



Trail Number
24-07
Location
Township of Ramara
Trail Locator
Monck Rd.
Narrows Channel
Nearest Town
Orillia
TRAIL DETAILS
Main Trail
5.0 Km.
Difficulty
Easy
Surface
Crushed Stone
Terrain
Level
Suitability
Walking, Stroller,
Snowshoeing,
Skiing, Biking,
Snowmobiling
Parking
Adjacent to
Narrows Marina
By Tim Horton's
Washrooms
None
Refreshments
Orillia & Atherley
Map
NTS 31 D/11
Trails in Area
Ganaraska
Millennium Trail

A Journey through Rama Mnjikaning History



Start of Ramara Trail at the Narrows Fish Weirs

The trail starts in the south at the historic fish weirs that were built by the Mnjikaning First Nation people. "Mnjikaning" is an Ojibway word meaning "the place of the fish fence." The trail follows the abandoned CN rail line through pastoral countryside, crossing the Rama Road, and currently ending at Monck Road. There are plans to extend this rail trail further north. Lake Couchiching means "outlet" or "little lake at the end of a big lake" in Ojibway.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1. Fish Weir:** At Narrows. Consisting of closely spaced stakes driven into the bottom, perhaps with interlaced material, and extending almost completely across the narrows, the weir directed fish to small openings where they were captured with nets
- 2. Swing Bridge:** The soon to be removed disused swing bridge at Atherley is one of the last visible remaining structures of a once thriving rail network. The bridge was open and closed by hand with a crank. The bridge operator rowed by skiff out to the bridge to crank it.
- 3. Samuel de Champlain:** During the fall of 1615, the French explorer, in the company of a Huron raiding party, passed near the small narrows separating Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe.
- 4. CN Rail Line:** closed on September 21, 1996 – handled Canadian National's daily freight trains between Toronto and North Bay, and VIA's *Canadian* on its run between Toronto and Vancouver.
- 5. Rama Road:** Trail follows along west side of Rama Road, then crosses Rama Road at traffic light. Follow trail on north side of Monck Road until abandoned rail line.
- 6. Monck Road:** named to honour Charles Stanley Monck, Governor-in-Chief of the Canadian province from 1861. The road extended 160 kilometres east to the Hastings Road at Bancroft where it joined other roads to Ottawa.
- 7. Trail Extension:** Trail now extends north to Boundary Road.

Non-Motorized Use Only, Except Snowmobiling where Permitted with Permit

