

## What's in a Name?

The Oak Ridges Moraine takes its name from the many fine oaks that once grew along the ridge – the geological land form that extends 160 kilometres from the Trent River to the Niagara Escarpment. But can you define the differences between the Oak Ridges Trail Association, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, STORM (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine) Coalition, and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation? Here's a pocket guide for reference the next time someone challenges you.

**STORM Coalition**, founded in 1989 as a non-profit organization, was the first collective voice articulating the need for provincial legislation to protect the entire Oak Ridges Moraine and for integrated land use planning that acknowledges the fragility of watershed and headwater regions. This grassroots movement was initiated in response to development pressures on the moraine and a need for a planning system that would protect this fragile and environmentally significant landform. STORM, in collaboration with its member groups spanning the Oak Ridges Moraine, is committed to ensuring that the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan are vigorously implemented and, where possible, strengthened. [Source: *Oak Ridges Moraine* Compiled by the STORM Coalition, The Boston Mills Press, 1997; description edit by Debbe Crandall, 2004]

The **Oak Ridges Trail Association** (ORTA) is also a non-profit organization, formed in 1992 with two main functions:

- a) To plan, promote, and create recreational trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine for the recreational and educational use, benefit and enjoyment of the general public; and
  - b) To promote, support and engage in public education regarding the appreciation, renewal and protection of the natural environment surrounding the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system, and to encourage ecologically responsible attitudes towards it.
- [Source: *Constitution of the Oak Ridges Trail Association*]

The **Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust** (ORMLT) was founded in 1999 by residents on the Moraine to identify, protect and restore the natural environment of the Oak Ridges Moraine through strategic land securement. The Land Trust works in co-operation with landowners, the government and other organizations to secure environmentally significant properties through the use of conservation easements or land donations. To date, the Land Trust has secured over 1800 acres across the Moraine. Once a property is secured the Land trust works with the landowner to restore and monitor the property.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a charitable bon-profit organization which is supported by foundations, individuals and through events like the annual “Walk for the Moraine” and Charles Sauriol Dinner. [Source: Description edit by Susan Swail for *Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust*]

The **Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation** (ORMF) was created by the Ontario government in March 2002 to help preserve, protect, and restore the environment of the Oak Ridges Moraine and support a trail along it. The Foundation was funded with an initial grant of \$15.0 million from the government of Ontario. [Source: *Towards a Three Year Strategic Plan for the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation*, Sept 2002; update by J Arsenault, ORMF March 23, 2004]

The *Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act* was passed on May 17, 2001, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* on December 13, 2001 and the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* was released in April 2002. These form the context for the municipalities on the moraine and for all the Oak Ridges Moraine organizations as they plan for future use and enjoyment of the moraine.

As of March 1, 2004, the Oak Ridges Trail Association, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation will all be located at

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For more information:	Phone	Web site	e-mail address
STORM Coalition	(905) 880 3465	<a href="http://www.stormcoalition.org">www.stormcoalition.org</a>	info@stormco.org
Oak Ridges Trail Association	(905) 833-6600	<a href="http://www.oakridgestrail.org">www.oakridgestrail.org</a>	info@oakridgestrail.org
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust	(905) 833-3171	<a href="http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org">www.oakridgesmoraine.org</a>	landtrust@bellnet.ca
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation	(905) 833-5733	<a href="http://www.ormf.com">www.ormf.com</a>	info@ormf.com
Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act	1-866 622-4115		oakridgesmoraine@mah.gov.on.ca

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