from Santa. It will be presented on Saturday, December 6 this year.

We feel that the Elgin Trail is well maintained, and well blazed.

We have at least one public hike per week with anywhere from two to twenty people, but averaging 5-7 which is an ideal number of people to walk with.

## **Elora Cataract Trailway Association**

The Elora Cataract Trailway is a 47-km (29-mile) trail that links parks, watersheds and communities in south-central Ontario. The trail is routed along the abandoned railway corridor of the 1879 Credit Valley Railway and runs from Elora to Cataract, passing through the communities of Fergus, Belwood, Orton, Hillsburgh and Erin.

The Elora Cataract Trailway Association attended several public events this year to help promote increased use of the Trailway. A very successful Family Hike Day on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> attracted 155 people including almost 50 children. . Also in attendance were 5 Team Canada Athletes from the 2008 Beijing Olympic team. This event was run with the support of Ontario Heritage Trust Trails Open and was the kickoff event for in Motion Week.

The association is also working with developers to incorporate Trailway access into new development plans and to protect the Trailway from encroachment.

Membership is current at 180 members and families. [www.trailway.org](http://www.trailway.org)

## **Friends of the Trail**

A non-profit community based organization that assists the Ministry Of Natural Resources in developing, maintaining and promoting the Lower Trent Rail Trail, a former rail bed between Trenton and Glen Ross. [www.friendsofthetrail.ca](http://www.friendsofthetrail.ca)

This year marked a period of renewed optimism; the signing in April of a five year agreement with the Ontario Government enabled us to move forward with the objectives, as outlined in our Management Report, and start major construction of the Lower Trent Trail. This agreement has seen FOTT assume responsibility for development and management of the Trail. To accomplish this agreement we were required to pay an annual rental fee and carry liability insurance. Although the sums are not huge by government standards they are considerable and impact the monies available to spend on trail infrastructure and as such we will continue to lobby our MPP to have the charges reduced. The hard work and dedication of the Members of Friends of the Trail over the past few years in their planning, fund raising, public affairs and membership has made the transition to physical construction a seamless evolution. With his usual vigour our Trail Maintenance chair has orchestrated and supervised brushing and resurfacing of large sections of the trail between Frankford and Glen Ross with a total of 900 tones of screenings being applied This was made possible solely by the generous support of backers such as Trenval Development Corporation, Bata Development Corporation, Mountain Equipment Cooperative, Retired Teachers of Ontario, countless numbers of local Small Businesses and of course a significant number of volunteer hours.

The Trail has seen increased usage and hardly a day goes by when members of our community don't comment on the quality of the experience and the need for such a wonderful trail. We have hosted hiking days and events that showcase the beauty of the Quinte region and assisted the military by hosting portions of their annual Surf and Turf fitness challenge

We in partnership with the Bata Development Corporation have started an exciting project to re-align the section of the trail that runs through Batawa to a position that will bring it in contact with the Trent Canal system. The project is well underway as Heartland Consultants are completing their study and will publish the recommendations shortly.

We staffed a booth at the Canadian Outdoor Expo in Trenton and although a definite minority in a powered world we were well received for representing a non-motorized point of view. In addition, members have represented the Friends of the Trail at several healthy living seminars and events.

Our final work for this year has involved the installation of 35 sets of safety and regulatory signs and the building of an information Kiosk for the Frankford Trail Head.

A busy year and looking forward to more work on the Lower Trent Trail in 2009

### **Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association**

Dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources and has as its objective, the establishment and maintenance of a hiking trail for public use from Port Hope to the Bruce Trail near Collingwood. [www.Ganaraska-Hiking-Trail.ca](http://www.Ganaraska-Hiking-Trail.ca)

### **Grand Valley Trails Association**

The Grand Valley Trail is a marked footpath stretching more than 250 km between Rock Point Provincial Park on Lake Erie to the town of Alton, near Orangeville [www.gvta.on.ca](http://www.gvta.on.ca)

- Membership is stable at 400.
- Number of hikes not available at this time; estimated at 150
- Revised the GVTA's bylaws and also created bylaws for future GVTA clubs in each trail section.
- Formed a committee to work with the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Upper Grand Trailway to reroute the northern "Pinnacle" section of the GVT.
- Received Union Gas "Helping Hands" grant and volunteers to build Boardwalk in the Black Walnut section.
- Received TD Friends of the Environment grant to redesign our membership brochure and print 5000 full-colour copies. Content was developed by a team of GVTA volunteers, design was by Copp Communications (Waterloo), printing by Minuteman

Press (Kitchener). GVTA members and friends volunteered as models. Posters were also designed and printed, using some of the same artwork.

- Continuing to meet requirements of Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for GVTA "Renewal Project", with extended completion deadline of March 2009.
- Participated in one Trails Open Ontario event, in the Towpath section.
- Participated in International Trails Day event, sponsored by the Waterloo Region Record.
- Presented two Introduction to Hiking courses and two Trail Maintenance Workshops
- A 6-minute video about the GVTA was created by Punch Integrated Communications, Cambridge, as part of their "Create-a-thon" for charities.
- Opened several new reroutes and side trails, most notably a reroute off highway 54 and onto the property of Ruthven National Historic Site, just north of Cayuga.
- Estimate of volunteer hours not available at this time.

### **Guelph Hiking Trail Club**

Dedicated to recreational hiking, and to building and maintaining rural trails in the general area between the Grand Valley (Fergus, Elora, Cambridge) on the west and the Bruce Trail (Limehouse--near Acton) on the east. The Club is also involved with others in building multi-use trails on recently abandoned railway lines. [www.guelphhiking.com](http://www.guelphhiking.com)

During this past year, the Club's membership has remained at about 160 members, including families. We have maintained an active hiking schedule on our own and other clubs' trails with several hikes on weekends and on week days. As well, we have continued our fall and winter visual presentations, where we have around 30 people at each show.

We have opened a new side trail in section one of the Speed River Trail, which makes a convenient loop of approximately 4 km. As well, we have applied for a Trillium grant to complete the resurfacing of our section of the Kissing Bridge Trail in the Region of Waterloo. Our new guidebook will be published and distributed by November of this year.

### **Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association**

The HVHTA has built and is maintaining a hiking trail along the beautiful Humber valley north from Bolton, Ontario to join with the Bruce Trail and the Caledon Trailway. It is hoped, with other chapters, to eventually develop a trail all the way down the Humber Valley to the Waterfront Trail on Lake Ontario. [www.humbertrail.org](http://www.humbertrail.org)

## **Huronian Trails & Greenways**

Huronian Trails and Greenways (HTG) is a registered not-for-profit charitable corporation dedicated to promote and enable the development of a sustainable network of trails and greenways in Simcoe County , Ontario. [www.simcoecountytrails.net](http://www.simcoecountytrails.net)

## **Lost River Walks, North Toronto Green Community**

The objective of Lost River Walks is to encourage understanding of the city as a part of nature rather than apart from it, and to appreciate and cherish our heritage. Create an appreciation of the city's intimate connection to its water systems, by tracing the courses of forgotten streams, by learning about our natural and built heritage; and by sharing this information with others. [www.lostrivers.ca](http://www.lostrivers.ca)

## **Maitland Trail Association**

Following the path of the Maitland River the MTA encourages hiking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and nature study as a form of recreation along this trail. <http://www.maitlandtrail.ca>

The Maitland Trail Association continues to thrive. We now have increased to 136 members, and are delighted that several of our new members are willing to be active. We also have a full slate on our Board of Directors. While the Maitland Trail itself is 47.8 km long, our association is responsible for 84 km of trails.

With 13 people on our Board of Directors, an 18 member Trail Work Crew (to undertake major repairs, build boardwalks, bridges etc. )and a Trail Ranger Program involving 32 Trail Rangers to inspect and monitor trail conditions, we have a vigorous team of 63 volunteers, who together donate thousands of hours per year.

We have a large active group called the Tuesday Trompers who hike together weekly on Tuesday mornings. As a result of its success, members from this group were involved in helping create a weekly walking group in the nearby town of Clinton, and efforts are underway to create a similar group in Wingham, a town north of us. The MTA also plans at least one longer guided outing every week on the weekend.

Over the year we also add a few extra hikes to our roster, in which we travel to join an event with neighbouring trail organizations. We keep local hiking issues and events in the public eye through a bi-weekly column, 'Trail Talk' in a free publication that is sent to most homes in our county. Our trails are kept in good condition by our Trail Ranger teams and our industrious Trail Work Crew.

Our major triumph this year was the publication of our revised edition of the Guide to the Maitland Trail. It is a vast vastly improved version, with its maps much more accurately routed, thanks to G.P.S. and G.I.S. technology, and with contour lines and 911 #s also included. As well, it has maps and text descriptions of the four smaller trails in our area that are also our responsibility. We are very proud of the final result of what had seemed to be a daunting task.

A major issue that continues to challenge those who love the natural environment in our area is the intrusion of ATV's on our hiking trails. The ATV users are trying to set up their own organization in our area, which is a positive move. However some farm-owners are giving them permission to access their property, and we are feeling that we need to be vigilant to ensure that our trails can be kept as 'single-use' as possible.

We need a larger pool of certified hike leaders, and held a small Standard Hike Leader Certification Course early this year as a first step to remedy this.

As well, there is a new movement developing in our area to repair and restore the old CPR Train Station in Goderich, which has been our Trail Centre for years. Because of the major disruptions that will result as this renovation takes place, we needed to find an alternative site in which to store our tools and materials, and as a workshop. To solve this problem which will affect us for several years, the MTA bought a large, used insulated cargo container. A local service organization provided us with a location on its large parking lot. The Work Crew added a door, a window and built an attached shed in which to store the generator that was needed, in order to provide it with power. Finally, coats of paint were applied inside and out, and 'The Maitland Trail-er' achieved its special status.

### **Nastawgan Trails Inc.**

A non-profit community based organization that plans, establishes, maintains and promotes a four season non-motorized trail network which, in combination with 2400 km. of interconnected canoe routes, makes the Temiskaming area a world class recreational tourism destination. [www.nastawgantrails.com](http://www.nastawgantrails.com)

### **Oak Ridges Trail Association**

With over 200 kilometres of trail, ORTA is organized into ten "Chapters" along the Oak Ridges Moraine, so that local knowledge can be used to plan, develop and maintain the trail. The Chapters are: Caledon, King, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, Scugog, Clarington, Hope/Hamilton and Northumberland. [www.oakridgestrail.org](http://www.oakridgestrail.org)

### **Outing Club of East York**

A non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to helping people stay fit and enjoy outdoor activities year-round. The club runs full programs of canoeing, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating, city walks, and social events for its members across the GTA.

<http://www.outingclubofeastyork.org>

### **Palmerston Trail Association, Inc**

P.O. Box 117, Palmerston, ON., N0G 2P0 T: 519 – 343-3711

### **Rideau Trail Association**

A founding member of Hike Ontario, the RTA's purpose is to preserve and maintain a hiking trail from Kingston to Ottawa. In addition to the main trail, there are a number of side trails which are marked by blue triangles. The total length of cleared and marked trails is 387 kilometres.

[www.rideautrail.org](http://www.rideautrail.org)

Kilometres of Trail<sup>1</sup>: 350 (<sup>1</sup> Main Trail is 306 km. in length. Remainder is side trails.)

Memberships<sup>2</sup>: 1,041 as of September 2008 (+ 0.5%)

#### Highlights:

- Conducted and documented second annual trail risk assessment
- Updated Rideau Trail Association web site
- Clarified and renewed Rideau Trail Association registered mark
- Progress made on Trail Quality strategic initiative
- Hosted third annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ with over 70 volunteers in attendance
- Updated Bylaws to include Marketing & Communications Director position on the Board of Directors and began search for new Director

### **North Simcoe Rail Trail**

A 30 km recreational trail in Springwater Township, for all season. [www.simcoecountytrails.net](http://www.simcoecountytrails.net)

### **Street To Trail Association**

Street to Trail is a non profit organization that helps people living on the streets of Toronto to rediscover their inner sense of worth, using the healing power of the natural world. Street to Trail organizes wilderness hikes and many other outdoor excursions including trail hikes and

canoe trips that help homeless people experience the beauty and therapeutic calmness of nature. [www.street-to-trail.com](http://www.street-to-trail.com)

### **Thames Valley Trail Association**

The TVTA offers recreational hiking and cross-country skiing inside and outside the Thames Valley Region, as well as related social gatherings. They also maintain and develop walking and hiking trails in the London area, maintain over 130 kilometres of hiking trails, and promote hikes of varying difficulty from a one hour stroll to a demanding three day hike.

[www.thamesvalleytrail.org](http://www.thamesvalleytrail.org)

The Thames Valley Trail has had a busy year of leading hikes, building infrastructure and creating a guidebook. Over 300 guided hikes have been offered by about 40 of our leaders and advertised in our club newsletter The Trekker. We have built 12 more bridges or boardwalks using money from a bequest and supported a neighbouring trail with their construction costs. Dozens of trail maintenance events have been run using scores of volunteers. Our 114 km trail has been GPS'd and described in order to create a new guidebook which is due out this month. Our membership has remained at over 350 for the entire year with a large number of these members taking an active role.

### **Thunder Bay Hiking Association**

The TBHA promotes recreational hiking and related seasonal activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and backpacking in the Thunder Bay area. [www.tbha.ca](http://www.tbha.ca) TBHA does not own a trail. Our outing's are on crown land, provincial parks, private land (with permission), Lakehead Region Conservation Authority lands, Voyageur Trail, and on the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota. Major issues facing the club include liability Insurance and updating the website.

# of member's 184 paid memberships, 270 members, and 4 honorary lifetime memberships.

# of current board members 14

Total # of volunteers & annual volunteer hour's 50 volunteers, 1,000 volunteer hours.

# of guided hikes & organized activities 49

### Notable Achievements

- 1) New 2007 Trail Guide - sales are very good.
- 2) 24th Annual Meeting – September 16, 2008
- 3) Hike Leader Training Workshop – September 22, 2008 – 9 participants
- 4) Silver Falls Trail - trail maintenance
- 5) Dale Shippam's Antarctica Hike Presentation – March 18, 2008

- 6) Exploring existing/new trails in the Nipigon area, with our Nipigon volunteers.
- 7) Our volunteers/members, inviting outing participants back to their home/camp after an outing.
- 8) [www.tbha.ca](http://www.tbha.ca) sponsored by TBayTel
- 9) Hiking Hotline: 624-4271 sponsored by CRC Communications
- 10) Increased participation in kayak/canoe outings.

## **Voyageur Trail Association**

The Voyageur Trail is a true wilderness trail in Northern Ontario. A pedestrian trail only--this means that it is made for hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and bushwhack skiing.

[www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

The Voyageur Trail membership continues to be around 180 memberships with two large clubs in Sault Ste Marie (80) and Elliot Lake (68) with only very small group of 0-7 members in other locations.

The VTA is still without anyone willing to take on the role of President, although new members have come on board taking on the roles of Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

Due to the difficulty in creating a trail on Manitoulin Island there are hopes of extending the trail to Sudbury so the constitution was amended to read in part, " .. Construction and maintenance of The Voyageur Trail, eastward and southward through the province of Ontario from the Thunder Bay area to Sault Ste. Marie and onwards towards Sudbury."

The new guide book is selling well and is available and 4 sections are available on CD GIS format.

A Youth Initiative program, was launched using GPS to attract younger people to hiking; 4 programs were hosted with a total of 30-40 people including a large- scale geocaching activity

A PayPal system is finally working (cost 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction)

Bob Sinclair won the prestigious Steve Taylor award for his work on the GIS system and electronic goodies.

A successful Hike Leaders course was held in Elliot Lake on Oct 4th with 17 participants.

A TransCanada Trail pavilion was built and dedicated in Sault Ste Marie.

## Our Affiliate Members

- Ontario Trail Council
- Hike Canada En Marche
- Ontario Nature
- Waterfront Trail

## Our Partners

- Government of Ontario, Trails for Life Program
- Active 2010
- Mountain Equipment Coop



## Financial Report

### Treasurer's Report to the Hike Ontario Annual Summit

Our Trust Fund started out with \$10,886. Donations of \$7,445 were received and \$6,000 was transferred to the operating account, leaving us with \$12,331 in the Trust bank account at June 30/08.

This year's operating income of \$96,653 with expenses of \$86,532 contributed a surplus of \$10,121 to our operating balances.

If we exclude the club insurance programme, the Trust transfer and the Grant projects from income and expenses, we are left with our normal operating funds. These are shown in the pie charts presented here. Incomes of \$16,376 and expenses of \$12,999 indicate that our normal operations are self-sustaining at this time.

The Club insurance programme shows fees of \$43,241 and expenses of \$41,238 for a net recovery of \$2,003 for the year.

The bank balance at the end of June 2008 shows an amount of \$27,352 with \$3,154 reserved for final grant payments and \$1,722 for accounts payable, leaving Hike Ontario with a little over \$22,000 for future operations.

BDO Dunwoody, a third party accounting firm has compiled more detailed financial statements which are available to Friends of Hike Ontario at any time.

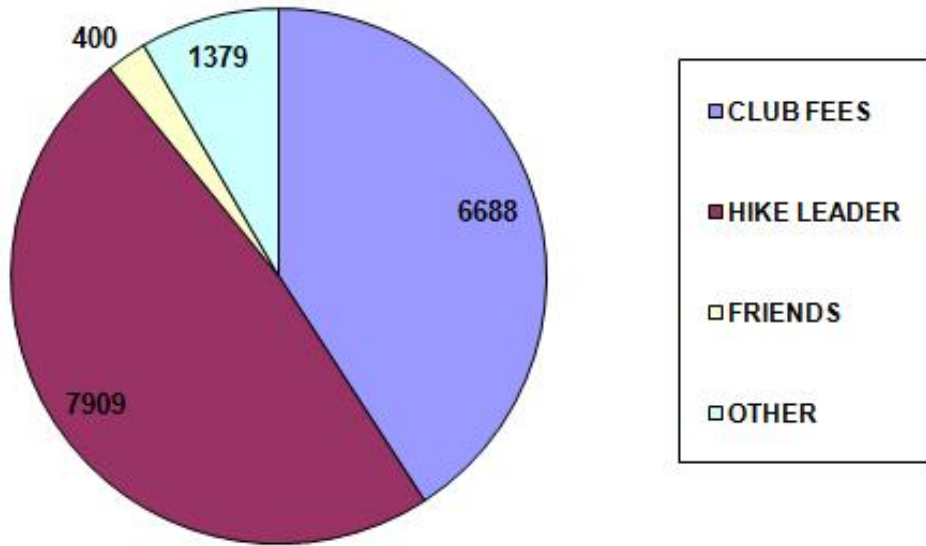
### Insurance Program Report, Submitted by Harold Sellers

This year the liability insurance policy has covered 20 groups, plus Hike Ontario. Fees were kept at the 2007-8 levels. Main Newson Insurance had shopped around our business and had one other interested insurer. However, the cost wasn't better than ING, so we stayed with them. There were also no changes to policy.

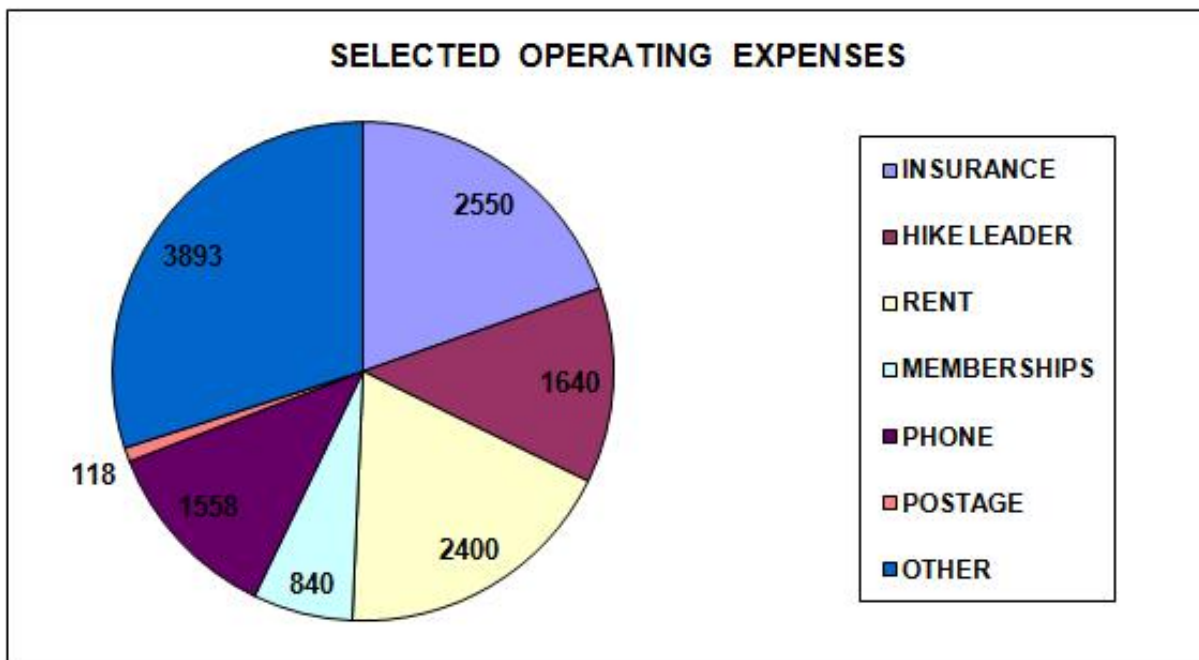
This summer we received word that the lawsuit pending against the Elora Cataract Trailway Association for the past several years, as a result of a snowmobile accident has been discontinued. The plaintiff has agreed that they have no claim against the ECTA.

A quiet and stable year on the insurance front, thankfully.

### SELECTED OPERATING INCOME



### SELECTED OPERATING EXPENSES



## **Volunteer of the Year Awards**

Each year, countless Ontarians volunteer their time, energy, creative and professional talents to enhance Ontario's hiking and walking opportunities. These individuals devote endless hours to serve on committees, champion important issues and causes, coordinate events and/or donate their business expertise and resources to further the positive growth and development of Ontario's pedestrian based trail network.

Annually, Hike Ontario recognizes four individuals who have contributed significantly to the success of a club program or project in one or more of the following areas: Advocacy, Marketing, Public Relations, Governance, Trail Development, Events, Risk Management, Land Securement or Landowner Relations, Fundraising and/or Hike Leadership.

### **RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS ARE:**

#### **George Rhine**

##### ***Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Thunderbay Hiking Association***

George was instrumental in saving the Silver Falls Trail in Thunderbay, when Ontario Power Generation was going to close the access the THA used to get to the falls. George negotiated the cutting of a new trail with OPG and helped to flag, blaze and maintain that new access trail. George has also worked extensively with the local MNR and Provincial Parks offices and made many contacts and friends during his tenure. His most challenging venture and success has been the recovery of the Pigeon River Trail on the Canadian side of the Canada/Minnesota border. This all 11 km trail has all but disappeared until George worked with parks staff to obtain permission to reclaim the trail. George's dedication and efforts on behalf of the Thunderbay Hiking Association are unmatched and invaluable.

#### **Ron Hunt**

##### ***President, Rideau Trail Association***

Ron has been a member of the Rideau Trail since 1977 - over 30 years. He has been active both at the club and the association level. At the club level, he was chair of the Ottawa Club for two different terms - both in the 1980's and again in the 2000's. As an Ottawa member he has led hikes, organized the last end-to-end of the entire trail, maintained the Cameron lot - a piece of land owned by the club and been the interim activities coordinator. At the association level, he has been president of our association twice - in the 1980's and now as our current president. As well as presiding over our quarterly meetings, Ron takes an active role. He developed a PowerPoint presentation in 2004 promoting the Rideau Trail and has delivered this on numerous occasions since then. He also facilitated the RTA Strategic Planning process in 2005-

2006 As if club and association work is not enough, Ron has been the RTA Representative on the Board of Hike Ontario since 2004. He facilitated Hike Ontario's strategic planning process in 2006. We know that Ron is an asset to any group to which he belongs. But we like him best on the trail using the president's walking stick to lead the way.

### **NEW AWARD – The Virginia Johnson Award for Outstanding Achievement**

In 2008, Hike Ontario lost a very dear friend and fellow hiker. Virginia Johnson was a long time volunteer with Hike Ontario. Ginny as she was more affectionately known, was truly the heartbeat of Hike Ontario ensuring that all aspects of office management are looked after in an exceptional manner. In 2006, Ginny was instrumental in her role as principal writer of Hike Ontario's publication "Best Practices for Increasing Trail Use by Hikers and Walkers." Further, Ginny's generosity in opening her home and kitchen to members of Hike Ontario is always appreciated and anticipated as she was such an amazing cook! Ginny was also an active, dedicated volunteer with the Oak Ridges Trail Association and her humour, kindness and tireless dedication to both organizations will always be deeply appreciated and remembered.

Hike Ontario decided that it was only fitting to honour a special individual each year that has made an outstanding contribution to hiking and walking in Ontario and that exemplifies traits that would make Ginny very proud.

### **The 2008 Recipient of the Virginia Johnson Award for Outstanding Achievement:**

**Henry Graupner**

***Hike Ontario Founding Member***

Henry Graupner has been actively engaged with Hike Ontario since its inception, in fact the first official meeting of Hike Ontario was held in Henry's home in 1974. Since then Henry has held a variety of roles and responsibilities with the organization at both the board and committee level. Today, Henry is still actively engaged today as Hike Ontario's Office Coordinator. His depth of knowledge and expertise in all areas of hiking, walking and organizational management are unmatched. Henry's commitment and dedication to Hike Ontario over the past 34 years makes him a most deserving recipient of the first Virginia Johnson Award for Outstanding Contribution to Ontario's trails.

## Friends of Hike Ontario

Hike Ontario relies on donations and the efforts of our volunteers to sustain and further our programs. Invaluable programs such as:

- Young Hikers Program
- Hike Leader Certification
- Safe Hiking Program
- Best Practices Research
- Volunteer of the Year Awards
- Ontario Hiking Week
- Annual Hiking Summit & Conference
- Helping local hiking and trail clubs with organizational and complex liability and insurance issues.

When you make a donation of \$25.00 or more to Hike Ontario, you automatically become a Friend of Hike Ontario and you join a network of people, from Ontario and beyond, who are committed to protecting, restoring, enjoying and sharing the joys and beauty of hiking and walking in Ontario.

### Friends of Hike Ontario help us:

- Protect the precious hiking trails and foot paths of Ontario
- Advocate for the responsible management of Ontario's public lands and the creation of more hiking and foot paths
- Encourage conservation and appreciation of the natural environment by connecting Ontarians to the nature around them
- Educate adults and youth and provide them with the resources to inform and motivate them to conserve Ontario's trails
- Encourage walking for recreation, transportation and health
- Encourage good trail maintenance and hiking practices
- Encourage and facilitate the development of trail building and hiking clubs in Ontario
- Maintain and disseminate information on hiking and hiking trails

We graciously accept donations of any amount and our Friends are recognized for the cumulative donations they make over the years.

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations and special events and recognition gifts have also been planned for each category.

## Our Friends

Hike Ontario is pleased to recognize the valuable financial contributions made by the following Friends of Hike Ontario in the period January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2008.

The donor category shown for each Donor is based on the cumulative amount donated in the period.

### **ULTIMATE SUMMIT** (\$10,000+)

Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, Trails for Life

### **SHERPA** (\$5000 to \$9999)

Terri & Jay LeRoux

### **TRAIL BLAZER** (\$2000-\$4999)

Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Harold Sellers

### **BUSHWHACKER** (\$800-\$1999)

Todd Bardes  
Henry Graupner  
Gillian Leslie

### **NAVIGATOR** (\$250-\$799)

Bruce Trail Conservancy  
Bruce and Ruth Calvert  
Michael Curtis  
Ron Knight  
Rebecca Ling  
Walter Pitton  
RBC

### **HIKER** (\$25-\$249)

David Armitage  
Jocelyn Baynes  
Richard Boehnke  
the late Peter Bramma  
Peter Burbridge

Donald King  
Terry Kirk  
Steve and Ruth Levkoe  
Pamela Marsales  
Paul Michaud



HIKER (\$25-\$249) Cont'd

Jackie and Allan Campbell  
Patrick Capper  
Ron Casier  
Susan Chan  
Mike Cicchini  
Martha Coady  
Andrea Collins  
Fiona Cowles  
Cyril Cripps  
Don Danby  
Bill Davies  
Dorothy A. Denure  
Helen Dinovo  
Robert Ellison  
Cindy Fisher  
Mark Guilbeault  
Bill and Maria Haartman  
Tom Hall  
Fraser Hardman  
The Helderleigh Foundation  
Wendy and Heinz Hoernig  
Iris and Larry Hofmeister  
Jeff Hovis  
Elaine Iannuzziello  
James Irwin  
Anthea Jenkins  
the late Virginia Johnson  
Stephen Kamnitzer

Katherine Morrison  
James Mortimer  
Erin Muldoon  
Betty and Bill Murdoch  
Walter Ozog  
Helen Pathy  
Lionel Peckover  
Wanda Pelletier  
Roger Ratcliff  
Elizabeth Ross  
Malcolm J. Sanderson  
Wilgaard Schiffers  
Linda Sloan  
Rolande Smith  
Diana Smyth  
Joan E. Smyth  
Christina Stanley  
Miriam Stevens  
David and Pat Stone  
Kim Strong  
Kenneth Sutton  
Bruce Tilden  
John Timar  
Anthony and Joyce Topley  
Ravi Vankatesh  
Barbara Williams  
Robert N. Zanini

**Hike Ontario also wishes to thank the many individuals and organizations that have made donations in support of our programs and services, that choose to remain anonymous.**