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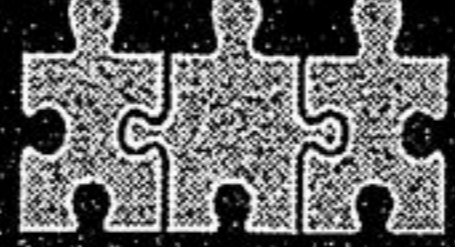
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Help save moraine by walking on it

Ballantrae, King sites host weekend hike to support land trust

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Now that the smell of fall is in the air, there's no better place to be outdoors than on the Oak Ridges Moraine, Charlie Atkinson says.

"Fall is the best time for hiking, period," says Mr. Atkinson, who is leading a hike Sunday in Whitchurch-Stouffville during the annual Walk for the Moraine.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is relying on the funds raised in the King Township event — and in new satellite walks in Whitchurch-Stouffville and other locations — to pay its legal expenses to secure sensitive moraine lands against future development.

The Aurora-based charity hopes to secure 5,000 acres on the moraine by the end of next year, by donation or a legal

agreement called an easement.

So far, it has agreements preserving 1,400 acres and is close to securing 1,300 more, including parcels containing headwater streams in Whitchurch-Stouffville and wetlands in East Gwillimbury.

Pledge forms or information about the trust are available from 905-841-3678 or at www.orta.on.ca

"They know the agreement is there and it's there forever."

The trust's work is succeeding quietly, because people who want to see their lands preserved are more comfortable dealing with a charity than with governments whose politicians may one day change their minds. Gloria Marsh, co-chairperson of the walk, said this week. "They know the agreement is there and it's there forever."

Water that flows through all of York Region's rivers is filtered through the moraine, a landform created by glaciers in a 160-kilometre ring around Greater Toronto.

The main walk this year is at the King campus of Seneca College, which is on Dufferin Street, north of Bloomington Road and contains one of the moraine's beautiful kettle lakes. Registration for guided hikes from two to 10 km is between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Seneca's annual environmental fair is also open to visitors during the day.

A satellite walk will be in the Eldred King Woodlands, a York Regional Forest tract on Hwy. 48, north of Ballantrae.

Mr. Atkinson will lead a hike there of eight km. "It'll be a moderate pace, but it's not too difficult because it's not too hilly," he said.

There will also be a nature walk, shorter and slower paced, at Eldred King. Registration for both hikes is between 1:30 and 2 p.m.

SUE SHERBAN for Mayor X



Future Growth

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- by closely following our Secondary Plan and implementing a sound monitoring strategy that includes local citizens
- by focusing on our environment through policies that protect our walking trails, woodlots and natural waterways
- by implementing the plan to deal with traffic that integrates bicycle and pedestrian pathways

**VOTE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
SUE SHERBAN FOR MAYOR**

Sue invites the public to join her for Family Fun!

**FREE SWIM Saturday, October 18th 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Lebovic Leisure Centre Indoor Pool - 30 Burkholder**

**TRICK OR TREAT October 25th 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Campaign Office on Main street**

CANDIDATE FORUMS

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