



APRIL to JUNE 2017

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  
Kiwanis Community Centre, 111 Lakeside Dr., Stratford, N5A 7K5  
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 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 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

**SATURDAY MARCH 18, MAPLE SYRUP FAMILY HIKE AT MCCULLY’S HILL FARM:** meet at 10 am behind Boston Pizza, Erie St., to car pool to McCully’s Hill Farm, 4074 Perth Line 9, St. Marys. This is a fun hike for all ages! Terrain: Level 2, Pace: slow, Distance: 2 km hike starting at the kiosk at Wildwood Conservation Area, 3995 Line 9, St. Marys to McCully’s Hill Farm. Sugar Bush Tours and Pancake brunch – 10 am to 2 pm; tours include wagon rides through sugar bush and guided tour of sugar shack and visit farm animals . Tour Cost: \$6.00. Pancake brunch cost: \$7.00 For further information contact Jane Foster: [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca) or 519-271-8423

**TUESDAY MARCH 21: MEMBERS MEETING,** 7:00 pm , Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Drive, Stratford. Presenter, Bruce Graham: “The Annapurna Circuit: A Hike in Nepal”. Refreshments & Business meeting following.

**SUNDAY MARCH 26, SAWYERS BUSH HIKE** - Location: 1 km west of Highway 23 between Russeldale and Kirkton. Address - 6100 Line 12. Managed woodlot with walking trails, roadside parking. Depart from behind Boston Pizza at 1:30 pm to carpool to Miller Home, 6137 Perth Line 20, Mitchell. Walk to Sawyers Bush.  
Hike leader - Jane Foster ([jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca))

**TUESDAY MARCH 28, 7:00 PM: TRAIL WORKERS' WORKSHOP** - The first of two, (second is one week later in Waterloo – see below) designed for all Trail Monitors and Trail Maintenance workers. Instruction on basic trail monitor best practice, information on current trail standards, as well as updates on equipment inventory and tool maintenance. This is an opportunity for some comradery and social reinvigoration! The two workshops will be similar in content; the hope is that monitors and trail workers will attend one or the other; choose one that is best for you.

**Workshop #1: Stratford:** Tuesday, March 28, 7 :00 pm 126 Water St. Stratford, N5A 3C4, home of Trail Monitor Captain, Bruce Graham. Please RSVP your intention to attend ([berngowa@rogers.com](mailto:berngowa@rogers.com))

**TUESDAY APRIL 4, 7:00 PM, TRAIL WORKERS' WORKSHOP** - The second of two Trail Workers Workshops designated for all Trail Monitors and Trail Maintenance workers. Instruction on basic trail monitor best practices, information on current trail standards as well as updates and etiquette on tool maintenance and equipment inventory. This is an opportunity for some comradery and social reinvigoration! The two workshops will be similar in content. The hope is that monitors and trail workers will attend one or the other; choose one that works best for you.

**Workshop #2: Waterloo:** Tuesday April 4, 7:00 pm, 351 Craigleith Drive., Waterloo N2L 5B5, the home of Dick & Jane Pullin. Car Pooling can be arranged from Stratford. Please RSVP to Bernard your intention to attend ( [berngowa@rogers.com](mailto:berngowa@rogers.com))

**SATURDAY APRIL 8, ROTH'S PARK HIKE** - (Rain date, Saturday, April 15) - Roth Park Hike, south side Pittock Lake, Woodstock. Terrain: easy, level, crushed stone, latter part through pine forest Pace: slow to medium. Distance: 7 km (2 hours) loop. Meet at EB Games at 8:30 am to carpool to Woodstock to Tecumseh Street parking lot. Turn right off Highway 59 on Tecumseh St, (before high level bridge/Thames Bridge). Parking lot is on left just as river and railroad is seen. Meet hike leader, Bonnie at 9:30 am. Lunch to follow at Sally Creek Bistro –**RSVP** Bonnie Cohoe [bcohoe@execulink.com](mailto:bcohoe@execulink.com), to reserve your place or Jane Foster [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca)

**TUESDAY APRIL 11, 'TICK TALK: LYME DISEASE IN ONTARIO', Dr. Andrew Peregrine, speaker** – presented by the Stratford Field Naturalists, 7:30 pm, Kiwanis Community Centre, Stratford. Lyme disease is an infection that primarily occurs in wildlife. However, infections also occur in people. Dr Peregrine will review current information on the importance of identifying Lyme

disease in wildlife and people across Ontario. Practices to prevent infection in people and pets will also be discussed.

#### **SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 22-23, GO TO BLAZES DAY! -**

- **Trail Monitors**, spring has arrived. Now is the time to walk your section trimming back overhanging growth, clear winter debris, and refresh blazes where needed. We suggest you equip yourself with a blazing kit (see website, 'Resources'/How to Make your own Blazing Kit) **or** make arrangements to borrow a blaze kit from David (519-273-2971) or Bruce (519 801-8230). Other tools (pruners, clippers, etc.) may be borrowed from David as well.
- If you would like one of our **Trail Volunteers** to come along as an extra pair of hands, please email Bruce Graham, Trail Coordinator, ([brucedgraham@gmail.com](mailto:brucedgraham@gmail.com)).
- **Trail Volunteers**, if you would like to help out on either or both days of the 'GO TO BLAZES DAY! weekend, trimming, clearing winter debris etc., please let Bruce Graham know.
- **Pizza supper, Saturday, April 22, 6:00 pm** at Bernard's – 160 Romeo St. South, unit 508, Stratford. All Trail Monitors and Trail Volunteers are welcome, whether or not you've been out on your trail this weekend. This event is for **all** Trail Monitors and Volunteers. You are invited to come and enjoy some food and drink and a bit of comraderie. **RSVP** by Thursday April 20. Bring \$5 to pitch in.
- **Can't make it out for Trail Monitoring this weekend?** If you are unable to participate in the Go-to-Blazes Days this weekend, please let Bruce Graham know and plan for another time.

**SATURDAY APRIL 29, AMULREE WOODLOT HIKE (NEW TRAIL) -** Meet at EB Games at 9 am to carpool to Km 60.0 on Road 107. Walk through extensive woodlots –cross over Road 106 and 104 (Lisbon Cemetery) and end at Km. 68.0 (Wilmot Easthope Road). Be prepared for wet areas. Terrain: Level 2 moderate Pace: moderate. Distance: 8 km (~ 3 hours). Hike Leader: Bruce Graham ([brucedgraham@gmail.com](mailto:brucedgraham@gmail.com))

**SATURDAY MAY 13, TRILLIUM WOODLOT HIKE AND POTLUCK BBQ –** Level 1, Pace moderate, Distance 4 km. – Luke DeBrabandere property, 1592 Perth Road 139, RR#6 St. Marys. Depart from behind Boston Pizza, 729 Erie St. at 10 am to carpool. Bring water. Social meal to follow. **Provided:** hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. **Bring** salad or dessert, cups, plates, cutlery, lawn chair and \$5. Please **RSVP BY May 10**. For further info contact [avontrailmail@gmail.com](mailto:avontrailmail@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY MAY 27, CEDAR BOARDWALK HIKE AND MARSH MARIGOLDS -** Level 2, pace moderate, Km 51.2 to 58.9 of Avon Trail. Duration: 7.8 km (~3 hours). Depart from EB Games Ontario St. at 9 am to car pool to km 51.1 on Road 109. Park on Road 109 north of Line 37. This walk includes the newly completed 500 ft. boardwalk. Cross over Road 108 and walk into wooded area to Line 40. Prepare for wet areas dependent on recent weather. Consider

applying insect repellent. Take water and snack. Hike Leader: Jane Foster Contact: [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca)

**SATURDAY JUNE 3, OXFORD THAMES RIVER TRAIL (Beachville)** - Meet at EB Games at 8:30 am to carpool to parking lot at 454779 45<sup>th</sup> Line (extension of Queen St. East Beachville) on south side of road to meet hike leader for 9:30 am Terrain: easy, Level 1, crushed stone and concrete boardwalks Pace: moderate. Distance: 6 km. Easterly extension has new ponds with help of Ducks Unlimited to increase habitat of flood plain. Hike Leaders: Bonnie Cohoe contact: [bccohoe@execulink.com](mailto:bccohoe@execulink.com). Jane Foster contact: [jane@rwfoster.ca](mailto:jane@rwfoster.ca)

**SUNDAY JUNE 4, TROUT CREEK HIKE, RBC Employees' Fundraiser Walk to Benefit the Avon Trail.** Others are welcome to join this hike along a beautiful section of the Avon Trail, with no obligation. Level 2, Pace moderate, Distance 2.6 km (~1.5 hours). A 2.5 km walk on a beautiful section of the Avon Trail. Depart at 1:30 pm behind Boston Pizza to carpool to Line 33 at hike start **OR** meet at 2 p.m on Line 33 (km 24.5 of Avon Trail - GPS: 43.262515,-80.990157). Walk through pasture and enter wooded area to end at Perth Oxford Road. This walk traverses some steep hills. Bring water and snack. Wear supportive footwear (no sandals) and bring sun protection. This is a family-friendly walk – kids and grandkids are welcome! No dogs please. **RSVP** to hike leader : Bernard (berngowa@rogers.com)

**SATURDAY JUNE 10, HEALTH VALLEY & AVON TRAIL, ST. JACOBS** - Level 2, Pace Moderate, Distance 8 km. Departing at 9 am from parking lot behind St. Jacobs Fire Hall, 3 Water St. Hike along Conestogo River and Martin Creek. Check website- [www.hember.ca/grouphikes](http://www.hember.ca/grouphikes) for further details. Hike Leader: Jaimie Hember Note: hikers to drive selves to start location.

**SATURDAY JUNE 10, CANADA 150 CHALLENGE - Canada turns 150 years old on July 1, 2017.** To celebrate this amazing birthday, The Avon Trail hiking club will host a **150 km multi-day hike**- seven consecutive days from June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup> inclusive. The C150C begins north of Fergus on the Grand Valley Trail, travels south to Conestogo where it joins the eastern terminus of Avon Trail and continues westward for the entire 111 km length of the Avon Trail, finishing at St. Marys – a total of 150 km! Average daily distance: 22 km. Pace: moderate 3.5 km per hour. Saturday June 10, **7:45 am**, assemble in Stratford with hiking gear plus overnight luggage. Walkers will be shuttled to trailhead daily. Hotel accommodation in Elora is included in the registration fee. Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first come basis. **Note: pre-registration by April 30, 2017 is required.** Walkers completing the **Canada 150 Challenge** will receive a special Canada 150 Challenge badge. Registration form and further details may be found on Avon Trail website - [www.avontrail.ca](http://www.avontrail.ca).

**SATURDAY JULY 1, CANADA DAY PARADE FLOAT PREPARATION WORK BEE** - Meet at 10:30 am at 55 Daly Ave., (Ken Nicholson's home). Bring contributions to decorate the trailer eg.

balloons, bunting, flags etc., plus tape, scissors etc. For more information contact Bernard ([berngowa@rogers.com](mailto:berngowa@rogers.com))

**SATURDAY JULY 1, CANADA DAY PARADE** - Meet at 6:15 pm along marshalling area on Worsley St., Stratford (across river from Central school flats). Our float number will be sent out by email a few days before parade. Walk with Avon Trail Float from Worsley St. along parade route through downtown ending at Sobey's on Huron Street (~2km). Kids and grandkids welcome. More information - contact Bernard ([berngowa@rogers.com](mailto:berngowa@rogers.com))

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