

Corridor Park Rambler

Fall 2010

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This publication can also be viewed online at www.trca.on.ca



Member of Conservation Ontario

You're Invited to an Open House and Presentation!

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 • 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Connor Building • 39 King Road, Oak Ridges.

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan (Jefferson's Forest)

- This is your chance to have your say about the future management of Jefferson's Forest – including the planning of the trail system
- Learn about 2011 plans for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park
- Healthy Yards display – learn about native plants and get great gardening tips!
- Formal presentation begins at 7:10 p.m., with the opportunity for informal discussion afterward

Information Centers on the Oak Ridges Moraine



The Town of Richmond Hill is well on its way to constructing a new community centre and 54-acre waterfront park in the heart of Oak Ridges. The property is located on the east shore of Lake Wilcox, the largest kettle lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This extensive and exciting project aims to achieve a sensitive balance between the needed recreational services of the community and the ecologically significant features located at this site. The community centre itself is designed to meet LEED Silver certification and project plans also include the closing of a local road to create a pedestrian-friendly shoreline that is contiguous with the park, surrounding trails and community centre complex.

One of the most exciting parts of the community center facility is the Oak Ridges Eco-Centre. It is envisioned as a discovery and education centre that will be devoted to celebrating the Oak Ridges Moraine. As a focal point for knowledge and a gateway for eco-tourism, the proposed centre is located in an area that will take advantage of the rich diversity of natural landforms and features of the Moraine. The Eco-Centre will include a library/resource centre focused on the Oak Ridges Moraine, a workshop/seminar area, an indoor/outdoor classroom, a meeting area, changing exhibits and displays, and a trailhead to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system and near-by protected natural areas. As a unique component of the overall Oak Ridges Community Centre project, the Eco-Centre has benefited from funding provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.



The Oak Ridges Eco-Center is one of two centers that the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation has helped fund in order to get information about the Moraine out to community members. The new Ganaraska Forest Centre (opened in the fall of 2009) is home to the Eastern Oak Ridges Moraine Information Centre. Located north of Port Hope, it provides a local information hub in the eastern portion of the Moraine and features interactive displays and a resource library.

For more information visit:

Oak Ridges Eco-Center: www.richmondhill.ca/orcc

Eastern Oak Ridges Moraine Information Centre:

www.grca.on.ca/centre.html

Help Us Protect the Oak Ridges Moraine

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park (ORCP) is a natural oasis located on the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) in the heart of Richmond Hill. Boasting colourful meadows, peaceful forests, and clear kettle lakes, the ORCP is the largest (428 hectares/1056 acres) and most pristine open space area on the ORM in Richmond Hill.

Significant natural heritage features of the ORCP include the headwaters of two major watersheds (the Humber and Rouge Rivers), rivers and streams, provincially significant wetlands, kettle lakes, forests, grasslands, and a bog. These natural heritage features provide critical habitat to many regional species of conservation concern, as well as hundreds of species of plants and animals. Managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and owned by the Province, the ORCP came under provincial ownership in 2004 with environmental protection as the central mandate.

Given the environmental sensitivity of the site, the ORCP is managed on an environment-first philosophy. As a result, public use is restricted so as not to disrupt or diminish this critical natural habitat for wildlife. Please help us to protect this beautiful natural system by being a good neighbour and acting steward of the ORCP by adhering to the following permitted uses.

Permitted Uses include passive recreational activities, such as walking with dogs on leash, nature hikes, jogging and biking on the designated path, as well as experiential learning activities, such as bird watching and enhancing the natural heritage features of the site through organized activities sponsored by the TRCA or partner agency.

Please note that any other uses specifically not referenced above are not permitted, such as walking with dogs off leash, swimming, fishing, canoeing, open fires and using motorized vehicles. Ensuring

these uses do not occur is vital to preventing damage to the fragile natural environment of these lands. In order to manage unauthorized public uses in the future, York Regional Police, Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers and TRCA staff will be increasing patrols of the area.

TRCA has expanded the protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine with the acquisition of lands to the east of Bayview Avenue. While the management plan for ORCP-East lands is still in draft form, it is the intent of the TRCA to manage these lands collaboratively. Therefore, the above-referenced management ethic and permitted/non-permitted uses apply to the ORCP-East lands as well.

For further information regarding the ORCP please contact the TRCA at www.trca.on.ca or (416)661.6600, extension 6404



Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan (Jefferson's Forest)

After extensive research, planning and consultation, the final draft of the management plan is completed. Now we need your help!

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands (locally referred to as Jefferson's Forest) boast over 200 hectares of wetlands, forests, meadows, and fields. In addition to being home to a multitude of wildlife species, it also offers stunning scenery for hiking and walking.

Please tell us your thoughts about the draft management plan that has been developed. What are your favourite places in the woods? Do you have ideas about stewardship projects? We look forward to hearing from you at the upcoming public meeting on Tuesday, January 18 – see the notice on the front cover of this newsletter for more information.



Upcoming Events

Snowshoe Hike – Jefferson's Forest Sunday, January 16, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy the beautiful winter scenery of Jefferson's Forest and learn about the plants and animals who call the forest home. This is also an opportunity to talk to TRCA staff about the management planning process for this area.

Pre-registration is required - to register, contact Tammy Judd at 416-661-6600 ext. 5579 or tjudd@trca.on.ca. Children over

seven years of age are welcome. When registering, please indicate whether you require a snowshoe rental (\$5.00 per pair, one size only).

Meet at the Sunset Beach Road parking lot, located on the north side of Bethesda Sideroad west of Bayview Avenue. In the event of bad weather, call the registration line for a notice of cancellation.

The Oak Ridges Trail – End to End!



The Oak Ridges Trail Association and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation are pleased to announce that the Oak Ridges Trail is now fully connected! The trail now extends for over 273 km across the provincially significant Oak Ridges Moraine from Mono Mills in the west to the communities of Castleton and Warkworth in the east.

This trail joins together over 15 local communities, 8 counties and regions and 7 conservation authorities. It has been designed as a hiking trail that provides the opportunity to view and enjoy the natural and scenic wonders of one of the largest and most environmentally important landscapes in Ontario.

Although the accomplishments made to date are something to be proud of, it must be stressed that the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail remains a work in progress and there are many opportunities to make the trail even better. Currently about half of the trail is located on municipal roads. Over time the Oak Ridges Trail Association will be working with private landowners and municipalities to seek opportunities to move some of these trails into quieter, more scenic areas.

Establishing connections from the Oak Ridges Corridor Park trial system up to the main Oak Ridges Moraine Trail is a current priority. It is expected to be quite the challenge to undertake but will greatly enhance hiking opportunities in your community when completed.

For more information on the Oak Ridges Trail visit:
www.oakridgestrail.org or www.moraineforallife.org

Contact Information

For information on the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Lands Management Plan, or to sign up to receive the Rambler newsletter, contact:

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