

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION.

The *Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation* (ORMF) was founded in 2002 as a governing body dedicated to the enhancement and preservation of the Moraine as a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. Comprised of an independent board of directors, the Foundation diligently distributed in excess of \$14 million in grants since 2002. Working closely with Moraine partners, the ORMF leveraged an additional \$35.8 million in funding for land securement; stewardship; education and public awareness; Oak Ridges Moraine Trail; and research programs. Over the past eight years, the ORMF has successfully supported 177 new conservation and protection projects on the Moraine.

CONTACT THE FOUNDATION.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation

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THE FOUNDATION FUNDING AT WORK.

- More than 5,582 acres of conservation lands have been protected through acquisition or conservation easements
- More than 1000 acres of conservation lands have been enhanced through stewardship projects such as tree planting, wetland creation, riparian plantings, habitat management, wetland enhancement, livestock diversion and prairie restoration
- Close to 16 kilometers of stream or stream-bank restoration has been completed
- More than 85,500 landowners have received stewardship advice
- More than 5,700 school children have learned about the importance of water and wildlife protection through educational programs

It is imperative that the Moraine remain healthy in order to sustain the individual and ecological communities that it impacts. Ongoing resources and efforts are needed to help protect this Provincial treasure. Despite plans to close its doors in 2010, the Foundation will continue to seek resources to persevere and provide long-term funding for ongoing program initiatives, in response to an overwhelming show of support from Moraine stakeholders. For more information on the *Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation*, visit: www.ormf.com

OAK RIDGES MORaine

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a unique and irreplaceable landscape located in your community. Shared and enjoyed by millions of people, it is the source of water for many river systems, home to a wealth of natural habitats and an enormous groundwater recharge system for central southern Ontario. Boasting 273 kilometres of trail and countless outdoor recreation activities, the Moraine offers something for everyone. It is a vibrant place for people to live, work and play in harmony with nature.

WWW.MORAINEFORLIFE.ORG



THE MORaine.
FOR LIFE.



PHOTO BY: MARIE ADAMS

PHOTO BY: KIM LOWES

HAVE YOU HEARD OF...

The Oak Ridges Moraine? It made newspaper headlines in 2001 when the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act and subsequent Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan were passed. Still, several years later there are many people who are unsure of what it is or why it is such an important landscape.

- The Oak Ridges Moraine covers approximately 190,000 hectares and stretches 160 km from the Trent River to the Niagara Escarpment. On average it is 13 km wide.
- The estimated current human population on the Moraine is about 250,000 to 300,000 people. Another five million people live close by.
- The Moraine is more than 90% privately owned, making its residents key to its conservation and protection.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan divides the moraine into four land use designations; Nature Core Areas, Natural Linkage Areas, Countryside Areas and Settlement Areas and instructs municipalities on what uses are allowable and disallowed in the respective designations.
- Part of Ontario's Greenbelt, the Oak Ridges Moraine crosses 32 municipalities.

HOW THE MORAINE HELPS.

One of the Moraine's most important functions is water recharge and discharge. It has been described as Southern Ontario's rain barrel - permeable sands and gravels absorb and collect rain and snow melt, which then slowly filters into the deep aquifers below the ground. This groundwater is used for drinking water in private and public wells across the Moraine.

- The Moraine forms the headwaters of 65 streams flowing south to Lake Ontario and north to Lake Simcoe, Lake Scugog, Rice Lake and Georgian Bay.
- Over one-third of the flow of the Humber, Don, Rouge, and Ganaraska rivers comes directly from the Moraine.
- It is estimated that more than 250,000 people rely on the Moraine to provide them with clean drinking water.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan's water resources policies require municipalities to prepare watershed plans, water budgets and water conservation plans.

WHAT THE MORAINE IS HOME TO.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a land and water rich natural resource. It is home to over 900 species of plants and many birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians - including the provincially and nationally threatened species, the Jefferson Salamander. You can learn a great deal about our natural environment on the Moraine - a living classroom close to home!

- Thirty-two percent of the Moraine is covered in a variety of natural and replanted forests. Five forest areas are greater than 2,000 hectares in size.
- The Moraine's forests and woodlands support the largest and most diverse breeding populations of birds in Southern Ontario.
- There are 32 kettle lakes on the Moraine, most of them in the western portion.
- Only 1% of southern Ontario's original tallgrass prairie and savanna remains. Much of it can be found in the Eastern portion of the Moraine known as the Rice Lake Plains.

HIKING ON THE MORAINE.

Hiking is one of the healthiest lifestyle choices a person can make. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail provides a picturesque landscape to get out and improve your physical health. The trail connects urban areas and rural hamlets joining together over 15 local communities, 8 counties and regions and 7 conservation authorities. It provides Ontarians with the opportunity to view and enjoy the natural and scenic wonders of one of the largest and most environmentally important landscapes in Ontario.

- The Oak Ridges Trail extends 273 km along the entire length of the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- There are two termini in the east (Warkworth and Castleton) and one in the west where it meets the Bruce Trail in Mono Township.
- Disabled access is provided at various locations across the Moraine.
- Parking facilities are available in many communities and in key trail junctions.
- Although trail partners were able to recently celebrate its connection across the Moraine, there is still work to be done. Discussions will continue with private landowners, municipalities and conservation authorities to seek opportunities to move some of the trail sections that are currently located on municipal roads into quieter, more scenic areas.

OAK RIDGES MORAINE

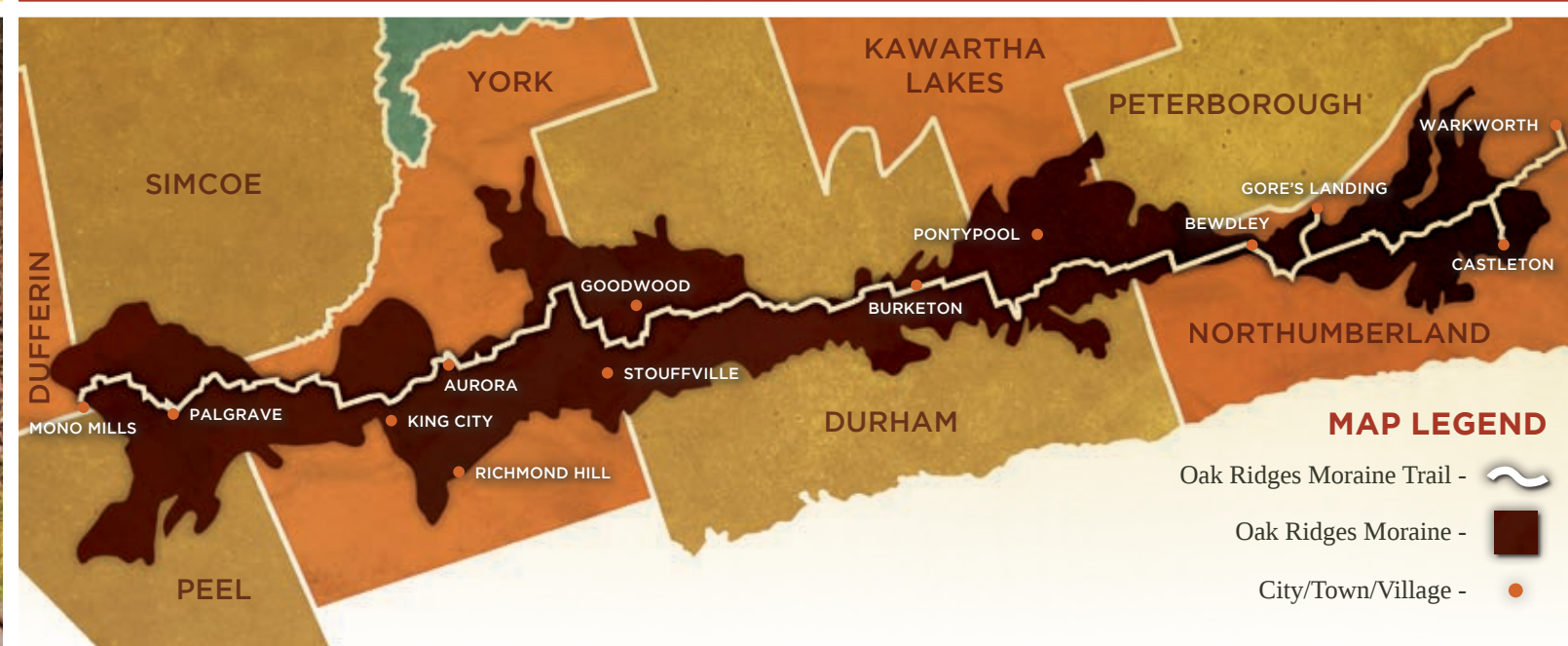


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