



TAY SHORE TRAIL

Map & Information Guide





WELCOME TO TAY TOWNSHIP

**Tay Township prides itself on being
"a community of communities".**

In addition to a large rural community, Tay is composed of the communities of Port McNicoll, Victoria Harbour, Waubaushene and Waverley.

Our Community Vision follows:

The Township of Tay is "a community of communities" which will work together to build a prosperous and progressive future.

We are proud of our heritage and value the unique environmental features, waterfront areas, and natural setting that are a part of our community.

Through tourism, agriculture, commerce and industry, we will endeavor to develop a diverse and stable local economy, which is compatible with our environment and lifestyles.

We will strive to ensure a range of community services to provide residents and visitors with lifelong opportunities in our community.

We have a strong history of partnerships in our Township. We are committed to building upon and using these partnerships to achieve broad community development goals and ensure that Tay remains a safe, affordable and active community.





HISTORY OF TAY TOWNSHIP

The first establishment in Tay Township dates back to 1639 when Jesuit priests built Ste. Marie as the base for their Canadian mission. The mission was somewhat successful for a brief period, before tensions between the Huron and Iroquois people exploded, ending in the martyrdom of two Jesuit priests. Though Ste. Marie had not been attacked, the remaining Jesuits decided to abandon Ste. Marie, burning it as they left in 1649.

Tay as it is known today did not begin to take shape until the 1830s with the arrival of John Hogg and his sawmill outside of what is now Victoria Harbour. Several sawmills came and went in the area, developing small communities around them. However with the arrival of John Waldie and Anson G.P. Dodge, Tay began to look more like it does today.

Bringing with them the Victoria Harbour and Georgian Bay Lumber Companies in Victoria Harbour and Waubaushene, Waldie and Dodge brought major development to Tay. Their mills made jobs available and by providing company housing, company stores, libraries and churches, people came from as far as Quebec and New York to work in the mills.

As the towns of Victoria Harbour and Waubaushene expanded, the area caught the attention of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who was in search of a rail and shipping terminal between Toronto and Thunder Bay. The gradual slope of the land was ideal for the railway, and the space for a large harbour for the shipping lines made Port McNicoll the most efficient choice for the CPR. With the construction of the Grain Elevator and both freight and passenger lines, Port McNicoll began to take shape.

Though the lumber companies and the CPR have left the area, Tay's proud heritage can still be found in the Tay Shore Trail and the Heritage Buildings, which so many years later are still standing.





USER GUIDELINES

Please help preserve the trail for future generations.

General Rules of Etiquette:

Please stay on the trail!

Expect and respect other trail users.

Please keep to the right to allow other users to pass on your left.

Wheels give way to heels – please be mindful of users who are going at a slower pace than you.

Please use extra caution at access points and yield to traffic when crossing roads.

Take only pictures and leave only footprints – please leave the trail as you found it.

Please place garbage in the receptacles provided – help to keep the trail clean.

Please maintain control of your pets - dogs must be leashed at all times.

Stoop and Scoop is mandatory!

Please avoid making excessive noise.

Please respect neighbouring landowners by staying off private property.

Obey all posted regulatory signs. Use trails only according to the permitted uses indicated on the signage.

If you witness anyone disrespecting the trail, or any unauthorized users on the trail, please call (705) 534-7248 to report the incident.





TAY SHORE TRAIL WATCH

The Tay Shore Trail Watch is a team of volunteers dedicated to promoting the Tay Shore Trail and educating trail users.

Trail patrollers monitor the shared-use trail to promote safety, and increase awareness among users about the permitted activities and to encourage appropriate use. Patrollers also educate users about preventing damage to the trail and proper trail etiquette.

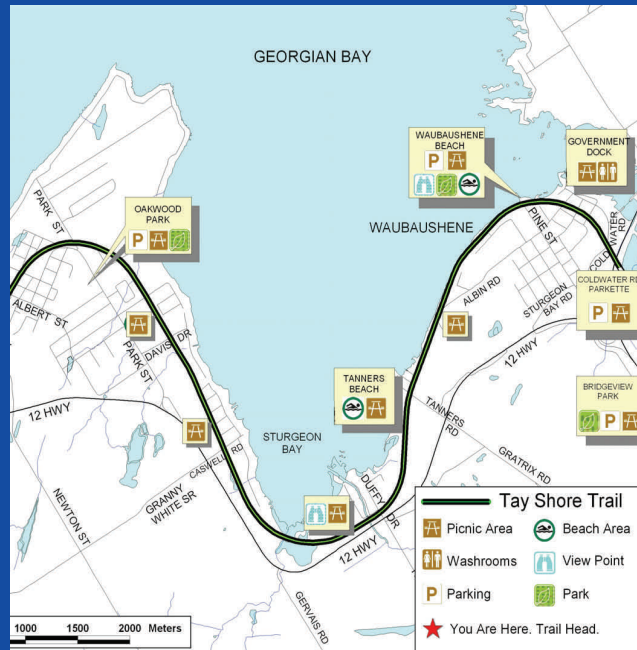
Join the Trail Patrol team, perhaps with friends or family members, and have fun while helping to make our trail safe and enjoyable for everyone.



To become a Trail Watch volunteer, please contact Tay Township at (705) 534-7248.









LET'S GET ACTIVE!

10,000 Steps – For Health

The use of pedometers has become a popular and efficient way to track physical activity. Scientific studies suggest walking 10,000 steps a day will help you become more fit, energetic and increase your feeling of well being.

- ⇒ Start slowly and work your way up.
- ⇒ Each week increase your goal by 10% until you reach 10,000 steps a day.
- ⇒ Aim to meet your goal at least 4 days a week.

60 Minutes – Your way!

Health Canada's Physical Activity Guide recommends 30 to 60 minutes of moderate physical activity every day in order to experience health benefits. Active living encourages you to find fun in everyday activities and helps you to discover a way of life that values physical activity making it a natural part of your day.

+30: Increase time spent on physical activity by 30 minutes per day.

-30: Reduce non-active time spent on TV, videos, computer games and the internet by 30 minutes per day.

Benefits of Physical Activity

- ✓ Good for your heart, circulation and breathing
- ✓ Stronger bones and more supple joints
- ✓ Improved digestion and regularity
- ✓ Better posture and balance
- ✓ Lowers blood pressure
- ✓ Lowers blood sugars
- ✓ Reduces the risk of diabetes, cancer and heart disease





WALKING SHOES

When you shop for walking shoes, choose shoes that are comfortable and have good support. The best time to try on shoes is at the end of the day, as you will get a better fit.

Also, look for shoes with good heel cushioning, room for your toes to spread, and good arch support.

Specifically:

Heel cup – the back of the shoe should not bend over easily when pressed. Your heel should fit firmly into the space without rubbing.

Instep – The top of the shoe should fit comfortably against the top of your foot.

Sole – The instep of the shoe should provide cushioning; the sole should provide adequate traction.

Toebox – Toes should not press against the top, sides or front end of your shoe.

Socks – wear socks that fit as bunching as can cause blistering.

Good shoes, proper stretching and good walking techniques can keep you walking and injury free.





HELP TRAILS GROW

Give your vehicle a new life by donating it to Huronia Trails and Greenways' vehicle recycling program "Help Trails Grow" and invest in a trail initiative in your community.

You benefit by:

- √ Receiving a charitable tax receipt for \$50.
- √ Having your old vehicle towed away for free.
- √ Your community benefits from a cash contribution to your local trail initiative.
- √ You help clean up your environment!



How To Donate Your Old Vehicle

1. Phone (705) 728-4110 or 800-461-1718.
2. Identify yourself as an HTG vehicle donor.
3. Arrangements will be made to pick up the vehicle.

The automobile ranks at the top of recyclable items!





HELP SUPPORT THE TRAIL

Help support the Tay Shore Trail for future generations!

The Tay Shore Trail is a valuable resource that enables users from all walks of life to be physically active in a natural setting.

Together, our community can work in unison to maintain and enhance this recreational asset for generations to come.

Sponsorship of the trail are available to individuals, families, organizations and corporations. Opportunities include:

- ◆ One time general trail sponsorship.
- ◆ Annual sponsorship.
- ◆ Amenity sponsorship such as a bench or bicycle rack.
- ◆ Capital sponsorship supporting gardens, tree planting, trail bridge or signage.

Sponsors will be recognized at various locations along the trail in the form of a plaque. Tax receipts are available for all donations of \$20 or more.

For information on how to become a Tay Shore Trail sponsor, please call (705) 534-7248.

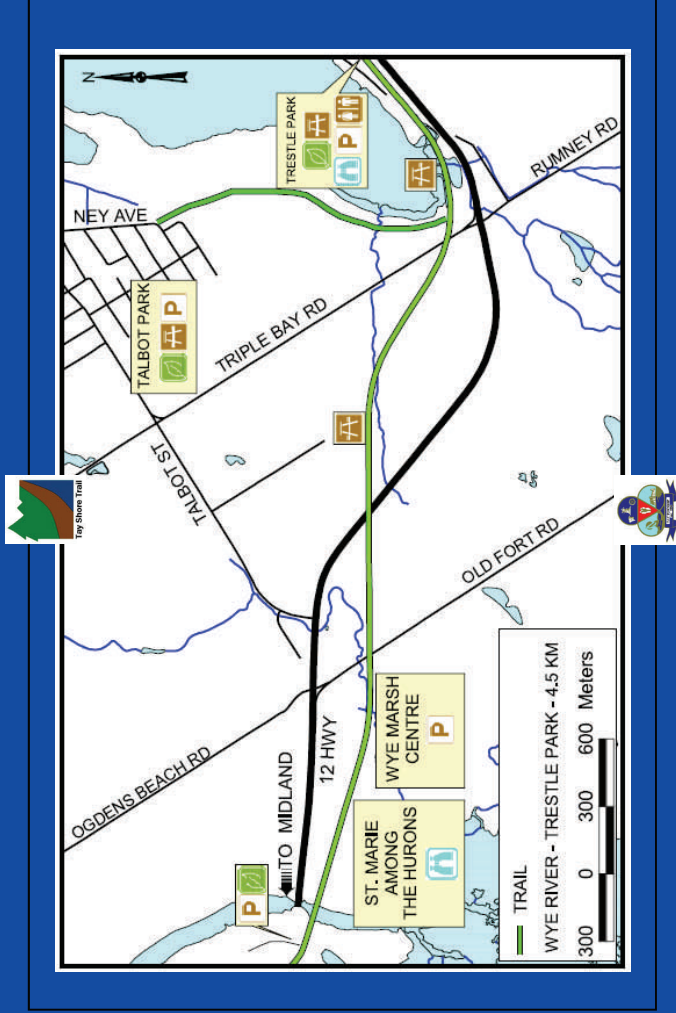




WYE RIVER TO TRESTLE PARK

Parking	Wye Valley Road, Wye Marsh & Trestle Park
Picnic Areas	Wye Valley & Trestle Park, rest areas at various locations.
Distance (km)	4.51 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	5,637.5 steps
Features	-Wye Marsh -Ste. Marie Among the Hurons -Martyrs Shrine -Beaver Pond -Marsh Area







HOW TO SEE WILDLIFE

While enjoying the trail, keep your eyes roaming up, down and through various habitats. Finding some of the area's most beautiful birds is a matter of knowing their favourite hangouts.

Treetop perch

Crows and ravens love to look down on the world from dead treetops. In spring, watch for a flash of brilliant red in the canopy – listen for the “robin with a sore throat” song of the scarlet tanager (also calls “chick-ber” when disturbed). Listen, too, for a “robin that has taken singing lessons.” This is the song of the rose-breasted grosbeak with its smart black-and-white plumage and red chest patch.

Deep into the forest

Reddish brown birds flitting from the ground to branches 12-15 feet up may be thrushes, whose beautiful songs fill the woods. (They can sing two notes at once!) Listen, too, for the seldom seen but often heard ovenbird, which nests on the ground – its song is a strong “teacher-teacher-TEACHER.”

On the fringe

Life is vibrant within roadside hedges, in the zone between meadows and forests, and at the edge of wetlands. Such places are home to many different warblers (brightly coloured, small birds busily flitting back and forth among shrubs and trees in search of insects).

At ground level

In large farm fields, listen for the lazy summer whistle of the meadowlark or the burbling chatter of bobolinks. Sparrows search for bugs and moths in the grass. Killdeers lay eggs in hollows in gravel; these birds will lure you away from the nest by staggering and dragging a wing, faking injury.





HOW TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE TO YOUR BACKYARD

There are many ways to naturally attract wildlife to our backyards. All living creatures look for the simplest of things; food, water and shelter.

Food - You might think the easiest way to provide wildlife with food is to put out a feeder. There is actually an even easier way - plant seed and fruit producing native plants. They provide habitat and are a source of food for birds, butterflies and mammals.

Water - Creating a natural pond for your backyard can attract an enormous amount of wildlife. Add native plant species and the habitat will flourish. Another option is a simple bird bath. The key to having a successful bird bath is to change the water at least every other day. This keeps the water fresh and ensures mosquitoes do not use the water. Consider a heated bird bath for winter use.

Shelter - Wildlife requires a place to hide in order to feel safe in your yard. They also need a long-term shelter to raise their young. The easiest ways to provide cover is to use existing vegetation, dead and alive. Many shrubs provide great hiding places within their bushy leaves, and dead trees are home and nesting sites to lots of animals including sparrows, flying squirrels, fly catchers and chickadees. Animals also rely on old woodpecker holes, logs, brush and rocks as effective hiding places.





WHEN & WHERE OF WILD FLOWERS

Just as a gardener calculates blossom timing to ensure colour all summer long, so can a hiker study blossom times of wildflowers to plan a season's excursions full of colour.

In Spring

On the forest floor, before leaves come out on trees, early bloomers take advantage of sunlight. Look for spring beauty—small white clusters of flowers detailed with fine pink lines, trout lilies with yellow, drooping heads and blotchy green-brown leaves, and 5-petaled, white wood anemone.

Later in spring, flowers rely on the emergence of flying insects for pollination. In forests and along roadsides exist white, red and painted trilliums, Canada mayflowers with their short, frothy heads and brilliantly white, 4-petaled bunchberry. In shady, mossy and wetter areas, look for pink lady's slipper, which is Ontario's orchid. Shrubs and trees also bloom within clearings and along roadsides, luring pollinating insects. Watch for flowering dogwood, bouquet-like clumps of hobblebush and richly perfumed wild cherry.

In Summer

In meadows and fields where sunshine reigns, brilliant patches of orange suggest hawkweed or black-eyed Susans; sweet perfumes may emerge from milkweed blossoms or, closer to the ground, from clover; tight yellow bouquets could be yarrow, a flower known for its strongly-scented leaves; buttercups and larger evening primroses add yellow to the palate.

At water's edge or in marshy areas, shrubs with inch-long, leathery leaves bloom in pink or white. Look for bog rosemary with bell-shaped blossoms in clumps, leatherleaf with little white bells in a row and Labrador tea with 5-petaled, small blossoms in large clusters. On mounds of wet moss, look for the strange, otherworldly pitcher plant. Along stream banks, delicate orange blossoms of jewelweed will nod in the breeze amidst startling spikes of crimson cardinal flowers.





BEAVER



Beavers are semi-aquatic rodents native to North America and Europe. Beavers are best known for their natural trait of building dams in rivers and streams, and building their homes (known as **beaver lodges**) in the eventual pond.

The habit of the beaver for hundreds of thousands of years in the Northern Hemisphere has been to keep these watery systems healthy and in good repair, although to a human observer, seeing all of the downed trees, it might sometimes seem that the beavers are doing just the opposite.

The beaver works as a keystone species in an ecosystem by creating wetlands that are utilized by many other species. Next to humans, no other extant animal does more to shape its landscape.

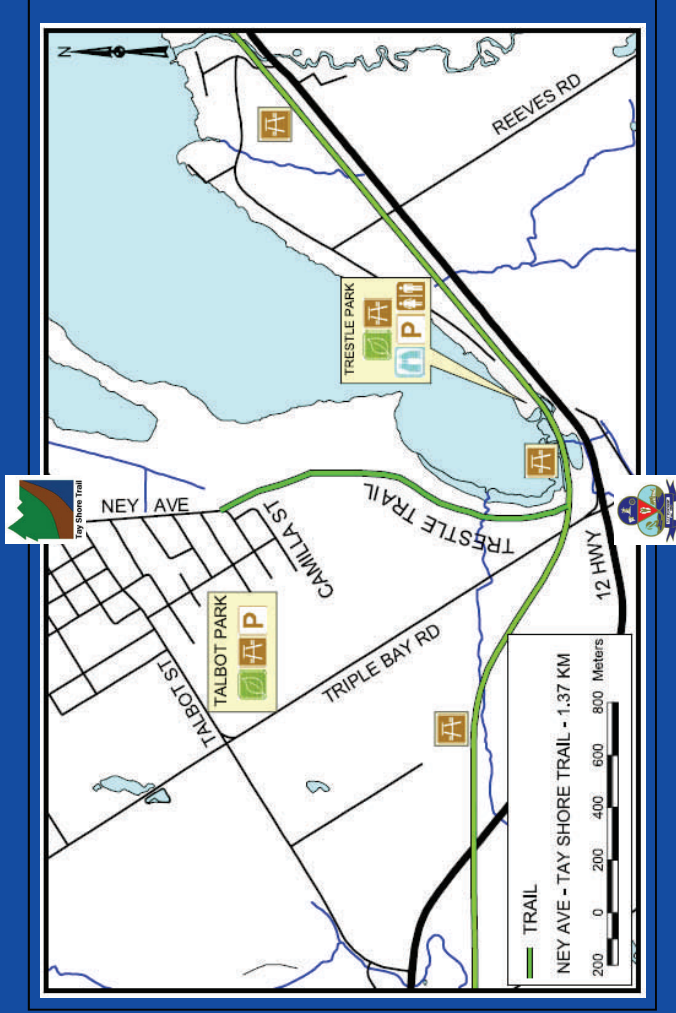




TRESTLE TRAIL TO PORT MCNICOLL

Parking	Trestle Park and Ney Avenue (at the LCBO)
Picnic Areas	Trestle Park, Fourth Avenue Parkette, rest areas at various locations and Talbot Park
Distance (km)	1.37 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	1,712.5 steps
Features	-Paradise Park -Talbot Park -Port McNicoll Heritage Walking Tour







FLORA ALONG THE TRAIL



The Tay Shore Trail is home to a wide variety of native and non-native plant life. While enjoying the trail, look for some of these plant species.



Swamp Horsetail
(native)



Cattail
(native)



Bladder Campion
(native)



Tufted Vetch
(native)



St. John's Wort
(native)



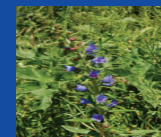
Oxeye Daisy
(native)



Goat's Beard
(non-native)



Hog Peanut
(native)



Viper's Bugloss
(non-native)





HISTORY OF PORT MCNICOLL

Christened "Port McNicoll" after Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Vice-President David MacNicol, the small village quickly became a boomtown when the CPR surveyed the area in 1906. After two years of work, the Georgian Bay main terminal for the CPR's freight and passenger ships was complete on Maple Island. The freighters like the *Athabasca*, *Alberta* and *Manitoba* would ship grain from the grain elevator on the island, which was operational as of 1910, to eastern parts of Canada, while the passenger ships like the *Assiniboia* and *Keewatin* carried tourists west to the Great Lakes.

With the railroad and freight shipping boom taking place in Port McNicoll, many believed the village would continue to expand at its already staggering pace. Lots were quickly sold off, sidewalks were laid, fences were erected and brochures were distributed throughout North America advertising the new subdivision in Port McNicoll, deemed "Victoria Heights". However with the onset of World War I, and the closing of the mills in neighbouring towns, the subdivision never came and Port McNicoll, like its neighbours, began to decline. The CPR cancelled its rail service in 1960, and by 1966 had sold off all of its passenger and freight ships. Since then Port McNicoll had relied on tourism to fill the gap left by the CPR.





PORT MCNICOLL HERITAGE WALKING TOUR



1. Grain Elevator, Port McNicoll Harbour
Built in 1909, the grain elevator underwent numerous expansions to reach a capacity of 6.5 million bushels of grain.



2. Port McNicoll Inn, 361 Talbot St.
Location of the Port McNicoll Inn. The Inn later became a tavern before it was struck by suspected arson twice in two months resulting in the complete loss of the building.



3. Bank Building, 752 Fourth Ave.
Constructed in 1910, the building was once a branch of the Bank of Montreal. In the 1920s, bank manager Mr. Ferguson organized Boy Scout meetings after hours.

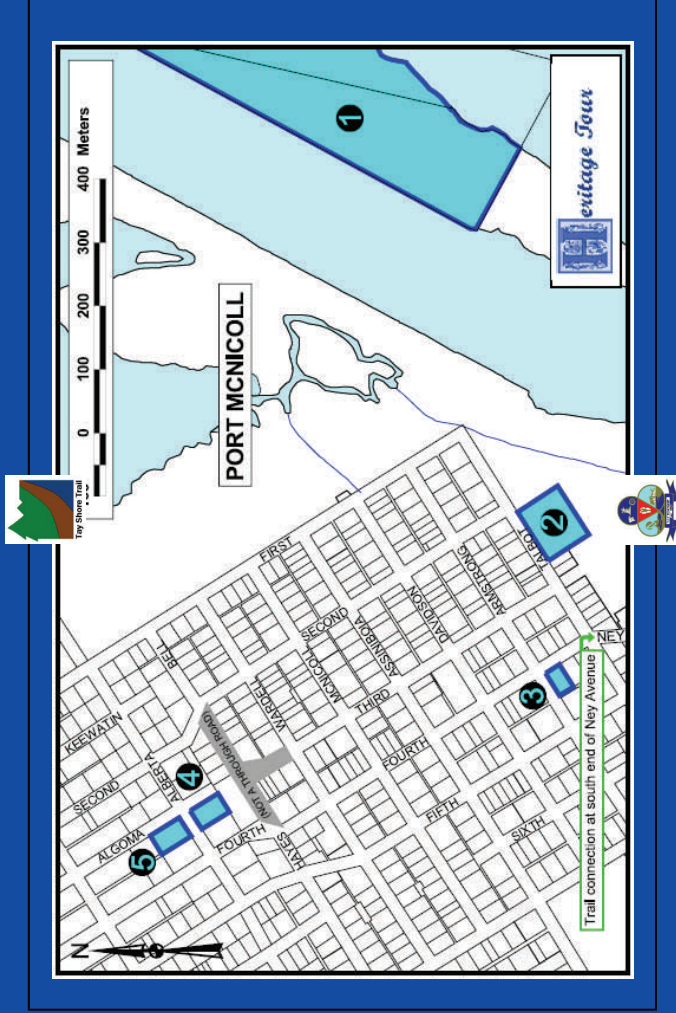


4. Captain McCannell's Home, 556 Algoma Ave.
Home of Mr. James McCannell Sr, Captain of the Canadian Pacific Railway's *Assiniboia*. Capt. McCannell sailed the *Assiniboia* through hurricane winds and snow squalls in 1913 that incased the ship in ice.



5. Captain McIntyre's Home, 540 Algoma Ave.
Home of Mr. John McIntyre, Captain of the Canadian Pacific Railway's *Manitoba*.







TRILLIUM



The name Trillium was given to this plant because all of its parts comes in groups of 3. Our local species, *Trillium ovatum* can be recognized by its large (up to 5 cm or 3 inches) three white petals, three sepals (small green leaves under the petals) which rise on a stem above three large green leaves (which measure 15 cm or 6 inches). These leaves also are on a tall naked green stem. The white petals change to pink as they age.

Trilliums prefer shady damp forest floor soils that are rich in nitrogen. They grow at low to middle elevations in shaded areas with low to mid light levels. You can find them in early spring (late March to early April) when their stark white flowers make huge noticeable patches against green leaves on the forest floor. Look closely inside a flower with a hand lens and count their 3 stigmas but be careful not to trample them or the soil where they grow!





EASTERN BLUEBIRD



Eastern Bluebirds are found in suburban and rural habitats containing sparse vegetation, scattered trees or other perches. They typically nest in fields, meadows and orchards, avoiding both densely wooded and congested residential areas. They prefer open sunny habitats, such as meadows, farm fields, lawns, and pastures, with short vegetation.

Eastern Bluebirds eat a variety of invertebrates, including caterpillars, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, katydids, and spiders. They also feed on wild fruits. Primarily ground feeders, they prefer feeding and nesting in areas with short, sparse vegetation, which affords a clear view of ground-dwelling insects.

Eastern Bluebirds are monogamous. Pairs generally stay together throughout the breeding season, and pairs may breed together for more than one season. Families flock together until fall, when they merge with other family flocks. Adults tend to return to the same breeding territory year after year, but only a small percentage (three to five percent) of young birds return to their natal area to breed.





MALLARD DUCK



Mallards are one of the first ducks to arrive back on the breeding grounds in spring. They are adaptable and may nest near a lake, pond, river, or even woodland pool. Their preferred habitats, however, are the natural grasslands that surround little reed-ringed sloughs, or marshy areas. Mallards are dabbling ducks, meaning that they do not dive underwater for their food, but feed at or just below the surface. Their diet consists mainly of plants such as wetland plants and grains, but on occasion mallards will eat insects, worms and other invertebrates.

The nesting site may be close to a pond but is frequently some distance from the water.

Normally on the ground, the nest is little more than a depression lined with bits of rushes, grass, weeds, or other material close at hand. It is usually in good cover such as thick grass, or under a buckbrush, brier rose, or other prairie shrub. The eggs, which may differ in colour from female to female from dull green to almost white, are laid daily. Up to 15 may be deposited, but the usual number is between 8 and 12. Within five to eight weeks, mallard ducklings have full-grown feathers and are ready for flight.





HEALTHY EATING ON THE GO!

Choosing healthy, portable snacks and drinks to take on your walk is as important as planning your trail route and what shoes you will be wearing.

Eating a small snack and drinking water during your walk will give you the energy boost needed to finish the trail, as these items will keep you hydrated and feeling good.

Try one of these snack/beverage suggestions recommended from other experienced walkers:

Trail mix – make your own to suit your tastes. Combine your favourite whole grain cereal with dried cranberries or raisins, peanuts or other nuts/seeds, pretzel sticks, etc.

Fresh fruit or veggies – a common sense choice but often overlooked. Choose easy to eat veggies/fruit such as baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, pepper sticks, grapes, cherries, strawberries, etc.

Cheese and crackers – easy to eat and filling. Pack cubes of cheese or a ready to go cheese product. Add a few whole grain crackers or bread sticks for a snack that is a good source of calcium and fibre.

Peanut butter and banana in a whole wheat wrap – a well rounded snack! Spread the peanut butter on the wrap and roll around the whole banana. This snack is a great hit with old and young alike!

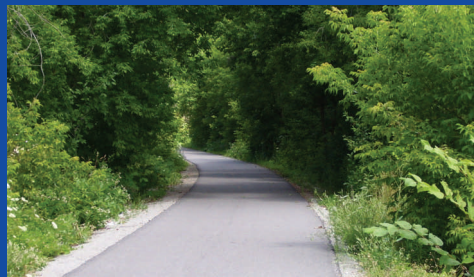
Water – the beverage of choice for most walkers. Try adding lemon or lime wedges to your water bottle for more flavour. You can also include ice cubes, as a cool beverage is more appealing after a long walk.





TRESTLE PARK TO VICTORIA HARBOUR

Parking	Trestle Park, Vents Beach Road and Albert Street
Picnic Areas	Trestle Park, Albert Street Parkette, rest areas at various locations, MacKenzie and Oakwood Parks
Distance (km)	3.70 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	4,625 steps
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Marsh Area-Hogg River-Municipal Dock-MacKenzie, Sunset, Eplett and Oakwood Parks-Victoria Harbour Heritage Walking Tour







WHITE ELM TREE



In years past, the elm was used widely as a shade tree and as a street tree, because of its graceful, arching, vase-like growth form and its tolerance of most stress factors.

The elm has been seriously affected by an introduced fungal disease, dutch elm disease (DED). DED is an extraordinarily efficient fungal disease that causes the trees to wither and eventually to die by blocking the circulation of water and nutrients through the inner bark.

A lone mature and healthy elm stands along the Tay Shore Trail between Winfield Drive and Vents Beach Road.





HISTORY OF VICTORIA HARBOUR

Victoria Harbour began with the opening of a lumber mill by John Hogg in the 1830s, but it wasn't until the arrival of John Waldie in 1886 that the village truly began to develop. Waldie began the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company (VHL Co.), which grew to operate three mills along the shoreline of Georgian Bay at Victoria Harbour, the second-largest milling operation in Canada at its peak around 1905. Waldie had a strong sense of community, providing his workers with company housing, a company store where workers were given credit during the mill's off-season and a village library. The company houses were all painted in the company colours, a bright yellow with white trim, earning the village the nickname of "Canary Towne".

Waldie was also a religious man, making his last donation to Victoria Harbour in 1906 with the completion of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Waldie died the following year, at the peak of the VHL Co.'s operations. However, the mill's prosperity didn't last long as resources began to decrease. As lumber along Georgian Bay became scarce, the mill suffered heavily, eventually closing in 1927. Despite the threat of fire, several of the original company buildings still stand, including the original Company Store on William Street.





VICTORIA HARBOUR HERITAGE WALKING TOUR



1. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 95 Jephson St.

The Church was built by the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company as a gift from the Lumber Company President, John Waldie in 1906.



2. Victoria Manor, 121 Richard St.

Built in 1915 for Jacob Gill, who was a foreman at the Victoria Lumber Co. mills. Victoria Manor received its name when it later operated as a retirement home.



3. Old Municipal Office, 152 William St.

Constructed in 1914 as a library, the building was also used as municipal offices for Victoria Harbour.



4. Harbour Hardware, 154 William St.

Built by the Victoria Harbour Lumber Co. to supply families of the men who worked in the mills. It was popularly known as the "Company Store".



5. The Balaclava House, 278 Albert St.

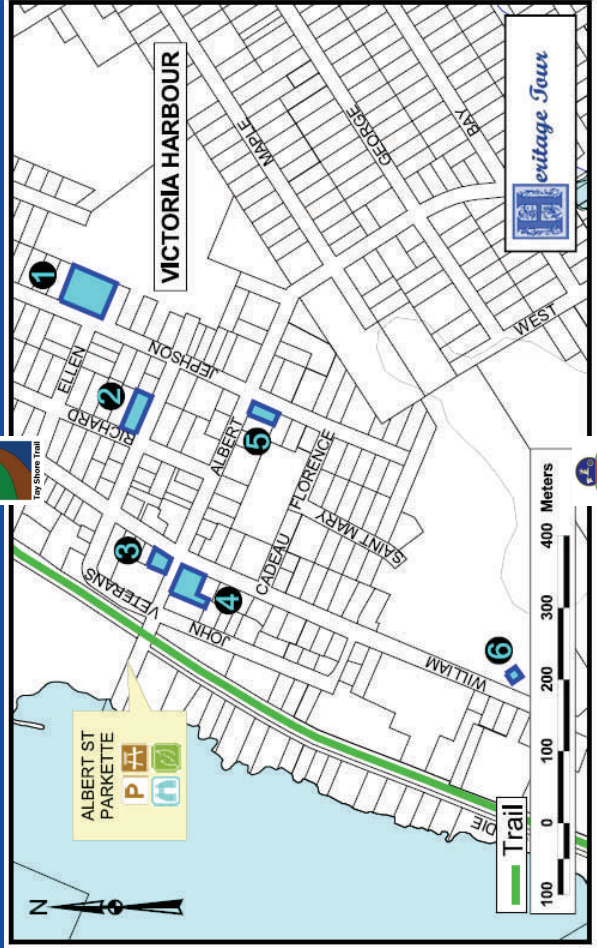
Built in 1910, the "Balaclava House" was named to commemorate the owner's great, great uncle who fought in the Crimea War of 1857. The house is still in pristine condition.



6. Range Light, 283 William St.

Originally a set of two built in 1910. The matching light was demolished in 1970. This structure was manned by a light-keeper for many years and is no longer in use.







MONARCH BUTTERFLY



During migration, monarchs conserve energy by riding columns of rising warm air, which greatly reduces the need to flap their wings for sustained periods. They frequently reach high altitudes where strong prevailing winds speed their flight. Glider pilots have observed migrating monarchs flying more than a kilometre above the ground.

Adult monarchs will feed on the nectar of many flowers, but they breed only where milkweeds occur. The leaves of the milkweed are the sole food of the larvae, or caterpillars, that emerge from the eggs.



In the fall, monarchs migrate thousands of kilometres, travelling from Canada to Mexico. The monarch is unique among North American butterflies in performing an annual two-way migration in vast numbers from one area of the continent to another. No other known insect among the millions of species on earth performs a similar migration.





PORCUPINE



The porcupine is a slow and deliberate feeder, relying on its nose rather than its eyes to guide its selection of plants. Porcupines are said to have good memories and to be intelligent animals that are capable of learning quickly.

For much of the year the porcupine leads a solitary existence. Porcupines group together for winter denning or food rather than social reasons. Several porcupines may gather around a favoured food, and up to a hundred have been found in large rock piles in the winter. At these times they are usually tolerant and ignore each other totally, although there may be some teeth chattering over food. Young porcupines are often playful and shadowbox using their tails.

A treed porcupine will survey danger with an air of unconcern, but should the enemy start to climb the tree, the porcupine will back down flicking and lashing its tail. When caught in a trap, a porcupine may, in its struggles, embed its own quills in itself. It removes these quills, or foreign quills from another porcupine, with considerable dexterity using teeth and front paws.

Porcupines have approximately 30,000 quills. Despite popular belief, porcupines are not capable of throwing their quills.





CHIPMUNK



Chipmunks are quite vocal. People walking in the woods do not always realize that they are hearing chipmunks, as some of the sounds that chipmunks make are more like bird chirps.

When a chipmunk is startled, it runs quickly along the ground giving a rapid series of loud chirps. It may be that this sudden burst of noise startles predators, helping the chipmunk to escape. Chipmunks frequently call with a high-pitched "chip" or "chuck" repeated over and over at intervals of one or two seconds. This scolding noise is often made by a chipmunk watching an intruder from a safe vantage point. Some scientists think that it may also be the mating call of the female chipmunk.

Chipmunks construct expansive burrows which can be more than 3.5 m in length with several well concealed entrances. The sleeping quarters are kept extremely clean as waste material is stored in refuse tunnels. Nests are insulated with grasses, shredded leaves, or the fluffy seed heads of plants. The cheek pouch size of a chipmunk increases with age. They gather food throughout the warmer seasons which is stored beneath the nest providing a food supply for the coldest part of the winter.





Safe Cycling

Remember these important hand signals when riding your bike:

- *Left turn*--left arm straight out pointing left.
- *Right turn*--left arm pointed straight up or right arm straight out pointing right.
- *Stop*--left arm pointed straight down.

Know your 2-4-1 helmet salute to wear it right every time!

2- Two fingers above your eyebrow to the bottom of your helmet.

4- Four fingers to make a v-shape around the bottom of your ears.

1- One finger under the strap beneath your chin.

Remember to check your bike regularly to avoid having to do maintenance on the trail.

When bicycling on trails or paths:

1. Keep speeds down.
2. Yield to pedestrians.
3. Yield to traffic before entering or crossing a roadway.





VICTORIA HARBOUR TO CASWELL ROAD

Parking	Albert Street
Picnic Areas	Albert Street Parkette, rest areas at various locations, MacKenzie and Oakwood Parks
Distance (km)	3.25 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	4,062.5 steps
Features	-Bush area -Municipal Dock -MacKenzie, Sunset and Oakwood Parks







NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ALTERING SHORELINES



The house above isn't environmentally friendly at all. Its bare shoreline is subject to erosion. The solid dock destroys wildlife habitat and alters currents causing erosion elsewhere. Fertilizers and chemical runoff damage water quality, encourage geese and increase algae. The paved laneway allows pollution-laden runoff to flow to the water. A loss of trees equals an AC unit working overtime. Removal of vegetation means more work for you and more runoff. Poor fuel management leads to deadly spills. A hardened shoreline eliminates the shoreline's natural filter, degrading water quality and blocks wildlife access for nesting, etc. It also looks terrible when it starts to crumble, as it inevitably will. Help protect our wonderful shores of Georgian Bay. Remember to get permits for any work along the shoreline from the Ministry of Natural Resources and/or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.





PROTECTING AND ENHANCING NATURAL SHORELINES



A natural shoreline as pictured above is a great wildlife habitat. The small floating dock has minimal impact on the "ribbon of life". The narrow, winding, gravel footpath reduces erosion. Trimmed trees and awnings provide natural air conditioning with the view maintained. Low maintenance native plants provide a shoreline buffer and habitat. The house is set back from the shore and is in character with the setting. A well-maintained motorboat with an electric or modern four-stroke outboard should be operated with low wake near shore.

The great thing about nature is its ability to heal itself is it's not too late to restore an altered shore to its natural state, by replanting native shrubs and grasses, removing breakwalls and switching to shore-friendly docks. All you have to do then is recline into your hammock, put your feet up, and let Mother Nature do her thing.





PILEATED WOODPECKER



The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the largest woodpeckers found in North America.

These birds mainly eat insects (especially beetle larvae and carpenter ants) as well as fruits, berries and nuts. They use their long, sticky tongue to poke into holes and drag out the insects. They often chip out large and roughly rectangular holes in trees while searching out insects.

The call is a wild laugh, similar to the Northern Flicker. Its drumming can be very loud, often sounding like someone striking a tree with a hammer. This bird favors mature forests, but has adapted to use second-growth stands and heavily wooded parks as well.

Pileated woodpeckers will make up to 16 holes in each tree to allow escape routes should a predator enter the tree. They peck the bark around the entrance holes to make the sap run from the tree to prevent some predators such as snakes from entering the nest.





SKUNK



Skunks are especially fond of grasshoppers, crickets, and insect larvae such as white grubs, army worms, and cutworms. They will even eat wasps and bees, which they kill with their front feet.

A skunk is not an aggressive animal and will always try to retreat from a human or other large enemy. An angry skunk will growl or hiss, stamp its front feet rapidly, or even walk a short distance on its front feet with its tail high in the air. The striped skunk cannot spray from this position. To perform that defence it usually humps its back and turns in a U-shaped position so that both the head and tail face the enemy. The spray can reach as far as 6 m and can be aimed with considerable accuracy for up to 3 m. Various remedies are recommended to get rid of the odour on clothing.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources suggests the following recipe: 1 l hydrogen peroxide + 50 ml baking soda + 5 ml dishwashing liquid. Skunks seem to be aware of the repulsiveness of their own odour and refrain from scenting on themselves. They avoid musking in confined spaces, and their dens have little of the skunk odour about them.

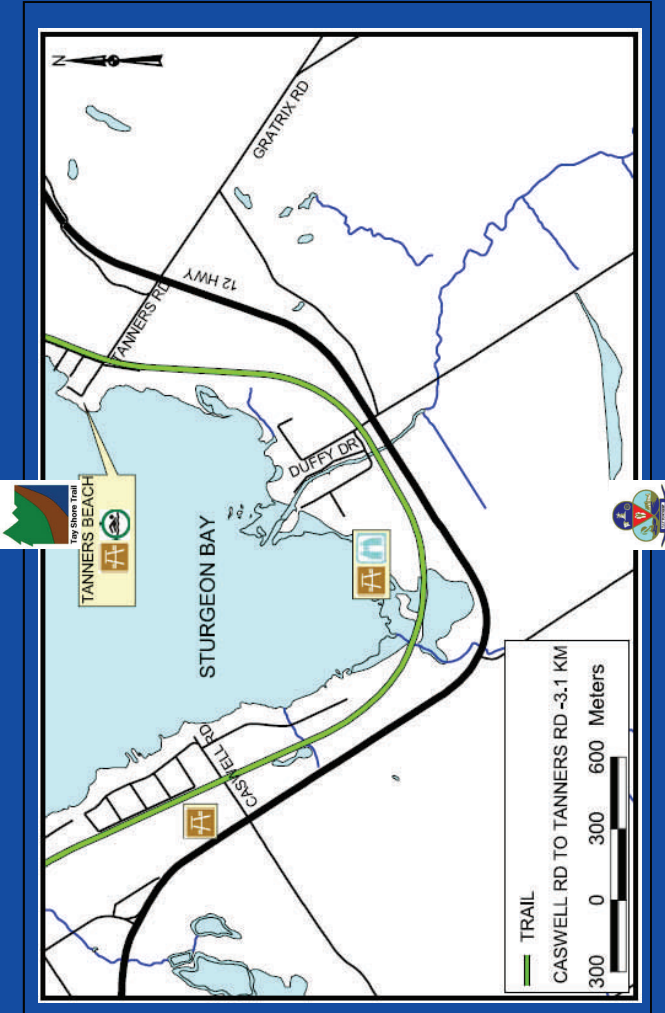




CASWELL ROAD TO TANNERS ROAD

Parking	Albert Street in Victoria Harbour, Pine Street in Waubaushene
Picnic Areas	Albert Street Parkette, rest areas at various locations and Tanners Beach
Distance (km)	3.16 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	3,950 steps
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Bush area-Municipal Beach-Sturgeon River-Marsh/wetland area







WILD STRAWBERRY



Wild Strawberry is a common creeping plant that grows in forests, fields, lawns, forest edges, roadsides, and streamsides (just about anywhere). It can grow up to six inches tall, and its leaves are split into three leaflets.

Wild Strawberries bloom from April to June. Flowers are 3/4 inch wide, with five white petals. The petals are attached to a cone-shaped part of the flower. This cone starts off yellow, then later becomes larger, thicker, and redder. This is the "strawberry" part of the Wild Strawberry plant, and it contains dry seeds.

Many animals eat strawberry fruits, including Common Crow, Gray Catbird, Sparrows, Wild Turkey, Cedar Waxwing, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Virginia Opossum, Striped Skunk, Eastern Chipmunk, Meadow Vole, White-footed Mouse, and Eastern Box Turtle. Birds and other animals can help Wild Strawberry spread by passing seeds out in new places.





SNAPPING TURTLE



Snapping Turtles are noted for their pugnacious dispositions when out of the water and their powerful beak-like jaws that are capable of inflicting serious injury including amputation of digits.

Common snappers have long tails with spiky protrusions, ridged shells, as well as long flexible necks which can reach one-half to two-thirds of the length of their shells, making handling dangerous. They cannot fully retract their head and appendages, relying on fierce displays when aggravated.

Common snappers can live up to 39 years in captivity, while the lifespan of wild individuals is estimated to be around 30 years.

Female snapping turtles must be several years old before they are able to reproduce. Each year, they return to the same area to lay their eggs, which usually occurs at night or in the morning. Incubation usually takes place within three (3) months but can extend to more than 120 days.





WOOD DUCK



Wood Ducks can be found in woodland streams, forest bottomlands, river valleys, swamps, marshes, lakes, and creeks. They are the only cavity-nesting duck in Canada, but are unable to make their own cavities to nest in. Therefore, the wood duck depends on tree diseases, fire scars, lightning, and cavity-making birds like the pileated woodpecker for nest sites.

The Wood Duck's diet consists mainly of aquatic plants, supplemented with aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, seeds, acorns, berries, and grains.

Young Wood Ducks are precocial, meaning that after hatching they are mobile, completely covered with down, and capable of finding their own food. Nests are situated 1 to 15 metres above the ground in large trees. They are brooded by their mother the day after hatching. After 26 to 36 hours, the female remains outside the cavity and beckons for the young. Using their sharp claws, the young jump and flutter to the ground, generally landing unharmed and are then guided to the water by the mother. Female Wood Ducks exhibit extreme site fidelity, returning to the same breeding ground year after year.





MOSQUITO



In its life cycle the mosquito undergoes four distinct stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Female mosquitoes lay their eggs one at a time or together in rafts of a hundred or more eggs

on the surface in fresh or any stagnant water. Most eggs hatch into larvae in about 48 hours. A female mosquito may lay a raft of eggs every third night during its life span if it can find enough blood to develop the eggs.

Only female mosquitoes suck blood so that their eggs can mature prior to laying. The main route of human infection of West Nile Virus is through the bite of an infected mosquito.

BLACK FLY

Like mosquitoes, most black flies gain nourishment by sucking the blood of other animals, although the males feed mainly on nectar. They are usually small, black or gray, with short legs and antennae. Black fly populations swell from Mid-May to July, becoming a nuisance to humans engaging in common outdoor activities.



Remember to either cover up or put on bug repellent to avoid both bites and infection at the same time!





TANNERS ROAD TO COLDWATER ROAD

Parking	Pine Street and Coldwater Road
Picnic Areas	Tanners Beach, Pine Street, Government Dock, rest areas at various locations and Coldwater Road Parkette
Distance (km)	3.30 km
Total Number of Steps (average)	4,125 steps
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Bush area-Municipal Beach-Government Dock-Marsh/wetland area-Waubashene Heritage Walking Tour







THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES



Trees shelter buildings from wind and sun and reduce storm water run off and lawn watering by retaining rainfall and dispersing it slowly. Studies show that a well treed property fetches 3 to 7 % more in property value and provide the same cooling effect as 15 room sized air conditioners, reduce energy costs by 18-50%.

One mature tree cleans the air pollution created by a car driving 11,300 miles and one acre of trees removes five tones of carbon dioxide from the air each year. They also create enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe for one year.

Throughout our communities, streets with trees assist in absorbing street noise and have up to 2/3 less dust particles than streets without trees.

Trees act as a home and shelter from the elements for wildlife and other living organisms. Remember, don't remove trees during nesting season which is typically spring to mid fall. Birds ingeniously hide their nests from you, so you won't see them until it is too late.





HISTORY OF WAUBAUSHENE

The original sawmill in Waubaushene opened in 1861 and was operated by William Hall until it was purchased by Anson G.P. Dodge in 1870. Dodge formed the Georgian Bay Lumber Company a year later, and included the Waubaushene and Port Severn mills. The Waubaushene mill was so successful that the Georgian Bay Lumber Company head office was moved from Barrie to Waubaushene in 1873. The original mill burned to the ground in 1881, but was rebuilt almost immediately.

Like John Waldie in Victoria Harbour, Dodge promoted community in Waubaushene, providing the village with a hockey and curling rink, a library reading room, gave his employees Friday afternoons off, and provided ice cream and lemons each Dominion Day. Like other milling communities, Waubaushene suffered as the timber supply depleted. The Waubaushene mill closed in 1924, forcing numerous families to leave the village in search of work.

However, the village was revived by tourism in the 1930s, with popular spots like Holland House and the Bayview Dance Hall. Holland House, originally the doctor's residence, held talent nights for local performers, and featured an outdoor dance pavilion for guests. The Bayview Dance Hall advertised dancing every night on their pavilion and performances by local bands. Sadly with the closure of the Canadian Pacific Railway's line through Waubaushene came the closure of the dance halls and the decline in the community's population. Today Waubaushene relies on its seasonal residents and tourism as a means of income.





WAUBAUSHENE HERITAGE WALKING TOUR



1. Christ Church, 22 Hazel St.

Built in 1881, the church was originally named "Memorial Church" in memory of Theodore W. Buck, general manager of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company.



2. Original Library, 115 Coldwater Rd.

Original library built by the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. The building was moved from its original location (20 Willow St) on October 24, 1985.



3. Waubaushene Bridge, Duck Bay Rd.

One of the first iron bridges in Ontario. Residents petitioned for the bridge in 1882, but the bridge was not put in place until 1927.



4. Doctor's Residence, 26 Willow St.

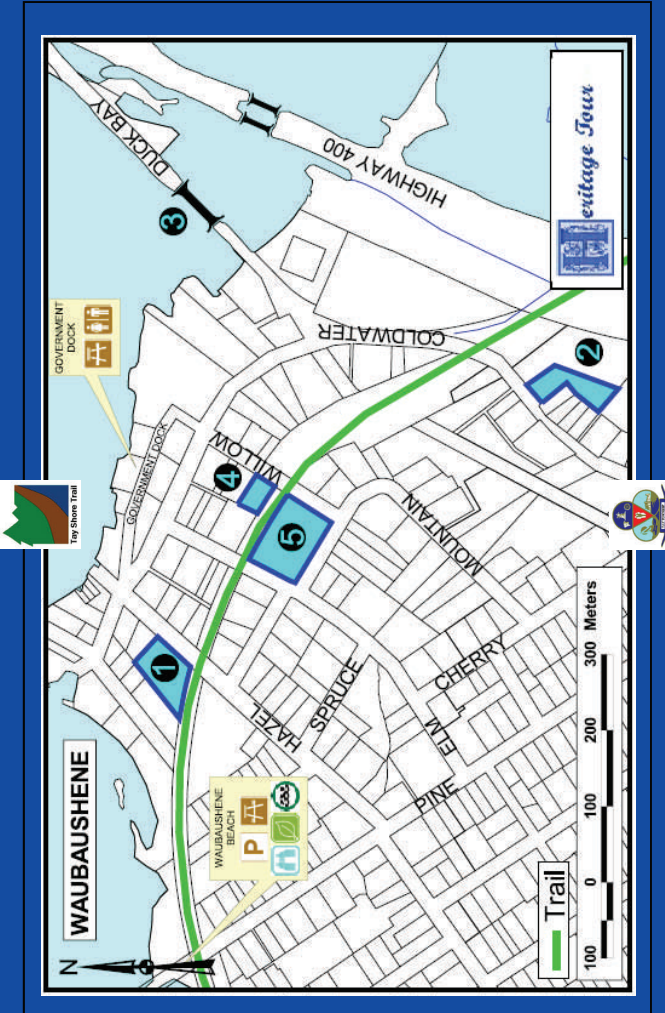
Location of Dr. Hanley's house (Waubaushe's first doctor) and later the popular gathering place "Holland House". Today the location is used by the Royal Canadian Legion.



5. Railway Station, 36 Willow St.

Location of the Waubaushene Grand Truck and later Canadian Pacific Railway Station.





Heritage Tour

WAUBAUSHENE

GOVERNMENT DOCK

WAUBAUSHENE BEACH

GOVERNMENT DOCK

GOLDWATER

MILLIM

MOUNTAIN

HAZEL

SPRUCE

PINE

CHERRY

100 0 100 200 300 Meters

Trail





WHITE TAILED DEER



Abundant food makes almost any forested or bushy area suitable for white-tailed deer during the summer, but as snow deepens the deer concentrate in "deer yards," or areas that provide food and shelter from storms and deep snow. Sometimes they move from summer to winter range that requires travelling many kilometres.

During the spring and summer the white-tailed deer's diet consists of leafy material from a variety of woody plants, grasses, herbs, and forbs. It also includes such delicacies as fiddleheads, mushrooms, and blueberries. When summer's lush vegetation turns brown and dry in autumn, the deer must depend largely on the twigs and buds that are within their reach. Acorns are a favourite autumn food for white-tailed deer living in Eastern Canada, and in Western Canada grain piles left in fields attract white-tailed deer throughout the autumn and winter. Even in winter white-tailed deer consume green forage, such as winter-green forbs, grasses, and sedges.





POISON IVY



Please stay on the trail. Poison ivy can be found in wooded areas along the Tay Shore Trail.

Poison ivy is a woody vine that is well known for its ability to produce urushiol, a skin irritant that causes an itching rash for most people. Found normally in wooded areas, especially along edge areas, poison ivy grows vigorously throughout much of North America. It also grows in exposed rocky areas and in open fields and disturbed areas.

The reaction caused by poison ivy, urushiol-induced contact dermatitis, is an allergic reaction. Some people simply do not have an allergy to urushiol. Once the urushiol poison has had contact with the skin, it is quickly bound to the skin. The poison can be washed off within a short time after contact, but once bound to the skin, it cannot be washed away.

The oozing fluids released by itching blisters do not spread the poison. The appearance of a spreading rash indicates that some areas received more of the poison and reacted sooner than other areas.





TREE SWALLOW



Tree Swallows prefer open habitats, such as the edges of woods, and areas near water, including marshes, shorelines, and swamps. Tree Swallows are quite tolerant of humans. Tree Swallows are aerial feeders. They forage over land and water, swerving and dipping to feed on flying insects such as beetles, midges, crane flies, horseflies, ants, moths, grasshoppers, dragonflies, and mayflies.

In winter, they sometimes feed on berries, especially those of the wax myrtle. Tree Swallows and Myrtle Warblers are the only birds that can digest these berries, and this might help explain why Tree Swallows winter farther north than any other North American swallow.

Outside of the breeding season, Tree Swallows are highly social birds. During the breeding season, however, these swallows are territorial and aggressively defend their nests against other Tree Swallows (called conspecifics) and against other species. They are solitary nesters, but they may nest in loose aggregations with nests 10 to 15 metres from one another. They frequently compete for nest sites with House Wrens and House Sparrows.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tay Township is proud to provide the Tay Shore Trail to residents and visitors to enjoy as a natural recreational venue.

This invaluable resource was made possible by countless individuals and organizations.

Tay Township Council extends their gratitude to all who have made this project possible.

Happy Trails!



