

List for Future Hikes

It's spring! That makes me want to expand my horizons. I'm drawn to look for more hiking opportunities. The pandemic still poses some restrictions on our going out to a lot of new places, and that will probably continue for several months. We can, however, still daydream about getting out beyond the horizon. And we can also think about it, make inquiries and maybe even do a bit of future planning.

I have a list in my mind of locations I hope to visit for future hikes, and I expect that most of you do too. Sometimes we go out for a walk, and encounter other hiking possibilities that we'll want to pursue, or someone else tells us about a place they have hiked. But if you're interested in searching out more options, there are some handy places to look:

- Ontario Trails Council website: The Ontario Trails website lists trails in all parts of the province - over 60 trails in Durham Region alone. Although some are duplications, you may find some hiking or multi-use trails that you have not heard of before. Or be reminded of some that you've known about, but haven't visited. Expand your search beyond Durham, and there are scores of possibilities. The site includes a broad range of information on trails, including a little section titled "Today's Feature Trails" with links to specific trails in various parts of Ontario. <https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/>
- The All Trails phone app. The version that I have was downloaded (through Google Play, I believe) for free. Wherever I am, if I open the app it will tell me what trails I am closest to. It offers the location of the trail, a text description, a rating on a 5-point scale, and a map of the trail. There is also a pay version that costs about \$30/year.

Conservation Authority websites. You can look up individual conservation areas on these sites, and access a map/brochure document that shows the trails in individual conservation areas. Locally, the most relevant conservation authorities are:

- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA): Some local favourites managed by CLOCA are Long Sault and Crow's Pass. <https://www.cloca.com/>
- Kawartha Conservation Authority: The East Cross Forest is in the eastern part of Scugog Township. Kawartha's Ken Reid Conservation Area, just north of Lindsay, has a series of enjoyable trails, many close to the shore of Sturgeon Lake. <https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/index.aspx>
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA): Many of the popular hiking locations in Uxbridge Township are managed by the TRCA, including the Walkers Woods and Glen Major tracts within the East Duffins Headwaters protected area. <https://trca.ca/>
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority: Durham Forest is managed by the Lake Simcoe Region C.A., as is the Beaver River Wetlands Conservation Area in northern Scugog and Brock Townships. <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/>

Ontario Parks website. Individual parks can be looked up, and maps are generally available on those pages showing the hiking trails, as well as details on how to access them. <https://www.ontarioparks.com/>

I hope you find this beneficial. I thoroughly enjoyed just putting it together.