

Minden Hills - Dysart et al Guided Hike Series

FIRE TOWER LOOP

Join Rob Halupka for a gentle introduction to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park and a taste of what the park and the Ganaraska Trail have to offer. From the trailhead at Devil's Lake, we will follow a side trail of the Ganaraska Trail to Queen's Corridor Junction. From QCJ, we will head south to Crane Lake and take in the view of a large scenic pond and marsh. We will then backtrack to the Fire Tower Loop and head north to return to the trailhead and parking lot via the eastern arm of the Fire Tower Loop.

DATE: September 17, 2020

START TIME: 10:00 am

DURATION: 1.5 hr, 3 km

LOCATION: Ganaraska Trailhead at 1115 Devil's Lake Rd . Meet up at Devil's Lake Road, just off Deep Bay Road. Parking is by the trailhead, which is well sign-posted.

RATING: Easy

MAXIMUM # 12

LEADER: Rob Halupka

LEADER BIO: An avid hiker and nature enthusiast, Rob also enjoys canoeing, fly fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Rob has been spending quality time in the Minden area for some 20 years and is a big fan of the Haliburton Highlands. He is President of the Wilderness Club of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 35 to Minden, turn on Water Street and continue to the Bobcaygeon Rd., approximately 1.5km. Turn right on Bobcaygeon Rd. over the bridge and continue to the first Rd. on your left, Deep Bay Rd. (County Rd 2). Travel along Deep Bay Rd. for approximately 12km to Devil's Lake Rd.. Turn right on Devil's Lake Rd. and travel 0.2km to roadside parking at the trailhead. The distance from Minden is approximately 13km and distance from Haliburton is approximately 38km. GPS coordinates: N44.8600, W78.8192

WHAT TO BRING: Dress for the weather and wear good hiking shoes/boots. Hiking poles are helpful. This will not be a long hike, but always good to have water and a snack.

ALONG THE QUEEN'S CORRIDOR

On this hike we will explore more of the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park as the autumn colours are approaching their best. We will follow a side trail of the Ganaraska Trail to Queen's Corridor Junction. From QCJ, we will head south along the new Queen's Corridor trail. After about 3.5 km we will take a snack/lunch break before returning to the trailhead at Devil's Lake. This hike will provide an introduction to the natural features of Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park and the Ganaraska Trail. You will be inspired to return to this amazing park.

DATE: September 23, 2020

START TIME: 9:30

DURATION: 2.5 hours, 7 km

LOCATION: Ganaraska Trailhead at 1115 Devil's Lake Rd. Meet up at Devil's Lake Road, just off Deep Bay Road. Parking is by the trailhead, which is well sign-posted.

RATING: Moderate

MAXIMUM # 12

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WHAT TO BRING: Dress for the weather and wear good hiking shoes/boots. Hiking poles are helpful. Do bring a litre of water and pack a snack and/or a light lunch.

FUNGOPHILE FORAY

Take a walk with Nicholas on the forest trails of Glebe Park to discover the wonderful world of mushrooms. This is a beginner's guide to local wild mushrooms, focused on basic identification of edible species.

DATE: Sunday, September 27

START TIME: 1:00 pm

DURATION: 2 hrs. 1-2 km

LOCATION: Glebe Park. Meet at the entrance just beyond Haliburton Highlands Museum, 66 Museum Rd, Haliburton

RATING: Easy to Moderate

MAXIMUM #: 12

LEADER: Nicholas Wowk

LEADER BIO: An avid outdoorsman, Nicholas moved to Algonquin Highlands a few years ago to embrace the wilderness he so dearly loves. Experienced in Hiking, backcountry camping, fishing, and, yes, Wild Edible Mushrooms. Nick is not a professional mycologist but was taught from a young age what mushrooms can be eaten, and furthered that knowledge through the years to be able to accurately identify most common edible varieties... as well as what not to eat.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 118 west out of Haliburton Village, heading toward West Guilford. On the outskirts of Haliburton, make a left hand turn onto Bayshore Rd. Continue noting that Bayshore turns into Museum Rd. From Minden turn right onto County Rd 21 to Haliburton, approximately 24km. Turn left onto Maple Street at the lights in the centre of the village (CIBC on the left). Take Hwy 118 west out of Haliburton Village, heading toward West Guilford. On the outskirts of Haliburton, make a left hand turn onto Bayshore Rd. Continue noting that Bayshore turns into Museum Rd. Distance from Minden is approximately 25km. GPS coordinates: W 78.5224, N 45.0546

WHAT TO BRING: Rain gear, water, snack, sturdy footwear

A WALK IN THE WELL-DERNESS

It has been an especially challenging, or at least unusual, few months for most of us. There has been a lot of information to take in and tough choices and changes to make. All of this can take such a toll on our wellbeing. This hike is an invitation to soften a little, to let go of some of that outside stress and to become more present with our breath and the body we are in.

We will enjoy a crisp October morning together, taking in some fall colours in the beautiful Dahl Forest. This hike will balance a brisk hiking pace, with some intentional pauses to appreciate our surroundings and connect more deeply with our breath.

DATE: Friday, October 2

START TIME: 9:00am

DURATION: 2 hr, 5 km

LOCATION: Dahl Forest, 1307 Geeza Rd, Minden Hills

RATING: Easy to moderate. Brisk walk with break

MAXIMUM # 12

LEADER: Abby Blythe Hagerman

LEADER BIO: Abby is a lifelong lover of the woods and has always felt inspired and rejuvenated by time spent in the forest. As a hike leader she brings the unique background of a decade+ of experience as a yoga instructor. Though this hike doesn't formally include any time spent doing yoga postures, she will draw on mindfulness practices to enrich the hike experience.

DIRECTIONS: From Haliburton follow Gelert Rd (County Rd . 1) to Geeza Rd just south of Gelert. Turn left/west on Geeza Rd. and drive to # 1307. The distance from Haliburton is approximately 28km. From Minden take Hwy 35 to South Lake Rd (County Rd 16). Turn east and follow South Lake Rd. to the "T" intersection at Gelert Rd (County Rd 1). Turn right and follow to Geeza Rd just south of Gelert. Turn left/east on Geeza Rd. and drive to # 1307. The distance from Minden is approximately 18km. GPS coordinates: N44.8529 W78.6167

WHAT TO BRING: Water. Dress for the weather. Please keep your phone on silent and in your pocket/bag. (Or better yet the car)

THE BEST OF BARNUM

Join Sheila Ziman for a peek at the trails and natural beauty of the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. This 600-acre reserve is owned, managed and protected by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. We will hike through a diversity of habitats, including forests and old farm fields and will pass a marsh and parts of Barnum Creek. See signs of wildlife and learn about the special natural features of this beautiful nature reserve.

DATE: Saturday, October 10

START TIME: 10:00 am

DURATION: 2 hrs, 4 km

LOCATION: Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. #1118 Gould Crossing Road. Parking is available at the trailhead.

RATING: Moderate to challenging

MAXIMUM # 12

LEADER: Sheila Ziman

LEADER BIO: : Sheila is a nature enthusiast who loves to spend time outside in the forests and wetlands of Haliburton County. She is one of the founding members of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust and current Chair of the Barnum Creek Management Committee. Sheila is a certified hike leader (Hike Ontario).

DIRECTIONS: From Minden: Take South Lake Road (County Road #16) to Gelert Road. Turn left and follow Gelert Road to Gould Crossing Rd. Cross the rail trail and drive up the hill to #118.

It is approximately 24 km from Minden. From Haliburton: Take Gelert Road (County Road #1) to Gould Crossing Road. Cross the rail trail and drive up the hill to #118. The Nature Reserve is 5 km southeast of Haliburton Village. A note of caution - Google Maps mistakenly calls Gould Crossing Road, Cowan Road. There is a sign on Gelert Road that says Gould Crossing Road. GPS coordinates N 45.0179, W 78.5318 . There is an area set aside for parking. The road to the trailhead is not regularly maintained and the road can be rough. It is always recommended that you check conditions before driving up the hill to the trailhead. You can park on Gould Crossing and walk up the hill to the trailhead.

WHAT TO BRING: water, walking pole and sturdy shoes recommended (waterproof if you have them).

WALK WITH WHITTEKER

There are natural treasures to be found in Snowdon Park. Join Rick Whitteker to hunt for the wonders of wild habitats. Rick will help you better understand and connect with our precious ecosystems. You will explore wetlands, beaver ponds, an old homestead site, plant life and upland forests and evidence of wildlife. Snowdon Park is wetland and forest preserve established through the cooperation of the Township of Minden Hills and the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists.

DATE: Saturday, October 17

START TIME: 1:30 pm

DURATION: 3 hours, 5km

LOCATION: Snowdon Park, 1111 Snowdon Park Road

RATING: Moderate

MAXIMUM #: 12

LEADER: Rick Whitteker

LEADER BIO: Rick works as a faculty in the Outdoor and Adventure Education diploma program at Fleming College in Lindsay and as an experience leader for Yours Outdoors, a company that offers unique adventures in art, culture and nature.

DIRECTIONS: From Haliburton follow Gelert Rd. (County Rd. 1) to Snowdon Park. The Park is located on the right less than akm past South Lake Rd. Distance from Haliburton is 20km.

From Minden take Hwy 35 to South Lake Rd (County Rd 16). Turn east and follow South Lake Rd until it ends at Gelert Rd. (County. Rd 1). Turn right towards Gelert; Park is on the right. Distance from Minden is approximately. 12km. GPS coordinates: N 44.9219, W 78.6436

WHAT TO BRING: water, walking pole and sturdy shoes recommended (waterproof if you have them)