



SPRING HIKING & EVENT SCHEDULE: APRIL to JUNE 2019

The 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 or email: info@avontrail.ca

Avon Trail Meeting Location Details

EB Games, Festival Mall	1067 Ontario St., Stratford, N5A 6W6
Rotary Complex	353 McCarthy Rd., Stratford, N5A 7R4
Boston Pizza (REAR PARKING LOT)	729 Erie St., Stratford , N4Z 1A1
William Allman Memorial Arena	15 Morenz Dr., Stratford, N5A 1A1
Giant Tiger (NW parking lot)	477 Huron St, Stratford, N5A 5T8

*Stratford Field Naturalists (SFN) Meetings

Salvation Army	230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford
----------------	--------------------------------

HIKE RATINGS

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, an alternate date for the hike may be indicated.

Hike Etiquette: Departure times are firm; arrive early – as per instructions - for sign up, car pool arrangements, etc. Bring plastic bag for muddy boots. Check 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 gas.*

Note: With the exception of Tuesday Rambles, it is ESSENTIAL you inform the pertinent hike leader of your intention to join the hike in advance.

FYI: Avon Trail member Jamie Hember leads a variety of hikes in the region, one of which is included as an Avon Trail event in this schedule (Thursday May 2). Interested hikers can consult his [website](#) for details of his other planned hikes.

* Events of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

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

***SATURDAY APRIL 6: Go Wild Grow Wild, London** - Join the largest wildest, greenest, most adventurous event series in Ontario's far south as we collectively step forward to green our future! Together with thousands of adventurers, gardeners, nature enthusiasts, families and green people, Go Wild Grow Wild is growing a green future. This collaborative movement serves as a catalyst to celebrate, inspire and spark action to protect our wildlife and create a healthy habitat. See website for details. <https://caroliniancanada.ca/expo>

SUNDAY APRIL 7: EAST END OF STRATFORD SIDE TRAIL - Distance: 10.4km. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Easy/Moderate. Duration: 3hrs (2 hr hike, 1 hr coffee). **Meet at EB Games 8:45AM**, departure at 9AM sharp to car pool to Forest Motel. We'll hike from the Forest Motel to Devon Street in Stratford and back. Please bring water and wear water-proof sturdy footwear. After hike, we will have coffee and nibbles at the Forest Motel. For further information or **to join the hike or for coffee, please contact Hike Leader: Carol** cmiller@quadro.net or 519 702 3147

***TUESDAY APRIL 9:** SFN, presentation *The Spiders of Ontario*, by John Reaume, an outdoor enthusiast with a passion for photography. **Salvation Army, 7:30PM**

SATURDAY APRIL 13: AVON TRAIL AMULREE TO NITH RIVER - Distance: 13.6 km. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Moderate. Duration: 4.5 to 5 hrs (15 minutes travel each way, 3.5 hrs hiking, break). **Meet at EB Games 8:45 AM**, leave 9:00 AM SHARP to car pool to starting point. Car shuttle will be used. Return to Stratford by 1 PM. This trail follows the Avon Trail from km 60.7 on Road 107 north of Amulree to km 74.3 on Berlett's Road (Map 4, Avon Trail Guide). The trail features hardwood and pine forest, cropped fields, pastures and streams. The route is mostly flat, but with a few hills. There is a steep descent where the trail approaches the Nith River. The ground may be wet and muddy, so good water-resistant boots are recommended. Bring water and a snack. For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Edmund Thomas** blue9griffin@gmail.com

SATURDAY APRIL 27: CHESNEY WOODS/ WILDERNESS AREA (just east of Innerkip). Distance: 4.5 km, loop hike. Pace: easy-moderate. Terrain: moderate (grassy lane, hardwoods, pine and cedar, wetland and field. Gentle rolling trail with one slightly steeper hill). Duration: 3.5-5 hrs. (hike 2 hrs, travel 1.5 hrs, possible lunch) **Meet at EB Games at 8:45AM** for departure at 9AM sharp to carpool (approx 45 min) to trail head. If gate is open, drive in lane to parking area. If gate is not open, park in small lot, just off Co Rd. Family friendly. Dress in layers for the weather. Bring water and snacks. Could picnic there at end of hike or dine out in Innerkip. Hike leader, Bonnie, will meet group in parking area...on Co Rd 29 (north side with sign) just west of Co Rd 22. For further information or **to join the hike at trail head, please contact Hike Leader: Bonnie bccohoe@gmail.com** If meeting at EB Games contact Bernard: berngowa@gmail.com for car pooling arrangements.

MONDAY APRIL 29: 'ADOPT A ROAD' SPRING CLEAN-UP – Meet at EB Games at 5:45 pm. Come out and help do our part in cleaning up along Hwy 7/8 entrance to Stratford. Allow for a two-hour commitment, followed by an optional refreshment break following. Project leader, Brian, will organize us into teams to accomplish our goal as efficiently as possible. This is a great opportunity to do our bit for a cleaner environment! **Please RSVP to Brian your interest in participating** ahead of time bbjarr@gmail.com

THURSDAY MAY 2: WOOLWICH-WATERLOO & AVON TRAIL LOOP – Distance: 9km. Pace: slow-medium. Terrain: Moderate. Duration: 4-5 hours (approx. 1.5hrs travel, 3 hrs hike) Hike leader Jamie Hember (519-745-1375) will meet group to **depart at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot ([43.508366](tel:43.508366), [-80.557796](tel:-80.557796)) outside the Country Bulk store** on Apple Grove Road (near the St. Jacobs Farmers Market on Weber Street North). Those wanting to carpool from Stratford, **RSVP by Wednesday May 1 to Bernard (berngowa@gmail.com)** for departure details. This hike travels through the middle of a classic working Mennonite farm, beside crop land, crosses Martin Creek on a newly installed 20 ft. bridge, through a mature sugar maple woodlot, and along sections of the Trans Canada Trail. Hikers may wish to linger following the hike in the historic St. Jacobs Market for food and shopping.

SATURDAY MAY 4 & SUNDAY MAY 5: GO TO BLAZES - All trail monitors and all work volunteers who can assist help to get our trail in good shape for the season. Trail monitors: walk your section trimming back overgrowth, clear winter debris and refresh blazes with white paint where need be. Trail monitors are encouraged to equip themselves with a blazing kit. For Instructions for Making your Blaze Kit, see <http://avontrail.ca/blaze-kit-for-trail-monitors/> or make arrangements with David Williamson (519-273-2971). Other tools (pruners, clippers etc.) may be borrowed if needed. Volunteers welcome to join with a monitor. **Please RSVP Trail, Captain Bruce Graham to get assigned to work with a monitor brucedgraham@gmail.com.**

SATURDAY MAY 11: LOBB TRAIL - Distance: 7 km loop. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Challenging (rolling hills and one steep section). Duration: 4-5 hrs (1.5 hrs travel, 2.5 hrs hike, possible lunch) **Meet 8:45 AM at Giant Tiger** parking lot for 9AM sharp departure to carpool approximately 50 minutes to School House Road and Maitland Line, northeast of Clinton. This trail runs through mature woodlots and meadow along the Maitland River. There may be a beautiful show of spring wildflowers. Please bring water, sunscreen, repellent, and snacks. Dress in sturdy footwear and layered clothing. Optional lunch in Clinton after. Back in Stratford around 2 pm. For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Renee Lehnen**, 905-616-0454, reneelehnen@hotmail.com .

***Tuesday May 14** SFN presentation *The Bruce Trail - An End to End Adventure*. Willy Waterton will explore the beauty of this natural feature extending from Tobermory to Niagara Falls. **Salvation Army, 7:30PM.**

SATURDAY MAY 18: SCHNEIDER'S WOODS SOUTH AND NEW ORGANIC LOOP - Distance: 8.5 km. Pace: Moderate. Terrain: Challenging (hills). Duration: 4.5 hours (1.5 hrs travel, 3 hrs walking). **Meet 8:45 AM at Allman Arena** to car pool to starting point, leaving 9:00 AM sharp. Car shuffle will be used. Return to Stratford by 1:30pm. Includes part of Schneider's property south of Carmel Koch Rd plus the new "Organic Loop" section of the Avon Trail. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring packed lunch. For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Bruce** brucedgraham@gmail.com

SATURDAY MAY 25, 2019: THAMES VALLEY TRAIL - RIVER VALLEY GOLF COURSE TO ST. MARY'S (Water Street). Distance: 10km. Pace: Medium to fast. Terrain: Moderate to Challenging. Duration: 5 hours (1 hr. travel, including car shuffle, 3 hrs hike). **Meet at 8:45AM behind Boston Pizza** to carpool to starting point, departing at 9am sharp. Return by 2pm (later if you opt to go for lunch). This section of the trail is rugged, with steep slopes and often stony ground. Trail may be slippery when wet, numerous groundhog holes along edges of fields. Heavy concentration of hardwood forest in parts. (Map 6 Thames Valley Trail guide). Please bring water, snack or lunch, insect repellent, sunscreen. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Dress appropriately for the weather. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts recommended to prevent tick access. Optional lunch at O'Leary's Creamery pub, in St. Mary's. For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Tracy** gonorth49@gmail.com

***SATURDAY JUNE 1 & SUNDAY JUNE 2: OXFORD COUNTY TRAILS FESTIVAL** – Building on the success of last years' event, the 2019 Festival will offer more hikes with a variety of special interests over three days. Watch for announcements at <http://www.oxfordcountytrailsCouncil.ca/>. Details of car pooling from Stratford will be announced later.

SATURDAY JUNE 8: WOOLWICH RESERVOIR LOOP HIKE & Lunch at Bonnie Lou's Café Distance: 7.2km loop. Pace: Medium. Terrain: Moderate (some hills, may be slippery). Duration: 5 hrs (hike 2.5 hrs, travel & lunch 2.5) Return to Stratford by 2:00PM. **Meet at EB Games at 8:45AM** to car pool 45 mins. to trail head at Floradale, departing at 9:00AM sharp. Or meet in Floradale at 9:45AM in parking lot behind Floral Fusions (238 Floradale Road/Rd. 19, GPS: 43.633983 - 80.580597). Also known as the Elmira Lions Club Trail, the trail was established in 1980 by the Elmira Lions Club, the GRCA, the village of Floradale and local landowners. Well maintained, this lovely trail goes around the Woolwich Reservoir, through mature wooded areas, with glimpses of the lake, and passes over the Woolwich Reservoir Dam, with nice views of the lake and Canagagigue Creek, a tributary of the Grand River. Bring water and money for lunch. Dress appropriately for weather. For further information or **to join the hike please contact Hike Leader: Bernard** berngowa@gmail.com

***Tuesday June 11:** SFN presentation *The G2G Trail - a South-western Countryside Adventure*, by Grace Vanden Heuvel. The G2G is a unique trail north of Stratford from Guelph to Goderich. **Salvation Army 7:30PM.**

SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2019: MAITLAND TRAIL (km 49.2 to 35.6).

Distance: 13.6 km. Pace: Medium to Fast. Terrain: Challenging. Duration: 6-7 hours (2.5 hrs travel, including car shuffles, hike 3 hrs, break 30 mins). **Meet at 8:45 AM at Giant Tiger** parking lot to carpool to the starting point, departing at 9am sharp. Return by 4pm (later if you opt for lunch out at end). If you plan to meet at the starting point, please email the leader for exact parking details. We will hike along the Maitland River, through meadows, forests (of cedar, hemlock, and pine), crossing the GART at one point, with steep up and downs from the river level to ridge tops. We will be on roads for 5 km. (Map 5, 6, & 7 of the Maitland trail guide.) 2 outhouses on the trail. Bring water, snack or lunch, insect repellent & sunscreen. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Dress appropriately for the weather. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts recommended to prevent tick access. **OPTIONAL:** late lunch at the Beach Street Station restaurant, in Goderich (gorgeous view of the lake). For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Tracy** gonorth49@gmail.com

SATURDAY JUNE 22: Fanshawe Lake Trail - Distance 20 km. Pace: Moderate. Terrain: Challenging (due to hills and distance). Duration: approx. 7.0 hours (1.25 hr travel, 5.5 hrs walking). **Meet 8:45 AM at Boston Pizza** to carpool to starting point, leaving 9:00 AM sharp. Return by 4:30 PM. This is a loop path that encircles Fanshawe Reservoir. Long views over the water, forested settings and playgrounds make this a very interesting walk. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring packed lunch. Bring \$8.00 cash for Fanshawe entry fee. For further information or **to join the hike, please contact Hike Leader: Bruce G** brucedgraham@gmail.com