### The Corporation of the Town of



### TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING AGENDA

Held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Town Hall – 30 King Street East (Council Chambers)

Video Conference Link: Click Here

1.	Call Meeting to Order		
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof		
3.	Approval of Minutes (Adoption) – November 6, 2025		
4.	Public Question/Comment (Only Addressing Reports on the Agenda)		
5.	Disclosure of Additional Items		
6.	Delegations		
7.	Presentations by Staff (Others)		
	1. Gananoque Trees and Trails – Online Visibility and Mapping – D. Feick		
8.	Correspondence		
	1. Ontario Trails Council – Newsletter – December 8, 2025		
9.	Unfinished Business		
	Murray/Bickerton Gananoque Trails – Trailhead Sign Unveiling Event		
	2. Boot Brush Stations – Installation Costs		
10.	New Business/Reports		
	Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund – Growing Canada's Community Canopies: Urban Forestry Plans and Studies		
	2. Trail Network Extension		
11.	McLean Forest Sub-Committee		
	1. Sub-Committee End of Year Update		
12.	Invasive Plants		

13.	Trail Updates	
14.	Discussion of Additional Items	
15.	Next Regular Meeting, 2026, at 1:00 PM	
16.	Questions from the Media	
17.	Adjournment	



### TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

On Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM Town Hall, 30 King Street East, Gananoque and Online via Webex

PANEL ME	MBERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Chair:	Councillor David Osmond	Robert Kennedy, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities
Members:	Doug Bickerton	Lynsey Zufelt, Recording Secretary
	Gerry Brown	
	David Frid	
	Kate McLean	
	Calder Schweitzer	
	Alan Smith	
	Alison Timusk	
Regrets:	Terry Childs	

1.	Call Meeting to Order	
	Chair David Osmond called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.	
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof – None	
3.	Adoption of Minutes	
	Motion-TTAP-2025-19 – Adoption of Minutes – September 23, 2025  Moved By: Gerry Brown Seconded By: Calder Schweitzer  BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL HEREBY ADOPTS THE REGULAR TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.  CARRIED – UNANIMOUS	
4.	Public Question / Comment	
	A Member of the Public noted concern with vandalized trail signage.	
5.	Disclosure of Additional Items - None	

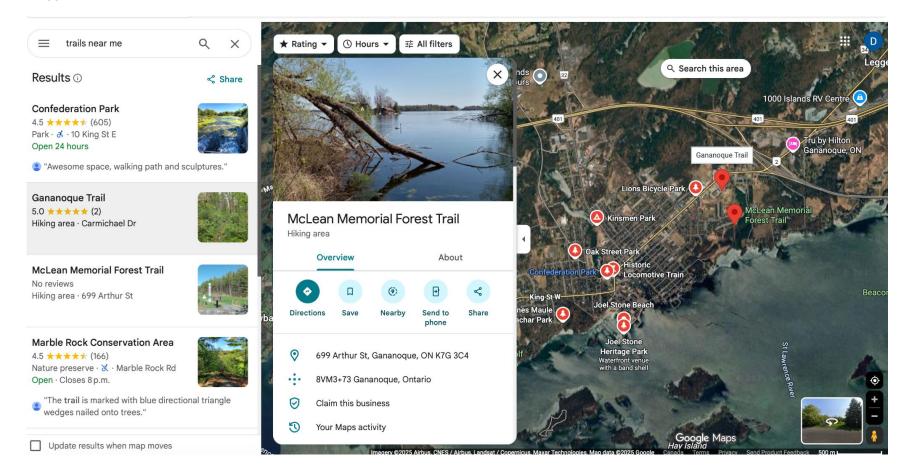
6.	Delegations – None		
7.	Presentations by Staff (Others)		
8.	Correspondence – None		
9.	Unfinished Business		
	Murray/Bickerton Gananoque Trails – Trailhead Sign Unveiling		
	The Chair noted that the new Murray/Bickerton Trailhead Sign had been installed and invited Panel Members to gather and observe following the meeting.		
10.	New Business/Reports – None		
	Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund – Growing Canada's Community Canopies: Urban Forestry Plans and Studies		
	2. McLeod Records Filing		
	Member Bickerton advised that tree and trail		
11.	McLean Forest Sub-Committee		
	1. Sub-Committee Update		
	Member Smith presented the McLean Forest Sub-Committee Report		
	2. Collaboration between TIWLT, RTO, Rotary and TTAP		
	Member McLean advised the Panel of a collaborative tree planting opportunity.		
	Motion-TTAP-#2025-20 – RTO Tree Planting Collaboration  Moved By: Kate McLean Seconded By: Alan Smith  BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE, THE RTO TREE PLANTING COLLABORATION AS PRESENTED BY MEMBER MCLEAN.  CARRIED – UNANIMOUS		
	3. Boot Brush Stations Update		
	Member Smith advised that there are boot brush station and supplies ready for installation.		
12.	Invasive Plants		
	1. Invasive Plant Update		
	Chair provided Panel Members an update regarding Council's support of the Cataraqui Region Invasive Phragmites Control Fund.		

13.	Trail Updates		
	Member Brown presented a report on trail signage inventory.		
14.	Discussion of Additional Items		
15.	Questions from the Media – None		
16.	Next Meeting – TBD		
17.	Adjournment		
	Motion-TTAP-2025-21 – Motion to Adjourn  Moved by: Doug Bickerton BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL HEREBY ADJOURNS THE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025, MEETING AT 2:50 PM.  CARRIED – UNANIMOU		
Council	llor David Osmond, Chair Lynsey Zufelt, Recording Secretary		

# Gananoque Trees & Trails

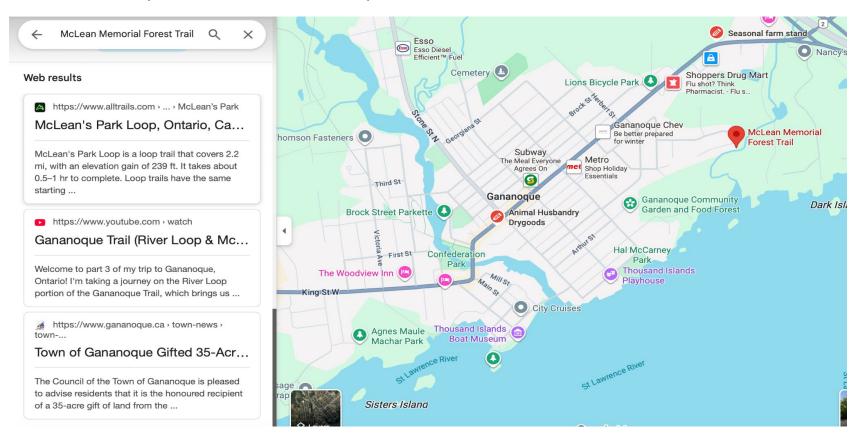
Online visibility and Mapping

Searching google for "Trails near me" produces varied responses. I got some points of interest but no maps of trails I can hike, just some points of interest. The McLean Memorial Forest does show up as a clickable link, the Gan Trail head did not.

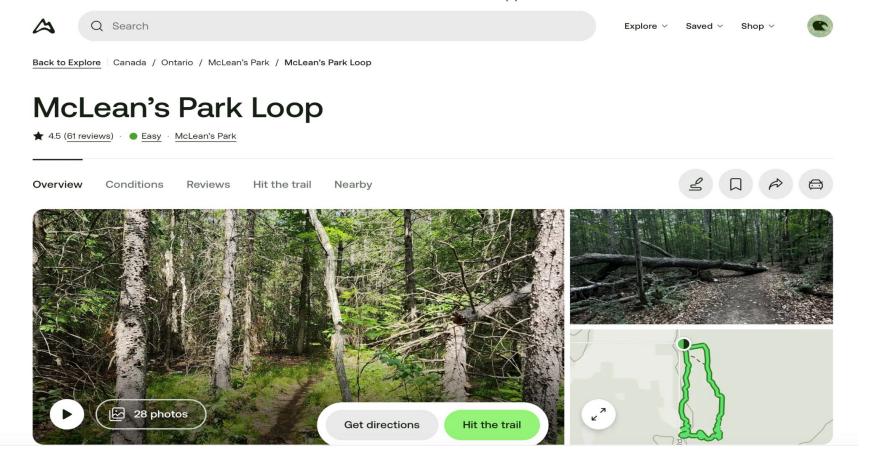


Clicking the link for McLean Forest trail google then opened a base map and gave me 3 results to explore.

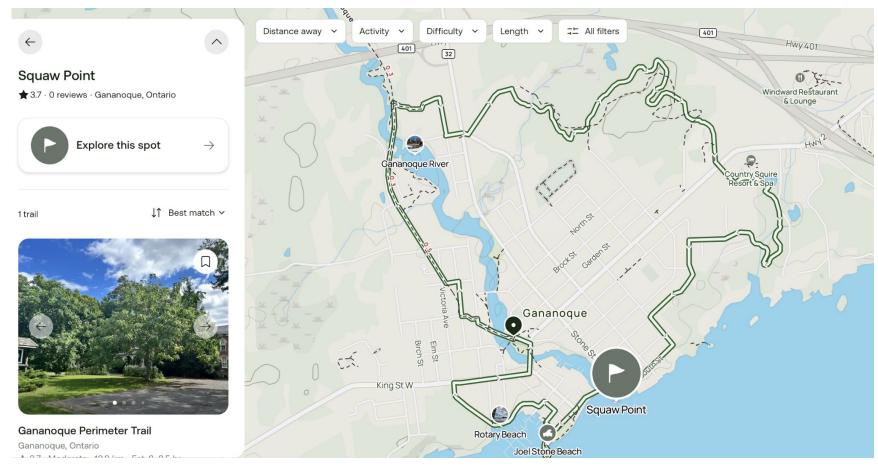
- 1. AllTrails link: McLeans' Park Loop
- 2. YouTube link: A YouTuber's blog about walking a trail in Gananoque
- 3. Web result: recient post from the Town of Gananoque with a reference to Mclean Forest



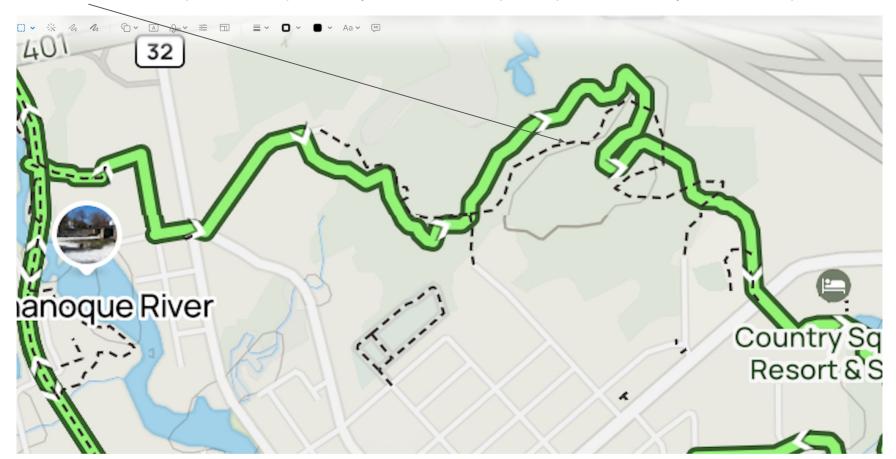
Opening the All Trails link, I am down a rabbit hole as the link is actually to a park on Manitoulin Island, that is closely named to our trail, and was the best match that All Trails found, so Google thought it reasonably close enough to present as the number one result. We have some work to do in the All Trails App.



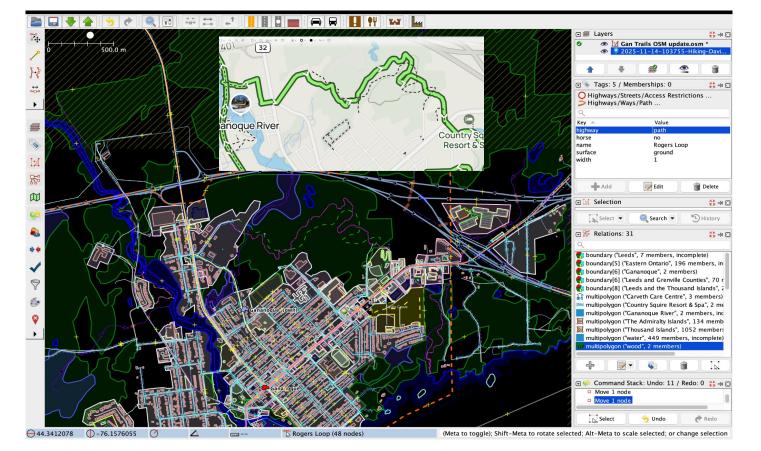
Searching All Trails for Gananoque does bring up our perimeter trail and a few others, mostly based on their users data overlaid on top of Open Street Maps base map.



Zoom into that same AllTrails result, you see the green data from a few AllTrails users, but it does not align with the dotted trail line from Open Street Maps that they use as a base map. This puts the credibility of the data in question.

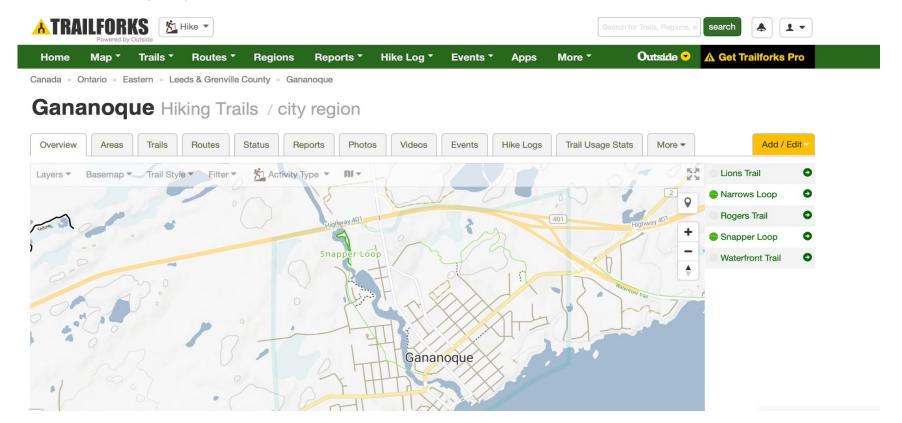


This is the JOSM editor, which allows users to suggest corrections or additions to the global map data set. The Purple line is an accurate GPX track imported from my walk of the perimeter trail, and the dotted Green you will see resembles the black track in the previous slide. Open Street Maps is the preferred source globally as if free for apps and google to use.

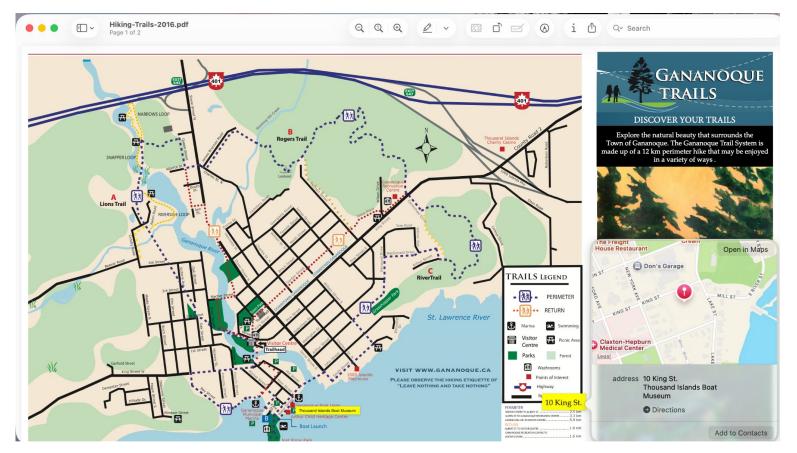


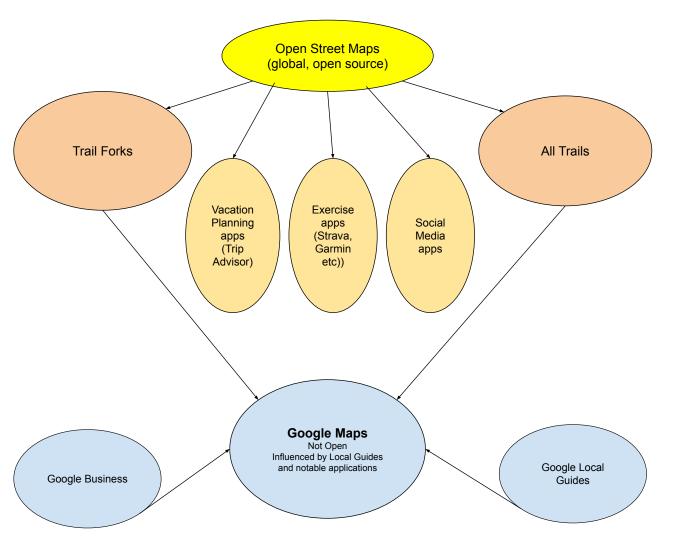
The fact that
AllTrails User
tracks differ
from the info in
Open Street
Maps takes
from the
credibility score
of the data.

Tags are added to each entry that give allowed Uses, Trail base, Trail Width, and features etc. Trailforks has a some user data that it has mapped out most of our trails, excepting McLean Forest as yet, but the details are sparse and incomplete. The number of users posting per trail is small. Photos are not of ideal content or quality. This is also something we can control by giving authoritative content to trailforks. You can choose your base map with Trailforks, and this is their own version. Open Street maps layer is not shown here but can be added with a click from the map drop down above..



Our official pdf trail map from 2016 is closer to the current GPX route, but even our own internal pdf is influenced by the web these days. When I hover over the Thousand Islands Boat Museum, Apple sees it as a business they recognize, and gives me a pop up with its location and a link on Apple Maps.





With everything being linked, how best do we control the dependencies?

- Open Street Maps is first. Its Open Source, and free, so most applications use it.
- Trail Forks and AllTrails are the most important of all the apps to us, and they should be next.
- 3. Google will allow us to make more authoritative changes if our changes are backed by key trail apps, and OSM which they also use.

### **Data Preparation**

Confirming existing Information Gather c

Gather current trail maps and data

Collect previous GPS tracks if available

Official trail names and designations

Access rules (public, seasonal, restrictions)

Collect photos

Has there been data entry to platforms

Field Data Collection

Record/Obtain new and accurate GPS track for each trail

Mark trailheads, junctions, viewpoints, boardwalks, bridges

Record access points and parking

Take photos of trailheads and key features

Record estimated hiking time and difficulty

### Open Street Maps First

OpenStreetMap Update

Data must be our own GPS track

(authority Ontario trails council)

Correct or add trail geometry in JOSM

Apply tags: highway=path, foot=yes, surface type, name

Add access rules such as bicycle=yes/no

Upload any edits with descriptive comments as to why the change

Verify updates on OSM map

### Key Apps - AllTrails & Trailforks

AllTrails Submission

Upload GPX file

Prepare description (length, difficulty, highlights)

Add photos

Submit trail through 'Contribute' section

Monitor approval

Trailforks Submission

Create our Gananoque Trail Association page

Upload GPX and align properly

Add access rules and maintenance notes

Add trail difficulty

Update trail status if needed

### Town Website Trails page

Website & Communications

Possibly add trail app we maintain as links on Gananoque Trails page

Consider providing a GPX downloads on website for compatible devices

Post updated maps on social media

Develop one detail page for each trail group, and link to main trail page

Consider adding optional QR codes on signage pointing directly to trail detail pages

### Google...

Google SEO and Maps

Update for OSM (open street map) must be complete first, Google cross-references OSM.

Update Google POI's. Trailheads, Parking, Access points, Bridges, lookouts and Official trail names.

Create a Google MyMaps overlay with Gananoque trails

Apply to be in Google's Authoritative Data Program, (this is possible if backed by Town of Gananoque)

### Ongoing tasks to consider

Ongoing tasks Review Open Street maps annually for accuracy (can be a moving target)

Update reroutes/closures promptly

Maintain Trailforks seasonal statuses

Monitor user feedback on platforms used

Manage google feedback

### Other Apps to Consider (down the road)

Komoot Publishing Upload GPX file

Add start/end points

Add surface type and difficulty

Add photos and description

Avenza Maps Create GeoPDF map with legend and scale

Mark parking, trailheads, distances

Upload to Avenza Map Store or municipal site

Ontario Trails Council - a provincial charity working for the development, use, management and preservation of trails and trail based activity.



#### ONTARIO TRAILS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - December 8, 2025

- Grants for Trails Community Outreach
- Snowmobiling saved by Province Trail Projects Member Services





Ontario Trails Council is a charity, led by a volunteer board of directors, that promotes the use, management, development, and preservation of trails and trail-based activities in Ontario.

Please consider supporting us through a donation or a membership. Thanks.

### **ONTARIO TRAIL NEWS**

## <u>Upper Canada Heritage Trail project gets \$170K break from Niagara-on-the-Lake</u>

#### Niagara This Week

Niagara-on-the-Lake town staff estimate it will cost just more than \$443,000 to complete phases 3 and 4 of the Upper **Canada Heritage** Trail to York ...

### Money comes through for community **projects** - The Record The Record

- ... **Ontario** Trillium Foundation grants for community **projects**. The total amount of \$17.5.
- ... Manitouwadge: \$24,500 to purchase trail-grooming ...

### Ontario to introduce new provincial park classification - Windsor News Today

### Windsor News Today

Adventure Class Parks will offer more opportunities for outdoor recreation, like rock climbing or **mountain biking**, that don't only rely on the natural ...

## 'Bigger than Belize': **Conservation** authorities push back against provincial boundary changes

#### **CTV News**

- ... Canadian · Product Guides · Gifts · Home · Beauty · Black Friday · Style · Tech · Kids
- ... The wait for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is ...

## St. Joseph Island native leads efforts to protect Algoma's natural habitats - SooToday.com

#### SooToday.com

... **conservation**. Dorscht was recently recognized by SodaStream **Canada** as a Hometown Changemaker. "Being a Hometown Changemaker involves representing ...

### <u>Sparkles in the Park: Guelph's Free Holiday Light Display Returns</u> <u>For 2025 Season</u>

#### To Do Canada

Donations can be made online through **Canada** Helps. Additionally, volunteers will be available at the park entrance with contactless terminals for tap- ...

### <u>Unlocking hidden potential through conservation - Ducks Unlimited</u> Canada

#### **Ducks Unlimited Canada**

Ducks Unlimited **Canada's** Willemse Project is a strategic investment in people, prosperity and environmental resilience.

### <u>Building stronger Indigenous-owned and operated businesses</u> <u>together - Anishinabek News</u>

#### **Anishinabek News**

Cada, economic development officer at Mississauga First Nation, says they have partnered with Blind River on signage for the **Trans Canada Trail** system ...

## 'It's a tough industry': What First Journey **Trails**' founder sees inside **Canada's trail**-building boom

#### Canadian Cycling Magazine

"You've got companies that mainly concentrate on big bike **park** development," he says. Others focus exclusively on pump tracks or skills **parks**.

### Mountain bikers clash with HCA over rogue **trails** in Dundas - The Hamilton Spectator

#### The Hamilton Spectator

Riders attribute building unofficial **trails** to a lack of sanctioned paths, as Hamilton has only one dedicated mountain **bike trail**. A new master plan ...

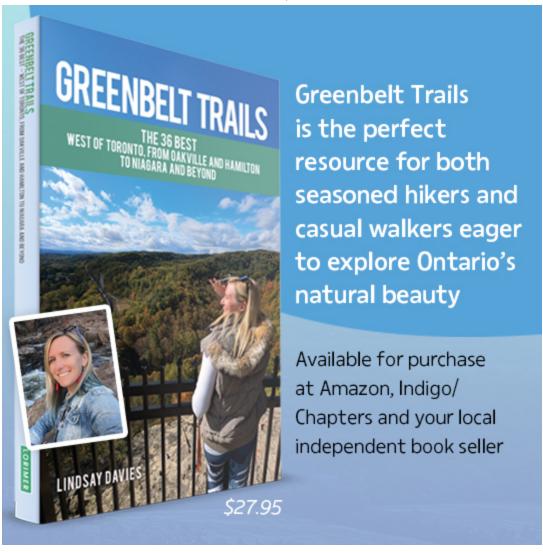
### You must explore these heritage villages in **Canada** - NewsBytes NewsBytes

Ontario's Niagara Escarpment is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and offers some of **Canada's** best **hiking routes**. The Bruce **Trail** runs over 890 ...

## Parks Canada sites saw 13 per cent spike in visitors with Canada Strong Pass in place

#### Rocky Mountain Outlook

The **Canada** Strong Pass, designed to encourage **Canadians** to explore their **heritage** and natural landscapes, appears to have been a resounding ...



"The Ontario Trails Council is a valuable advocate for Ontario's recreational trail system, and Lorimer Publishing is delighted that they have chosen to spotlight our newly released book, *Greenbelt Trails: the 36 best west of Toronto, from Oakville and Hamilton to Niagara and beyond* by Lindsay Davies. We appreciate their support not only of *Greenbelt Trails*, but all the work they do to support the Trails community and users of recreational trails across the province." *LORIMER PUBLISHING* 

## Ontario provides \$3.9M to restore snowmobile **trail** network - CTV News

#### **CTV News**

"What this funding does is it helps take away that challenge of the **trail** costs and the operating costs of having those **trails**. ... The ...

In less than a decade, Huntsville, **Ontario**, went from zero MTB **trails** to a riding destination

Singletracks.com

Miller said the club saw the races as an opportunity to showcase the **trails** they had built. "We have beautiful **climbing trails** and short, technical ...

## There's a new ski **trail** on this airfield in one of **Ontario's** most popular provincial parks

### **Curiocity**

... **hiking trails** that guide you past unique and abandoned vistas. In the winter, it maintains 72 km of groomed ski **trails** for all skill levels. Where ...

### New trail connection opens at Rogers Reservoir Conservation Area - CTV News

#### **CTV News**

According to LSRCA, the Radial **Trail** connection starts at the north end of the Green Lane parking lot and follows a clearly marked, accessible route ...

### <u>Logging roads: The overlooked infrastructure powering</u> <u>northern **Ontario** - Timmins Today</u>

#### **Timmins Today**

... **land-use** designations or wildlife management objectives." He stated, "The public should also know that Forest Access Roads are available for their use ...

## <u>Uxbridge Optimist Fantasy of Lights 2025: One of Canada's Largest Free Drive Through ...</u>

#### To Do Canada

Winter Fun in Guelph – Wellington: **Events**, Festivals and **Outdoor** Adventures. Share this:.

### Ford strips protections from Wasaga Beach to sell for development Canada's National Observer

... **Greenbelt** land swap, the **Ontario** Place redevelopment and the proposed Dresden landfill. The proposed changes do not say whether the transferred ...

## This popular Ontario park has a new looped trail to explore this winter - Curiocity

#### Curiocity

The Fork Lake **Trail** is the latest addition to the park, and here's what to know. With already over 100 kilometres of **hiking trails** that guide you ...

### <u>This Charming Ontario Town Is A Lake Lover's Paradise With Scenic</u> Waterfalls And A ... - Yahoo

#### Yahoo

The area is also crisscrossed with **trails** and **walking paths** of different lengths, suited to all fitness levels. Despite its modest size, Bracebridge ...

### You must explore these heritage villages in Canada - NewsBytes NewsBytes

**Ontario**'s Niagara Escarpment is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and offers some of Canada's best **hiking routes**. The Bruce **Trail** runs over 890 ...

### An **Ontario** park known for its 'frozen' waterfall now has a whimsical skating loop - Curiocity

#### **Curiocity**

Kakabeka Falls **ice** skating. The skating **trail**, which launched last winter, is a 160-metre-long loop located off the Luckens Road entrance, next to the ...

### Ontario's Algonquin Park has a looped trail to explore this winter - Curiocity

#### **Curiocity**

Though it's home to many **trails** with different levels of difficulty, the one you need to explore is the Fork Lake **Trail**. According to **Ontario** Parks, ...

### Region's designs for Elmira's Arthur Street would remove parking for cycling - The Record

#### The Record

Design renderings showing what separated **cycling** lanes could look like in Elmira's core in the future. ... **Ontario** returns applications. 7 hrs ago.



### **OTF NEWS**

### New grant deadlines announced

The grant application deadlines for the 2026-2027 granting period have been posted. Discover the next deadlines for Seed, Grow and Capital grants, as well as Youth Opportunities Fund grants.

Explore the new deadlines

## Here's where to find festive cheer and dazzling displays across the Ottawa Valley this December

#### Inside Ottawa Valley

5 for what the municipality describes as one of the largest and most magical **outdoor** Christmas shows in **Canada**. Mill Street becomes home to an ...

## <u>Huge new waterfront park in Toronto set to welcome first-of-its-kind</u> art **trail** in the new year

#### <u>INsauga</u>

... **trail** new park port lands toronto **ontario** Ookwemin Minising. On a hot ... **projects** in the area. The Port Lands Flood Protection **project** aims ...

## <u>Toronto says 'sorry not sorry' in clever bike lane workaround - Canadian Cycling Magazine</u>

#### Canadian Cycling Magazine

**Toronto's** latest Cycling Network Plan update says it can still add more than 20 kilometres of bike **routes** by slimming lane widths to current municipal ...

### <u>Charity buys former resort lands in Niagara Escarpment to protect</u> <u>site from development</u>

### **CBC**

Bruce **Trail** Conservancy has purchased former Talisman Mountain Resort lands in **Ontario's** Beaver Valley ... **conservation** and recreation in **Ontario**."

## Ontario invests millions to ensure snowmobile season gets back on track - CTV News

#### **CTV News**

The **Ontario** government said it's investing an extra \$3.9 million this season to help the **Ontario** Federation of **Snowmobile** Clubs (OFSC) reopen 4,500 ...

### Ontario invests \$3.9 million to restore 4500 Kilometres of snowmobile trails

#### Lindsay Advocate

"This investment will keep **Ontario's snowmobile trail** system safe, reliable, and ready for the season, giving riders and communities the certainty ...

### \$3.9 million snowmobile trails - South Grey News South Grey News

The Province of Ontario will be investing \$3.9 million to fully reopen 4500 kilometres of **Ontario's snowmobile trail** network.

### Ontario announces \$3.9M funding to Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

**Huntsville Doppler** 

Reopening these **trails** is essential to supporting local businesses, protecting tourism revenue, and ensuring riders can safely access **Ontario's trail** ...

## Ontario increases support for OFSC to restore trails ahead of winter season - Pembroke Today

### Pembroke Today

The province is boosting funding for **Ontario's snowmobile trail** system, committing an additional \$3.9 million to the Ontario Federation of ...

# Wellington County OPP Out with Safety Message for Snowmobilers | Grand 101.1 FM Grand 101.1 FM

Please be patient. **Ontario** Federation of **Snowmobile Club** (OFSC) trails are carefully managed to ensure rider safety and protect landowner agreements.

### <u>It's too early to 'go for a rip' on **snowmobile trails -** My Timmins Now My Timmins Now</u>

... **trails** open yet in **Ontario**. Gilbert Fortin is the **Ontario** Federation of **Snowmobile** Clubs director for the district between Iroquois Falls and ...

### Membership Renewals!

We survive on memberships. We have new rates. We wish to thank the following groups who either renewed their membership or who joined for the first time! THANK-YOU.

### Re-up here

City of Mississauga - Thank-you



To learn more about trails and paths to walk and bike in Mississauga, explore our interactive <u>Walk + Roll Peel trails map</u>. You can also download the <u>Mississauga Cycling Map</u>. You can also pick up a copy at your local community centre. Learn more about cycling in Mississauga at <u>mississaugabikes.ca</u>.

### The Bruce Trail Conservancy - Thank-you



The Bruce Trail Conservancy is a charitable organization committed to preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. Join us in exploring & protecting the Niagara Escarpment along one of Canada's oldest and longest footpaths. <a href="mailto:brucetrail.org">brucetrail.org</a>

### Explorer's Edge - RTO 12 - Thank-you

Our first Co-Creation Lab sessions with operators from Port Loring–Restoule and South Algonquin wrapped up this week, and we're already shaping shoulder-season itineraries, multi-day travel packages, and even winter concepts that truly reflect the authentic spirit of our rural communities.



#### **Payment Methods:**





or call with your credit card. 613-484-1140 Thanks!

Ontario Trails Council supports all trails and trail users!



**Join Today!** 

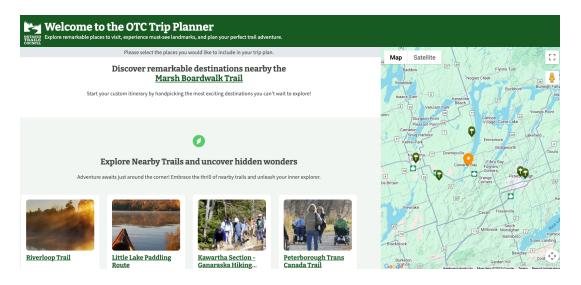
### **Ontario Trails Trip Planner**

Do you promote user trips and trail tourism by using the Ontario Trails Council Trip Planner?

On the OTC Website <u>ontariotrails.ca</u> select your favourite trail in an OTC Member RTO -



Then move your cursor to the right side of the graphic and select - Plan your trip.

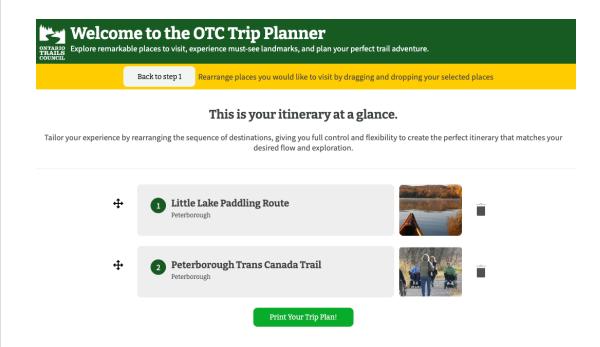


In one spot you will see all nearby trails if you are planning on seeing a group of them. or if you prefer you will be able to see other tourism spots to see on, or adjacent to your trail trip!

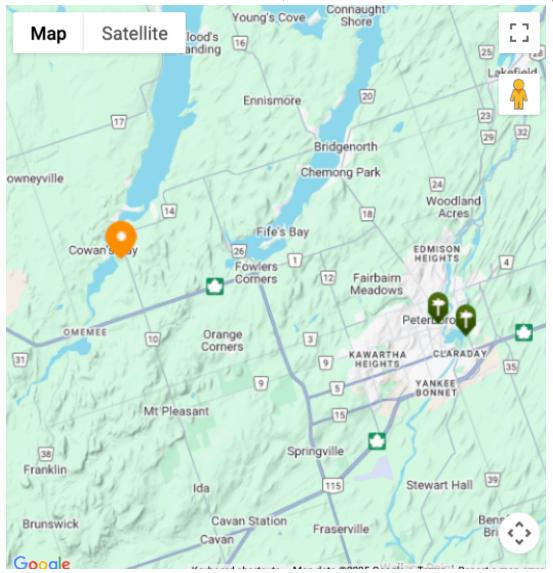
Scroll down the page to select the other trails you wish to add to your trip. We added Little Lake Paddling Route and Peterborough Trans Canada Trail.



### Select "Go to Step 2" - you will see your itinerary in a list:



On each page of the trip planner is a visualized Google Map that allows you to see the route to other tourism assets and the trails you selected.



## Congratulations on creating your personalized itinerary!



### Congratulations on creating your personalized itinerary!

We hope this curated selection of attractions near the **Marsh Boardwalk Trail** will enhance your trail experience and create lasting memories. Have a fantastic time exploring these remarkable destinations and enjoy the beauty of nature. Happy trails and safe travels!

#### Marsh Boardwalk Trail

City: Omemee - Region: Kawarthas and Northumberland





Peterborough Trans Canada Trail
Peterborough



This service is available for RTO members, and is currently active on RTO6, RTO8, RTO11, RTO13a, b, c; pages.

We thank them for their membership support and for promoting trail trips in their region!

### **Professional Development - Online Learning**

<u>Trail Stewardship - Starts January, 2026 (College Adjusted)</u>

Offered in Partnership with Confederation College OnLine Learning



### Trail Stewardship

This course will introduce students to safety and training, including tools used for trail stewardship, and basic trail building techniques. You will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of ground trail environments, trail tread, site preparation and construction elements. A look into trail food and nutrition will also be covered.

- Online Delivery
- 8 Hours
- Stackable Micro Credentials





Why Confederation College? Learn more about <u>OnLine Learning</u>. Course details coming soon.





### **Unit 1 - Safety and Training**

By the end of this lesson, you will have demonstrated the ability to do the following: Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the trail industry in Canada.

Work safely as a trail crew member – (prepare self and others to be effective trail crew members).

Explain the basics to trail building. Recognize common trail issues and how to resolve problematic areas. Handle trail tools safely and effectively.



#### **Unit 2 - Trail Assessment**

By the end of this lesson, you will have demonstrated the ability to do the following: Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the on the ground trail environment. Explain key features of recreational trails. Describe the basics of trail tread, site preparation and construction elements. Assess the key components of trail issues and how to resolve them. Explain the basic elements to designing and installing a trail tread.



#### Unit 3 - Food and Nutrition

By the end of this lesson, you will have demonstrated the ability to do the following: Demonstrate basic knowledge of the various food groups that are important to nutrition. Explain why keeping hydrated on the worksite is important to worker health and wellbeing. Describe what types of food and drink are available on the worksite. Provide an example of what you would take with you as snack, lunch or dinner out to the trail. Provide an example as to how you would prepare a meal on the trail.

#### **Unit 4 - Indigenous Trail Building**

This course will focus on Indigenous trail building best practices across Canada to encourage more Indigenous communities to build legacy trails for community recreation, tourism, and pathways for reconciliation. This course will provide an educational opportunity for non-indigenous trail builders to gain an understanding of community-based consultation and opportunities for partnering with trail tourism development.



### CANADIAN TRAIL NEWS

Building 'Trolldom:' How fantasy world came alive on Squamish's slabs

Canadian Cycling Magazine

... **biking** requires more than just skill on the **bike**. To ride ... Support. **Ontario** Creates. Gripped Publications. Canadian Running · Canadian **Cycling** ...

# Winnipeg moves to scrap bird-friendly window bylaw developers argue is barrier to development CBC

**Conservation** groups are raising concerns as the City of Winnipeg considers ... Nature **Canada** last week announced its latest slate of **Canadian** ...

## <u>Visit one of **Canada's** beautiful national parks for free this holiday</u> <u>season - Curiocity</u>

#### Curiocity

During the **Canada** Strong Pass periods, no fees apply for admission to all national historic sites, national parks, and national marine **conservation** ...

### Valemount residents voice concerns over proposed Swift Creek recreation area

The Hamilton Spectator

One zoning amendment, which would allow the Valemount and **Area Recreation** Development Association to build a campground near Swift Creek, became a ...

## <u>Visit one of **Canada's** beautiful national parks for free this holiday</u> <u>season - Curiocity</u>

#### Curiocity

During the **Canada** Strong Pass periods, no fees apply for admission to all national historic sites, national parks, and national marine **conservation** ...

### <u>This Unique National Park In Canada Is Famous For Its Otherworldly Limestone Monoliths</u>

Currently, from AT&T - Yahoo

There are **routes** for beginners and experienced paddlers. If you prefer exploring on foot or are feeling adventurous, some **hiking trails** on the islands ...

# What will earn **Canadian** travel advisors the most in 2026? Seven major tour operators weigh in

#### <u>Travelweek</u>

"If they're adventurous, they want hidden **hiking trails**; if they're ... Denise Harper, managing director of sales, **Canada**, says demand is rising fast.

# <u>CP NewsAlert: Conservation officers call off search for bear involved in B.C. attack</u>

#### Meridian Source

THE **CANADIAN** PRESS/Handout — B.C. **Conservation** Officer Service (Mandatory Credit) (The **Canadian** Press). **Conservation** officers in British Columbia ...

### <u>Plan proposes major overhaul of Canmore area **trails** - Rocky</u> Mountain Outlook

#### Rocky Mountain Outlook

For Thomson, that success hinges on how clearly the **Alberta** government plans to communicate important trade-offs to **trail** users through education and ...

# Public feedback sought on future of KVR Trail through Penticton Penticton Western News

The KVR Trail is part of the **Trans Canada Trail** and follows the route of the decommissioned Kettle Valley Railway along Okanagan Lake. READ MORE: MPs ...

## <u>It's time to start planning a **trail**-running race-cation **for** 2026 - <u>Canadian Running Magazine</u></u>

#### Canadian Running Magazine

You can sign up **for** the full Full Pint—a 4.6-km vertical **climb**, a 59–60 km ultra-distance day, and a final 15–23 km mountain run—or the shorter Half ...

# Breathtaking views await along these snowshoe and **Nordic ski** trails in B.C. - Curiocity

#### Curiocity

These magical B.C. snowshoe and **Nordic ski trails** are a must-visit this ski season for their breathtaking views.

# Building community on the **trails** at Revelstoke **Nordic Ski** Club Revelstoke Mountaineer

As the oldest continually operating ski club in **Canada**, the Revelstoke **Nordic Ski** Club continues to hold a central place in the town's recreation ...

# EVR gifts \$500k to Avalanche Canada | East Kootenay, Elk Valley East Kootenay News Online Weekly

"We are proud to support Avalanche **Canada** and the critical work they do to help keep backcountry users safe while enjoying the **outdoors**," said Mike ...

## <u>Paralympic Winter Games berths on the line at season opening</u> <u>Para nordic World Cups in Canmore</u>

#### Canadian Paralympic Committee

It's the primary selection event for the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games
 and Canada's Para nordic skiers couldn't be happier about competing on ...

# <u>Trails Association launches holiday map fundraiser after</u> <u>Pemberton-wide upgrade</u>

#### The Record

The Pemberton Valley **Trails Association** (PVTA) has unveiled a series of newly upgraded trail maps across the region—maps that locals can take home ...

## <u>Catching up: Meadow Lake Northern Lights</u> <u>Snowmobile Association | saskNOW | Saskatchewan</u> <u>saskNOW</u>

"If we get the snow, riders can look forward to beautifully groomed **trails**," said Kelly Schmidt, president of



#### Ontario Trails - Trails Risk Management Committee 2025-26

The purpose of each meeting is to gather resources from practitioners on the topic in advance so we can have a productive discussion on the topic and the various sub sections below. The materials will be crafted into supporting documents, educational sessions and a follow-up webinar so that maximum distribution of these up to date best practices can be achieved, and then shared with the Ontario Trails Community.

- Intact Co-Chair Jaden Hodgins
- · Ontario Trails Co-Chair Dave Naulls

There will be 6 online meetings over the year.

#### **UPCOMING - TRAIL WARDENING**

- Groups with Wardens
- Warden approval
- Training Programs
- Hours of Work
- Volunteer
- Costing
- Sourcing
- Maintaining
- Annual Budgets
- Partners in Control
- Best recommendations
- Powerpoint
- Webinar

3rd.Meeting Date - <u>December 18, 2025 1030-1200</u>

Topic: Trail Wardening

Topic: On Trail Wardening Practice Please provide any materials for this meeting by

December 11, 2025:

**Drop Box** 

N/C for OTC Members

Donation for non-members

Meeting Date - January 27, 2026 1030-1200

Topic: Natural Risks

Meeting Date - March 20, 2026 1030-1200

Topic: User Education and Training

Meeting Date - May 5, 2026 1030-1200

Topic: Regulation and Legislation

Ontario Trails Council encourages the Economic Developers Council of Ontario



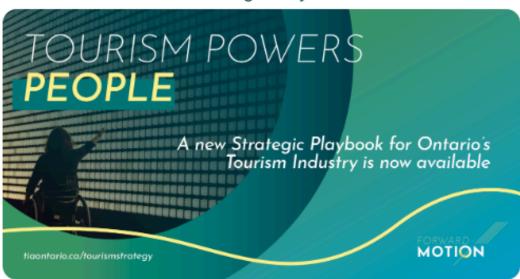




## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

### TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN

What's Ahead for Ontario's Tourism Industry? Read the new Tourism Strategic Playbook to Find Out



Built on extensive consultation with industry leaders across multiple sectors, tourism operators, regional and industry organizations, educators, and government partners, Forward Motion – A Strategic Playbook for Ontario's Tourism Industry (2025–2030) sets a bold course to grow the visitor economy through six core strategic goals;

- Attract More Visitors and Spending
- Expand Transportation Infrastructure
- Strengthen Workforce Resilience
- Facilitate Product Development & Capacity Investment
- Advance Practical Sustainability
- Foster Collaboration and Leadership

Learn more about the 6 strategic goals

Add An Event



Over 1.4 million unique visitors go to ontariotrails.ca each year.

We link trail events to one of our over 2,707 trail listings.

We have over 130,000 followers on social media.

Send us your event we'll add it to our inventory of over **6,000 trail events** taking place in Ontario each year.

See the December Events Pages

The Ontario Trails Council works with Intact Public Entities on trail risk management



# public entities

# Be a member. Get your badge.

Are you a club trying to get volunteers or memberships?

Are you a federation trying to get support for your riders and programs?

Use the power and reach of Ontario Trails Council to your advantage.

- Website 1.5 million visitors, (last year)
- Newsletter 91,092 weekly newsletter sends (last 365 days).
- Open rate 33.% (Sector avg.19%) Clicks 8.4%
- Social Media 68,003 on Facebook, 16,200 on Instagram,

Get recognized on hundreds of [YOUR ACTIVITY] on our trail pages allowing tour activity in Ontario.

ORCKA did.



## **Canoe and Kayak**

A place to find places to paddle in Ontario. Before you paddle get educated through ORCKA, the voic...

Ontario Recreational Canoe and Kayak Association

Website Sample page - <a href="https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trail/grand-river-water-trails">https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trail/grand-river-water-trails</a> Facebook

Χ

**Contact Ontario Trails** 

Get your badge on 100's of pages, in front of the next generation of [YOUR ACTIVITY SUPPORTERS/TAX PAYERS] today.

# **ONTARIO TRAILS SAFETY MESSAGE -**

# Trail SMART - Safe Tips for Winter Hiking

Remember when on the trail, expect and respect other users! A winning trail attitude includes safety, respect, and relaxation. Combine this attitude with the following trail etiquette tips and you will be on your way to an amazing outdoor experience.

TAKE THE SAFE TRAIL USER PLEDGE!

SHARE THE SAFE TRAIL USER PLEDGE POSTER

To safely winter hike in Ontario, plan your trip, check the weather and trail conditions, and pack the "10 Essentials" including layers, waterproof boots, and navigation tools. Always dress in layers of wool or synthetic materials, bring extra food and water, and inform someone of your hiking plan before you go. For icy conditions, bring traction devices like microspikes or snowshoes for deep snow, and always have a reliable light source.



This video explains the basics of winter hiking safety:



1m



•

<u>The Hungry Hiker</u> <u>YouTube • Jan 15, 2023</u>

Before you go

- Plan your hike: Check the weather forecast and trail conditions beforehand.

  Research the trail to ensure it's suitable for your skill level and time constraints.
- Share your plan: Tell a friend or family member where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Hike with a partner: It's safer to hike with at least one other person.
- **Check trail conditions:** Be aware of ice, deep snow, and potential hazards. Do not walk on frozen bodies of water, as ice conditions are unpredictable.

#### What to wear

- Layer up: Wear a base layer, an insulating mid-layer, and a waterproof outer shell. Wool or synthetic fabrics are best, as they stay warm even when wet, unlike cotton.
- Adjust layers as needed: Remove layers to avoid sweating, which can lead to getting chilled later.
- **Cover extremities:** Wear a hat, gloves, and waterproof boots. Use gaiters to prevent snow from getting into your boots.

This video demonstrates what to wear and pack for a winter hike:



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#### **NYSDEC**

YouTube • Feb 7, 2022

Essential gear to pack

- The "10 Essentials": Always pack these for any hike:
  - Navigation (map, compass, GPS)
  - Illumination (headlamp or flashlight)
  - Shelter (emergency shelter)
  - Extra clothing
  - Extra food and water
  - Sun protection
  - Fire starter
  - Knife or multi-tool
  - First-aid kit
- For winter specific conditions:
  - Footwear: Wear waterproof hiking boots. Pack traction devices like microspikes for ice, or snowshoes for deep, unpacked snow.
  - Communication: Carry a fully charged cell phone. For areas without service, consider a satellite phone or communicator.
  - **Light:** Pack a headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries, as it gets dark earlier in the winter.
  - Hand warmers: These can be very helpful for keeping your hands and feet warm.
  - Trekking poles: These can help with balance on slippery or uneven surfaces.

#### On the trail

- **Stay on the trail:** Use designated paths to avoid getting lost and to prevent damage to the environment.
- Pace yourself: Keep moving to stay warm, but avoid working up a major sweat.
- **Stay fueled:** Eat high-calorie snacks like trail mix, cheese, and jerky, which won't freeze as easily as fruits and vegetables.
- Protect your phone: Keep your phone in a warm pocket close to your body to preserve battery life.

This video provides tips and tricks for winter hiking in southern Ontario:



1m



Pray for Nathan Nature Show YouTube • Jan 25, 2021

For more information on all our Trail Smart Messages go to: TRAIL SMART

Ontario Trails Council supports professional recreation practices developed by:



Technical Corner: The Future of Recreation Will Require Progressive Political Leadership

Today's recreation manager will be continually challenged to provide accurate and transparent information on operational costs to senior decision makers and elected officials. This resources discusses a recent headline around user fees from North Huron and how community leaders must look at developing policy and business practices that are equal, fair and transparent that accounts for all sport and recreational users as well as the "non-user".

#### **MORE**

#### **ORFA Job Postings**

- 1. Recreation Coordinator- Sport and Seniors (18-Month Contract), City of Orillia ON
- 2. Park/Facility Operator\*, City of Orillia ON

- 3. Supervisor, Aquatic Services, Corporation of Norfolk County, ON
- 4. Supervisor, Central Parks, City of Kawartha Lakes, ON
- 5. Aquatic Head Guard, Town of Hinton, AB
- 6. Recreation Assistant, Town of Oakville, ON
- 7. Supervisor, Recreation Facility Operations, City of Orillia, ON
- 8. Junior Ice Technician, Granite Club, Toronto, ON
- 9. Operator, Municipality of Lambton Shores, ON
- 10. Winter Seasonal Parks Labourer\*, St. Andrew's College, Aurora, ON

\*ORFA certification required or considered an asset

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### **ORFA Presentation and Facilitation Opportunities**

The ORFA continues to seek relationships with industry leaders who are prepared to present information that supports the ORFA mission and vision. Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. - ORFA Profile Members in good standing are invited to reach out to the ORFA Director, Training, Research and Development to discuss interest and learn more about the terms and conditions associated with this role. Noting that an expression of interest and resume may be submitted.

**MORE** 



# ONTARIO TRAILS COUNCIL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## **Mayor's Walks**

Many communities held walks on Provincial/International Trails Day.

We will provide links to other walks and trail celebrations that took place June 7, as well as throughout the year. The Ontario Trails "Mayor's Walk" events are open to OTC member organizations to act as hosts for a walk in 2026. *Tell us when you are having an event in 2026* Event Notification Sheet.



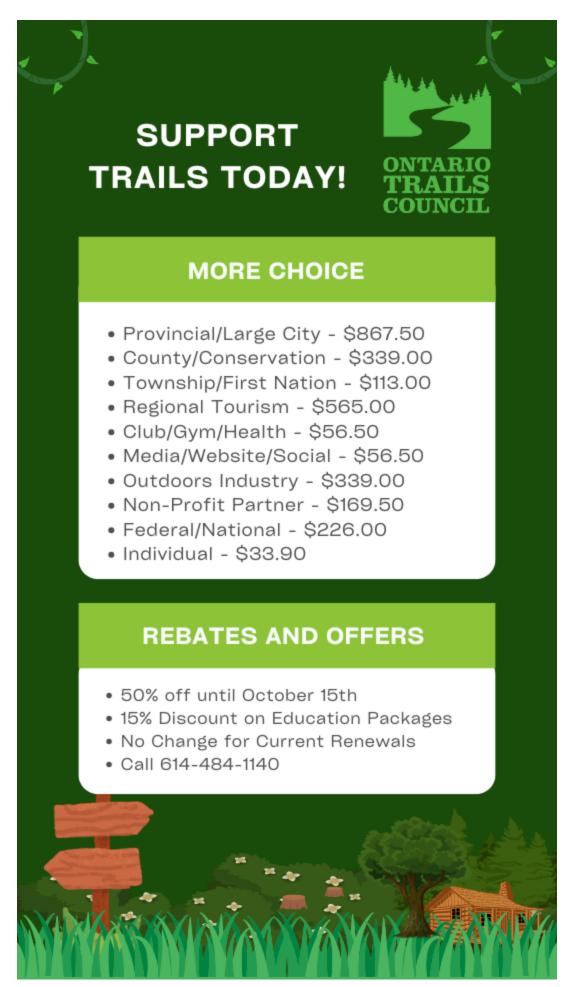
With trails in 100's of Ontario Communities this is a great way to showcase your local support while enabling all the Mayor's and their trail friends to get out for a celebration of trails.

Send us details about your Trail Day Celebration!

**Did you Know?** Please search <u>'Trails Day'</u> on Facebook, Ontario Trails provided 80% of Canadian messaging content about trails day.

Ask for the Mayor's Walk event planning tool, email us at execdir@ontariotrails.ca

NEW MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT PRICING - LAPSED MEMBER? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SEASONAL PRICING.



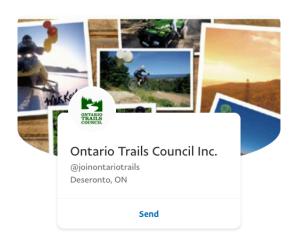


# **Add Our Logo**

We ask members to place our logo on your trail pages! We can provide variety of styles and colours.

We thank <u>Hike Ontario RTO7 Bruce, Grey,</u>
Simcoe <u>Ontario Equestrian</u> and the <u>Rideau Trail</u>
Association for posting our logo or a link to our site and social media.

We appreciate your support!



## Be a Friend

We are a trail community made by up of clubs, municipalities, user federations, health units, and many other types of local organizations and individuals.

We have a volunteer Board and a membership that loves trails and trail activity as much as you do.

Join or donate today!



## Get on the map!

Ontario Trails Council members span the entire province and over 24 different uses.

We are the only trail organization in Ontario filtering trail best practices on multi-use trails, promoting the safe use by all trail users across all activities.

We also share stories through our weekly newsletter, 'Trail Wise' and on our blog.

We hope you would help us through a donation or join the 170 other member organizations supporting our work in Ontario, for more and better trails in Ontario. With

your support, we can achieve this one trail at a time, making the case for all of Ontario's trails, together.



## Add A Trail

Ontario Trails Council provides information about the trails that you build and maintain to trail users from all over the world.

Our website is a referrer site. We send people to you so you can tell them about your trails.

People stay with us about 2 and half minutes. Then they go to you.

Help us help you. Add your trail or support us through membership.



## Add A Review

Our website is reviewed and updated weekly.

Your opinion helps improve our ranking on search engines. The better the score the more likely we will be found first.

Facebook reviews from members of the trail Community score high:

96% recommend (61 reviews)

# **Add A Project**

Ontario Trails Council is interested in making the case for funding trail projects.

Often infrastructure project budgets are dominated by other larger recreational infrastructure needs, such as arenas, pools, roads and parks.

If you need funding from other sources, due to a smaller municipal portion use us to help

you make the case for more funds.



## Follow us on X



For all the latest on trails and trail news follow:

Ontario Trails Blog - regular round up of Ontario Trail News!

**Ontario Trails** 

Ontario ATV Trails

Ontario Hiking Trails

Ontario Climbing Trails

Ontario Cycling Trails

Ontario Dirt Bike Trails

**Ontario Horse Trails** 

**Ontario Water Trails** 

**Toronto Trails** 

**Trailhead North** 

Trails of 1812

Niagara Trails Committee

**Hamilton Burlington Trails** 

Canadian Trails Federation



To find your trail listing go to Ontario Trails

Support us today. Join ON-line



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# McLean Memorial Forest Volunteer progress 2025

- 2 x Boot brush stations added
- Woodchips added to half of trail
- Trail to Turtle Rock established
- Improvement plan drafted
- Trenching improvements made to wet area
- Trip hazards reduced in rocky area.
- Many invasive plants managed
- Signage improved and minor repairs to bridge railings





# McLean Memorial Forest 2026 Volunteer Ideas Ideas for Town

- Add more woodchips to west section of trail
- Clear and add woodchips to viewpoint at Grandpas pond
- Further invasive plant clean ups (with Rotary Club)
- Add boundary and conservation signage
- Tree planting (grant dependent)
- Add first information signage

- Add short (8ft) boardwalk over outlet from Grandpas pond
- Add bench to Turtle Rock (budget allocation dependent)
- Chip brush cleared by volunteers for Tree Planting
- Add refurbishment of Arthur St Bridge to future budget forecast