



AvonTrail.ca

**AVON TRAIL FALL/WINTER HIKING SCHEDULE  
NOVEMBER 2018 to MARCH 2019**

Avon Trail welcomes the public to attend its hikes. For hike specific information, please contact the hike leader. 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  
Rotary Complex    353 McCarthy Rd. Stratford  
Boston Pizza (REAR PARKING LOT)                                      729 Erie St., Stratford N4Z 1A2  
William Allman Memorial Arena                                      15 Morenz Dr., Stratford, N5A 1A1  
Giant Tiger (NW in parking lot)                                      477 Huron St, Stratford, N5A 5T8

**HIKE RATING**

Pace: Leisurely - less than 2 km/hour, Slow - 2 to 3 km/hour, Medium - 3 to 4 km/hour, Fast - more than 5 km/hour

Terrain: Easy/Moderate/Challenging

Distance: stated in kilometres (km)

Alternate Weather Date: if weather conditions are inappropriate for event (rain or lack of snow), an alternate date for the hike may be indicated.

**Hike Etiquette:** The time listed for each hike is **departure time**; arrive early for sign up, car pool arrangements, etc. Bring 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. \*While not required, consider donating a little to your carpool driver to help cover expenses\*

**Note: Please RSVP hike leader prior to hike with your intention to join 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 Drive. Hikers depart at 9:00 SHARP, and carpool to start point. Approximately 1.5 hours usually on Avon Trail, determined by hike leader or group. Varied terrain, slow-moderate pace. Coffee time follows. Contact Terry: 519-273-2233

**TBA WEEKDAY MORNING SNOWSHOEING/CROSSCOUNTRY SKIING:** 9 AM (WEATHER PERMITTING). These groups will meet at various locations near and around Stratford to take advantage of snow conditions. When snow conditions permit, notices will be sent via email the weekend prior announcing meeting locations and days, with confirmations sent to interested members the night before planned excursion. If you would like to be notified about Snowshoe outings, please email Tracy [gonorth49@gmail.com](mailto:gonorth49@gmail.com). If you want to receive notice about Crosscountry Ski outings, email Meg [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com)

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2 – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25: COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR COMPANY OFFER TO AVON TRAIL MEMBERS:** Employee discount (items marked at 40-50% off regular retail pricing); all of the latest product from the Columbia Sportswear Company family. (SOREL, Mountain Hardwear, prAna, and of course Columbia Sportswear).

**WHAT TO BRING TO ACCESS THE STORE:**

- **The invitation** (printed or digital). Log into the website **Announcements** page, <http://avontrail.ca/columbia-winter-wear-sale-offer-to-avon-trail-2018/> to find the invitation.
- Your **Avon Trail membership card** - print it by going to your **Profile** on the website
- **Personal ID.**
- Invite is valid for you + 4 guests (you must be present)
- Store location and hours found on the invitation.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10: MUSSELMAN WOODS EXTENSION: Distance: 10km (loop). Pace: Moderate. Terrain: Challenging. Duration: 4.5 hours (1.5 hour travel, 3 hour walking).** MEET 8:45 AM at ALLMAN ARENA to car pool to starting point, leaving 9:00 AM sharp. Includes part of Schneider's Bush plus trail south of Carmel Koch. Return by 1:30pm. Dress appropriate for the weather. Bring packed lunch. Contact Bruce G: [brucedgraham@gmail.com](mailto:brucedgraham@gmail.com)

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20, AGM AVON TRAIL:** 7:00 PM AT Stratford Rotary Complex Meeting Rm. A. Guest Speaker: hiker Nicola Ross, author of *Loops and Lattes*, will speak on "What's Not to Hike? Mexico's Sierra Norte Mountains". Her guide maps will be available for purchase. Business meeting & election of officers. Refreshments served.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1: WALLENSTEIN TO ELMIRA (Kissing Bridge Trail ): Distance: 7km. Pace: Slow-Medium. Terrain: Easy (old Rail Trail). Duration: 4-5 hours (travel 1.5, hike 2, lunch 1.5).** Meet at 8:45AM Giant Tiger parking lot (departing 9:00 sharp) and carpool to Wallenstein. We will be met in Elmira to take drivers back to Wallenstein to pick up their cars. Lunch at [CrossroadsRestaurant.ca](http://CrossroadsRestaurant.ca) in Elmira. Bring water, appropriate garb for weather. RSVP if you are planning to join for the hike and/or lunch: Carol [cmiller@quadro.net](mailto:cmiller@quadro.net) or 519 702 314.

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 11: AVON TRAIL STRATFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK - MEMBERS ONLY:** **Distance: 3km. Pace: Slow. Terrain: Easy. Duration: 1 hour.** MEET AT 6:30PM at SHOPPER'S DRUG MART, 211 Ontario Street. Walk along Avon River and adjoining streets for an hour followed by optional social time at local establishment for refreshment. Should walk be cancelled due to weather, members will still meet for refreshments. Contact Jane for further information and updates: [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca)

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 25: TRAIL CLOSED FROM ST. MARYS TO CONESTOGO.** Out of respect for our Landowners and acknowledging we are guests on their property, we close the trail one day a year. Please show your appreciation to our hosts by refraining from walking the trail on this day.

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2** (*Thursday Jan. 3 alternate weather date*): **FAMILY HIKE: SNOWSHOE OR WALK A LOOP IN T.J. DOLAN: Distance: 2 km. Pace: Slow. Terrain: Some hills. Duration: 2.5 hrs.** MEET at 10 AM IN THE PARKING LOT OF PERTH DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT, 653 West Gore St. Bring snowshoes (if we have snow!) or winter boots will work well. Dress in layers, and according to the weather. This is a short loop, about 2km on mostly level terrain, suitable for children 4 yrs. and older. Refreshments will be served following the hike. See [www.avontrail.ca/Announcements](http://www.avontrail.ca/Announcements) for date change announcement.

RSVP [avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com) Contact: Bernard: [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY JANUARY 12: SOUPS ON! STRATFORD: Distance: 5km (loop). Pace: Medium. Terrain: Easy. Duration: 1.5 hours.** MEET AT 10:00 AM AT ROTARY COMPLEX, 353 McCarthy Road under **big sign & bus stop** at entrance, to car pool to the **West Gore entrance** to TJ Dolan Natural Area. Travel back to Rotary complex to enjoy soup. Individuals to make entrance donation to Soup's On event and purchase book of tickets to sample soups. If interested please contact Meg [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY JANUARY 26** (*Saturday Feb 2 alternate weather date*): **CROSS COUNTRY SKI AT MUSSELMAN/SCHNEIDER'S WOODS: Distance: 5-6km. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Moderate-Challenging. Duration: 3-4 hours (1.5 travel; 2 skiing):** MEET AT 9:00 AM, EB GAMES, to car pool to destination, OR meet at 9:45 at trail head Km 86.9 on Carmel-Koch Rd. This venue boasts superb cross-country ski trails with lots of hills, open spaces and woodland trails. Not suitable for beginner skiers. Participants must have own skis. **Note: trails are reserved for skiers only; no snowshoes!** Optional: lunch together in St. Agatha following a brisk ski. See [www.avontrail.ca/Announcements](http://www.avontrail.ca/Announcements) for alternate date announcement. If interested, please contact Meg [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com).

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10** (*Sunday FEB 17 alternate weather date*): **FAMILY WINTER SNOWSHOE/WALK AT STRATFORD PERTH MUSEUM: Distance: 1 km. Pace: Slow. Terrain: Easy. Duration: 2 hrs.** MEET 1:30 AT MUSEUM PARKING LOT, 4275 Huron Road, Stratford (½ km west of Stratford on Highway 8). If you do not have your own, borrow a pair of Museum snowshoes on a donation basis. This is a 1km walk on the Historical Walk trail behind the Museum building. Hot drink and cookies served following the hike. Wear warm clothing appropriate for weather. **Option:** bring your family for a visit to the exhibits at the Museum before the hike. Museum is open 10 to 4 on Sundays. Family admission \$20. RSVP requested. See [www.avontrail.ca/Announcements](http://www.avontrail.ca/Announcements) for alternate date announcement. Contact Bernard: [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com)

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12: WINTER SOCIAL SHOW 'N TELL at QUEEN'S INN, STRATFORD – MEMBERS & THEIR FRIENDS ONLY: 7:00 PM.** Join us for a members only social evening sharing

stories/songs/jokes/photos. Finger food provided, cash bar. Contact Meg if you plan to attend and especially if you have an entertainment offering: [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com). (Members only)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: WILDWOOD CROSSCOUNTRY SKI/SNOWSHOE HIKE**

**Distance: 4.5 km. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Moderate-Challenging. Duration: 3 hours** MEET 9:00AM AT BOSTON PIZZA parking lot on Erie Street to carpool or 9:20 at the Wildwood parking lot near kiosk. Meg will lead the skiers and Renee will lead the snowshoers. We will **not** cancel this event if the snow conditions are poor; we will hike instead! We will begin our adventure on the Dr. R. S. Murray Forest Trails and continue onto the Wildwood Lake Trail, an out and back, to marker 4. The trails have elevation changes and mixed forest/scrub land making them interesting for winter adventures. We may have a nice view of the lake too. Please bring snacks, water, layered clothing for the conditions, and your own skis or snowshoes. We'll be back to Stratford by noon. Contact: Meg at [megwestley@gmail.com](mailto:megwestley@gmail.com) or Renee at [reneelehnen@hotmail.com](mailto:reneelehnen@hotmail.com), cell 905-616-0454.

**SUNDAY MARCH 3, (Sunday March 10 – alternate weather date): FAMILY LATE WINTER HIKE – THE SEBBEN LOOP ON THE STRATFORD SIDE TRAIL: Distance: 2.8 km. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Easy. Duration: 2.5 hrs.** MEET AT 1:30 PM AND PARK AT THE END OF MEIGHEN MEWS (off Devon St.) to enjoy a Sunday afternoon walk on a little-known wooded trail along the Avon River at the east end of town. We will walk via the public access lane to the Devon Playground and join the Stratford Side Trail at the River heading east, across Rd. 111 and proceed to the Sebben bridge, returning on the north side of the River. Dress in layers, appropriate for the weather and wear waterproof footwear. Refreshments served at the end of the hike. Kids, parents and grandparents of all ages are welcome. See [www.avontrail.ca/Announcements](http://www.avontrail.ca/Announcements) for alternate date announcement. RSVP [avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com). For more information contact Hike Leader Bernard – [berngowa@gmail.com](mailto:berngowa@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY MARCH 16: MAPLE SYRUP FAMILY HIKE TO MCCULLY'S HILL FARM: Distance: 2 km. Pace: Slow. Terrain: Moderate. Duration: 4 hrs (1: travel, 1: walking, 2: tours/brunch).**

MEET AT 10 AM BEHIND BOSTON PIZZA, Erie St. Stratford to car pool to Wildwood Conservation Area kiosk at 3995 Line 9, St. Marys. Some vehicles will go to McCully's parking lot 4074 Perth Line 9, St. Marys for shuttle service. This is a fun hike for all ages which starts at Wildwood and follows the blue Lake Trail/Avon Trail towards McCully's Hill Farm. McCully's farm offers Sugar Bush tours and Pancake Brunch—10 AM to 2 PM. Tours include wagon rides through sugar bush, guided tour of sugar shack and a visit to farm animals. Wagon Tour Cost: \$6.00 Pancake Bruch cost: \$8.00. Further information contact Jane [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca) or 519-271-8423.

**TUESDAY MARCH 19: GENERAL MEETING, 7:00 PM Rotary Complex Guest Speaker TBA.**

Refreshments and business meeting to follow. All welcome.

**SATURDAY MARCH 30: BEST OF BAYFIELD RIVER, 3 TRAILS - BANNOCKBURN, MAVIS-TAYLOR, AND SAWMILL** (dependent on conditions). **Distance: 4 to 6 km total. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Moderate-Challenging. Duration: 5 hours (2 travel, 3 hiking).** MEET AT 09:00 AT GIANT TIGER parking lot to carpool (approx. 45 mins) to Bannockburn Conservation Area east of Varna. All three trails are loops with parking at trail heads. Hike 1: **Bannockburn** is a rugged hike over stunning countryside including meadow, marsh, scrubland, cedar forest, and deciduous forest. Then short carpool to Hike 2: **Mavis-Taylor**, between Varna and Bayfield. Mixed terrain including pine forest with a gorgeous view of the Bayfield River Valley. Then short carpool to Hike 3: (dependent on conditions) **Sawmill**, north side of the river, east of Bayfield. Historical, forested trail descending into the valley. Includes the site of a ford used by First Nations people and early settlers and “Heart Break Hill,” named in honour of a jilted early resident. These trails are beautiful and feature plaques with info on ecological and historical features. Optional lunch in Bayfield. Please bring water and snacks and dress in sturdy boots and layered clothing. Back in Stratford around 2 pm. Contact: Renee Lehnen, 905-616-0454, [reenelehnen@hotmail.com](mailto:reenelehnen@hotmail.com) .

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