

Fall 2004

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# Greenways

*Trails for Today and Tomorrow*

The Official Publication of the Ontario Trails Council/Conseil de sentiers de l'Ontario

**Special Interest Articles:**

*President Travels*

*International Trails Day Event – Toronto*



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## Trails Strategy, Tourism and International Relations – OTC Leading the Way!

The really great thing about an organization like the OTC is that it exists so that people who enjoy, build, design and manage trails have a network across the province through which to share their passion for trails.

During the past couple of months the OTC has shared that passion to the point where others are “joining the hike” or “getting on the trails,” so to speak. This is rewarding for all users, policy makers, enthusiasts, developers and the public.

This month The Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation, (the lead Ministry for trails), announced three important initiatives – the Active 2010 Recreational Strategy, the implementation of a Trails Strategy Working Group, and the provision of funds to various communities to support and develop trail as part of a tourism product development package.

The OTC has been advocating for all of these changes and we welcome the initiative and responsiveness of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to these concerns. Yet the work is just beginning. The OTC continues to network with other organizations within and outside of Ontario in sharing our passion for trails.

During the last month alone we have traveled all over Ontario and New York State promoting trails awareness, sharing initiatives, best practices and developing regional management groups. We are meeting with MTR officials, officials from MNR, OTMPC, Municipal Governments in Niagara, Halton and Ottawa, and we’ve also pursued action items with major member organizations such as the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, IMBA, Friends of Second Marsh and the Ontario Equestrian Federation.

Lastly, we continue to produce a significant number of situational analysis pieces in order to aid municipalities with insurance issues, user groups land access concerns as well as ensuring sound community relations between trail managers and land owners. Watch for results on these issues in your e-mail soon. - Patrick Connor

For more information on all these issues go to: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca/whatsnews.htm](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/whatsnews.htm)



*The opinions, ideas and thoughts contained in this publication are not necessarily those of the OTC Board and Staff.*



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*"Our members are the bedrock of our council."*

## **President's Message – Bev McCarthy**

October 2004

In my last Greenways article I wrote about looking forward to seeing you soon on your trail. Well it's been a busy summer and I've met quite a few new folks. I've managed to visit with city planners, municipal trail builders, regional trail manager groups, representatives of health units, trail systems, user groups and I've been treated excellently by each and every one of you. I thank you for your hospitality. I also thank you for the information you've provide me.

As I move forward with the members of the OTC it has become clear that there are two issues that need immediate attention. That is we need a strong membership and we need to sustain our organization.

Our members are the bedrock of our council. Sometimes this has been problematic as not all members see eye to eye on all issues. However, this is to be expected in a province as big as Ontario. It is not possible to please all the people all the time.

I prefer to view healthy discussion and resolutions through many members to be the very strength of the OTC, its desire to represent all trails. Over the summer representatives of the OTC may have sent you information or talked to you on the phone. We hope that your awareness of OTC and the work you do will encourage you to become a member of the OTC. We have added at least 12 new members. There is a further report on this later in the newsletter.

Welcome new and returning members! As you work with the OTC in the future we request your input and your desire to look to the OTC as your provincial representative, working for you to enact the legislative, policy and practice enrichments that you need for your trails.

My second area of focus is sustainability of the OTC. I believe that the Board feels that we are providing more meaningful directed member support and input to provincial trail policy than ever before. Position papers on a variety of subjects are presented at every Board meeting. This enables the OTC to move form passive recommendation to interactive collaboration on issues. We just don't recommend, we are recommending based upon a consensus of position from our 21 Board members and their constitutions.

During my various meetings all have expressed an admiration for what our organization is doing. Virtually ever person indicated to me directly that there is a need for an OTC. All benefit, directly or indirectly from the work we perform, as volunteers, staff, organizers, trail builders, tourism offices and local community groups. I want to express my thanks for enabling the OTC to function so well on your behalf.

I look forward to seeing you on a trail in your community!

***Bev***

Reach Bev through the OTC – [admin@ontariotrails.on.ca](mailto:admin@ontariotrails.on.ca)

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## **Executive Director's Report –Patrick Connor**

Our trail environment.

It's certainly not the jungles of Borneo, but the trail building environment in Ontario can sometimes be as challenging an environment as anyone would care to visit. Whether you are hacking out a bush segment in the Hudson Bay area, or planning and developing a municipal trail system through the waterfront, each trail has its unique obstacles to overcome.

The OTC does its part by sharing the knowledge of trail builders throughout the province. Whether you have recently completed a trail management plan, as in Lanark County, or finished putting the touches on your multi-use trail system as in Mattawa, the reality is that the more help you can get in the planning process the better the end result will be.

The OTC participates in trying to manage the trail environment so that extreme situations do not arise. Whether through the study of crisis specific issues, such as the OTC Insurance papers, and related recommendations, or the Planning Act Proposed Amendment Paper, the OTC is working for you to ensure that those in a position to positively affect change are informed as to our best recommendation.

OTC's membership has grown over the summer through to the addition of twelve new member organizations. These include trail sport organizations such as Volksport, to Municipal Planners from the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga, to important rural heritage and tourism trail systems in Greater Madawaska and Shedden Townships.

We are also working hard to make sure the trail environment in better appreciated and understood by our youth. The release of our "Trails and Urban Youth" paper in August and the receipt of funds from the Halton Healthy Community Fund ensure that as a provincial organization we are working to support our younger trail users.

Through the efforts of the Board the OTC has just completed its biggest trail environment scanning and outreach exercise. Through funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, OTC embarked on cataloging trail resources into a database. Elements of this are being shared with MTR and Parks and Recreation Ontario, as OTC works with PRO to catalogue recreational infrastructure in the province.

The province wide nature of the database include domains of tourism trail, municipal trail, Trillium Trail Network Trails, those supported by parks and recreation, those supported by parks, planning or roads departments, and those that are managed by community management groups or user organizations.

This is important, as it allows the OTC to move into a database age, where resources are readily available and the full scope of the trail environment is more readily understood. With nearly 1100 entries of support organizations or trail user groups this database comprehensively catalogues "Ontario's Trails". This is a great tool for the OTC to have and share with members. In our way we lend support to the trails environment through a deeper understanding of the environment. Your environment.

This is one more example of trails lending a hand to the OTC and the OTC giving back. With your support it is easier to shape the environment that makes it easier to support trail. For more information on the organizations or strategies listed in this report go to: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trail\\_links/htm](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trail_links/htm), or [www.ontariotrails.on.ca/usergroup.htm](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/usergroup.htm)




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*The trail building environment in Ontario can sometimes be as challenging an environment as any would see anywhere.....*

## **The Sting- Be Trail Aware - Bob Bowles**

Petruchio: “Come, come, you wasp, in faith you are too angry.”

Kate: “If I be waspish, best beware my sting.”

“The Taming of the Shrew” by William Shakespeare, c1590.




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*Aerial nest of the Bald-faced Hornet taken in late fall near Orillia by Bob Bowles*  
*The Bald-faced Hornet is not really a hornet but a yellow jacket wasp despite its name. It is also not even yellow but black and white so common names can be confusing.*

Autumn is a good time of year to observe bees, wasps, and hornets as they gather nectar from the large golden blooms of goldenrods, one of the last wildflowers in bloom late in the year. Also on these blooms you will find many species of flies, spiders, butterflies, beetles, and other insects as they move around this late food source. Wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets are common names loosely applied to vespid wasps (family: Vespidae) in the order Hymenoptera which includes bees, wasps, and ants. You can easily recognize members of this family since they hold their wings folded and slightly out to their sides when at rest rather than over the back as do other wasp families. Just like in the taming of the shrew you really have to know which species to beware of in order to avoid their sting.

Mud Dabber wasps are common and in the large superfamily Sphecoidea or Sphecoid Wasps. Members in our area are easily distinguished by their very narrow waist. Most are solitary, prey on insects and do not sting humans if not bothered. Bees have their own superfamily, Apoidea while most of the other stinging wasps are in the superfamily Vespoidea, or Vespid Wasps. Vespid Wasps (Yellow jackets and Hornets) are in the subfamily Vespinae. Mason or Potter Wasps (Eumenes) are in a different subfamily and are solitary. They build their nests out of mud on buildings or burrows in the ground or old logs. Paper wasps (Polistes), also in a different subfamily are more social. Their nests consist of a circular comb of paper cells open on the lower side and suspended by a slender stalk. Only social insects tend to sting to depend their hive while solitary wasps only sting if handled and pestered. Most members of the subfamily Vespinae (Yellow Jackets and Hornets) are aggressive and are the ones that sting along with bumblebees and honeybees. These have replaced many of our native species. The aerial nesters include Arctic, Sandhill, Norwegian, and Bald-faced Hornets in our area. The ground nesters include Common, Yellow-haired, Eastern, Acadican, and German Yellow jackets. The German Yellow jacket was introduced here about 25 years ago and is very aggressive. It has replaced many of our native species and is usually the species involved in attacks on humans.

In all these species it is the only the female that stings and the stinger is a modified ovipositor, the long tube used to lay eggs. The stinger pierces the skin and muscle contractions in the abdomen pump venom from the sac into the victim. Wasps' stingers are smooth so can be easily withdrawn to sting again along with the bumblebee. Honey bee stingers are barbed so they can only sting once and usually leave part of the abdomen with the stinger so usually die shortly after stinging. So other insects seen around flowers in the fall that are not likely to sting are sweat bees, mining bees, plasterer bees, leaf-cutter bees and mud dauber wasps mentioned above. The species to watch for are German Yellow-jackets and to a lesser extend Bald-faced Hornets, other species of Yellow-jackets, honey bees and bumblebees to avoid the sting.

### **About the author**

Bob Bowles lives in Orillia and has studied all creatures in the natural world for many years. He leads workshops and eco-tours on bird, plant, mushroom, and insect identification. To find out more about these trips contact 1-877-427-1112 [www.penlake-woodlandsprings.com](http://www.penlake-woodlandsprings.com) or 705-764-1695 [www.muskokafarmfresh.com](http://www.muskokafarmfresh.com). Bob is also Executive Tour Director and leads International eco-tours for Boots Adventure Tours to the Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, and the Amazon River. To find out more about these tours call 1-888-68-Boots or go to [www.bootsadventure.com](http://www.bootsadventure.com).

## **Toronto Celebrates International Trails Day with Trans Canada Trail Pavilion Party**

Photos courtesy of: Frank Rasky

Gathering point for International Trails Day celebrations in Toronto was the Trans Canada Trail pavilion at Sir Casimir Gzowski Park at the foot of High Park, south of Lakeshore Boulevard West. The June 2004 event drew a full slate of speakers, a large outdoor audience, and representatives from the Ontario Trails Council, all there to honor the thousands of Canadians who have given generously in support of the Trans Canada Trail. Among the celebrants:



(Left to right) Dan Andrews, General Manager of TCT Ontario and OTC Board member; Frank Rasky, OTC Board member; and Ron Vrancart, Chairman of TCT Ontario.



Valerie Pringle, host of CTV's prime-time health and lifestyle series Balance and Emcee of the Trails Day event.



Doris Haas, Director of Sport and Recreation Branch, Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.



Mayor David Miller (left) unveiled new sign marking the re-opening of the TCT pavilion.



Scottish bagpiper added musical footnote to the trail festivities along Toronto's Waterfront.

## **Meg's Ride- by Warren Thaxter**

Northumberland Trail Riders MC, Cobourg Ontario, is pleased to announce that their inaugural "Meg's Ride", an off-road motorcycle charity trail ride for women only, was a huge success. The turnout of forty-one women trail riders exceeded our expectations and the \$7898.00 collected for the Northumberland Hills/Chemo Cancer Clinic, left us astounded!

Meg's Ride is a part of the Canadian Kawasaki Trail Ride Series, and honors Meg Thorburn, a rider who has continued to embrace off-road motorcycling during her ongoing battle with a rare cancer, leiomyosarcoma. The Northumberland Trail Riders MC hosted this one day charity event with 100% of proceeds going to the Northumberland Hills Hospital/Chemo Cancer Clinic.

## **Government funds to help build trails – MTR Press Release**

MIDLAND, ON, Sept. 22 /CNW/ - The Ontario government is helping build tourism and recreational opportunities in the region by funding of "Trails in Southern Georgian Bay" project, Minister of Tourism and Recreation Jim Bradley announced. "By supporting the trails project we are helping to develop an all-season trail system that will attract tourists who like to hike, watch birds, bicycle and cross-country ski," said Bradley. "The trails will have a positive impact on South Georgian Bay communities." Furthermore, "The McGuinty Government recognizes the importance of tourism to the vitality of communities across the province," said Bradley. "At the same time, projects like this create recreational opportunities which contribute to the health of all Ontarians."

Southern Georgian Bay will receive \$200,000 in funding and the Environment Network, a non-profit environmental organization is leading the project. Funding will be used to create connections between the existing Bruce Trail, Georgian Trail, Ganaraska Trail and Trans-Canada Trail. It will also fund signage, experience maps, interactive kiosks and trail counters. "We are pleased that the Province recognizes the importance of trails," said Michele Rich, Director of the Environment Network. "This will enable us to create a high-quality, all-season trail system and promote South Georgian Bay as a tourist destination."

## **Simcoe County on the Move-C. McIsaac**

October 2<sup>nd</sup> saw the second installment of "Simcoe County on the Move". This initiative is a combined effort of Volksmarch, Huronia Trails and Greenways, Ganaraska Hiking Club-Wasaga Beach Branch and Simcoe County Health Unit. The day consisted of 3 hiking trails, or choice of 2 cycle trails for people to enjoy. As part of the Huronia Trails and Greenways Trail Patrol, I attended the day's affairs with my dog Hunter.

The Health Unit and its partners joined up to get people on the move using trails as a focus point since trails are free, convenient, everywhere and have no type of cast system. Trails can be enjoyed by all people. The groups are hoping to hold more events in 2005 featuring different trails each time.

Families turned out to enjoy the three different hiking distances-2.5 km, 5 km, and 10 km. One family remarked that the pictures to identify made the hike very enjoyable for their children, who couldn't wait to get to the next photo to guess what it was. Each hiker had a sheet of paper to write the answers to the photos on, and upon returning to the Ski Shack, discovered the answers on a key card. Congratulations on a wonderful, but wet day.

**Postcard From Overseas – sort of - Note to Friends and Family - Missed you in Rochester – having a great time, the people here are very gracious, the trails are superb. We cycled through the University, some urban redevelopment areas and woodlands. It was a little wet on the second day, but the**



*company and hospitality made up for it. Trails people are great, wherever they are from! Looking forward to showing our American friends what Ontario has to offer in Niagara in November. I think that's on the 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. After the boat cruise we really felt we bonded and our kayaking the next day was the best! – Patrick*

### Editor's Note

This page is dedicated to our members and their upcoming events. Please contact us with your information so that it can be included. Email information to

[cam1rider@sympatico.ca](mailto:cam1rider@sympatico.ca)

or to

[admin@ontariotrails.on.ca](mailto:admin@ontariotrails.on.ca)

Make sure there is enough lead time to allow the event to be published before it happens. Deadline for next issue:

**November 25th.**

## Upcoming Events – compiled by C. McIsaac and Office

**Saturday October 30, 2004 (9AM) (Mad River Club)**  
Bruce Trail 3 of 6 20 km Moderate pace Variable terrain. Meet at the trail crossing in Benallen. Take Hwy 10 north from Shelburne towards Owen Sound, turn left on the Owen Sound By-pass at Reg.Rd.18 just north of 21 turn right on Derby Rd. and the left on Gordon Sutherland Pkwy. 5 kms to meeting area. We will hike through some new trail that leads to Inglis Falls, go down the ladder at Hwy. 6/21 and end up in Benallen  
Contact: Rick McCoy 519 829 4143 [rickpmccoy@sympatico.ca](mailto:rickpmccoy@sympatico.ca)

**Sunday October 31, 2004 (10AM) (Mad River Club)** Craighurst to Copeland Forest, 15.3km Barrie Ganaraska Trail E2E, part 4 Meet at the Craighurst IGA (just west of Craighurst on Horseshoe Valley Road) Bring a lunch and drinking water. Contact Frieda Baldwin [info@simcoecountytrails.net](mailto:info@simcoecountytrails.net) or 705-458-4037

**Saturday October 30, 2004** – Hike Ontario AGM and Conference Peterborough Ontario, see [www.hikeontario.com](http://www.hikeontario.com)

**Saturday October 30, 2004** – Waterfront Trail Opening Niagara Region see [www.wrtrust.org](http://www.wrtrust.org)

**Sunday October 31, 2004** – OTC Strategic 3-year workplan development session Otonabee Conservation Authority – Peterborough.

**Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Toronto** – Trans Canada Trail Economic Impact Study to be released contact TCTO – [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca)

**Wednesday November 10, 2004** Ontario Tourism Education Corporation Dinner, Toronto for more information contact OTEC. [www.otec.org](http://www.otec.org)

**Volkssport Ontario** is in need of trail stamp adjusters to modify trail stampers, for more information contact Des Davidge at: 613-

**November 12, 13, 2004 Haliburton Trails Training** – two days of skills development – For more information contact: Lindsay Elder [lindsaye@trailsandtours.on.ca](mailto:lindsaye@trailsandtours.on.ca)

**November 20, 21, 2004** – Niagara Region – OTC/GRTC International Trails Promotion and Regional Management Group Development meetings. E-mail bulletins to follow.

**OCTRA AGM and Awards-November 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Highwayman Inn in Orillia. More information on OCTRA is available at [www.octra.on.ca](http://www.octra.on.ca)

**Ontario Equestrian Federation AGM-November 26-28** at the Four Point Sheraton Hotel in Kitchener. Further details can be found by calling: 1-877-441-7112 or email [horse@horse.on.ca](mailto:horse@horse.on.ca)

### More NEW OTC Members!

We are pleased to announce the following organizations have recently joined the OTC. We are grateful for their support and we consider the joining of any new group an Event!!

City of Mississauga Cycling Committee  
City of Brampton Planning Department  
City of Toronto Parks and Recreation  
Voyageur Multi-Use Trail System, Mattawa  
Town of Kearney  
Township of Shedden

If you know of an organization in need of trails issues support e-mail them about the OTC – [www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)

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The OTC used Trillium Funds in the design of its publications.

## **OTC Board of Directors – as at August 20, 2004**

<b>Bev McCarthy - Individual</b> O T C President <a href="mailto:beverley_mccarthy_9@sympatico.ca">beverley_mccarthy_9@sympatico.ca</a>	<b>Graham Burke - Town of Orangeville, PRO</b> O T C <a href="mailto:graham.burke@rogers.com">graham.burke@rogers.com</a>
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<b>Dennis Paris Ontario Federation of Trail Riders - OTC</b> Secretary <a href="mailto:cdparis@sympatico.ca">cdparis@sympatico.ca</a>	<b>Carol McIsaac Past President &amp; Ontario Trail Riders /OEF</b> <a href="mailto:cam1rider@sympatico.ca">cam1rider@sympatico.ca</a>
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<b>Patrick Connor – OTC Executive Director</b> <a href="mailto:execdir@ontariotrails.on.ca">execdir@ontariotrails.on.ca</a>	YOUR name could be here!

## **OTC President Visits Sharbot Lake - excerpt from the Frontenac News**

“Bev McCarthy, the new President of the Ontario Trails Council (OTC), paid a visit to the OTC headquarters in Sharbot Lake last week. Bev McCarthy is a long-time trail user, and joined the OTC board in 2001. Her involvement deepened when she became involved in the development of the Trillium trail network, leading to her becoming President this year. For her, trails represent an opportunity to promote active living, which is something she does herself through mountain biking, skiing, canoeing, and kayaking.

McCarthy, who lives in Brampton, took the opportunity during her visit to walk some of the local trails, including the Meisel Woods Trail near Crow Lake. In the past few years the OTC has shifted focus somewhat, from being the main advocate of the Trans-Canada Trail network in Ontario, to promoting the Trillium Trail Network, a diverse network of urban and rural trails throughout the province. Promoting trails to the Ontario government involves communicating with several ministries, ranging from the Natural Resources and the Environment to Urban Affairs and Tourism.

“Recently, we have made headway with the Minister of Tourism Jim Bradley, a trail user himself, who has recognised the role trails can play within the tourism industry and in the life of the province as a whole. There is now talk of a trails strategy for Ontario, and it is our role to keep them from forgetting about trails and the role of the Ontario Trails Council,” Bev McCarthy said in an interview at the OTC office. The OTC does not manage any trails themselves. Rather they represent all types of trail users: “snowmobilers, ATVers, skiers and dog sledgers, equestrians and cyclist, hikers and birdwatchers, etc,” according to their promotional materials and their membership includes private individuals and larger groups such as the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.