

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE OAK RIDGES MORaine TRAIL GUIDEBOOK

THE FIRST EDITION: March 1997

From the early days of the association, Ian Deslauries of MTRCA had assisted by providing mapping from the authority's resources which enabled the chapter teams assembling the trail to record their proposed routes. In 1995, Peter Attfield presented a draft 1:50,000 scale map for the King Section.

With funding assistance promised by the BTA Publication of the First Edition of the Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook in March 1997 was a major milestone in the association's development.

CONTENTS

1 Introduction

History
The Association
The Chapters
Hike Ontario

2 What is the Oak Ridges Moraine?

Formation
Living Nature
Cultural History
The Future of the Moraine

3 Trail Information

Users' Code
Following the Trail
Trespassing
Safety

4 Section Maps, Points of Interest

Key Map
* Caledon / King
King East
* Aurora / Whitchurch-Stouffville
Uxbridge West
Uxbridge East
Scugog
* Ganaraska
* Northumberland Forest

(* under development)

This First Edition comprised just four maps (each 8.5 x 14 inches) representing the lengths of the trail complete to date:

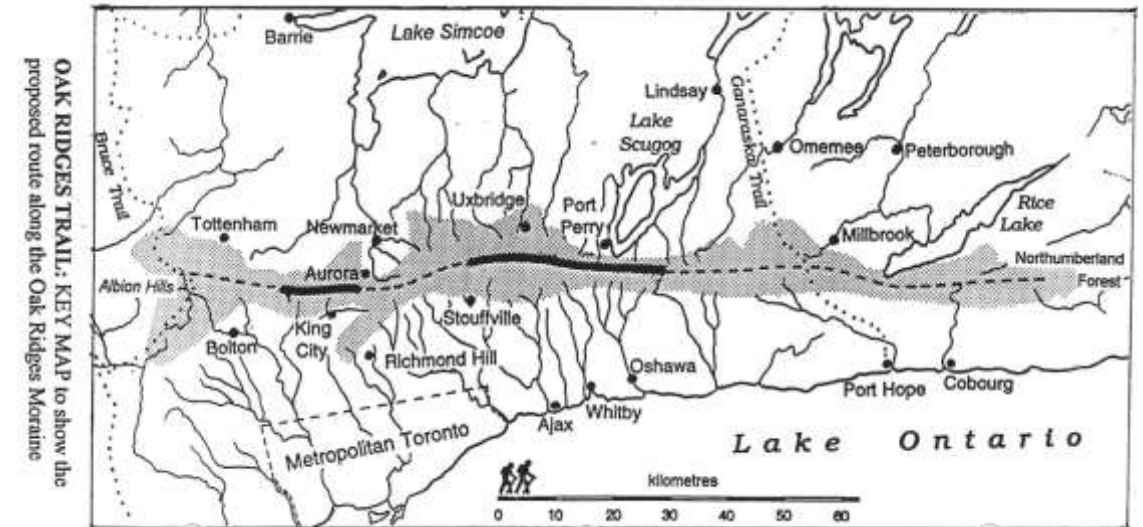
King Section - East Side
Uxbridge Section - West Side
Uxbridge Section - East Side
Scugog Section

The maps were painstakingly drawn using Corel Draw 5 by Peter Attfield assisted by committee members Pauline and Keith Dixie, Bob Woodland and Greg Rich, Greg also contributed artwork. Chapter members had contributed Points of Interest which were printed on the reverse of each map.

See Appendix pages 805 and 806 of King Section - East Side and Scogog page 807.

These maps were printed on Tyvek rather than paper meant they were waterproof and almost impossible to tear - a new standard much

appreciated by users. The contents were introduced by twenty pages of notes about the Association and the Moraine. The price was \$10.00; \$6.00 for Members.



Key Map to the First Edition. Note the shaded extent of the Moraine and the rivers flowing from the ridge to the north and south.

By June, with 250 copies sold out of 515 printed, a reprint was envisaged and sales through bookshops investigated. Eventually 1,400 copies were sold. Research commenced into drafting maps in a less time consuming manner for the new sections of the trail as they were being developed. In the spring of 1998 Tim Lawley, as Guidebook Coordinator, presented the options which included the services of a professional cartographer.

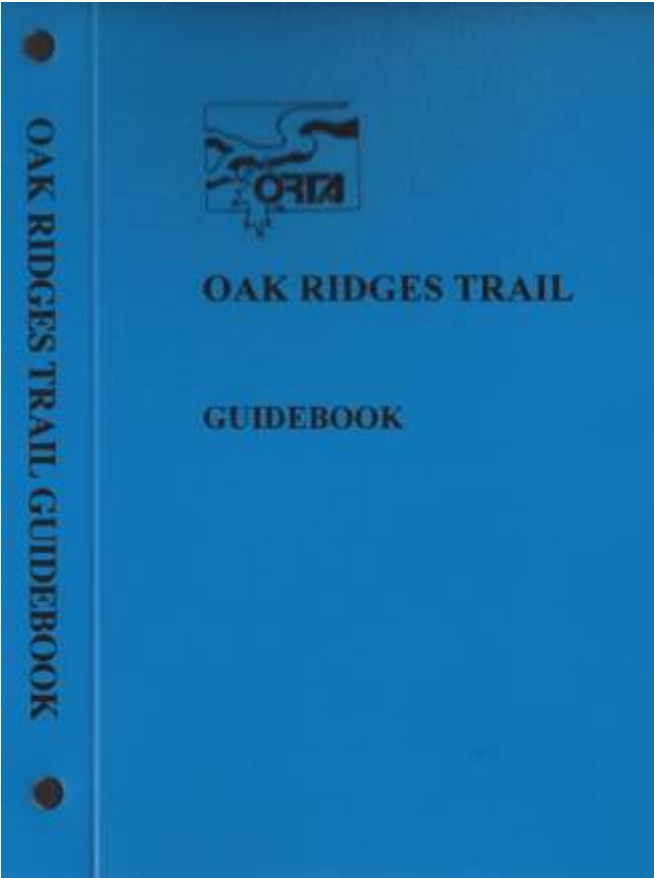
THE SECOND EDITION: November 1999, Reprinted May 2000

Topographic Base Maps were obtained under licence from Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada, with permission of Natural Resources Canada. The new maps were designed by Stuart Kenn using the full colour base mapping showing land features such as contours and parkland, and, of course, the true orientation of concessions and roads.



Funding towards this development was obtained from the Canada Trust *Friends of the Environment Foundation* and some businesses along the trail. With the addition of Caledon/King West, Aurora, Whitchurch–Stouffville and Scugog East/Clarington there were now seven section maps. See Map 5 – Uxbridge – Appendix page 809. The Aurora Town Map – page 808 - was at larger scale to enable the streets along the route to be named.

The Guidebook Committee, now comprising Peter Attfield, Fiona Cowles, Robert Ellison, Sharon Emmerson, Diana Piché, Harold Sellers and Bill Smith along with the Chapter Chairs, produced updated Points of Interest for the reverse sides. Diana’s sister Crystal contributed artwork adding to the originals by Greg Rich.



Fiona Cowles, having had related experience in Scotland, became the driving force in the Guidebook Committee. Assembly of the Guidebook comprising three separately produced components - Binder, Maps and Information Inserts – was undertaken by teams of volunteers; frequently including Fiona’s daughter Maggie.

Price: Members \$10; Non-members \$14 - plus postage.

The Second Edition Binder was an even brighter blue

Sales of the Second Edition totalled 2,100 copies as over 30 bookstores and businesses across the moraine were selling significant numbers of The Guidebook – at prices higher than our direct sales. Proof many people in addition to ORTA Members were using the trail.

THE THIRD EDITION: April 2002 and Edition 3.1 March 2003

The trail had been extended eastward and three new maps were included for Clarington East, Hope and Hamilton sections along with a new Key Map – Appendix page 810. There were also changes to the other sections, including an increasing number of blue-blazed Side Trails. The UTAP data for the Case Woodlot and Sheppards Bush in Aurora was included – see Chapter Three.

Trail re-routes were announced in Trail Talk. By the time a second printing was required in March 2003 there had been significant changes and some revised maps were produced. The now familiar dark green binder distinguished Edition 3.1. In March 2005 an update sheet showing further changes was printed for insertion in Guidebook stock and made available from the Office - Appendix page 811.

The accompanying notes were updated and expanded in each edition. Additional information included a list of Accommodations near the trail. As developments occurred Peter Attfield added them to the master files which were thus always up to date.

THE FOURTH EDITION - April 2006

Completing the moraine-wide trail west to Mono Mills and east to Castleton and Warkworth required a complete update of the mapping to accommodate the greater length of trail. New base mapping, funded by ORMF as a key component of the project, provided new section maps 16 inches wide instead of the previous 14 inches. There were now 11 maps plus the new Key Map, Appendix page 812, which showed the complete development would include Maps 0, 11 and 12.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Map 1 | Caledon / King West |
| Map 2 | King East |
| Map 3 | Yonge Street Corridor
Town of Aurora |
| Map 4 | Whitchurch-Stouffville |
| Map 5 | Uxbridge |
| Map 6 | Scugog West |
| Map 7 | Scugog East / Clarington West |
| Map 8 | Clarington East |
| Map 9 | Hope |
| Map 10 | Hamilton |

THE FIFTH EDITION - December 2009

The Fifth Edition was printed on a new plastic "paper" giving even clearer printing. It marked the effective completion of the trail moraine-wide with the addition of three new section maps:

Map 0	Humber Headwaters - through Simcoe County to the Town of Mono, Dufferin County, meeting the Bruce Trail at Airport Rd.
Map 11	Northumberland Forest
Map 12	Rice Lake Plains

Our proposed route through the Northumberland Forest was approved in principle for inclusion in this Edition; see Chapter Five. But at this time many kilometers still had to be explored in detail, blazed and signage installed.

THE SIXTH EDITION - January 2012

Significant minor modifications to the route justified a new edition:

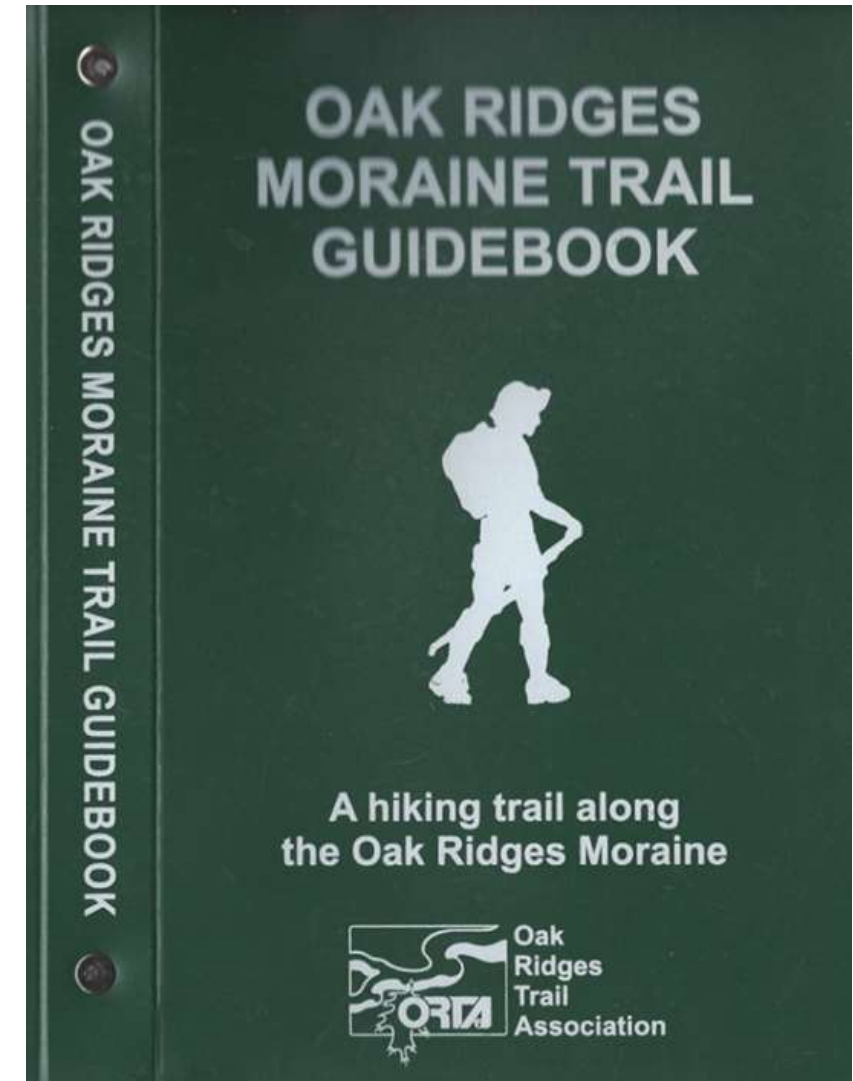
- The western terminus (Map 0) was moved from Airport Road to a new parking lot provided by the Town on 5th Sideroad.
- The forest section between Clarkson Road and Dawson Road (Maps 11 and 12) thought to be an unopened road allowance was in fact across private land and could not be accessed as previously anticipated.
- The approach to Warkworth (Map 12) was moved from Highway 25 onto quieter roads at the suggestion of a local resident.

An update sheet in May 2014 included an improvement to the YRF Clarke Tract side-trail (Map 4) and the significant re-routing of the main trail through Skyloft Tract (Maps 5 and 6) recently acquired by the TRCA. The latter took the trail off the busy Lake Ridge Road.

In 2015 BTA's Palgrave Side Trail was transferred to ORTA. See Chapter Five - the temporary Map 0 shows this route to the new Trail Head where the ORMT joined the Bruce Main Trail in Glen Haffy thus avoiding several kilometers "off-road."

Edition 6.1 - January 2017 incorporated the changes made in 2014 and 2015.

The re-route to join the Bruce Trail at Glen Haffy was entirely south of Highway 9; a new Map 0 was required to cover a revised area and the Key Map updated.



Meanwhile in 2017, with the ORTA Website now inking hike meeting points to Google Maps, discussions were underway on future Guidebook formats.

In particular that they should include GPS data.

Some interesting maps from earlier editions are reproduced in Appendix 8 below.

APPENDIX 8 - SELECTED MAPS

The maps included in this Appendix complement the text to assist readers to understand changes made to the route over the years. They have been scanned in at high resolution and can be better appreciated by using your computer's Zoom feature. To accommodate these reproductions within the page size they are not to scale.

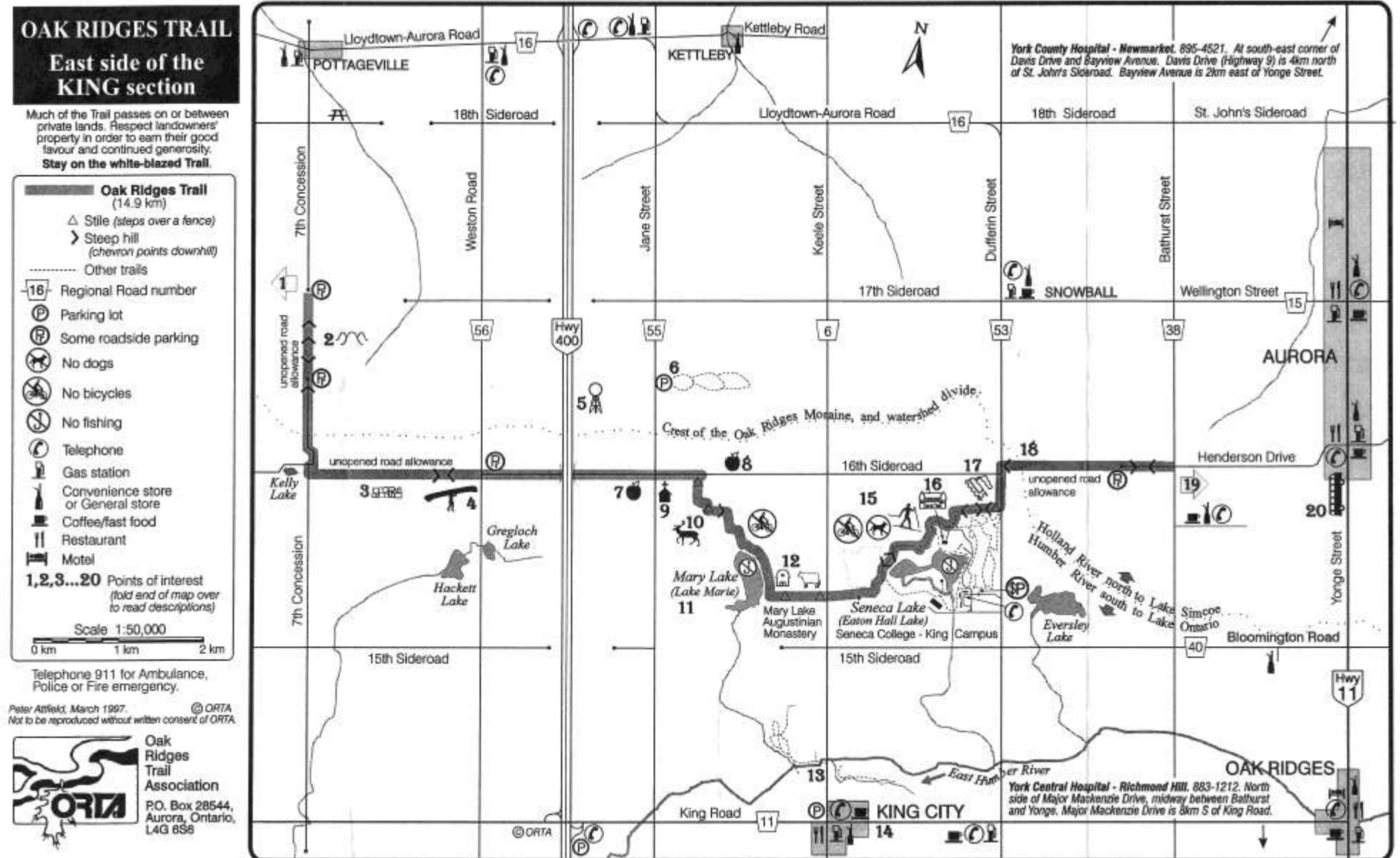
First Edition	March 1997	King Section East Side Map	Page 805
		King Section East Side Points of Interest	Page 806
		Scugog Section Map	Page 807
Second Edition	November 1999	Town of Aurora Map. Since there was not even a safe shoulder the Town required the route along Vandorf Side Road to be designated as "Proposed."	Page 808
		Uxbridge, Map 5: note trail from Whitchurch-Stouffville passing south of Mussleman Lake	Page 809
Third Edition Edition 3.1 Updates Sheet	April 2002	<i>A new Key Map, not shown here as the colouration made it difficult to read</i>	
	March 2003	Recoloured Key Map from Map 1 Palgrave to Map 10 Gores Landing	Page 810
	March 2005	Black and white local maps of re-routes as published in Trail Talk	Page 811
Fourth Edition	April 2006	New Key Map showing future Map 0 to Western Terminus and Map 11 to Castleton	Page 812
Fifth Edition	December 2009	Original Map 0 showing route north of Hwy 9 to proposed terminus with the Bruce Trail at their Airport Road Parking Lot in Mono; some Simcoe County Forest Tracts and the Tottenham Side Trail.	Page 813
		Map 11. Approved but not blazed route through Northumberland County Forest and south to Castleton	Page 814
		Map 12. Route north into Warkworth.	Page 815
		Hagarty Road was found to be private property, not an unopened road allowance, requiring reroutes to south and north.	
Sixth Edition Updates Sheet	January 2012	<i>Maps 11 and 12, updated to show the detailed routes as blazed, were essentially as in later Editions.</i>	
	May 2014	Local reroutes which provided significant improvements to the trail system	Page 816
Edition 6.1	January 2017	There were no longer any sections of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail north of Highway 9. In 2015 Temporary Map 0, Chapter Five Page 523, showed the route, previously a Bruce Trail Side Trail, from Palgrave to the new Trailhead at Glen Haffy. Edition 6.1 Map 0 shows the route to the western extremity of the Oak Ridges Moraine in Mono Township via the Bruce Main Trail. Note also the loops around Palgrave Forest have become Side Trails.	Page 817

Do you remember
the First Edition of
The Guidebook?

The maps were
painstakingly
produced using
Corel Drawn.

Members provided
details of local
Points of Interest
to Peter Attfield
for inclusion.

One detail here
which is not on
subsequent
editions – the
Crest of the Oak
Ridges Moraine
and watershed
divide.



Points of Interest

(Fold this panel over the front of the map to locate each point.)

1. The King Chapter of the Oak Ridges Trail Association plans to extend the Trail west from here to the end of the Moraine at the Niagara Escarpment. There it will connect with the Bruce Trail.

2. Steep slopes and sandy soils on the Oak Ridges Moraine caused many farmers to abandon their farms. This area (and much of the Moraine) is now covered by forest. The surveyed grid system of roads was never fully completed. The Oak Ridges Trail follows many "unopened road allowances".

3. Look for the stone fences of abandoned farms.

4. Near Weston Road you cross the route of the "Toronto Carrying Place Trail". This was a 47km portage that helped link Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay. It followed the Humber from near the River's mouth to Hackett Lake, then climbed over the height of the Moraine to the Holland River. The Trail was used by native people for centuries, and then by European explorers, fur-traders, missionaries and colonizers. It was the main route to the north until Yonge Street was cleared in 1796. No trace of the Trail remains today.

5. This weather radar tower generates a radar image of clouds and precipitation for all of south-central Ontario, to help forecast weather. Nearby communication towers also take advantage of the Moraine's height for unobstructed transmissions.

6. Centennial Park has two kilometres of trails through rolling meadow and hilly forest.

7. Pantele's Orchard (833-5845) and 8. Pine Farms Orchard (833-5459) sell apples, cider, and pick-your-own apples during September and October.

9. Sacred Heart Church is a reminder of the colony of Sacred Heart. During the Depression of the 1930s, the Roman Catholic Church provided 35 needy Toronto families each with ten acres, a temporary house, chickens, and seed for planting. Church support and community cooperation allowed them to become self-sufficient.

10. This stile climbs a tall fence that kept elk and deer on the farm of Sir Henry Pellatt. (Pellatt is famous for having Casa Loma built as his Toronto home.) He bought a 1000 acre farm here in 1911, and moved here after 1923.

11. Mary Lake is one of many "kettle" lakes on the west end of the Moraine. Each was formed by a block of ice buried in glacial deposits at the end of the Ice Age. The ice melted to leave a deep hole. Mary Lake and Hackett Lake are 17 metres deep, and Seneca Lake is 15 metres deep.

Trail User's Code

Hike only along marked routes.

Respect the privacy of people living along the Trail.

Do not climb fences - use the stiles provided.

Walk around the edge of fields - do not cross them.

Control your dog on a leash.

Do not disturb wildlife.

Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.

Carry out all garbage. Light no fires.

Take nothing but photographs and leave only your thanks.

The Oak Ridges Moraine

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a unique landform that stretches 160 kilometres from the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of Caledon, to the Trent River watershed east of Cobourg. The Moraine includes some of the most beautiful countryside in southern Ontario, as well as towns and villages. Its forests, lakes and wetlands provide habitat for a rich diversity of plants and animals. As a height of land, the Oak Ridges Moraine feeds the headwaters of more than thirty rivers that drain into Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe. Its underground water supplies are the source of drinking water for many communities.

The Oak Ridges Trail

A trail along the Moraine will increase public awareness and appreciation of the Moraine's environmental value, and aid in its protection. The Trail will provide healthy outdoor recreation along a beautiful natural corridor.

Join Us!

The Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) is a volunteer organization formed in 1991 to create the Trail, section by section.

Members enjoy frequent guided hikes and other group outings along the Moraine. Members have input into trail development, participate in trail building, and vote on ORTA business. Members receive a regular newsletter. Join today and help make the Oak Ridges Trail a reality.

To join or donate to the Association, write to: ORTA, P.O.Box 28544, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6S6. The annual membership fee is \$15 (\$10 for full-time students). Please include your address and telephone numbers.

OAK RIDGES TRAIL

King Section - East Side -

Oak Ridges Trail Association



Points of Interest

(Fold this panel over the front of the map to locate each point.)

12. This magnificent brick barn was built for the farm of Henry Pellatt. The farm is now owned by the Augustinian Monastery. Please stay on the blazed Trail and out of the farm. Control your dog on a leash at all times.

13. The King City Trail System offers 3km of trails in the Humber valley.

14. King City was originally known as Springhill, for the many springs that rise here on the flanks of the sandy Moraine. King City, Aurora and Oak Ridges still depend on clean Moraine groundwater for their municipal drinking water. King City's historic and modern buildings serve residents and Trail users with a pub, restaurant, pizza, bakery, doughnut shops, grocery store, convenience store, bank machine, etc.

15. Between Keele and Dufferin Streets, the Oak Ridges Trail follows the trails of Seneca College - King Campus. Dogs and bikes are prohibited from this nature preserve. Pay parking is available. During snow season, this section of the Trail is closed to walking. Ski 14km of track-set trails by fee. Call 833-3333, ext.5024 for ski conditions. Among the courses offered here are two-year diploma programs in Outdoor Leadership and in Recreation/Park Services (which includes Trail Design & Construction).

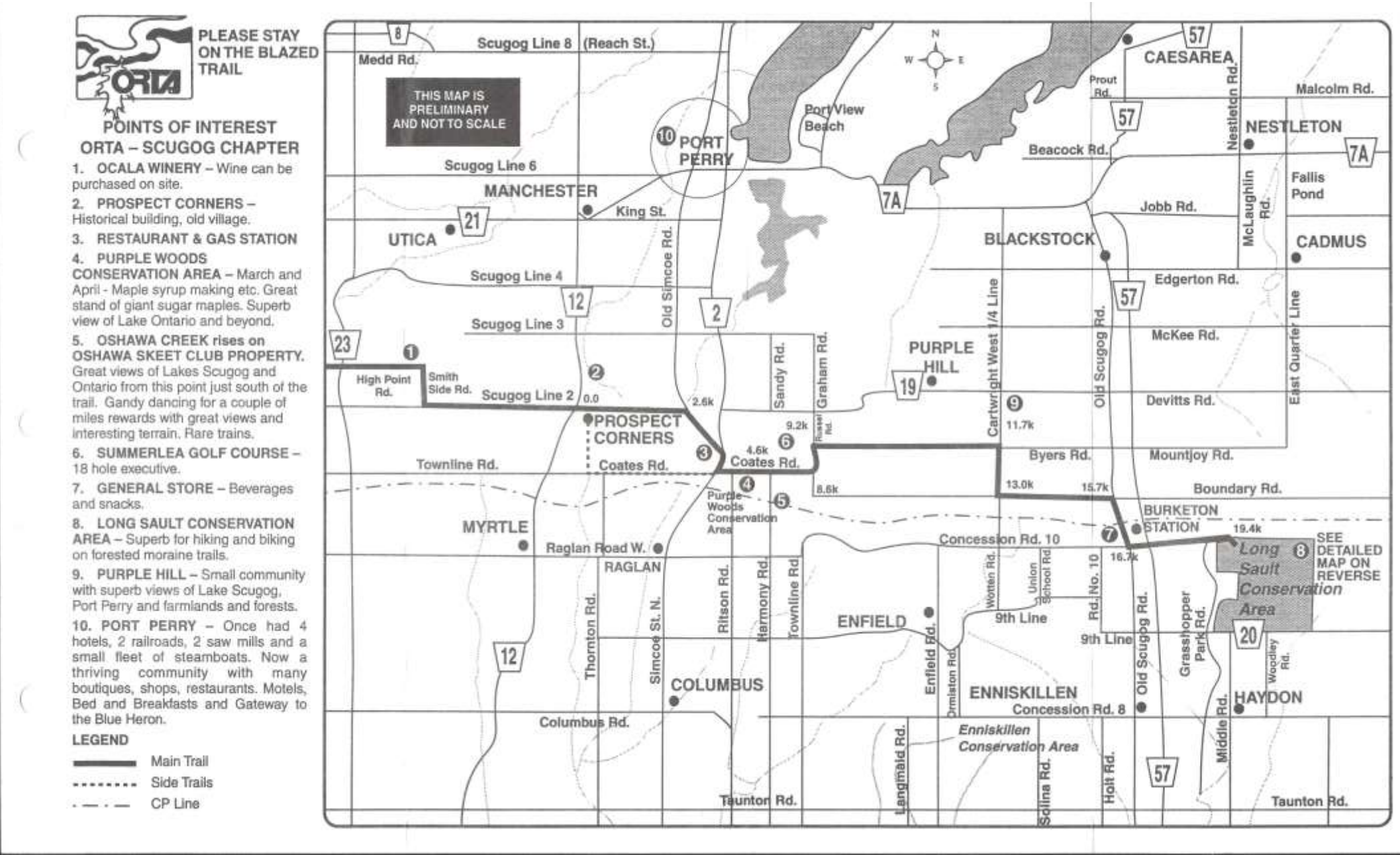
16. Eaton Hall was built for Sir John and Lady Flora McCrae Eaton in the 1930s. (John was the son of Timothy, the founder of Eaton's department stores.) During World War II, Lady Eaton volunteered this home for use as a refuge for English children, and as a Navy rehabilitation hospital. After her death, the home and farm were bought by Seneca College. Eaton Hall is now an inn and conference centre run by Seneca College. To reserve a meal or a group function, call 833-4500.

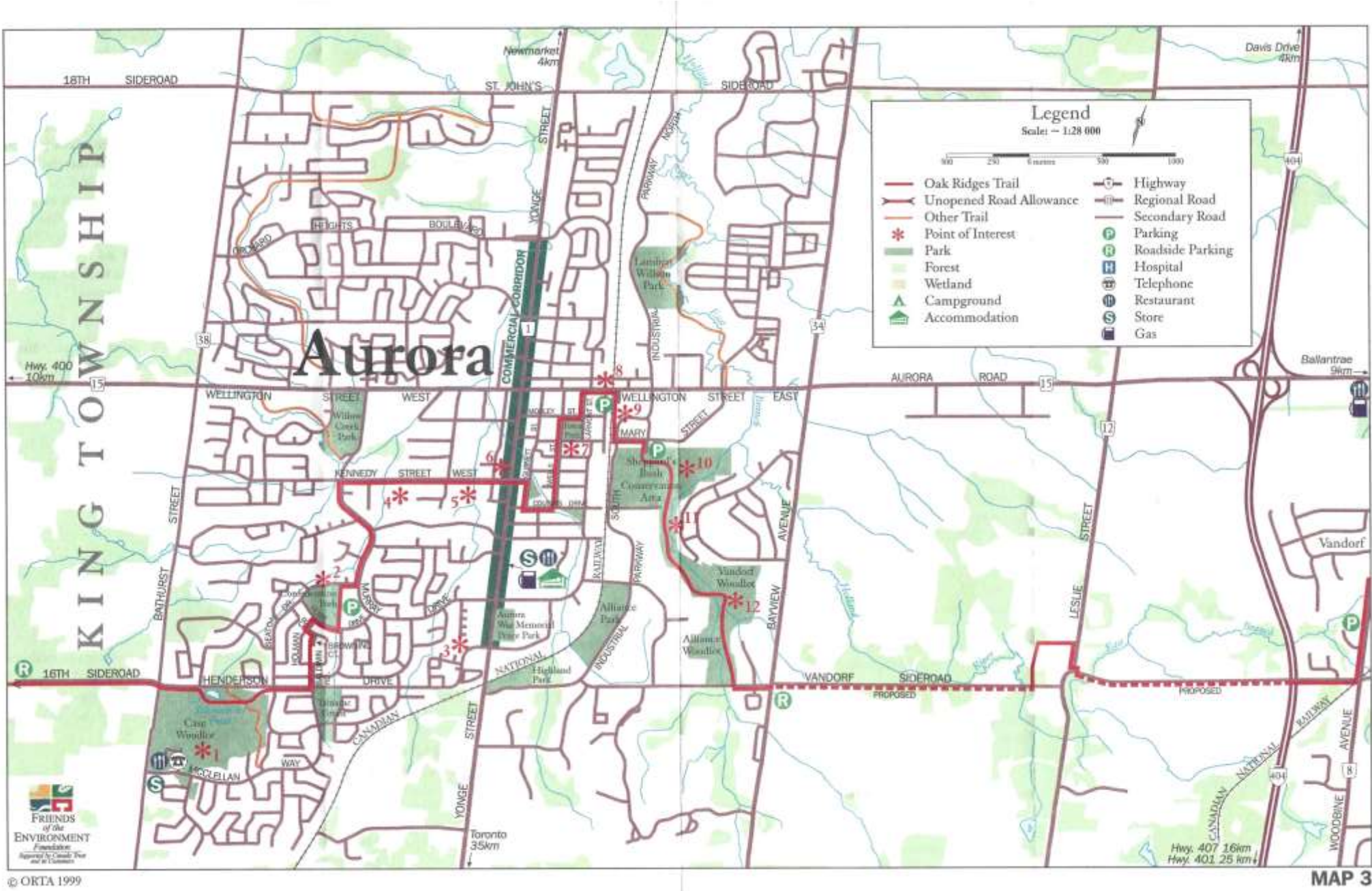
17. At the bottom of a steep hill is the bed of the Schomberg & Aurora Railway, 1902-27. It joined the former Metropolitan Railway (also known as the Yonge Street Radial Line) at Oak Ridges (not Aurora!).

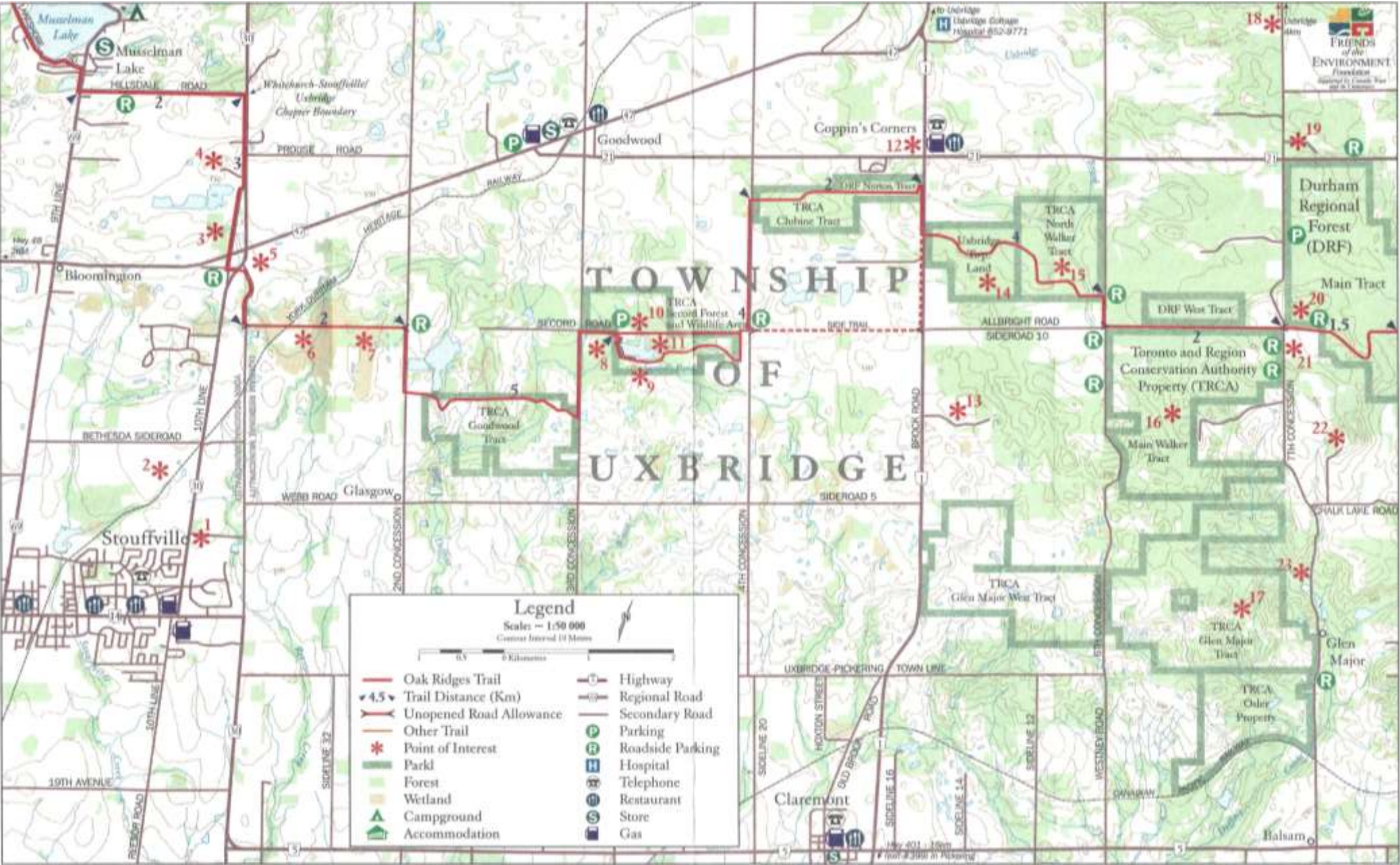
18. Here you cross the crest of the Moraine. It is a height of land that divides the rivers that flow south to Lake Ontario from those that flow north to Lake Simcoe.

19. The Aurora Chapter of the Oak Ridges Trail Association plans to extend the Trail along the Moraine from here east to Whitchurch-Stouffville. (The Trail is already established across Uxbridge Township.)

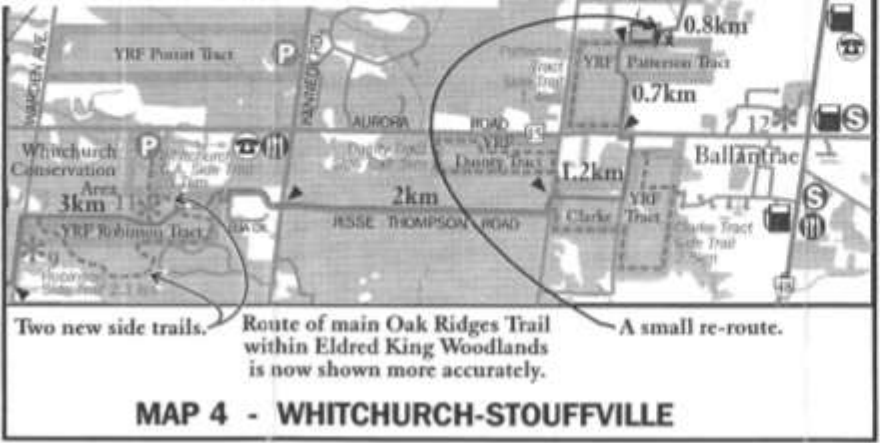
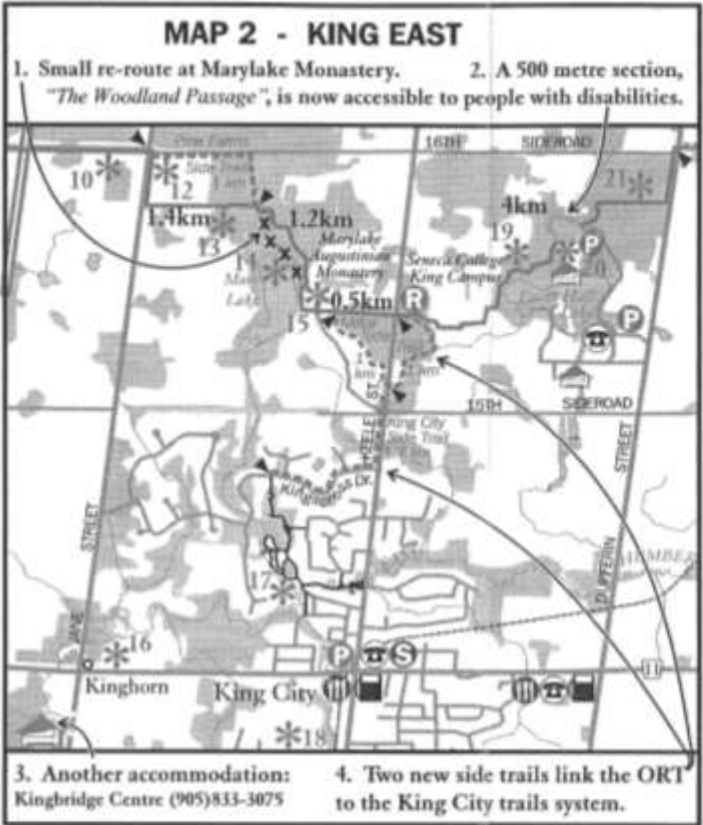
20. The "Newmarket B" GO bus from Finch subway station serves Yonge Street seven days a week. The stop nearest to the Trail is at Yonge Street and Henderson Drive in Aurora. For GO Transit information call 416-869-3200.



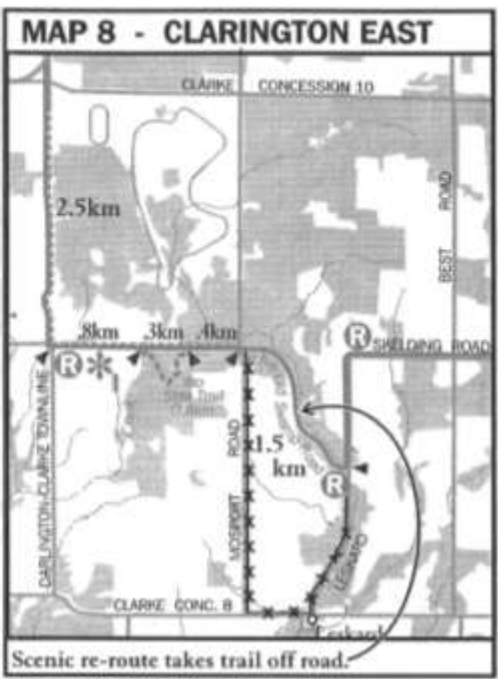
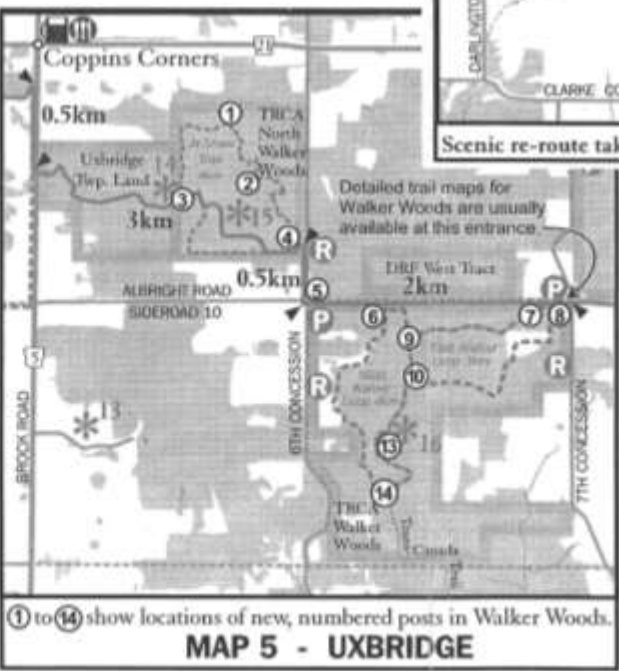
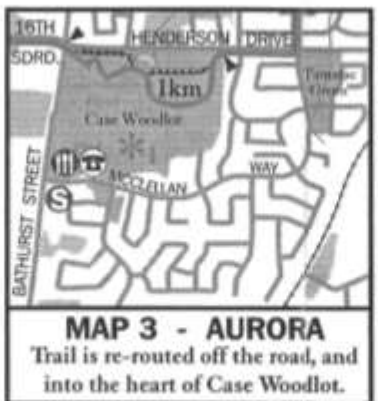




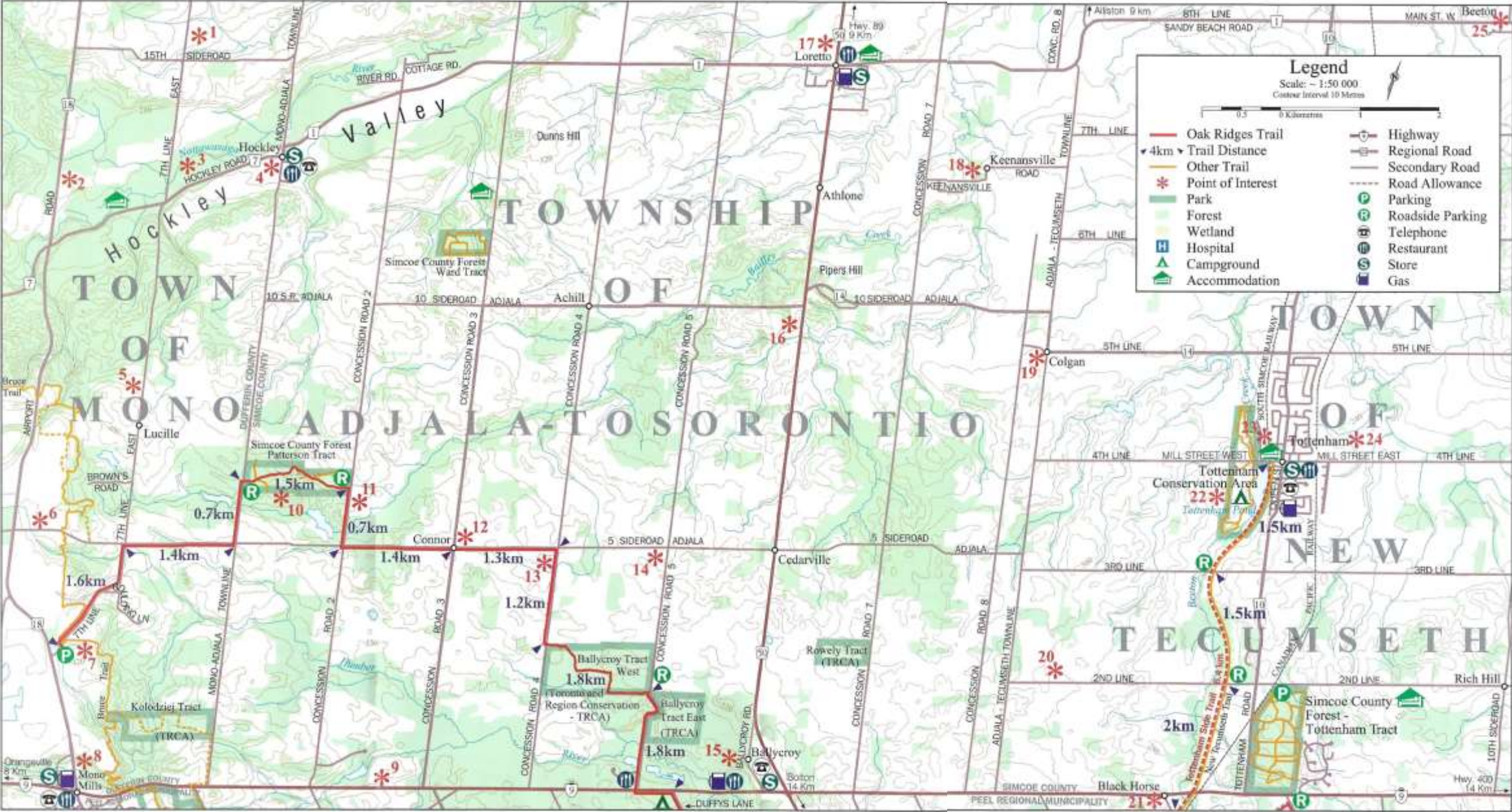


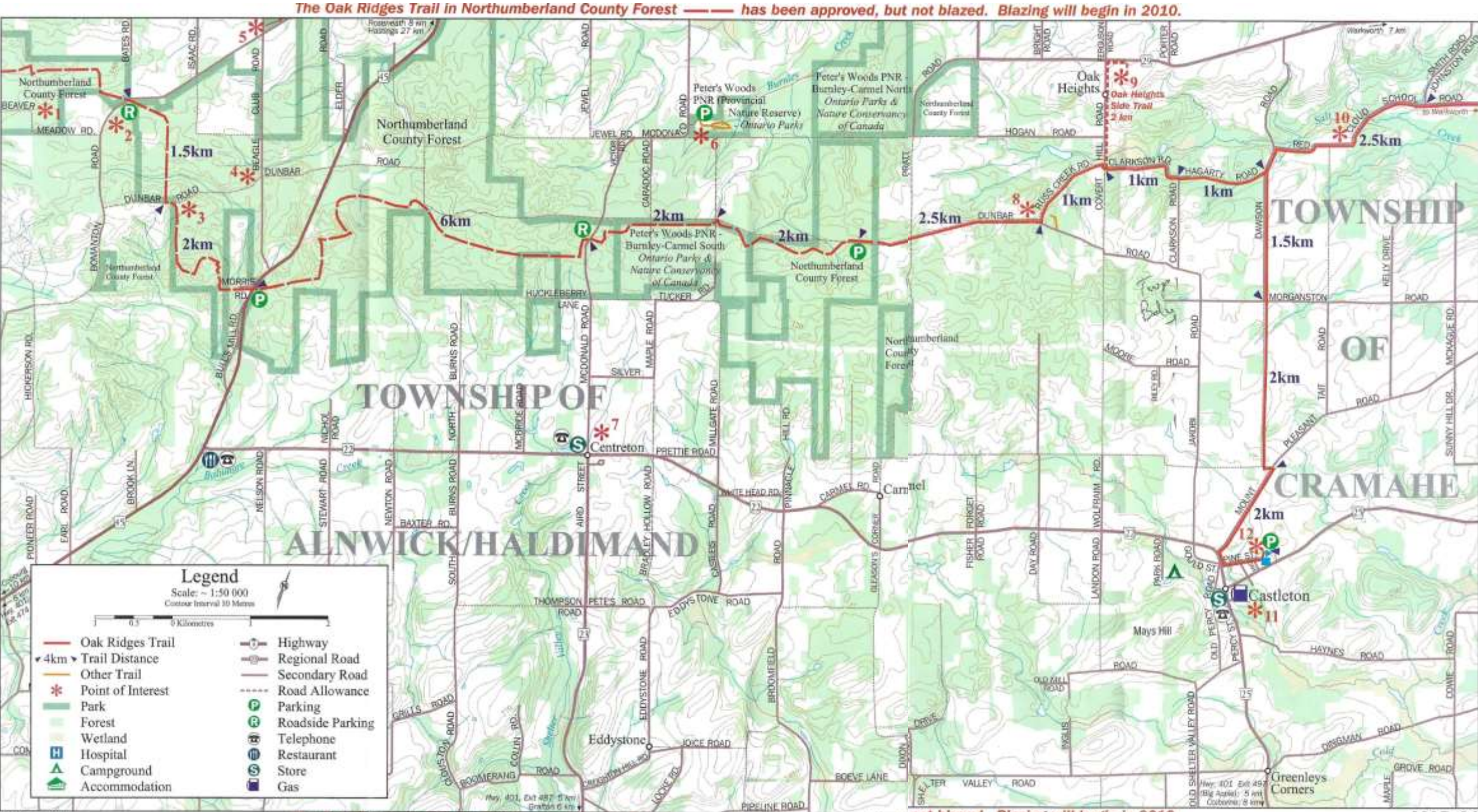


Updates for Maps in the Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook, as of March, 2005.

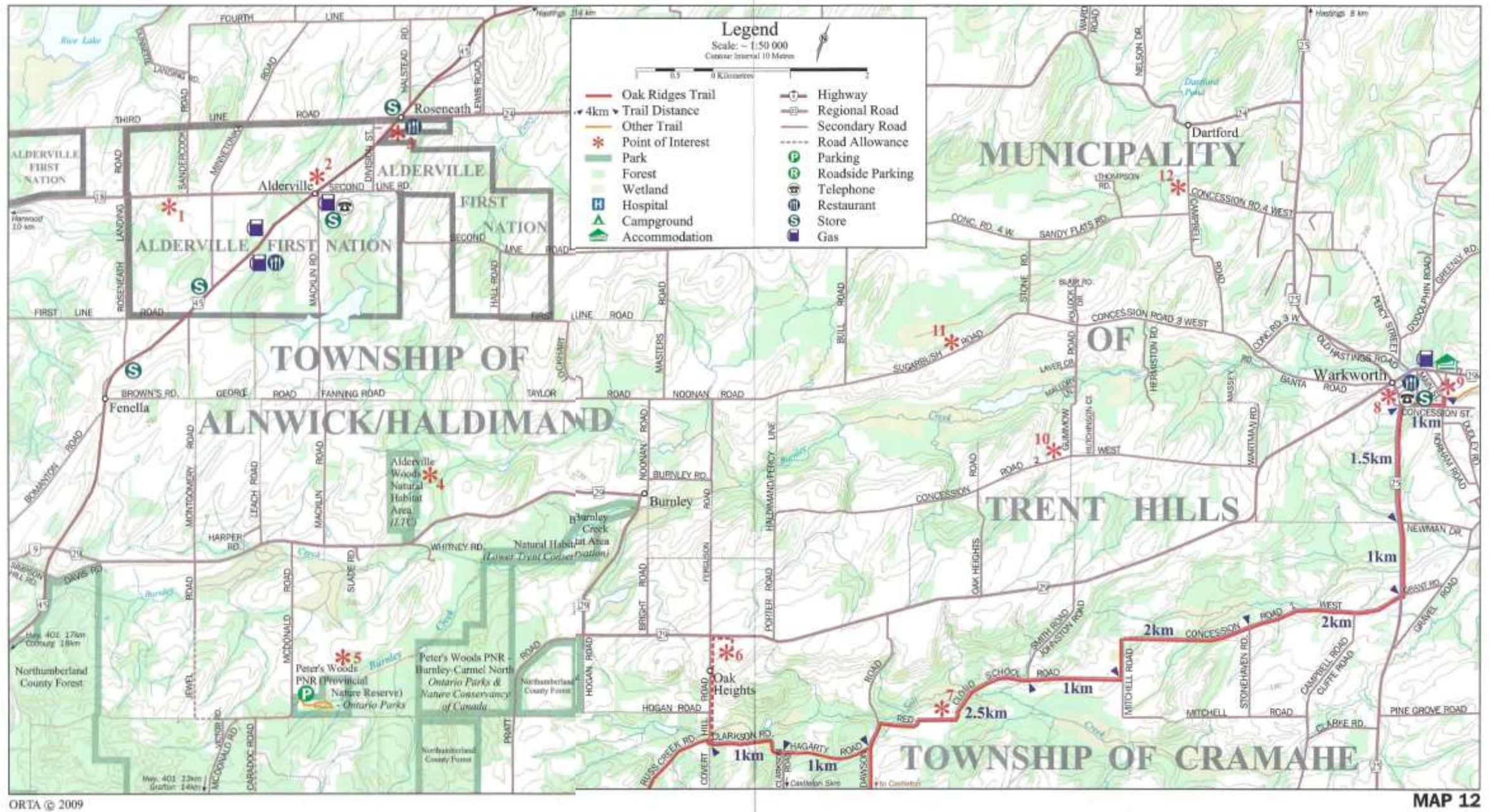








The Oak Ridges Trail in Northumberland County Forest — has been approved, but not blazed. Blazing will begin in 2010.



Updates for Maps in the Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook (6th Edition), as of May, 2014.



In the York Region Forest's Clarke Tract, the main Trail is re-routed into mature forest, lengthening the Trail by 360 m. (Guidebook Map 4)



The main Trail is re-routed off Houston Road and Lake Ridge Road, into more of the Durham Regional Forest and through TRCA's recently acquired Skyloft Tract. A Skyloft Side Trail and Buzek Access Trail are added.

Part of the former main Trail becomes the Houston Road Access Trail.

This yields a net gain of 3.8 km of off-road trail, and eliminates 1.7 km of road walking.

(Guidebook Maps 5 and 6)



Near Warkworth, the main trail is re-routed off a busy highway onto quieter roads. (Guidebook Map 12)

