

DURHAM OUTDOORS CLUB

Fall 2025

The Durham Outdoors Club is a volunteer organization: Members are encouraged to volunteer based on their personal abilities, experience and areas of interest, to organize and run events and activities, and/or assist in the management of the club's affairs. The Club's survival, as well as the quality of the membership experience for all members, depends on each member's participation.

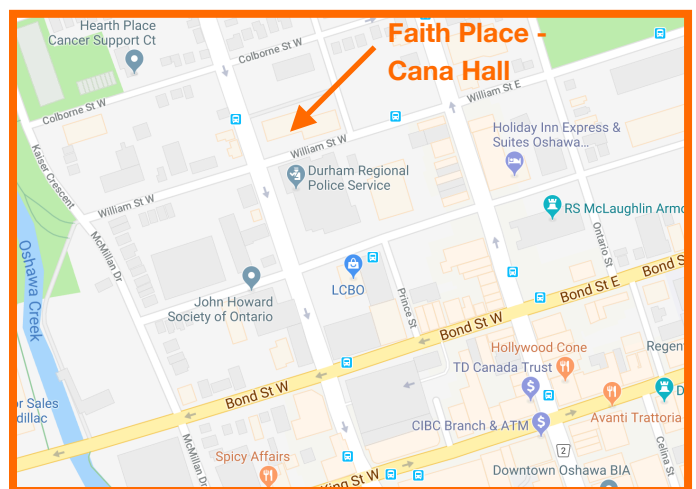
General Meetings

All members and those interested in joining the Club are encouraged to come out to the general meetings. Past events are reviewed, new events are put forth, and current business is reviewed. Generally, there is a presentation by a speaker on a topic or an event of interest to members. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday evening of each month, except July and December.

PLACE: Faith Place - Cana Hall, 44 William Street W, Oshawa (corner of Centre Street and William Street)

TIME: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

DATE: Last Tuesday of every month, except July and December.



President's Message

I joined the Durham Outdoors Club in 1996 with limited hiking and canoeing experience. My hope was that my wife and I could broaden our outdoor experiences.

The 20 plus years as a member has given me more opportunities for adventure than I could have contemplated. The adventures were all member driven with an idea. Some of the adventures were hiking every trail in local conservation areas, canoe tripping in northern Ontario, group camping in cabins and resorts, or a yurt in winter. One member organized a Spa day at Saint Anne's, another member organized rock hunting in Bancroft.

Members have organized and participated in winter camping, dog sledding in Algonquin, ski outings, nosy neighbour walks, cycling, theatre outings and much more.

The Durham Outdoors Club is like most clubs: the more you participate the more adventures you receive!

- Roy Crooks, Vice President (and Past President)

Updates from the Executive

Speakers - We are always looking for someone of interest to speak at our monthly meetings. Please make suggestions to members of the Executive so we can provide informative talks at our general meetings. Remember to forward any ideas for hiking, backpacking, canoeing/kayaking, biking, skiing, walking, urban events or other activities to the appropriate Event Coordinator (listed at the back of the newsletter).

Hike Leader Training - Hike leader training is available through Hike Ontario (www.hikeontario.com). Please consider this one-day course if you are interested in becoming a Certified Hike Leader. Our Club will reimburse a portion of the cost of training once candidates have led three hikes or other activities following completion of the training. Check the Hike Ontario website for upcoming training opportunities. If you are interesting in becoming a hike leader, please contact Mary (mary.koziar@hotmail.com).

Dogs on Hikes and Walks - Before bringing a dog on a hike or walk, you must check with the event leader to be sure pets are welcome, as some participants may be uncomfortable around dogs. All dogs must be on a leash and owners must clean up after their pets.

Overview of Regular Club Activities

Hiking

Our hikes are rated based on the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) guidelines so you can judge if they are suitable for your capabilities:

Slow: 3 km/hour (family friendly)
Moderate: 4 km/hour
Fast: 5 km/hour

Hiking poles are recommended especially in hilly areas or where there has been a recent thaw and conditions have become frozen again. Pack a lunch and hot drink if the hike is for the day. If you are carpooling with someone, make sure you take a plastic shopping bag with you for your muddy boots and offer to help with the cost of gas. You will need icers or snowshoes in the winter; sunscreen and bug repellent in other seasons. Always pack lots of water.

Canoeing

Most of our canoe trips tend to be flat-water trips, that means we mainly paddle lakes and creeks with little current. Trips range from day trips to multi-day overnight canoe camping trips. Flat water trips are rated by length, pace of trip, remoteness in wilderness areas as well as length and the number and ruggedness of portages. **PFDs MUST be worn at all times while on the water.**

It is important to remember that cold water, strong winds, and changing weather conditions can create dangerous situations for any paddler, no matter how experienced or skilled they may be. To come out on any overnight trip some camping and wilderness skills are required. The ability to perform basic paddling strokes and some knowledge of canoe rescue techniques are required from Novice up. If in doubt check with the trip leader. We rate by four categories:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Novice	Easy paddling on small to medium lakes, one to three short easy portages in an easy wilderness area. Overnight trips. Distance approximately 15 km.
Intermediate	More strenuous paddling on larger lakes, longer length of trip. Paddler must be able to paddle in moderate windy conditions and choppy water. Distance approximately 20 km.
Advanced	Large lakes and flowing water. Paddler must have extensive experience in a canoe and ability to pack up camp, set-up again, and paddle day after day. Trips can be several days long to over a week. Strenuous portages, often no set path and very rugged, with distances up to and more than 3 km long. Paddling distance per day can be 25+ km.

Cycling

The cycling season starts in April or May and continues into the Fall, depending on the weather. We classify rides as easy to moderate, usually from 30 km to 50 km. Working up to 50 km is quite easy if you participate in all of our rides or ride on your own on other days. Everyone is welcome, whether as a participant, to suggest a new route, or to lead us on a new route or just some of our old favourites.

All bicycles must be in good working order and we encourage you to get your bike tuned-up prior to the cycling season commencing. **Your bike must have a bell and you must wear a helmet, good footwear, and no loose clothing.** We encourage you to have a light on your bike, preferably both in the front as well as the back of the bike, as well as a light on your helmet. Also cyclists must carry at least one spare tube - two is better - and always bring water, plus a snack for extra energy.

Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, and Winter Camping

In the winter months, the Club often goes cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter camping. Members are encouraged to lead day trips and weekend trips. The club has gone on weekend trips to lodges and camps as well as dog sledding trips in the past.

For winter day trips, it is essential to dress in layers to deal with starting out 'cold' and then getting very warm after exertion. A light shell wind-breaker, long sleeve top of quick-drying material and a fleece vest works well. Avoid cotton. Bring a change of clothes, including socks. Wear sunglasses and consider sun-screen. Pack a light lunch and a hot drink (and take water with you on the trail). Extra gloves are a good idea. It is recommended to carry a small first-aid kit, hand warmers, and a cell-phone in your daypack.

Neighbourhood Walks

Neighbourhood walks go for approximately 1.5 hours. Walks are usually rated easy or moderate and the terrain is generally flat - usually city streets, bicycle trails, or nearby conservation areas.

Urban Events

Club members are encouraged to get together for games nights, bowling, the theatre, musical performances, educational opportunities, outdoor shows and a range of social and cultural events throughout the year. These often incorporate an element of the outdoors such as camping, walks, or hikes. Members are responsible for any admission fees and transportation.

Events Schedule

IMPORTANT: Visit our website (www.durhamoutdoorsclub.ca) to download a copy of the Newsletter. You can also check the Events Schedule page for new activities as well as updates to times, dates, and venues for planned activities and for possible cancellations of events.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP to the event leader in advance of the event.

Please arrive a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start time of an event to get organized and sign the event waiver form. Activities start promptly at the stated start time.

October 2025

Thursday, October 2, 9:00 AM - Cycling: Rice Lake

Rated: Moderate - hills

Distance: 45 km

Meet: 8:45 AM for a 9:00 AM start at the parking lot on north side of County Road 9 (Ganaraska Road) immediately after you go through the lights at Highway 28 north.

Notes: Bring water, sunscreen, snacks. Contact Mary at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Mary - mary100perkins@gmail.com

Saturday, October 4 to October 5 - Canoe Trip: Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park

Rated: Intermediate

Notes: One short portage in, the same one on the way out. Stay on Crab Lake. Maximum four canoes.

Leader: Scott - scott.nokleby@gmail.com

Sunday, October 5, 10:00 AM - Cycling: Lang to Hastings Rail Trail, Lang Pioneer Village

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Distance: ~44 km

Meet: 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start at the Lang Pioneer Village. Park at the David McIntyre Memorial Park, 59 Lang Pioneer Village. Take Highway 7 east towards Ottawa. Turn south on Heritage Line Road (#34). Follow directions toward Lang Pioneer Village

Notes: We will cycle a well surfaced rail trail most of the way to Hastings and return. Bring water, snack, and picnic lunch in Hastings. The trail is not suitable for a road type bike. Contact Roy at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Roy - 905-442-5900

Monday, October 6, 10:00 AM - Hike: Ken Reid Conservation Area

Rated: Easy

Distance: ~8 km, very flat terrain

Meet: 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start at 277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay. Parking is \$4 per car per day, pay at the entrance or online the day of the hike. The parking lot we will meet at is across from the administration building.

Notes: We will hike through most of the trails in Ken Reid. The landscape may look very different as they were hit hard during the March ice storm. Contact Elinor at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Elinor - elinor.major@hotmail.com

Thursday, October 9, 9:00 AM - Cycling: Courtice Bowmanville Loop

Rated: Moderate

Distance: 52 km

Meet: 8:45 AM for a 9:00 AM start at the Courtice Recreation Centre, 2950 Courtice Road just north of Highway 2.

Notes: Bowmanville Route: MSP Bowmanville North. Contact Mary at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Mary - mary100perkins@gmail.com

Saturday, October 11, 1:00 PM - Hike: Rouge National Park End-to-End Continued

Rated: Moderate

Distance: 10.2 km

Meet: Meet at 12:45 PM for a 1:00 PM start at 9619 Reesor Road.

Notes: Contact Murray at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Murray - murrayskan@icloud.com

Tuesday, October 14 to Thursday, October 16 - Hiking Algonquin Getaway

Notes: Two days of hiking to enjoy the autumn colours. We will be staying in three fully serviced cabins at Oxtonque Lake Cottages, 4019 Highway #60 Dwight, ON. Potluck on the Wednesday night.

Contact: Jeannie - 905-728-8051

Sunday, October 19, 9:30 AM - Cycling: Peterborough to Lindsay Rail Trail

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 68 km

Meet: 9:15 AM for a 9:30 AM start at Jackson Park Peterborough, 610 Parkhill Road West, Peterborough.

Notes: The Doube Bridge is open again! A great rail trail with the iconic Doube Bridge, beautiful views. We will cycle through to Nayoro Park in Lindsay on the Scugog River for a picnic lunch. Bring water, snacks and picnic lunch. Contact Elinor at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Elinor - elinor.major@hotmail.com

Thursday, October 23, 10:00 AM - Hike: Heber Down Conservation Area

Rated: Moderate - hills

Distance: 5+ km

Meet: 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start at the parking area at the north end of Cochrane Street in Whitby (north of Taunton Road and as the road turns left parking area is on the right).

Notes: We will hike the conservation area in reverse (clockwise). Contact Mary at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Mary - mary100perkins@gmail.com

Saturday, October 25, 10:00 AM - Hike: Orono Crown Lands Trust

Rated: Moderate

Distance: 5-6 km

Meet: 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start at the parking on Ochonski Road Clarington.

Notes: Please bring water, snack, and Toonie for the parking donation box. Contact Lucia at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Lucia - 365-688-2168 or luciaklloyd@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 PM - Adam Shoalts Presented by the Durham Outdoors Club

Meet: Centennial Albert United Church, 19 Rosehill Boulevard, Oshawa

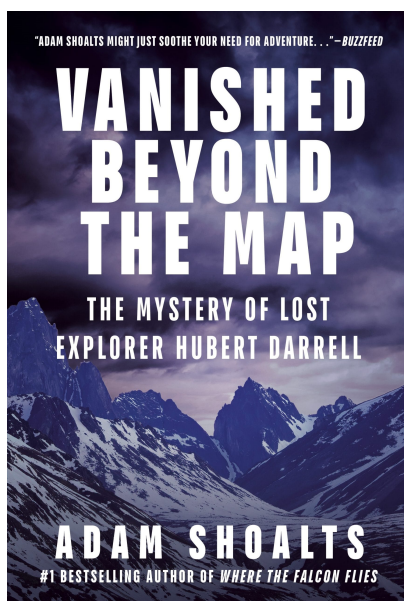
Speaker: Adam Shoalts

Notes: Come join us for an exciting event with renowned explorer Adam Shoalts. Adam will be presenting his latest book "Vanished Beyond the Map - The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell". Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear from one of Canada's top explorers.

Doors open at 7:00 PM with Adam's presentation starting at 7:30 PM. Adam's books will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$15 and available through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/adam-shoalts-presented-by-the-durham-outdoors-club-tickets-1668420313069?aff=oddtcreator>



Thursday, October 30, 10:00 AM - Hike: Long Sault Conservation Area

Did you know...

The Durham Outdoors Club is on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Durham-Outdoors-Club/100064942743487/>



Rated: Moderate - hills

Distance: ~8 km

Meet: Meet 9:45 AM for 10:00 AM start at parking lot at end of Woodley Road. Paid parking so suggest car pooling. Passes are available at local libraries, a year-long CA pass is \$75. I have a pass and can take 3 others.

Notes: We will do the north part of the Cottontail Trail, then do the White Deer Trail clockwise and finish with the bottom part of the Cottontail Trail. Contact Mary at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Mary - mary100perkins@gmail.com

November 2025

Saturday, November 1, 1:00 PM - Hike: Rouge National Park End-to-End Continued

Rated: Moderate

Distance: 7.6 km

Meet: Meet at 12:45 PM for a 1:00 PM start at 7933 14th Avenue, Markham.

Notes: We will do the Monarch Trail Loop. Contact Murray at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Murray - murrayskan@icloud.com

Wednesday, November 5, 9:30 AM - Hike: Fleetwood Creek Natural Area

Rated: Moderate

Distance: ~4 km, some hills

Meet: 9:15 AM for a 9:30 AM start at Ballyduff Road and Wild Turkey Road. The location of Fleetwood is on an unassumed road. We will park on the side of the Ballyduff Road at Wild Turkey Road. Ballyduff Road is off of Highway 35.

Notes: We will hike down the unassumed road to the entrance to Fleetwood's Lookout trail. The Lookout trail is approximately 2.2 km, however, it is hilly and the hike back on the unassumed road is uphill. Very pretty area, hopefully there will still be some colour to see from the lookout. If attendees wish for a longer hike, we can walk down the unassumed road further to the entrance road to the other trails at Fleetwood. Contact Elinor at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Elinor - elinor.major@hotmail.com

Saturday, November 8, 9:30 AM - Hike: Durham East Cross Forest

Rated: Moderate
Distance: 12 km
Meet: Meet at 9:15 AM for a 9:30 AM start at the North parking lot (Pay and Display Parking). Travel north on Regional Road 57. Turn right at Devitts Road. Destination is at 4560 Devitts Road, Scugog.
Notes: Wear appropriate footwear and bring water. For more details see:
<https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/conservation-areas/durham-east-cross-forest.aspx>.
Contact: Scott - 905-259-3896 or scott.nokleby@gmail.com

Saturday, November 22, 9:30 AM - Hike: Long Sault Conservation Area

Rated: Moderate
Distance: 10-12 km
Meet: Meet 9:15 AM for 9:30 AM start in parking lot (Pay and Display Parking). Travel north on Regional Road 57. Turn right at Regional Road 20. Turn left at Woodley Road.
Notes: Wear appropriate footwear and bring water. For more details see:
<https://www.cloca.com/long-sault>
Contact: Scott - 905-259-3896 or scott.nokleby@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 26, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

Meet: Faith Place - Cana Hall, 44 William Street W, Oshawa.
Notes: Social mingle. Bring a snack to share.

Did you know...

The Durham Outdoors Club is now on Instagram. Follow us @durham_outdoors_club

**December 2025**

NOTE: There is no General Meeting in December.

Monday, December 1, 10:00 AM - Hike: Seaton Trail

Rated: Moderate, some steep sections
Distance: ~6-7 km
Meet: Meet at 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start at the Seaton Trail Parking Entrance, 405 Whitevale Road, Whitevale. Parking is free.
Notes: We will hike south on the Seton Trail and back. Time and length depending on enthusiasm of hikers and conditions. Contact Mary at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.
Contact: Mary - 289-385-8642

Saturday, December 6, 9:30 AM - Hike: Durham East Cross Forest

Rated: Moderate

Distance: 12 km

Meet: Meet at 9:15 AM for a 9:30 AM start at the North parking lot (Pay and Display Parking). Travel north on Regional Road 57. Turn right at Devitts Road. Destination is at 4560 Devitts Road, Scugog.

Notes: Wear appropriate footwear and bring water. For more details see:
<https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/conservation-areas/durham-east-cross-forest.aspx>.

Contact: Scott - 905-259-3896 or scott.nokleby@gmail.com

Sunday, December 7, 3:45 PM - Hike: The Illuminated Forest - Ken Reid Conservation Area

Rated: Easy unless there is snow to walk on

Distance: ~6 km, very flat terrain

Meet: 3:30 PM for a 3:45 PM start at 277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay. Parking is \$4 per car per day, pay at the entrance, or online the day of the hike. We will meet in the parking lot across from the Administration Building.

Notes: We will do an approximately one hour hike during the later daylight hour and then by dusk, walk the Illuminated Trail. Very pretty to see the trail lit up with so many lights. The illuminated trail is approximately one kilometre long. Afterwards we will drive into the town of Lindsay for dinner at One Eyed Jack's (I will try to make a reservation for dinner). Contact Elinor at least the day before to confirm attendance and if any changes.

Contact: Elinor - elinor.major@hotmail.com

Did you know...

There are 37 national parks and 11 national park reserves in Canada that represent 31 of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions and protect approximately 343,377 square kilometres of lands in Canada.



Club Administration

Durham Outdoors Club Executive for 2025-2026

The Executive meets four times a year to review old business, new items, and upcoming events for the newsletter.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
President	Vacant		
Past President	Roy Crooks		roycrooks@gmail.com
Secretary	Helen		durhamoutdoorsclub@gmail.com
Treasurer	Maggie		durhamoutdoorsclub@gmail.com
Membership	Jeannie		durhamoutdoorsclub@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Scott Nokleby	905-259-3896	scott.nokleby@gmail.com
Communications Coordinator	Mike Kube		durhamoutdoorsclub@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator	Vacant		
Website Coordinator	Scott Nokleby	905-259-3896	scott.nokleby@gmail.com

Durham Outdoors Event Coordinators for 2025-2026

Please contact the appropriate Event Coordinator with event suggestions or to lead an outing. New events can be proposed at anytime, so you are encouraged to step up and lead an event for the Club.

EVENT COORDINATOR	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Hiking and Backpacking	Mary		marykoziar@hotmail.com
Canoeing and Kayaking	Mike Thomas	905-666-2788	mrqt@rogers.com
Cycling	Elinor	905-721-8897	elinor.major@hotmail.com
Cross-Country Skiing	Vacant		
Neighbourhood Walks	Vacant		
Urban Events	Vacant		

Meeting Schedule and Submissions

The Durham Outdoors Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month (except July and December). The Newsletter is published four times a year, and the Executive meets quarterly. Please ensure matters for discussion by the Executive or for inclusion in the Newsletter are delivered in a timely manner.

NEWSLETTER	WINTER 2026	SPRING 2026	SUMMER 2026	FALL 2026
Deadlines for Submissions	December 1, 2025	March 1, 2026	June 1, 2026	September 1, 2026
Executive Meetings	December 10, 2025	March 11, 2026	June 10, 2026	September 9, 2026