



AvonTrail.ca

**AVON TRAIL SPRING HIKING SCHEDULE
MARCH to JUNE 2020**

Hike Etiquette: Arrive early for sign up, carpool arrangements, etc. Bring a 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 expenses*

Note: Please RSVP to the hike leader in advance 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 SNOWSHOEING/CROSSCOUNTRY SKIING: (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. **If you want to receive notice about Crosscountry Ski outings**, email Meg megwestley@gmail.com

FYI: Avon Trail member Jamie Hember leads a variety of hikes in the region. Interested hikers can consult www.hember.ca for details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7: Wildwood Cross Country Ski
9:15 AM to 12:00PM

Contact: To join the ski, or for more information, please contact Hike Leader Meg at megwestley@gmail.com

Distance: 6 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Moderate

Duration: Approximately 2-3 hours (15 min. drive each way and 1-2 hr ski)

Meeting and Time: Meet 9:15am Boston Pizza rear parking lot (729 Erie St., Stratford, N4Z 1A1), for 9:30am sharp carpool or meet at Wildwood in the parking lot near the conservation area kiosk at 9:50 AM.

Route Overview:

We will begin our adventure on the Dr. R.S. Murray Forest Trails and continue onto the Wildwood Lake Trail to marker 4 and back. The trails have elevation changes and mixed forest/scrub land, and lake views.

Recommendations: Please bring snacks and water, layered clothing for the conditions, and your skis! We will not cancel this event if the snow conditions are poor; we will hike instead.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates. If conditions are poor for skiing, we may hike instead.

***TUESDAY MARCH 10:** *Stratford Field Naturalists: Birds of the Gambia and Senegal – Justin Peters*

7:30PM at Salvation Army, 230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

SATURDAY MARCH 21: 45th Anniversary Avon Trail 4th Family Hike – McCully's Maple Syrup
9:45AM-1:00PM

Contact: To Join the Hike or for more information, please contact Hike Leader Jane jane@rwfoster.ca

Distance: 2 km

Pace: slow to medium

Terrain: easy to moderate

Duration: ~ 3 hours (travel 15 minutes each way; hike –1 hour: tour/brunch extra)

Meeting and Time:

Meet at rear of Boston Pizza (729 Erie St., Stratford , N4Z 1A1) at **9:45 AM** for 10AM sharp departure to carpool to Wildwood Conservation Area kiosk (inside entrance) at 3995 Line 9, St. Marys.

Hike Overview:

This is a fun hike for all ages. Children should be able to walk 2 km. We will be walking through coniferous forest and will view the base of the Wildwood Dam during the hike. Pet dogs not welcome. McCully's Hill Farm at end of hike offers Sugar Bush Tours and Pancake Brunch. Cost of tour: \$6.00 each. Wagon Rides through the sugar bush and guided tour of the sugar shack showcasing making of maple syrup. Pancake Brunch cost: \$8.00 each. Brunch and tours are optional.

Recommendations: Bring water and wear supportive waterproof footwear as snow may be in stages of melting. Clothing appropriate for weather

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

**SATURDAY APRIL 4: St. Marys Town Walk
8:45AM-2:00PM**

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, please contact Hike Leader: Bernard – berngowa@gmail.com

Distance: about 11 km

Pace: Moderate

Terrain: easy

Duration: 4.5-5 hours (Hike 3 hrs., Lunch 1 hr. Return travel to St. Marys, 30 mins.)

Meeting and Time:

Meet behind Boston Pizza (729 Erie St., Stratford , N4Z 1A1) at **8:45am** for 9:00am sharp departure to carpool to starting point. Return to Stratford by 2 pm. **OR:** meet at 9:25 at the Tennis Courts on Water St. in St. Marys (43.249103.-81.149796).

Hike Route Overview:

This is a walking tour of St. Marys including some interesting historical sites such as the former Grand Trunk Railway trestle, the home of the former Prime Minister Arthur Meighen, the historic Junction Station, Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum,

and the original water tower. At the conclusion of the hike, we will lunch at a local café in St. Marys (optional).

Recommendations: Bring water, \$ for lunch, and wear supportive comfortable footwear. Dress appropriately for the weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

***TUESDAY APRIL 14:** *Stratford Field Naturalists: Sparrows & Finches of Ontario - John Reaume*

7:30PM at Salvation Army, 230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

***SATURDAY APRIL 18: GO WILD, GROW WILD GREEN EXPO (LONDON)**

9:30AM-4:00PM

for more information see <https://caroliniancanada.ca/expo>

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

SUNDAY APRIL 19: 45th Anniversary Avon Trail 5th Family Hike - Petersburg Bush/Crown Land Trail Loop

1:15-4:30PM

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, please contact Hike Leader Bernard – berngowa@gmail.com

Distance: ~ 4 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Easy

Duration: ~ 3 hours (travel - 25 minutes each way; hike – 2 hrs)

Meeting and Time:

Meet at EB Games (1067 Ontario St., Stratford N5A 6W6) at **1:15 PM** for 1:30 pm sharp departure to carpool to starting point. Return to Stratford by 4:30 PM. **Or**, meet at the Parking lot at **south-east intersection** of Hwy 7/8 & Notre Dame Drive/Queen St. (43.403224,-80.593151)

Hike Overview:

Petersburg Bush (Crown Land Trail) is a pleasant walk through mixed forest with gentle up and down elevation. Early signs of spring should be evident. Children should be able to walk the distance or be accompanied by adults able to carry them. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Refreshments at the conclusion of the hike.

Children will be given a 'Log book' for recording their hike. This is the fifth of ten Family Hikes celebrating the Avon Trail 45th Anniversary.

Recommendations: Bring water and wear supportive waterproof footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

**MONDAY APRIL 20: Avon Trail Open Meeting
7:30-9:30 PM**

Location: Wilmot Recreation Centre (just east of New Hamburg facing Highway 7/8) 60 Snyders Road West, Baden, N3A 1A1. Meeting Room upstairs. Elevator access.

Speaker: Lori Ann Livingston "From Hiking in Ireland to the Avon Trail, now preparing to hike El Camino!" Come out to hear this interesting speaker and share our hospitality with her.

Meeting Details: Hear news about our 45th anniversary celebration of the Avon Trail and upcoming hikes, as well as the status of the Avon Trail. Our Avon Trail guides will be available for purchase. Refreshments provided. New members welcome!

**SATURDAY APRIL 25: Avon Trail 45th Anniversary End-to-End: Hike #1
8:45am-1:00pm *rain or shine***

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, PLEASE contact Hike Leader **Maria** phil.mariaa@gmail.com

Distance: 10 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Moderate, some road walking

Duration: 4 hours (45 minutes travel, including car shuffle, 3 hours hiking)

Meeting & Time:

Meet 8:45am @ Boston Pizza rear parking lot (729 Erie St., Stratford, N4Z 1A1), for 9:00am sharp departure to carpool to starting point OR meet 9:20 @ km 0.0, the Water St. tennis courts in St. Marys (43.249103,-81.149796). Car shuffle will be used. Return to Stratford for 1:00. Optional lunch out.

Hike Route Overview: Avon Trail km 0-10.6

The hike proceeds along the Thames River through the town of St. Marys, continues along the rail trail eastward. The route encompasses a new section of the trail from Line 14 to Rd. 122 which includes the sighting of the mysterious Lighthouse in the corn field! **A log will be given to participants to record their hikes for purposes of qualifying for the new Avon Trail End-to-end badge.**

Recommendations: Pack snacks and water. Insect repellent and sunscreen highly recommended. Wear supportive, comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

WEEKEND APRIL 25-26: 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.**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29: Jane's Walk #1 "Trees of Stratford"
7:00- 8:00PM

Contact: For more information, text/call Renee at 905-616-0454 or email reneelehnen@hotmail.com. You do not need to register. More info at www.janeswalk.org .

Distance: 2 to 3 km

Pace: leisurely

Terrain: easy

Duration: 1 hour

Meeting and Time:

Meet at “bridge to nowhere” Upper Queen’s Park, Stratford (Richard Monette Way and Christopher Plummer Drive, 43.374133,-80.964300) at 7:00PM. NB: Parking may be difficult due to Stratford Festival preview; consider walking or biking to start point.

Hike Route Overview:

We will look at some of Stratford’s most beautiful trees.

Jane's Walks are citizen-led walks held in honour of the late, trail-blazing urbanist, Jane Jacobs. Every year, usually in early May, neighbours gather to go on walks together, talk, and learn about their own cities from street-level.

Other Jane’s Walks to be announced.

Recommendations: Wear supportive, comfortable footwear. Suitable for people of all ages. Dogs welcome.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

**THURSDAY APRIL 30: Jane’s Walk #2 in Avalon Park
7:00-8:00PM**

Contact: For more information, text/call Renee at 905-616-0454 or email reneelehnen@hotmail.com. You do not need to register. More info at www.janeswalk.org .

Distance: 2 to 3 km

Pace: leisurely

Terrain: easy

Duration: 1 hour

Meeting and Time: Meet at 7pm at the stone gates on Churchill Circle, Stratford, ON (intersection of Britannia and John St. 43.378897,-80.988386).

Hike Route Overview:

We will explore the unique, historic neighbourhood formerly known as “Avalon Park”, one of Canada’s first post-war suburbs.

Jane's Walks are citizen-led walks held in honour of the late, trail-blazing urbanist, Jane Jacobs. Every year, usually in early May, neighbours gather to go on walks together, talk, and learn about their own cities from street-level.

Other Jane’s Walks to be announced.

Recommendations: Wear supportive, comfortable footwear. Suitable for people of all ages. Dogs welcome.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

SATURDAY MAY 9: Avon Trail 45th Anniversary End to End: Hike #2
9:00AM-1:30PM, rain or shine

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, please contact Hike Leader Bruce Graham: brucedgraham@gmail.com

Distance: 10.1 km

Pace: medium

Terrain: easy/moderate

Duration: total hours 4.5 hours (about 3.5 hours walking, 1 hour travel)

Meeting and Time: Meet in parking lot behind Boston Pizza (729 Erie Street, Stratford, ON, N4Z 1A1) at **8:45 am for 9:00 am** sharp departure to carpool to starting point. Car shuttle will be used. Return to Stratford by 1:30 pm.

Hike Route Overview: Avon Trail km 10.6-20.7

We will commence at km 10.6, pass along field edges, past the Wildwood Dam, and through the Wildwood Conservation Area with views of Wildwood Lake and end at km 20.7.

Recommendations: Pack a snack and water. Insect repellent and sun protection advisable. Wear supportive comfortable footwear and dress appropriately for the weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

***TUESDAY MAY 12:** *Stratford Field Naturalists: The world of Pollinators: What's the Buzz – Kim Fellowes*

7:30PM at Salvation Army, 230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

SATURDAY MAY 16: Avon Trail 45th Anniversary End-to-End Hike #3
8:45am-1:00pm *rain or shine*

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, PLEASE contact Hike Leader **Meg** megwestley@gmail.com

Distance: 10 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Moderate

Duration: 4 hours (45 minutes travel, including car shuffle, 3 hours hiking)

Meeting & Time:

Meet 8:45am @ Boston Pizza rear parking lot (729 Erie St., Stratford, N4Z 1A1), for 9:00 sharp departure to carpool OR meet 9:15 @ km 30.5). Car shuffle will be used. Return to Stratford for 1:00. Optional lunch out.

Hike Route Overview: Avon Trail km 20.7-30.5

Leaving a few cars at km 30.5, we will start by following the Wildwood Lake Trail from km 20.7, pass through woods, fields, and some hilly sections, ending at the boundary between Oxford and Perth Counties (km 30.5).

Recommendations: Pack snacks and water. Insect repellent and sunscreen highly recommended. Wear supportive, comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

**SUNDAY MAY 24: 45th Anniversary Avon Trail 6th Family Hike - Sawyers
Preservation Woodlot**
1:15-4:30PM

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, please contact Hike Leader **Bernard** bernqowa@gmail.com

Distance: ~ 3 km, various loops

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Easy

Duration: about 3 hrs.

Meeting and Time:

Meet at north-west corner Giant Tiger Parking lot (477 Huron St., Stratford, N5A 5T8) at 1:15 pm for 1:30 pm sharp departure to carpool to starting point. Return to Stratford by 4:30 pm.

Hike Overview:

The Sawyer Preservation Woodlot was established in 1989 as a demonstration woodlot for recreational and educational purposes. It's 28 acres is criss-crossed with trails enabling viewing of a variety of flora and fauna and wetland environment. Some tree species are marked. This will be a good time to see spring growth. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Children should be capable of walking the distance or be accompanied by an adult prepared to carry them. Children will be given a log book to record the details of their hike. This is the sixth of ten Family Hikes celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Avon Trail.

Recommendations: Bring water, dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable footwear. Bring bug protection.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

SATURDAY MAY 30: Avon Trail 45th Anniversary End-to-End Hike #4
8:45am-1:30 pm *rain or shine*

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, PLEASE contact **Hike Leader Carol** cmiller@quadro.net

Distance: 10 km

Pace: easy to medium

Terrain: Moderate

Duration: 4 hours (45 minutes travel, including car shuffle, 3 hours hiking)

Meeting & Time:

Meet 8:45am @ Boston Pizza rear parking lot (729 Erie St., Stratford, N4Z 1A1), for 9:00 sharp departure to carpool. Car shuffle will be used. Return to Stratford for 1:00-1:30. Optional lunch out.

Hike Route Overview: Avon Trail km 30.5-41.1

We will begin with road walking for about 4 KM. Once that's 'out of the way' the remainder is through wonderful hardwood bush and Perth County's finest farmland.

Recommendations: Pack snacks and water. Insect repellent and sunscreen highly recommended. Wear supportive, comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

SATURDAY JUNE 6: 45th Anniversary Avon Trail End-to-End Hike #5
8:45AM-2:00PM, rain or shine

Contact: To confirm attendance or for more information please contact Hike Leader Jane jane@rwfoster.ca

Distance: 11.1 km

Pace: medium

Terrain: moderate

Duration: ~ 5.5 hours (travel 30 minutes, shuttle time, hike – 5 hours)

Meeting and Time:

Meet at EB Games (1067 Ontario St., Stratford N5A 6W6), at **8:45 AM** for 9 AM departure to carpool to starting point. Car shuffle will be used.

Hike Overview: Avon Trail km 41.1 to 52.2

After 2 Km of road walking, we will pass through fields and hardwood bush, past McCarthy Lake, through more woods and along the Avon River.

Recommendations:

Bring water, snack and wear supportive footwear. Insect repellent , hat and appropriate clothing for weather

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

***SUNDAY JUNE 7: *Hike for Hospice* – for details see www.stratfordrotaryhospice.ca**

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

TUESDAY JUNE 9: *Stratford Field Naturalists: Andes to the Amazon. 493 species in 19 days- Antony John

7:30PM at Salvation Army, 230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford

* Event of potential interest, not organized by Avon Trail

SUNDAY JUNE 14: 45th Anniversary Avon Trail 7th Family Hike - Musselman-Schneider's Woods

1:15-5:00PM

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, **please contact Hike Leader Bernard – berngowa@gmail.com**

Distance: ~ 4 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: some hills

Duration: ~ 3.5 hours (travel - 40 minutes each way; hike – 2 hrs)

Meeting and Time:

Meet at EB Games (1067 Ontario St., Stratford, N5A 6W6), at **1:15 PM** for 1:30 pm sharp departure to **carpool** to starting point. Return to Stratford by 5 pm. OR meet at **2:15 pm** on Carmel-Koch Rd., 500 m east of the Carmel Monastery just around the bend (43.462331,-80.614136).

Hike Overview:

Musselman-Schneider's Woods is a mix of mature hardwood forest offering the opportunity to see wildlife and wild flowers and open crop fields. There are a number of hills. Children should be able to walk the distance or be accompanied by adults able to carry them. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Refreshments offered at the conclusion of the hike.

Children will be given a 'Log book' for recording their hike. This is the seventh of ten Family Hikes celebrating the Avon Trail 45th Anniversary.

Recommendations: Bring water and wear supportive waterproof footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates

SATURDAY JUNE 20: Avon Trail 45th Anniversary End-to-End: Hike #6

8:45am-1:00pm *rain or shine*

Contact: To join the hike or for more information, PLEASE contact Hike Leader Tracy: gonorth49@gmail.com

Distance: 10.2 km

Pace: Medium

Terrain: Moderate

Duration: 4 hours (45 minutes travel, including car shuffle, 3 hours hiking).

Meeting & Time:

Meet at 8:45am at EB.Games (1067 Ontario St., Stratford, N5A 6W6), for a 9:00am sharp departure to carpool to starting point OR meet at 9:10 @ km 52.2). Car shuffle will be used. Return to Stratford for 1pm. Optional lunch out.

Hike Route Overview: Avon Trail km 52.2-62.4

We will hike along the edge of fields, on a boardwalk, through woodlots, and ending in the community of Amulree.

Recommendations: Pack snacks and water. Sunscreen and Insect Repellant are highly recommended. Wear supportive, comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to weather.

CHECK <https://avontrail.ca/category/news/> prior to hike for possible changes/updates