

Guide to the Maitland Trail



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PHOTO: PATRICK DONNELLY



25th Anniversary
1975 - 2000

25 YEARS ON THE TRAIL...

FIRST EDITION ~ SUMMER 2000

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Official guidebook of the...



...was designed by...

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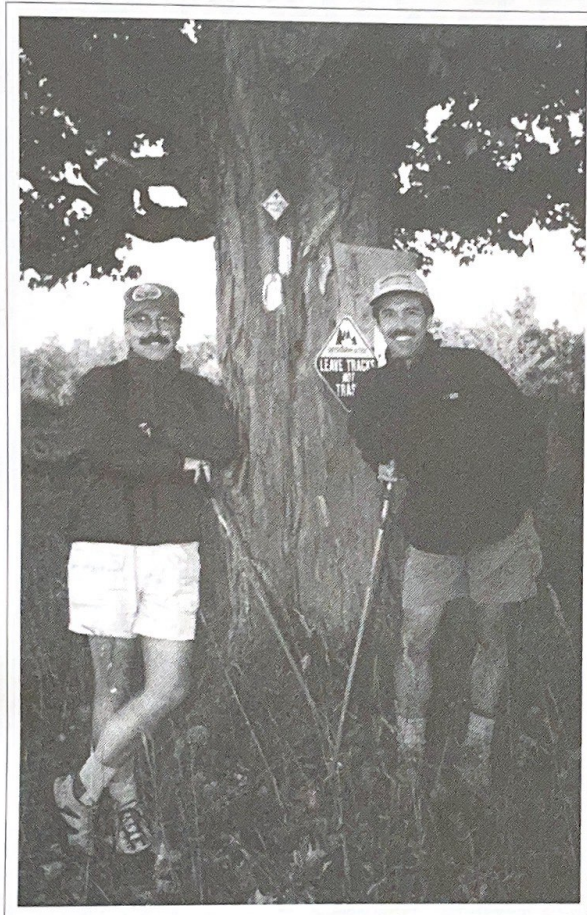
Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources
through the
Maitland Valley
Conservation Authority



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Preface **3**

In September 1998, Daniel Holm & Patrick Donnelly hiked the Maitland Trail from end to end. It took them 2 days...



... and some occasional head-scratching — to find their way from the trail's end near Auburn to the Menesetung Bridge in Goderich.

Existing maps did not present the scale needed for ease of hiking; signage at trail entrance and exit points was not always available; and without a guidebook, they had to rely on prior discussions with other hikers and Maitland Trail Association members for critical information.

Thus the idea of the Maitland Trail Guidebook was born.


Throughout 1999, Dan & Pat returned to the trail, hiking it in sections while making notes. Collaborating with Association President Wendy Hoernig, it was decided to prepare a guidebook for release in the new millennium, in celebration of the Maitland Trail Association's 25th Anniversary.

This is the result of their combined efforts ~ Dan drafting the guide, Pat planning and co-ordinating the maps ~ in addition to generous sponsorship by River Line Nature Company, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources, and The Word & Image Studio of Hensall who designed this guidebook's unique, hiker-friendly 'look'. Special recognition must also be given to the hard work and commitment of MTA members and volunteers, as well as the kind support and co-operation of the landowners who, together, make it possible for us all to enjoy the scenic diversity of the Maitland Trail.



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25 YEARS ON THE TRAIL...

History of the... Maitland Trail

Formed on July 2, 1975, the Maitland Trail Association proposed to build a trail which would follow the path of the Maitland River.

After the first burst of enthusiasm and activity in the early years when the route was chosen, landowners identified & contacted, and actual trailwork started, progress on the trail's development slowed down considerably for a few years and it was thanks to two very dedicated, hard-working individuals — Bill Wisser and Rod Lafontaine — that the idea didn't fizzle out. These two men were eventually able to encourage others to become more involved; in recent years, both the trail and support for it have steadily grown. Now, a group of mostly retirees works every Thursday almost year-round, and other members take part in weekend work parties. The MTA community also takes part in the federal Katimavik program, and the participants work with the Thursday team.

Great emphasis is placed on making the trail as environmentally gentle as possible, and work will continue over coming years to improve it even more. Encouraging people to walk and hike can't help but create a certain amount of wear and tear on the actual footpath, no matter what measures are taken to prevent or limit it. The MTA firmly believes, however, that the benefits far outweigh the few problems encountered. Hikers develop and enhance their love, understanding and concern for our environment and are active in efforts to protect it.

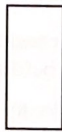
The Maitland Trail Association encourages hiking, walking, snowshoeing and nature study as forms of recreation along this trail — which is built largely on private land through the courtesy of the landowners whose permission is granted for use of the trail as a footpath. Motorized vehicles of any type are not permitted.

6 Trail Description...



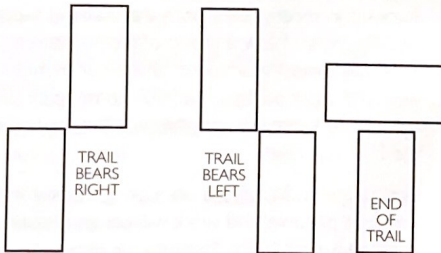
Entrances to the Maitland Trail are marked by distinctive identification plates such as the one shown at left...

...and by **white blazes** 2" wide and 6" long, marked on trees or posts so that they are within the hiker's line of vision.



TRAIL BLAZE
"Trail is straight ahead!"

Two blazes (one above the other) means a change of direction; the top blaze indicates which direction to follow.



- Side trails,
 - lookout points or
 - paths leading to points of interest
- ...are marked with **blue blazes**.

Some trail sections are challenging! Proper footwear is recommended, and it's a good idea to bring water & snacks to keep energy levels up, and extra clothing to keep you warm and dry.




25 YEARS ON THE TRAIL...

...Trail User's Code **7**

A very large percentage of this trail is on private land. Permission is granted *only if all hikers respect this fact* by staying only on the marked trail and leaving no other evidence of their passage.

Your safety is your responsibility. While the Maitland Trail Association does its best to both maintain and improve the trail, conditions can change in minutes, and much of the trail is relatively remote. Carry a first aid kit, clothing for all weather and plenty of food and water. Let others know where you are going and when you plan to return.

Please abide by the Trail User's Code:

1. Hike only along marked routes.
2. Use the stiles, where provided. 
3. No motorized vehicles are permitted.
4. No camping or fires are permitted (except in designated areas).
5. Walk along the edge of fields, not across them.
6. No fishing/swimming from Menesetung Bridge.
7. Do not climb the railings of Menesetung Bridge.
8. Protect — and do not disturb — wildlife and plants.
9. Take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints!
10. Do not climb bridge railings, barricades, fences.
11. No littering. Please carry out what you carry in.
12. No cutting or marking bridge or trees.
13. No hunting. Do not disturb wildlife.
14. Pets are permitted on leash only. Clean up after your pet.

**TRAILS ARE USED
AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

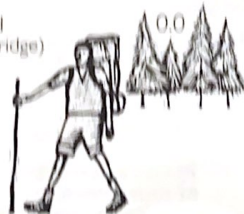


Hike the entire trail, end-to-end, and receive this special MTA crest!

8 Table of Distances... Maitland Trail

West to East (km)	Location	East to West (km)
0.0	CPR Station, Goderich	44.5
1.2	Menesetung Bridge (mid-point)	43.3
3.5	Hwy #21 at Saltford	41.0
7.3	Colborne Riverside Park	37.2
10.4	Hydro Corridor Crossing	34.1
12.8	Morris Tract (side trail junction)	31.7
14.1	Falls Reserve (north end)	30.4
17.4	Benmiller at County Road #1	27.1
25.2	County Road #31 (at farm)	19.3
26.1	County Road #31 (at Johnston's gravel pit)	18.4
31.5	Caboose	13.0
34.2	Boundary Bridge	10.3
36.8	Little Lakes	7.7
39.9	School Road (at Heron Line junction)	4.6
42.4	Robertson Tract (at Pinery Line)	2.1
44.5	Trail's End (near Auburn Bridge)	0.0

TREAD LIGHTLY &
CARRY A BIG SMILE



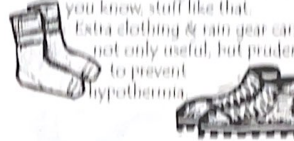
25 YEARS ON THE TRAIL...

...Special Considerations 9



Dress appropriately!

Sturdy, comfy shoes, sun protection – you know, stuff like that. Extra clothing & rain gear can be not only useful, but prudent to prevent hypothermia.



Watch out for electric fences!



Campfires are *not* permitted on the Maitland Trail except in designated areas.



Be kind to the animals!

After all, they're sharing their space with us.



Please leash your dog!

And please keep the trail clean for other hikers.

Bring water & munchies!

You'll need up to 2 litres of water per person in hot weather, plus munchies, of course, to keep your energy levels up. Oh, and please pack out any wrappers & other garbage. Thank you!



Blisters have the potential to ruin a good hike. Bandages are a handy item to bring along.



Limber up!

Reasonable fitness will see you through, but be forewarned: parts of the trail are strenuous.

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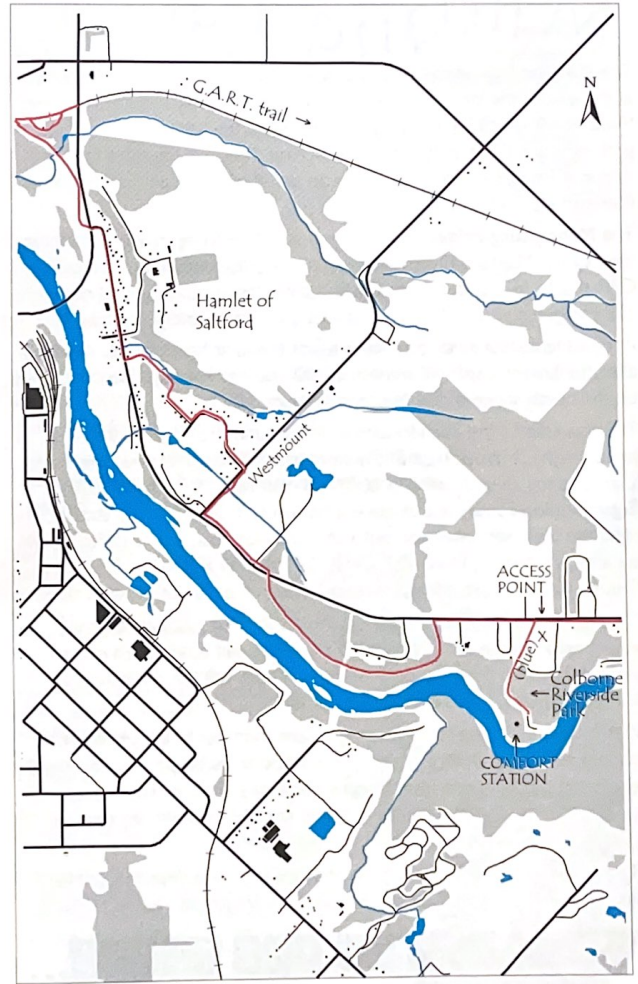
Section A...

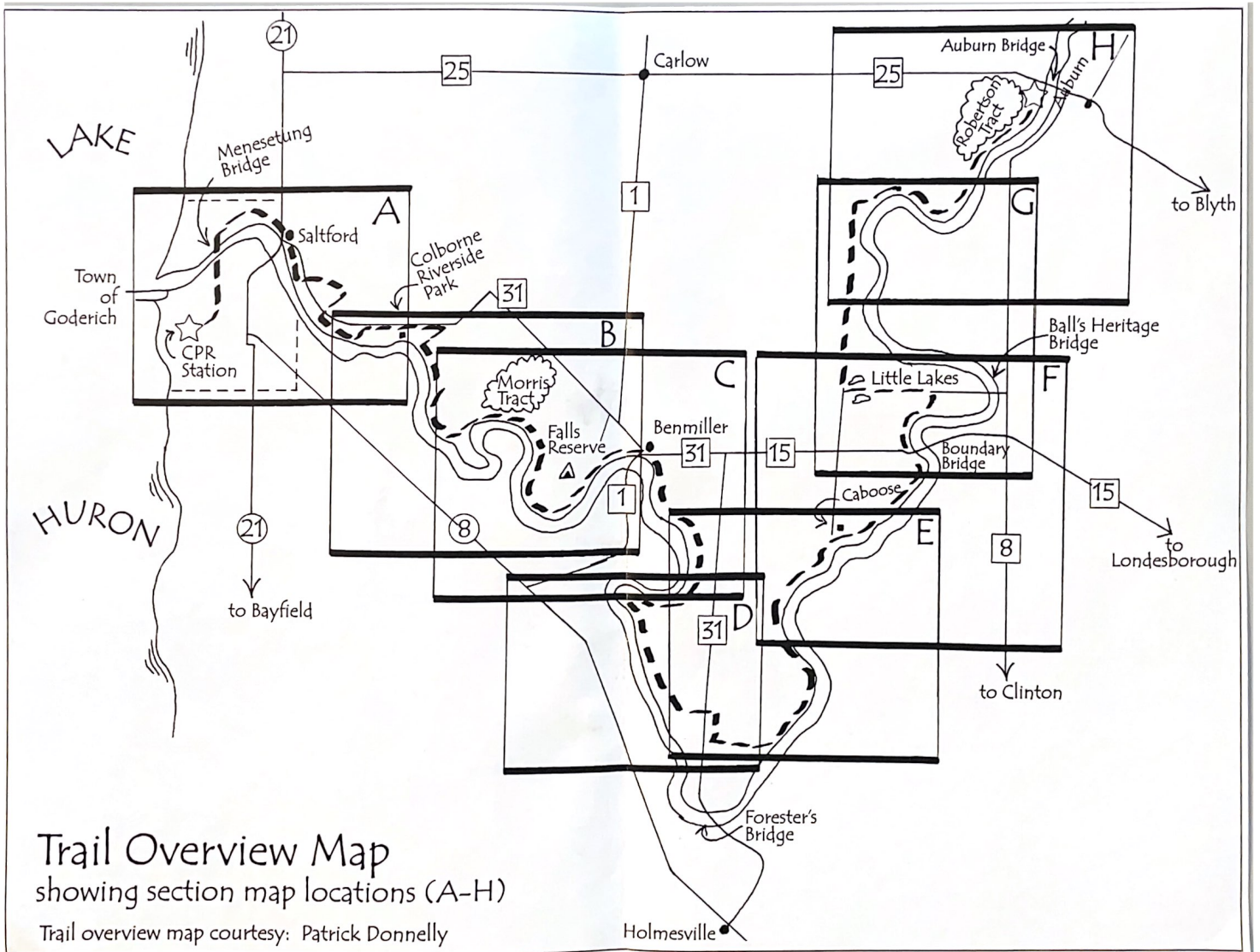
Maitland Trail



...from the CPR Station
to Colborne Riverside Park...

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Trail Overview Map
 showing section map locations (A-H)

Trail overview map courtesy: Patrick Donnelly