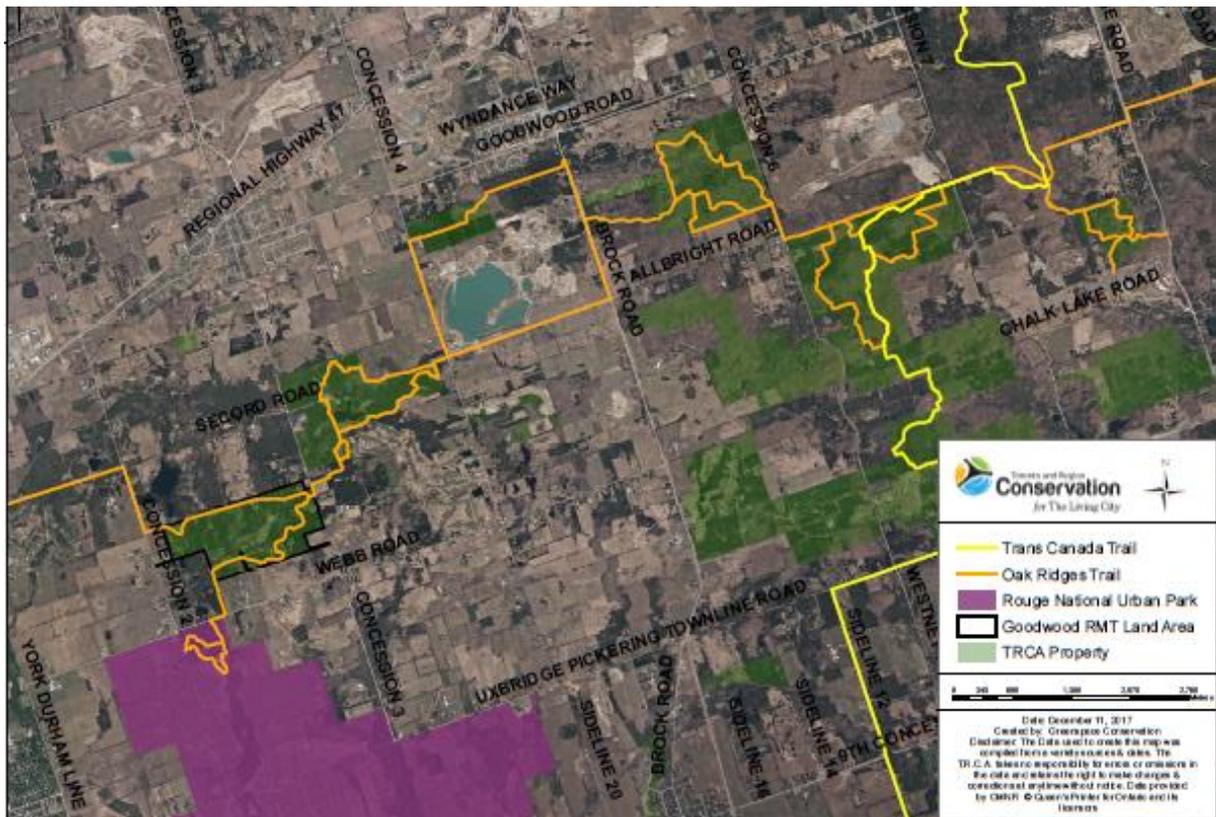


GDA Membership Update March 2018

Ontario Trillium Grant update

You may recall that [GDA obtained a grant](#) from the Ontario Trillium Foundation last summer. The purpose of the grant was to develop a trail plan for the Goodwood Tract, a parcel of land owned and managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Work to develop the trail plan is well underway and it will be completed in June of this year.

This map shows the location of the property in relation to other TRCA properties in the Uxbridge area, and to the Rouge National Urban Park:



Developing a trail plan is important for several reasons:

1. This parcel of land is a gateway to the new Rouge National Urban Park
2. It is a gateway to the network of trails in Uxbridge Township and beyond
3. It is close to the Lincolnville Go Transit station and thus is also a gateway to these trails for the City of Toronto.

A public consultation session about the plan will take place at the Goodwood Community Centre on **Monday March 26 from 5 to 7 pm**. Please come, take a look at the work that has been completed and share your thoughts. It is a great opportunity to find out about the trails and other initiatives in the area; a number of trail organizations will be present. This link tells you more about the Goodwood project: <https://yoursay.ca/trail-planning-goodwood-tract>

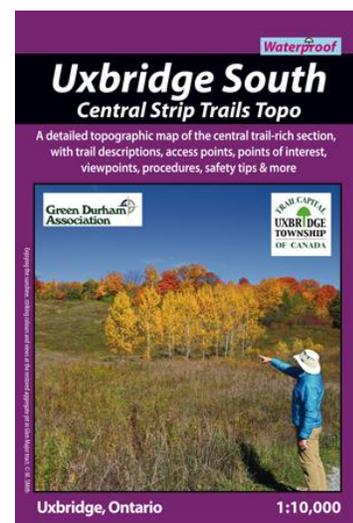
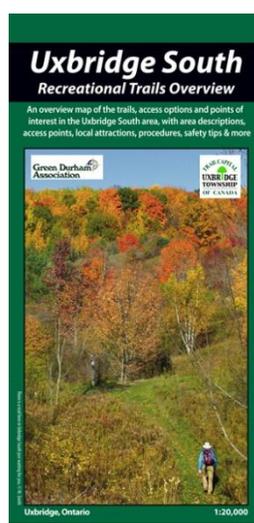
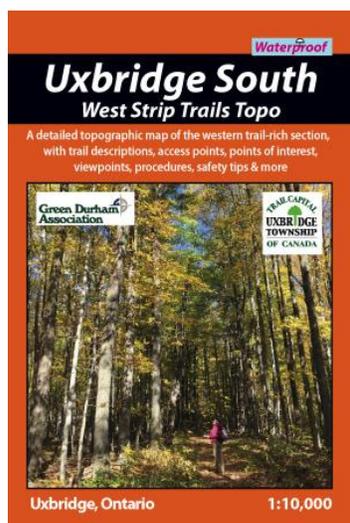
Annual General Meeting

The final trail plan should be ready in time for GDA's Annual General Meeting scheduled for **Saturday June 2**. Our agenda will include a presentation by the TRCA about the trail plan final recommendations followed by a hike on the Goodwood tract. This year we will hold our meeting at the Goodwood Community Centre. More details will be sent as the date approaches but please save the date and plan to join us. June 2 is also International Trails Day!

Map Project

Last week GDA released the third map in the series we have commissioned from Chrismar Mapping Services. In addition to an overview map of the trails in Uxbridge South, two more detailed waterproof strip maps are available for the areas between Brock Road and Concession 6, and between Concession 6 and Concession 7. Work to develop the final strip map of the area between Concession 7 and Lakeridge Road is now underway and will likely be published this summer.

These maps are available for sale through Chrismar's website (www.chrismar.com), and at retailers in Uxbridge such as Blue Heron Books, Boyd's Cycle and Second Wedge Brewery. Each sale generates a contribution to GDA and to the vendors who sell the map. The funds received by GDA go back into supporting this project. Work is also underway to sell these maps through larger sporting goods retailers outside the Uxbridge area.



Calling all trail volunteers

GDA has been developing a formal agreement with the TRCA to permit our volunteers to work on the trails – common tasks would include clipping branches which have grown into the trails, picking up litter, sticks and branches, cutting back grass and weeds which grow over the trails, and cutting and removing the small trees and branches which often fall across the trails. We hope to organize a small group to walk and care for the trails in the Duffins Headwaters lands – the Walker Woods, the Glen Major Forest, the Wilder and Brock tracts, the Secord tract and the Goodwood tract each week starting sometime later this spring. If you are interested in participating, if you have ideas or even if you just want to know more before deciding, please email us at info@greendurham.ca

Liaison position

For more than 10 years GDA has shared the costs with TRCA of a local liaison position for the Duffins Headwaters properties. The idea was to have a local TRCA presence for these large properties: to sort out local issues promptly, be a consistent local face and name, and to make sure these gorgeous trails are kept in the best shape possible for enjoyment by all who love to visit them. For more than 10 years that person was David Taylor, long time local resident and GDA member. Last year Ranald Mackay, another local resident and GDA member stepped into the role. A “shout out” to both Ranald and David for a job well-done.

Trail connections

Much of GDA’s work over the past 20 years has involved participating in the development of a large public network of trails. This work is long term and is always underway in the background as various possibilities are explored. Often we are unable to share information about the work until a firm arrangement is in place. A cornerstone of this vision and plan was developed in partnership with the Township of Uxbridge, the “Master Trails and Conservation Plan” released in 2005. We anticipate the plan will soon be updated to reflect the many connections which have been developed since 2005, and identify important connections which still remain to be pursued. Opportunities for land arrangements, trail connections, leases with private landowners and many other creative approaches may arise at any time, or evolve or sometimes vanish.