

AVON TRAIL



SUMMER/FALL HIKING SCHEDULE

JULY

to

NOVEMBER 2018

Avon Trail welcomes the public to attend its hikes. For hike specific information, please contact the hike leader or for general information see website: [www.AvonTrail.ca](http://www.AvonTrail.ca) or email: [info@avontrail.ca](mailto:info@avontrail.ca)

**Meeting Locations :** EB Games, Festival Mall 1067 Ontario St., Stratford, N5A 6W6  
Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford, N5A 6W3  
Boston Pizza (REAR PARKING LOT) 729 Erie St., Stratford N4Z 1A2  
William Allman Memorial Arena 15 Morenz Dr., Stratford, N5A 1A1  
Giant Tiger 477 Huron Street, Stratford, N5A 5T8

**HIKE RATING:**

Difficulty of Terrain: Level 1 –easy, Level 2 – moderate , Level 3 - strenuous  
Pace/ Speed : leisurely—less than 2 km/ hour, slow -2 to 3 km/hour, medium—3 to 4 km/hour, fast —more than 5 km/hour  
Distance : Distance is stated in kilometres ( km)

**Hike Etiquette:** Note time listed for each hike is departure time; arrive early for sign up, car pool arrangements, etc. Bring along a plastic bag for muddy boots. Check [www.avontrail.ca](http://www.avontrail.ca) prior to hike for possible changes due to inclement weather, trail closure, etc.

Note: Please RSVP hike leader prior to hike of intention to hike

**TUESDAY MORNING RAMBLES:** 9 am to 12 noon every Tuesday morning year round, weather permitting. Meet Allman Arena north parking lot off Lakeside Drive at Morenz Dr. Approximately 1.5 hours usually on Avon Trail, determined by hike leader or group. Varied terrain, moderate pace. Coffee time follows Contact Terry: 519-273-2233

**SUNDAY JULY 1: CANADA DAY PARADE—**Meet at 6:15 PM along the Worsley St. marshalling area (across the river from Central high school flats). Our float number will be sent by email a couple days before the parade. Walk with the Avon Trail banner from Worsley St. along the parade route through downtown Stratford, ending at Sobeys on Huron Street (about 3 km.). Wear your best red & white hiking gear! We will hand out **Take a Hike** Buttons and flyers. Kids and grandkids are welcome to join fun. Contact Bernard ([berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com))

**SATURDAY JULY 14: STRATFORD CEMETERY WALK: Distance: 6.5 km., Terrain: easy, Pace: slow to medium, Duration: 3 hrs.** Meet at William Allman Arena to depart at 9:00 AM. We will walk to Avondale cemetery via St. James Anglican Church and return to the arena by 12:15 PM. Visit graves of prominent Stratford citizens from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and hear stories of lives as varied as settlers, modern business innovators and internationally known musicians.

Bring water and snack. Wear a hat and comfortable walking shoes. Hike Leader: Bruce [brucedgraham@gmail.com](mailto:brucedgraham@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY JULY 28: NITH RIVER TO AMULREE CROSSING GEORGEOUS WILMOT AND EASTHOPE TWPS.: Terrain: moderate, Pace: medium/fast, Distance: 13.6km.,Duration: 6 hrs.(includes travel).**Meet at EB Games at 9 am to carpool to hike starting point. A car shuttle will be used. Return to Stratford by 3 pm. Hike goes through quintessential SW Ontario prime farming country, through mature wood lots, along creeks and rivers and skirts a variety of typical crops favoured in this area. Pack a snack and a lunch. Bring insect repellent &/or bug net. Wear comfortable supportive footwear for long distance and quick pace walking. There will be 2 breaks. RSVP to Hike Leader: [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com) if joining hike.

**SATURDAY AUGUST 11(RAIN DATE August 12) NEW HICKSON RAIL TRAIL & CORNFEST POTLUCK SOCIAL at Campbell Farm, East Zorra Township. (Note: MEMBERS ONLY HIKE)**  
**Terrain: easy, Pace: medium, Distance: 6 km or 3 km option, Duration: 5.5 hrs.**Meet at 1:30 pm at EB Games, 1067 Ontario St. to car pool to Ross and Dorothy Campbell Farm at 516346 11<sup>th</sup> Line, East Zorra,Tavistock (one concession west of Hickson). Short and longer hikes will be offered. Car shuttle required. The rail trail has been recently extended to Hickson, an attractive walk on level ground through attractive farmland. After the hike, enjoy one of Summer's highlights—fresh corn on cob and hot dogs (provided). Please bring a salad or dessert and lawn chair as well as own cup, plate and cutlery. Punch will be provided. Donations accepted to cover expenses. **RSVP to Carolyn ([avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com)) by Thursday August 9.**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19: FAMILY HIKE ALONG BEAUTIFUL TROUT CREEK: Terrain: moderate, Pace: medium to slow, Distance: 2.6 km., Duration: 2.5 hrs.** Meet 2 PM behind Boston Pizza parking lot. Drive/carpool to hike starting point. Our route takes us along the edge of crop land, by abandoned gravel pit, into a mature Carolinian woodlot abundant with wild flowers, and along banks of Trout Creek, a main tributary of Thames River. A Scavenger Hunt activity will focus on some of Nature's wonders. The walk is tailored to meet the experience of those who attend and will be geared for ages 4 and up. Refreshments will be served at the end of the walk. Everyone welcome. No dogs please. This is dependent on good weather; check website, [www.avontrail.ca](http://www.avontrail.ca) for updates or cancellation. Please RSVP Bernard at [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com) to join the hike.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 26: ST. MARYS MEMORIAL FOREST DEDICATION SERVICE, WILDWOOD CONSERVATION AREA: Commemorating Tom Miller, Avon Trail member.** 2 to 4 pm. The staff of Andrew Hodges Funeral Home and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority together organize the planting of one tree, representing many spruce trees planted in the spring by the families' of loved ones. Invitations with further details will be sent at the end of July.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8: (Rain Date Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>): GRAND BEND/AUSABLE CHANNEL HIKE—Rate: Level 1 Pace: moderate Distance 5-7km.(~2.0 hours)-(Open to members and members families only)** Car pool from Boston Pizza leaving at 9:00 am. Note: Directions to cottage will be provided after receiving RSVP. Hosts: Phil and Maria Antonio. In

Grand Bend, walk along the old Ausable Channel to Grand Bend marina, along beach or Southcott Pines through Carolinian forest. Bring water for hike. Social meal to follow. Hamburgers, sausage and refreshments provided. Please bring appetizer, salad or dessert .  
**RSVP** Maria Antonio-- phil.mariaa@gmail.com

**HIKE LEADER CERTIFICATION COURSE TO BE OFFERED IN THE FALL, LOCATION AND DATE TO BE CONFIRMED.** Details will be posted on the Avon Trail website and The Hike Ontario website soon. This is a great opportunity for Avon Trail members to sign up to learn the basics of how to lead a hike safely and confidently.

For further information, contact Bernard: [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22: MAITLAND TRAIL—BLACK HOLE ROAD TO BENMILLER: terrain: challenging, Pace: Medium, Distance: 11.5 km. Duration: 5-6 hrs( 1 hour travel each way,3 hrs hiking, lunch break).** Meet at northwest corner Giant Tiger parking lot, Huron St. Stratford at 9:00 AM to car pool to starting point. Car shuttle will be used. Return to Stratford by 3 PM. This trail follows the Maitland River's meandering route, through the gorge, along a hog's back ridge, through mature woodland, Morris Tract and Falls Reserve CA. There are steep up and down sections, some with stairs. It is a scenic section of the Maitland Trail ending at Benmiller. There are two outhouses along the route and an area for picnicking in the Falls Reserve CA Pack a snack, lunch and water. Bug spray and sun protection advisable. Wear supportive comfortable footwear. This is a challenging hike, be prepared! RSVP to Meg : [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com) if planning to join hike.

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, AVON TRAIL GENERAL MEETING – ALL ARE WELCOME! 7:00 to 8:30 PM** , Stratford Rotary Complex, Community Hall D, 353 McCarthy Rd. Guest Speaker TBA. Open to the public. Stay in tune with hiking news, conservancy issues, equipment updates, and the status of Avon Trail projects. Refreshments provided. The Trail Guide, Ed. 7.5 will be available for purchase.

**SEPTEMBER 28 – 30 –HIKE ONTARIO AGM SUMMIT & The GANARASKA 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, IN ORILLIA, ONTARIO:** The summit begins with Pub Night, continues Saturday morning with Hike Ontario AGM followed by keynote speaker, workshops, local hikes and activities celebrating 50 years of the Ganaraska Hiking Club. The Summit is an opportunity to network with other hikers, learn about different trails across Ontario and about the advocacy role of Hike Ontario on behalf of hiking trails in the province. Registration opens July: visit [www.hikeontario.com](http://www.hikeontario.com) for details.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 & SEPTEMBER SUNDAY 30 –GO TO BLAZES WEEKEND—**Calling all trail monitors! Time for the fall cleanup. Walk you section trimming back overhanging growth, clear away debris, and refresh blazes where needed. **Please remember to send in your trail monitor report to Bruce ([brucedgraham@gmail.com](mailto:brucedgraham@gmail.com)).** If you can, equip yourself with blazing kit or arrange to borrow a blazing kit from David (519-273-2971). Other tools such as pruners, clippers, etc may be borrowed. If you can use the help of a volunteer for one or two days, please contact Bruce for the contact info of one of our volunteers.

Volunteers (who are not already Trail Monitors) - you are welcome to join in. Please RSVP Bruce, Trail Monitor Captain, to get assigned to work with one of our Trail monitors. NB- trail monitors who are unable to participate in the Go-To-Blazes days for this weekend, please plan an alternate time.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 & 30: MAITLAND EL CAMINO HIKE.** See [www.maitlantrail.ca](http://www.maitlantrail.ca) for details.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 6: THE SOUTH HURON TRAIL HIKE (MCNAUGHTON-MORRISON TRAIL)—**  
**Distance: 8 km, Terrain: easy** (5.8 km maintained, 2.2 km natural), **Pace: moderate/fast,**  
**Duration: 4 hours** (includes travel time). Meet at 8:45 am in the north-west corner of the Giant Tiger Parking lot to carpool to hike starting point (depart 9:00 am). Return to Stratford at 1 PM. Bring snack, water, insect repellent or bug gear. Please wear appropriate footwear (hiking boots/shoes or running shoes) This trail loop winds through the scenic Ausable River Valley and combines the McNaughton-Morrison Trail and Morrison Conservation Area, scenic hardwood and pine forests, the Ausable River and Morrison Lake. Outhouses are located at trail head. RSVP required. Include name, phone number and name of hike.  
Reply to Hike Leader, Tracy: [gonorth49@gmail.com](mailto:gonorth49@gmail.com)

**WEEKDAY EVENING, EARLY OCTOBER, ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.** This is a good opportunity for the Avon Trail to fulfill the conservancy part of our mandate. Let's do our part to cleaning up the east entrance highway to Stratford by picking up litter. Join the team and have some fun! Project Leader – Brian, [bbitarr@gmail.com](mailto:bbitarr@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 14 (Rain Date: Oct. 22)—FAMILY FALL HIKE AT CAMP BIMINI.** Meet on the grounds of Camp Bimini, 3180 Perth Road 113/Embroid Road at 2 pm. Event will conclude by 4 pm. The grounds of Camp Bimini and neighbouring landowners offer a variety of trees, wetland vegetation, water courses, other plant and wild life. Three hikes are offered of varying length by trained hike leaders, suitable for children ages 4 or older as well as activities based on observations along the way. No dogs please. Hotdogs & drinks provided at end of hike. RSVP by **Thursday October 11** to Carolyn at [avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 20 – NITH RIVER LOOP TO SIDE TRAIL (Rain or Shine):** Avon Trail km. 74.3 to km. 78.7 plus in and out on new side trail. **Distance: 9.2 km, Terrain: moderate, Pace: slow.** Meet at **1 PM (note time)** at EB Games to car pool to Nith River Bridge at km 74.4. Wear comfortable footwear. Bring water and snack. Optional—supper at Kennedys in St. Agatha after hike.  
RSVP to Hike Leader, Terry: [terence.aitken@gmail.com](mailto:terence.aitken@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 27: THIRD ANNUAL WILDWOOD CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER HIKE (Rain or Shine)—**  
**Distance –22 km., Terrain: moderate** – This event is open to all hikers and will allow participants to walk at their own pace. The route follows the Wildwood Lake circuit, a 22 km woodland trail of great natural appeal. The trail is well maintained and well marked but can be moderately challenging in places. Hike Entry fee: \$25.00. **Preregistration is required.** Space is limited. Download and complete the [form found here](#) and send to Avon Trail along with your cheque by **October 19, 2018.** Funds go towards construction of footpaths and bridges on the Avon Trail. Each participant will receive a map and emergency whistle on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Two refreshment stands with shelter will be set up on route. Upon completion, each participant will receive an event certificate. Meet at Wildwood kiosk at main entrance

3995 Line 9, RR#2 St. Marys, ON (intersection of HWY 7 & Perth County Rd. 9- **43.269440,-81.06793**) at 8:20 AM. Bring water and lunch. Wear appropriate footwear for trail hiking and dress in layers appropriate for weather. At a medium pace, this should take 6 hours, not counting rest stops. Celebratory drinks and snacks at Bruce's house in Stratford, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Once registered, you will receive an email confirming your participation. Event organizers: Bruce and Tracy. Further information/questions: [avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3—VANSITTART WOODS and TOYOTA TRAIL HIKE (775275 Blandford Road Woodstock)** - (North of Highway 2 Dundas St. on west side just north of Highway 401 overpass, and just south of Township Rd. 3). **Terrain: easy, Pace: moderate, Distance: 6-7 km. if full loops.** (Option to loop back to shorter trails). Depart from EB Games at 9:00 am to carpool to trail head. Hike Leader will meet group in parking lot at trail head. Trails run through hardwood and pines and near wetlands. Two inclines but mostly flat and some wide sections. Toyota section just completed last Fall and access only through Vansittart Woods. Bring water and snack. Opportunity for lunch in Woodstock after. Hike Leader: Bonnie (519-788-3968) RSVP to Jane — [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca)

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20 –AGM AVON TRAIL, 7:00 PM, Stratford Rotary Complex Meeting Rm. D, 353 McCarthy Rd. Stratford.** Programme: TBA. Refreshments served.

Respectfully, Jane Foster—Hike Scheduler

