



## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail was officially opened in 1968. The trail starts in Port Hope, on the north shore of Lake Ontario and trail passes through a variety of scenery from Lake Ontario, north through the sand hills of the moraine where the Ganaraska Forest is, past the lakes and drumlin fields of the Kawarthas to the rugged wilderness of the Canadian Shield, then west through the rolling hills of Simcoe County and the shores of Georgian Bay to the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, where the trail meets the Bruce Trail.

Including some branch trails, the total length of the trail is in excess of 500 kilometres, approximately 300 of which are in Simcoe County. The trail is marked with white or blue paint blazes. The blazes are a white strip, approximately 2" wide and 6" high (5 x 15 cm), painted on trees, posts and rocks. Two blazes, one slightly above the other and to the side, indicate a turn, with the upper blaze telling the direction of the turn. Turns may also be indicated by the GHATA logo in which case you follow the direction of the arrow. In the wilderness, trail markers may consist of rock cairns and a change in direction may be indicated by a painted "dog leg" on a flat rock. Blue blazes indicate a side trail.

The association has a "minimum impact" standard to protect the environment. The trail is available for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing use only because of the generosity of landowners who have given permission to cross their land.

The trail is entirely maintained by the volunteers of various clubs, such as the Pine Ridge, Kawartha, Wilderness Wildland, Orillia, Barrie, Mad River Midland, Oro-Medonte and Wasaga Beach clubs.

Membership in the Ganaraska Trail Association is \$20 per year. Three newsletters per year give details of numerous hiking events, club news and general information. The hike schedule is also posted on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail website.

When hiking on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, or participating in any of the organized activities and events, you do so at your own risk. The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association is not responsible for injury or loss, experienced while hiking on the trail or participating in any event. The challenging wilderness section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail should be done only on group hikes with a qualified leader.

Detailed maps are available by purchasing the 2006 edition of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail guide book. This edition features full-colour topographic maps including road names, and improved narrative text to describe the trail and the features along it. Cost is \$16 for members and \$25 for non members + shipping.

While stocks last, you may also purchase the guidebook from the following:

1. Sojourn, 31 Commerce Park Drive, Barrie [www.sojournoutdoors.ca](http://www.sojournoutdoors.ca)
2. Mountain Equipment Co-op, 400 King Street West, Toronto [www.mec.ca](http://www.mec.ca)
3. Bird House Nature Company, 108 Mississauga Street East, Orillia  
[www.thunderstar.net/~birdhouse](http://www.thunderstar.net/~birdhouse)

For more information on the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, contact

**Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association**  
**Box 693, Orillia, L3V 6K7**

[www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.ca](http://www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.ca)