



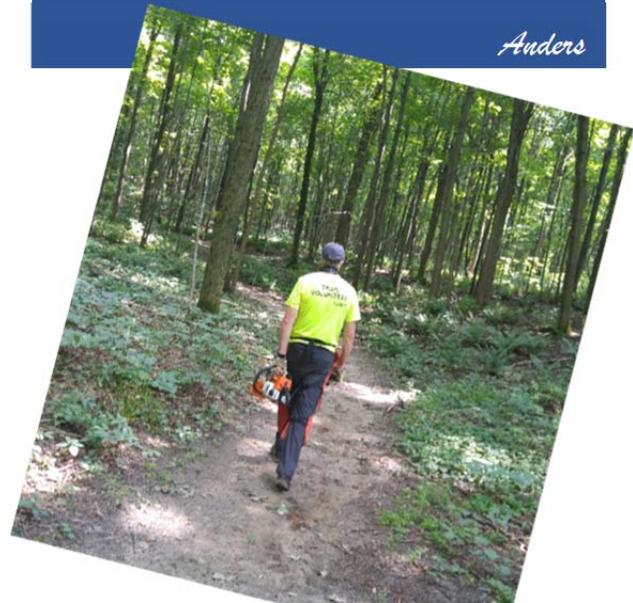
Newsletter

Fall 2018

Volunteers

Thanks to an agreement GDA negotiated with TRCA earlier this year, our volunteer program has completed its first season. It was a big success! We had no trouble recruiting helpers. We accomplished a huge amount of work – over 100 fallen trees cleared off the trails, and 150 hours were donated by GDA volunteers between June and October. The tasks were coordinated by Ranald McKay, our local TRCA liaison. At times we worked with other organizations who also have agreements with TRCA, sharing tools and expertise.

All told, 500 hours of time have been donated by all the groups – GDA, Oak Ridges Trail Association, and Durham Mountain Biking Association, working to keep the trails accessible. And recently Uxbridge Horsemen's Association has offered to help out too. Work will slow down over the winter and will pick up again in the spring. We found that spring and fall are the best times to work - summer brings heat, mosquitoes, poison ivy and ticks.



Consider joining - It's a great way to spend time out of doors, to explore unfamiliar parts of the properties and to give back, - and it's fun, as noted by a couple of our recent recruits:

"I thoroughly enjoy the work and am happy to contribute to the betterment of that beautiful environment".

Martin

"The camaraderie [is] absolutely terrific! Bravo to you for forming and organizing such a very vital association. It was a real pleasure meeting [all of] you. The hours in the fresh Autumn air just flew by. I look forward to seeing you and the crew again in the days ahead."

Anders

Map Project

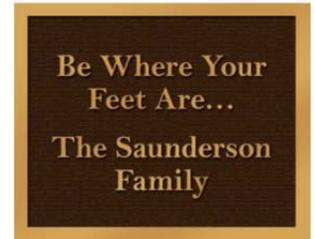
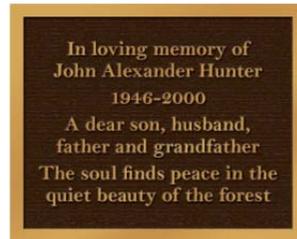
Work is well under way on our final map, the eastern strip of land between Lakeridge and Concession 7 of Uxbridge. Mark Smith of Chrismar describes it as “80% complete, but the final 20% is taking most of our time”. Challenges include the multiple land managers and a complicated network of connections; unlike our other maps, this map segment has not been thoroughly mapped before.

We expect this final map will be published by June, 2019. The distinguishing feature of GDA maps is that they show the trails in their entirety and the area around the trails as well. These maps have been a huge catalyst for the Township of Uxbridge to market itself as Trail Capital of Canada. When vendors sell GDA maps, the vendor, the mapmaker and GDA each receive a portion of the sales. GDA puts the money received back into our projects. Maps can be purchased at Blue Heron Books, Boyd's Sports, or through Chrismar Mapping Services.

Post Sponsorship

Our project to support the installation of new maps throughout Walker Woods, Glen Major, Brock and Wilder tracts of land continues to flourish. Posts were recently added to Skyloft and Dagmar tracts making them available for sponsorship. In order

to receive the plaque as a Christmas gift, the wording must be received no later than Tuesday November 20. Check www.greendurham.ca for more details, including method of payment and a list of posts still available to sponsor.



Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant

The Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant we received last year has been completed. The funds were used to develop a trail plan for the Goodwood Tract, which is owned and managed by the TRCA and situated at a critical place in the trail network. It lies directly across the road from the new Rouge National Urban Park, and is a gateway to the trails of Uxbridge and of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

But the work has only just begun! Once the plan has been formally approved by the TRCA board of directors on November 30, we will meet with the various partners to explore how to make the plan a reality. Stay tuned for more details, and you can read the plan by visiting the TRCA website www.trca.ca and looking for “Goodwood Resource Management Tract Trail Plan”.

Seeking New Board Members

GDA is seeking a new board member (or two!). We’d love to hear from you, especially if you are a regular user of the trails and have some savvy when it comes to technology. Increasingly an electronic presence is required to move various projects forward and we could use your skills. Involvement in the GDA board of directors is not onerous – we have roughly 6 meetings a year, we meet at one another’s homes, the meetings are informal, and they occur on days and at times which suit the group. As various time-limited projects are tackled by smaller groups, they report back to the board. We aren’t burdened by a heavy layer of standing committees. If you're interested and would like to talk to one of us to find out more, please get in touch by email at info@greendurham.ca.

Best wishes for 2019.