

Membership Update – March 2017

Save the date: Saturday – June 3rd – 10:30 a.m. to noon

GDA Annual General Meeting at the Pine Grove United Church
4089 Concession 7 in Uxbridge, short distance north of Highway 21

Sign Post Project: Sales of the plaques for the sign post project continue to stimulate interest. If you would like to pay tribute to someone or provide an inspirational message on a post, details can be found by clicking on the [link](#).

A number of plaques have already been installed on posts throughout the East Duffins Headwaters trail system. Examples of some of the messages can be found on GDA's website. Another batch for printing will be submitted in mid to late May. If you have reserved a post but have not yet decided on a message, please send an email to info@greendurham.ca with your wording by May 15th to be included in the next printing of plaques.

Mapping Project: GDA has released the first of the series of maps commissioned from Chrismar Mapping Services. The map provides an overview of the trails in the Uxbridge South area and is intended to be a planning guide. It provides the various access options and areas of interest in the southern part of the Township of Uxbridge. The map is currently for sale in Uxbridge at Blue Heron Books and Second Wedge Brewery for \$5.95 + HST. Other local retailers have also inquired about selling our maps.

Soon to follow are strip maps intended for hikers which will be smaller, waterproof and provide more detailed and larger-scale topographical information for better on-the-ground navigation.

Bill C-18 – Rouge National Urban Park Act: On February 22, 2017, the House of Commons approved *Bill C-18: An Act to amend the Rouge National Urban Park Act, the Parks Canada Agency Act and the Canada National Parks Act*. The legislation adds over 17 square kilometres to the park and introduces more protections for ecosystems, wildlife and working farmers in the eastern Toronto area.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/rouge-park-bill-c-18-approved-1.3995149>

GDA has held meetings with Pickering's Planning Department as well as with the two Pickering Ward 3 councillors to update and seek their support of GDA's initiative to link the communities of Claremont and Seaton to the RNUP.

Grant Application: In partnership with TRCA, ORTA and Parks Canada, GDA submitted an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a grant to develop a trail plan for the Goodwood Tract. This plan will permit development of a trail connection between the most northerly boundary of new Rouge National Urban Park and the trails of Uxbridge and the Oak Ridges Moraine. We hope to know the decision of the Ontario Trillium Foundation by the AGM in June.

Volunteer Opportunity: GDA members are invited to join Durham Mountain Biking Association on April 22 (Earth Day) for their annual road clean-up. DMBA is a strong partner and supporter of GDA. Several of us participated last year and learned a lot about what goes on our roads and in our parking lots! For more information, email DMBA at info@durhammountainbiking.ca