

Walking Close to Home

Given the second wave of the COVID-19 infections that we're now in, Mary and I have been trying to get exercise, most commonly walking, closer to home than sometimes. In doing so, I've posed the question to myself – "What walking opportunities do we have right here in Scugog Township?" This year I've actually explored a few locations that I had not previously visited. Here are a couple of examples:

"Blackstock Walks": This was a pleasant surprise right in the village. While walking some of the streets one day in Blackstock, we found that some community-minded folks had erected a sign with a map showing some suggested walks on roads in and around the village. Distances range from half a kilometre to 8 kilometres. The sign is by the recreation complex on the south side of Church Street.

Scugog Island Crown Lands: On the north tip of Scugog Island is a 450 acre parcel of Crown land. Although I'd heard of it in the past, I did not visit it until this year. Another pleasant surprise, especially if you want to walk in a varied landscape, including fields and wooded areas, as well as the lakeshore. The only infrastructure on the site is an unmaintained road called Crozier Lane, extending up from the north end of Island Road. A summer walk on that road took us to the boat-launch location at the north tip of the Island, and back. In winter we started further east, from a small parking area on the north side of Carnegie Beach Road. We walked on well-packed snow paths through some bush areas, including a White Pine seed orchard administered by the MNR, and eventually found ourselves by the boat launch area again. Since some of the area is in fields, it was relatively easy to see where we were going. For the winter walk, we wore 'icers' on our shoes (I seldom go for walks on snow / ice without them), increasing both traction and confidence.

I've seen many of you walking right in Port Perry. Given the frequently-cleared streets and sidewalks, in-town locations can be great for winter. However, if you find yourself looking for something a bit different, you may find one of these spots appealing. As the winter continues, I'm hoping to check out more possibilities right in Scugog.