



DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd Floor)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

DISCUSSION

1. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #1
Review of Minutes – October 3, 2018

Minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting to be received for information purposes.

2. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #2
Collecting User Data

A report from the County Forest Manager, dated August 28, 2019, to provide information and promote discussion about options for determining levels of use of the County Forest tracts.

3. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #3
Attracting Users to Tracts Other Than Main Tract

A report from the County Forest Manager, dated August 28, 2019, to provide information and promote discussion about options for attracting users to tracts of the County Forest other than the Main Tract.

4. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #4
Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Ontario Trail Riders Association Proposal

Presentation of a proposal from the Ontario Trail Riders Association regarding the horseback riding trails at the Main Tract.

5. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #5
Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Johnny Yeaman's Rerouting Proposal

Presentation of a proposal from Johnny Yeaman regarding rerouting a trail at the Main Tract.

6. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 28, 2019 – ITEM #6
Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Johnny Yeaman's Cycling Trail Proposal

Presentation of a proposal from Johnny Yeaman regarding the addition of a cycling trail to connect two sections of trail.

Next Meeting: To be determined
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room



DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd Floor)

The Committee met at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Warden Paul Mills (Chair)
Tanya Boniakowski (Public Member)
Andy Kennedy (Public Member)
Lisa Needham (Public Member)
Heather Pady (Public Member)
John Thomson (Public Member)

Councillors Present: Councillor Earl Hawkins

Staff Present: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager
Rebecca Whelan, Information Management Coordinator

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members – None

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Sandra Kendall stated that under the advisement of the Ombudsman, she has been advised to ask whether any individuals around the table have a conflict of interest. The Director of Public Works replied that he has received concerns regarding a perceived conflict of interest. He has looked into the matter and he is confident that there have not been any decisions made where a conflict of interest was not disclosed. Ms. Kendall then asked if the County Forest Manager makes money from any events held at the Main Tract. She enquired as to what the process would be in the event that an individual has a conflict of interest. Staff explained that if an individual declares a pecuniary interest, it would be recorded in the minutes and the individual would leave the room during the discussion on that item.

Johnny Yeaman asked whether the meeting was being recorded. Staff responded that members of the public were making an audio recording and confirmed that as it is a public meeting, there is no authority to stop an individual from making a recording. The Committee objected to the recording and agreed that minutes would be sufficient. Chair Mills asked if the public members would be willing to stop recording. Yvonne Taylor and

Sandra Kendall declined to cease recording, stating that the recording was for the Ombudsman and for others who could not attend the meeting.

Caroline Fell advised she has researched and compared Friends of the Forest groups in other municipalities and found that no other municipality gives the same amount of decision making power to the Friends of the Forest as Dufferin County is recommending. She asked staff to explain the rationale for this and to explain how this makes a good business process. Staff advised that the model adopted by Dufferin County is meant to help staff implement the outstanding items of the Forest Operations Review.

Janice Clegg asked if staff could point out the single tracks on a map and indicate the orange trail. As one of the proposals speaks to the orange trail, staff asked that Ms. Clegg's questions be addressed at that time in the meeting.

Lana English asked for clarification on the term single track. The Forest Manager, stated that it is her understanding that a single track is not wide enough to drive down with a truck.

Matt Lindsay asked how the use of the trail is being enforced. Staff replied that it is not heavily enforced, although there has been a police presence on occasion. There is an expectation that users will understand and abide by the policy.

DISCUSSION

1. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #1
Review of Minutes – May 15, 2018 Meeting

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting.

Moved by Lisa Needham, seconded by Andy Kennedy

THAT the minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting be received for information purposes.

-Carried-

2. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #2
Recreational Use Policy Amendment – Guidelines for Trail Additions/Changes Decision Making

The Committee reviewed the guidelines developed from the discussion at the May 15, 2018 meeting.

Staff noted that the guidelines and any recommendations resulting from the review of the proposals in ITEM #3 would be taken to the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee in January 2019 for consideration.

Moved by Heather Pady, seconded by Tanya Boniakowski

THAT Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy 4-6-1 and By-Law 2017-39 be amended to include the guidelines for trail additions.

-Carried-

3. **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #3**
Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Trail Addition Proposals

Presentations were made by each individual/group who submitted a proposal with regard to additions to the mapped trail network at the Main Tract.

Proposal 1 (Sonja Wyss on behalf of the Ontario Trail Riders Association):

The Ontario Trail Riders Association are requesting a small amount of unmarked trail be preserved and designated as multi-use. The proposed trails have a combined total length of less than 7 km. They proposed that the trail be named “The Wilderness Trail” and that a minimum amount of maintenance be undertaken so that the trails remain natural. The proposal recommends the completion of a density study in order to determine the current saturation of trails within the Main Tract, as the map in the Recreational Use Policy does not include old logging roads or decommissioned roads.

Johnny Yeaman stated that he was not comfortable with the meeting being recorded and did not present his full presentation. A copy of his presentation was circulated on-desk.

Proposal 2 (Johnny Yeaman): Mr. Yeaman is proposing the addition of a trail for human powered activities. It is an existing trail that has traditionally been used for cycling trail, as the sandy soil is best suited to this type of activity. The trail bypasses existing equestrian trails which will increase safety for the various user groups. Mr. Yeaman is also proposing the creation of new trails which will link existing trails in order to avoid trails used by other groups and increase user safety.

Sue Downing stated that she was not comfortable with the meeting being recorded and asked that the recording be turned off. Chair Mills asked if the public members would be willing to stop recording. Yvonne Taylor declined to cease recording, stating they would continue to record the meeting and that the recording would not be posted publically but would be shared with those who could not attend the meeting. A copy of Sue Downing’s presentation was circulated on-desk.

Proposal 3 (Sue Downing): Ms. Downing is proposing that a trail that was temporarily marked for an event in June 2018 become part of the permanent trail network. A portion of the trail crosses into the Simcoe County Forest but County of Simcoe staff are aware of the trail and will leave the markers in place. The portion of the trail in the Simcoe County Forest is multi-use. As this trail will be used for equestrian events, undertaking trail maintenance is important as hazards or closed trails are a liability.

The Committee thanked the individuals for their proposals. They discussed the proposals based on the following merits:

- Safety
- Collaboration
- Enjoyment & benefit for all
- Maintenance and
- Impact.

Based on the comments that were received during the public feedback process for the Recreational Use Plan, the Committee felt that users were in favour of single use trails.

The Committee recommended the adoption of the following as marked on the attached maps:

- The orange trail as outlined in Proposal 3;
- The black trail as outlined in Proposal 2; and
- The creation of new trails as outlined in Proposal 2 (marked on attached map with dashed black line, dashed red line, purple, and dashed purple line).

The Committee is open to looking at new trails for equestrians in the future.

4. **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #4**
Resignation of John Thomson

John Thomson announced his resignation from the Committee. He appreciated being able to serve on the Committee for a short time.

Chair Mills and staff thanked Mr. Thomson for his contributions to the Committee.

5. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #5
Next Committee Term

Chair Mills informed the Committee that since the Committee was formed late during the current Council term, staff will be recommending to Council that the current members be reappointed for the next term of Council, 2018 – 2022. Recruitment will occur in January 2019 for any vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: To Be Determined
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room

Respectfully submitted,

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Warden Paul Mills, Chair
Forest Advisory Team



REPORT TO DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM

To: Chair Gerrits and Members of the Team

From: Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager

Meeting Date: August 28, 2019

Subject: **Collecting User Data**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information and promote discussion about options for determining levels of use of the County Forest tracts.

Background

An interest has been expressed amongst members of the DCFAT, as well as the general public, that the County should collect data on how many people are using the County Forest tracts.

Traffic Counters

In 2018 and 2019, the County placed traffic counters at the entrance to the Main Tract. These are attached for your information. As presented, the counts take into account that the entrance to the Main Tract is not a true two-lane road, so vehicles would be counted both entering and leaving. This is a rudimentary estimate of users, as there is no way of knowing how many people there were in each vehicle. However, it does give an estimate, and could effectively be expanded to the Hockley Tract and Little Tract to get an idea of users at those locations, where there is only one entrance that users are able to drive into.

Self-Reporting

There are several options that could be used for self-reporting by users:

1. link of a brief survey (accessed through a QR code posted at locations where we wish to collect the data) asking users the date and time they were at the location, how many people were in their group, what activity they participated in, and how long they were there;

2. link (accessed through a QR code posted at locations where we wish to collect the data) to an electronic guest book where people would be counted as they accessed the link; and
3. an actual guest book for users to sign at the Main Tract kiosk

In general, it would make sense to implement only low cost ideas of this type, as the data collected will not be accurate – it is up to the individual to report themselves if they want.

Objective Reporting

There are several options that could be used for objective reporting of users:

1. trail counters such as those produced by Traqx in Alberta which automatically compile data and come with software to produce charts etc.;
2. game cameras with video capability which would allow for counting of users as well as possibly some determination of activity, but will be more work compiling the data than option 1; and
3. having County Forest staff and/or Friends of the Dufferin County Forest volunteers present at various tracts at various times actually counting users and noting what types of activities they are doing.

Year Over Year Comparisons

The plan is to do some measuring of user data annually. However, we need to be cautious about comparing small segments of data (e.g. the same week over multiple years) since the use of the Forest tracts is very weather dependent.

Discussion

Are there any other suggestions for ways of measuring use? What combination of approaches might be the most effective?

Date: Monday June 18, 2018 to Sunday June 24, 2018
 Location: County Forest Main Tract
 File: D0618001.prn

Time:	Monday 18-Jun-18	Tuesday 19-Jun-18	Wednesday 20-Jun-18	Thursday 21-Jun-18	Friday 22-Jun-18	Saturday 23-Jun-18	Sunday 24-Jun-18
01:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
02:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
03:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00	N/A	0	0	1	0	0	1
07:00	N/A	1	1	2	2	0	0
08:00	N/A	6	2	0	6	0	0
09:00	8	2	1	0	4	4	2
10:00	0	1	0	2	2	2	2
11:00	1	2	2	1	4	4	2
12:00	2	1	2	1	4	6	4
13:00	5	2	3	1	3	3	2
14:00	1	2	1	2	2	3	3
15:00	0	2	1	1	3	2	1
16:00	1	6	12	1	2	1	1
17:00	0	5	5	3	2	3	1
18:00	3	3	2	1	3	2	1
19:00	1	5	11	2	0	0	2
20:00	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
21:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Total:	22	40	43	18	37	30	22

Date: Monday June 3, 2019 to Monday June 10, 2019
 Location: County Forest Main Tract
 File:

Time:	Monday 3-Jun-19	Tuesday 4-Jun-19	Wednesday 5-Jun-19	Thursday 6-Jun-19	Friday 7-Jun-19	Saturday 8-Jun-19	Sunday 9-Jun-19	Monday 10-Jun-19
01:00	N/A	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
02:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
08:00	N/A	0	0	1	2	1	2	0
09:00	N/A	2	3	0	1	1	4	2
10:00	N/A	0	2	3	3	9	5	2
11:00	N/A	1	2	4	5	8	6	3
12:00	N/A	2	1	6	4	3	10	4
13:00	6	1	2	3	7	9	8	N/A
14:00	4	1	1	5	6	6	5	N/A
15:00	2	2	2	3	6	10	10	N/A
16:00	4	1	3	4	11	5	5	N/A
17:00	6	3	1	7	8	10	7	N/A
18:00	3	1	5	4	3	2	5	N/A
19:00	3	4	0	10	2	3	4	N/A
20:00	2	2	3	6	6	5	3	N/A
21:00	2	2	3	5	2	2	1	N/A
22:00	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	N/A
23:00	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	N/A
24:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Day Total:	33	24	28	63	67	77	76	11

Note: The Ontario Trail Riders Association had an event June 7-9, 2019.

Date: Monday July 29, 2019 to Monday August 5, 2019
 Location: County Forest Main Tract
 File:

Time:	Monday 29-Jul-19	Tuesday 30-Jul-19	Wednesday 31-Jul-19	Thursday 1-Aug-19	Friday 2-Aug-19	Saturday 3-Aug-19	Sunday 4-Aug-19	Monday 5-Aug-19
01:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07:00	N/A	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
08:00	N/A	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
09:00	N/A	5	2	2	1	3	4	1
10:00	N/A	0	3	1	19	15	9	3
11:00	1	2	2	3	4	10	4	9
12:00	2	1	4	0	2	9	8	12
13:00	0	4	2	2	6	4	4	3
14:00	1	3	1	2	6	7	7	4
15:00	5	4	4	1	10	3	3	8
16:00	2	3	4	6	3	2	6	5
17:00	3	3	4	1	8	6	6	4
18:00	3	0	23	10	3	2	6	1
19:00	3	6	8	5	4	2	2	1
20:00	5	0	0	4	1	3	2	0
21:00	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
22:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
24:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Total:	26	32	58	39	72	66	62	55

Note: The Ontario Trail Riders Association had an event August 2-5, 2019 and August 5 was the Monday of the long weekend.



REPORT TO DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM

To: Chair Gerrits and Members of the Team

From: Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager

Meeting Date: August 28, 2019

Subject: **Attracting Users to Tracts Other Than Main Tract**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information and promote discussion about options for attracting users to tracts of the County Forest other than the Main Tract.

Background

While the Hockley Tract gets significant use due to its connection to the Island Lake Trails, there is no question that the majority of County Forest recreational use occurs at the Main Tract. This is mostly due to its size and ample off-road parking, as well as an open area that can be used for staging events.

However, there is also a lack of awareness that other tracts of the County Forest even exist. In order to begin to remedy this situation, the Forestry Summer Student has developed a self-guided driving tour that leads participants around to all 14 of the County Forest tracts. The tour includes a game of clues that enable you to find letters and a phrase, and win a prize. The brochure for this tour is attached.

Discussion

Are there any other suggestions for ways of attracting use to some of the other Tracts?

Items of Interest Continued:

More to Explore in Dufferin County

If you've enjoyed touring the Dufferin County Forest and wish to explore more hiking areas in the County, check out the book *Dufferin Hikes*, by Nicola Ross. It includes two hikes in the Main Tract of Dufferin County Forest, as well as many others worth exploring. To learn more, visit her site at www.NicolaRoss.ca, and continue to explore Dufferin County's beautiful landscapes.

Highest Elevation Point in Southern Ontario

Question: Do you know what town is considered the highest elevation point in Southern Ontario?

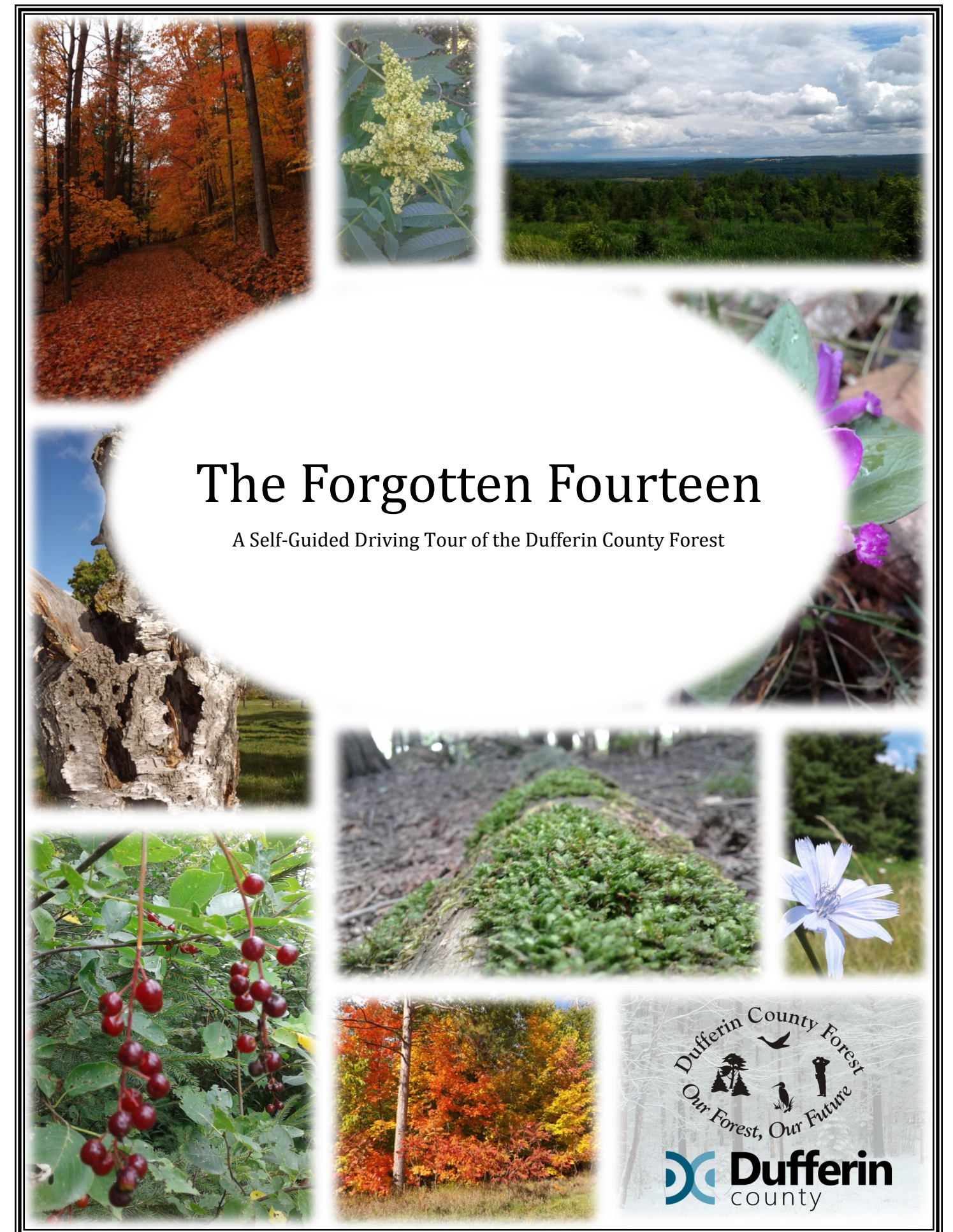
Answer: The town of Dundalk is known as the highest elevation point in Southern Ontario, with an elevation of 526m (1,735 ft). Dundalk is located in Grey County just 20 min northwest of Shelburne, off Highway 10.

The Watershed

What comes to mind when you think of a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow which drains/seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Established watersheds are separated from one another by the height of the land, also known as drainage divides. To give an example, Dufferin County is part of the highest elevation point in Southern Ontario. For this reason, the drainage divide in Dufferin County and surrounding area is known as headwaters. As the name implies, a headwater is the head of a stream or river close to its forming source. The rivers that are located in and around Dufferin County include the Grand, Nottawasaga, Credit, Humber and Saugeen Rivers.

The precipitation that is collected to form watersheds can either become surface water or groundwater. Surface water is water that is above the ground such as rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. Groundwater, on the other hand, is water found below the ground that fills the cracks in the rocks, and seeps into the soil. Groundwater, in particular, is very important, since two-thirds of the world's fresh water is groundwater. Also, in our area groundwater eventually flows into creeks, rivers or even into Lake Ontario itself. The Credit River, which collects its tributaries around the Orangeville area and flows into Lake Ontario, holds an average flow of 50% groundwater.



Trip Information:

Number of Tracts: 14 - Time: 2hr 30min - Distance: 130km

Starting at the MoD or Shelburne:

- 1. Main Tract
- 2. Thomson Tract
- 3. Little Tract
- 4. Randwick Tract
- 5. Simmons Tract
- 6. Leening Tract
- 7. Melancthon Tract
- 8. Riverview Tract
- 9. River Road Tract
- 10. Gara Gore Tract
- 11. Amaranth Tract
- 12. Hockley Tract
- 14. Mono Tract

Starting in Orangeville:

- 12. Hockley Tract
- 13. Levitt Tract
- 14. Mono Tract
- 1. Main Tract
- 2. Thomson Tract
- 3. Little Tract
- 4. Randwick Tract
- 5. Simmons Tract
- 6. Leening Tract
- 7. Melancthon Tract
- 8. Riverview Tract
- 9. River Road Tract
- 10. Gara Gore Tract
- 11. Amaranth Tract

Introduction:

Dufferin County is home to many spectacular natural areas, including the municipally-owned and managed Dufferin County Forest. The County Forest is made up of fourteen individual areas or tracts totaling 2,636 acres (1,067 ha). This tour winds its way through Dufferin County to the fourteen different tracts that incorporate the County Forest. If you desire to explore each tract, feel free and make a whole day of it.

Natural and Managed Forest:

In the context of the Dufferin County Forest, natural forest is land that is primarily geared toward environmental sustainability. The managed forest, on the other hand, is land primarily geared toward economic sustainability.

WIN A PRIZE!

For your entertainment a game has been incorporated into the self-guided tour with the opportunity to win a prize at the end. In the booklet a clue is given at each tract. The clue tells you the location of a letter at the tract. Once you acquire all the letters found at all the tracts, they will spell a phrase. To earn the prize, you must send the phrase to the Forest Manager. To place the letters in the correct order each tract has a number assigned to it from 1 to 14 (as shown above), you should follow the pattern of 1,2,3,4,5... To give an example: if you start in Orangeville then you will be collecting the last three letters in the phrase first. A space is provided in this booklet for your answer.

County Forest Manager Contact Information:

Phone: 519-941-1114 x 4011
Email: forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com

CONGRATULATIONS YOU'VE FINISHED THE TOUR! NOW HEAD BACK TO THE MUSEUM AND COLLECT YOUR PRIZE!

Directions Back to the MoD:

To continue on to the Museum, go back the way you came on Hurontario St. for 600m, then turn right onto 20th Sideroad. Drive on 20th Sideroad until you hit Highway 10 and turn right. Continue to drive on Highway 10 for 7km, then turn right onto Highway 89 (16.3 km). Stay on Highway 89 for 9.4 km, then turn left onto Airport Road. The Museum will be immediately on your right.

Directions to the Main Tract (if you started in Orangeville):

To continue on to the Main Tract, go back the way you came on Hurontario St. for 600 m, then turn right onto 20th Sideroad. Drive on 20th Sideroad until you hit Highway 10 and turn right. Continue to drive on Highway 10 for 7km, then turn right onto Highway 89 (16.3 km). Stay on Highway 89 for 9.4 km, then turn left onto Airport Road. Drive north on Airport Road for 11 km and the Main Tract will be on your right. Continue to the other tracts, following the order shown on the inside front cover of this booklet.

PLACE YOUR ANSWER HERE:

Items of Interest:

Red Oak as the Official Tree of Dufferin County

Red oak has historically been part of the forest landscape in Dufferin County, but current management practices tend to favour tolerant hardwood species such as sugar maple and white ash over red oak.

Red oak has a wide range of values, both ecological (its acorn is a valuable food source for wildlife) and economic (high value lumber).

The County of Dufferin has conducted such forest management activities as are appropriate to regenerate red oak in the Dufferin County Forest. The County has and is still endeavouring to increase the knowledge of Dufferin County residents about red oak and to encourage the planting of red oak within Dufferin County.

Mono Tract



Recreational Use:

- Land Use Class: Managed (68 ha)
- Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
- Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
- Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking: Yes
- Mtn Biking: Yes
- Horseback Riding: Yes
- Hunting: No
- OFCS Trails: Yes
- Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Directions:

Note: From the Levitt Tract you may take the backroads to get to the Mono Tract or take the alternate route if you do not wish to drive on the gravel roads.

Continue north on 1st Line EHS, and then at the four-way stop turn left onto 10 Sideroad. Then at the next stop sign turn right onto Hurontario St. Continue on Hurontario St. for about 6.7km, the entrance to the Mono Tract will be on your right.

Alternate Route:

Head back the way you came on County Road 7 (Hockley Road), and at the lights turn right onto Highway 10. Take Highway 10 all the way to 20th Sideroad and turn right. Take 20th Sideroad to Hurontario St. and turn left. The Mono Tract will be immediately on your right and the entrance to the tract will be at the top of the hill. There is a spot where you can pull over and safely park your vehicle.

Clue:

Red surrounds me and crosses over me.



Description:

The County started acquiring the Mono Tract property in 1942 and it became whole in 1963. In total, the area of the Mono Tract is 175 acres (71 ha). A series of bike and walking trails run through the tract which connect to Mono Cliffs Park. At first, the trails run through almost hundred-year-old red pine plantations. As you walk further see the red pine slowly turn into hardwood trees such as sugar maple, red maple, ironwood, red oak, and American beech. Also notice the absence of the sound of traffic and the bustle of everyday life and take the time to take in the sounds of nature, the scurry of a chipmunk, the wind blowing through the trees, or the song of birds chirping merrily.

Main Tract



Recreational Use:

- Land Use Class: Managed (316 ha)/ Natural (290 ha)
- Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
- Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
- Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
- Mountain Biking: Yes
- Horseback Riding: Yes
- Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30)
- OFCS Trails: Yes (only in managed area 316 ha)
- Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Description:

Heading north on Airport Road, you will come to the Main Tract of the County Forest. Most of the forest is located on the right side of the road (east) while a little stretch of it extends on to the left side (west). You can pull off into the parking lot on Airport Road and begin exploring, but it is recommended to carry a GPS or a compass along. The Main Tract is 1,501 acres (607 ha) in size and there are many trails and it is easy to get turned around/disoriented. Adjacent to the parking lot on the south side is a demonstration for red pine thinning. An interpretive trail has been designed along one of the trails from the parking lot which discusses forest management in the Dufferin County Forest.

Clue:

Where am I?



Thomson Tract



Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Natural (11.97 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: No
Mountain Biking: No
Horseback Riding: No
Hunting: No
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Description:

The Thomson Tract was donated to the County in 2018 and became the fourteenth tract within the County Forest, having an area of 29.58 acres (11.97 ha).

Around the year 1870, the property was part of Rookery Creek, which was a small lumber mill community site. The little village incorporated around 25 homes, a school, general store, boarding house and a Methodist church. The mill was run by William and Robert Henry, who operated the site until 1887. The Creek for which the town was named still flows through the tract today and makes its way under Airport Road.

Directions:

Heading further north up Airport Rd. you will see the Thomson Tract and the Little Tract adjacent to it. Here you can pull over at the Little Tract and park in an opening in the trees. From there you can explore both the Thomson and the Little Tracts.

Clue:

I run but never walk,
I have a mouth but cannot speak,
a head but cannot think
a bed but refuse to rest.



Levitt Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Natural (4 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking: No
Mtn Biking: No
Horseback Riding: No
Hunting: No
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Directions:

Once you've had your fill of the Hockley Tract, the next stop is the Levitt Tract. Continue east on County Road 7 (Hockley Road) for 3km, then turn left onto 1st Line EHS. Right on the northwest corner is the Levitt Tract. Here you can pull over on the side of the road.

Description:

The Levitt Tract is the smallest forest tract in the County having an area of 10 acres (4 ha). The small morsel of property was donated to the County in 2010, making it the second youngest tract. Like the Leening Tract, the Levitt Tract is strict on its recreational use as stipulated by the donor. Activities such as hiking in the summer and skiing and snowshoeing in the winter are permitted.

Clue:

It's an emergency!!

Hockley Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Natural (Orangeville Wetland Complex 20 ha)

Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes

Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes

Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes

Mountain Biking: Yes

Horseback Riding: No

Hunting: No

OFCS Trails: No

Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Directions:

To continue, make your way down 5 Sideroad towards Orangeville (east). Keep following the road for 5.5 km, it will then become County Road 16, then after 3 km it will turn into County Road 7 (Hockley Road). At the lights, at Highway 10, stay on Hockley Road for a short distance, the Hockley Tract will appear on your right. The entrance sign to the parking lot will say "Island Lake Community Trails".



Description:

The Hockley Tract, which covers 51 acres (20ha), came into the County's possession in 1976. The tract backs onto Mono property to the east and CVC property to the south. The accessible trail begins at the parking lot and makes its way through the County Forest and connects to Island Lake, run by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). Along the trail there are stops where you can bird watch, work on your tree identification skills, stop and smell the milkweed that grow in the open areas which are home to the incredible monarch butterflies. Also, you can sit by Island Lake and feel the cool breeze that comes off it as you gaze out over the lake.



Clue:

I give free knowledge to those who ask it of me, yet do not speak.

Little Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Natural (47 ha)

Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes

Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes

Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: No

Mountain Biking: No

Horseback Riding: No

Hunting: No

OFCS Trails: No

Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Description:

The Little Tract came into the County's possession between 1972 and 1973. The Little Tract (ironically) is bigger than the Thomson Tract, having an area of 109 acres (44 ha). This tract has a self-guided interpretive trail (pick up a brochure at the large trailhead sign and read about what you see at the different numbered stops). When the County came into possession of the property from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, it was one of few areas of upland forest left relatively unmanaged. The tract has a significant component of large white pine trees that appear to date from the time of the European settlement. The magnificent white pine (Ontario's provincial tree!) alone is worth the visit.



Clue:

I'm as tall as a house,
But as small as a mouse,
I am soft on the inside,
But prickly on the outside,
I carry a treasure which is what you may know better,
For it goes along in a Christmas song.

Randwick Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Managed (115 ha)/Natural (2 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
Mountain Biking: Yes
Horseback Riding: Yes
Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30)
OFCS Trails: Yes (only on managed 115 ha)
Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Description:

The Randwick Tract runs both north (to your right) and south (to your left) of County Road 21, having an area of 289 acres (117 ha). The County came into possession of the Randwick property between the years 1940 and 1944. Looking to the south end of the Randwick Tract you can see the 2004 logging operation. Also, if you continue west on County Road 21 just after the bend in the road you can stop again at emergency # 708167 and look at the 2014 logging operation on the north side. As at the Main Tract you will see the white pine and hardwood regeneration that is enabled by the thinning of red pine plantations. Unfortunately, the red pine at the Randwick Tract are suffering from red pine decline (a complex of factors causing premature death) so you will see standing dead trees as well.

Directions:

Continuing north on Airport Road you will begin to pass the Randwick Tract on your left. At the amber flashing light, you will make a left turn onto County Road 21. A little further up the road where the bend begins you can pull over to the right side of the road (at emergency number 708167). Here you can collect your clue and explore the Randwick Tract.

Clue:

I was planted in _____



Amaranth Tract (North and South)

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class:
North - Natural (Laurel Wetland Complex 12 ha)
South - Natural (Farmington Swamp 10 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes (South)
Mountain Biking: Yes (South)
Horseback Riding: Yes (South)
Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30 and only on South)
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Description:

The County acquired the Amaranth Tract in 1940, it covers an area of 59 acres (24 ha). The tract is split into two separate sections, the North and the South. At first glimpse, both sections appear to be two random plots of hardwood trees with little going on, but there is more going on here than meets the eye. The tract is part of the Laurel Wetland Complex which is 95% swamp and 5% marsh. This wetland provides habitat for snapping turtles, muskrat, raccoon, beaver, mink, fox, coyote, white-tailed deer, and colonial birds. If you desire to explore either the north or the south part, be sure to bring your rubber boots!

Clue:

I can run north, south, east and west at the same time yet not move.
I once had multiple ribs and two backbones, but both have been stripped away.
Now only two scars remain.



Directions:

To head to the next tract, continue down 20th Sideroad and turn right onto 11th Line. The 11th Line will take you back to Dufferin County Road 109, where you will then turn right, heading towards Orangeville. Shortly after you pass Dufferin County Road 12, you will hit 4th Line and make a left. Follow 4th Line until you hit Dufferin County Road 10 (about 6km), then turn right. Drive down County Road 10 for 1.5km, then turn right on County Road 11. Following County Road 11 for roughly 2km you will begin to see the north section of the Amaranth Tract to your right. If you continue down County Road 11 to 5 Sideroad you can also see the south section of the Amaranth Tract. The safest place to pull over would be on 5 Sideroad.

Gara Gore Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Managed (15 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
Mountain Biking: Yes
Horseback Riding: Yes
Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30)
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Directions:

Continue on Dufferin County Road 25 until you hit Dufferin County Road 109 and turn right. Head west for about 2km then turn left onto 20th Sideroad. On the corner of County Road 109 and 20th Sideroad is the Gara Gore Tract, which extends all the way to 11th Line. Here you can pull over to the side of the road, if it is safe to do so, to park.

Clue:

You have seen them together before, now let’s see if you remember them.
One person,
two birds,
and three trees.

Description:

The Gara Gore Tract lies within East Garafraxa Township and came into the County’s possession in 1934. The 37 acre (15 ha) tract is mostly dominated by white spruce and holds a triangular shape just like the township it resides in. What proves to be the most interesting about the tract though, is not the property itself, but its name. Gara Gore came from the name Garafraxa which is the only township in the County that no one knows where the name actually originated from. Historians have gathered that Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, was the one responsible for naming the township though it is uncertain why. Some theories that exist of how it received its name include:

- A castle in Ireland on Loch Gara.
- An adaptation of a Native word meaning panther country.
- The combining of a Native word (garra) meaning ash tree and the Latin word (fraxilinus), also meaning ash tree, to get Garafraxa.
- Garafraxa is a corruption of “gara fracta”, Latin for the “broken gore”, gore meaning a triangular piece of land or cloth such as in a sail.

Though quite a few theories exist and some seem more probable than others, we may never know for certain what Sir Peregrine Maitland was thinking when he named the township of Garafraxa.



Simmons Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Managed (42 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
Mountain Biking: Yes
Horseback Riding: Yes
Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30)
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Description:

A little further along County Road 21 (about 600m) you will come to 5th Line. You will take a left onto 5th Line and continue down the road for 900m until you come to the Simmons Tract sign. There is a spot where you can pull off the road and park your vehicle.



The Simmons Tract has an area of 99 acres (40 ha) and was purchased by the County in 1967. For the longest time there was not much to rave about in this small tract, until the summer of 2018 when an exciting discovery took place. Located within the tract are the remains of an old stone foundation which is believed to have been part of a farmhouse built in the late 1800s by the Noble family. The Nobles were originally Irish farmers who moved to Canada sometime between the years 1855 and 1860. Archibald Noble and his wife, Martte, along with their children, settled in Mulmur to work and farm the land, creating a new life for themselves in Canada. It was not until around the year 1880 that the oldest son of Archibald, Robert Noble, purchased the East Half of Lot 24, Concession 5, to establish a home for his wife, Dinah Summerville, and their children. The property and farmhouse continued to pass through the Noble family and ended with Kenneth Noble who sold the property, along with the house, to Henry Goldman in 1920. When the County of Dufferin purchased the property in 1967, there was no sign of remnants of an old farmhouse until the summer of 2018 when the old stone foundation was found.

Clue:

I begin in S and end in S

Leening Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Natural (8 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: No
Mountain Biking: No
Horseback Riding: No
Hunting: No
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No

Directions:

After visiting the Simmons Tract, you can make your way back to County Road 21 and turn left to continue to the next tract. After you pass 2nd Line, about 900 m further you will come to the Leening Tract on the right side (north). Don't drive too fast or you'll miss it. Feel free to pull over to the side of the road, if it is safe, to explore the Leening Tract or to admire the view of Dufferin County.

Clue:

We stand as twins, side by side,
never parting, always together,
for we carry a great responsibility which
requires two.

If one of us should fall then both fall together,
along with the name that we bear.



Description:

The Leening Tract is located within the Niagara Escarpment Rural Area and covers a 20 acre (8 ha) area. It was donated to the County in 1976 with strict conditions that the County will not alter the land in any way and prohibiting building on the property as well as certain recreational uses. The forest is a natural area with planted white spruce and white pine dominating the area.

River Road Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Managed (5 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: No
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: No
Mountain Biking: No
Horseback Riding: No
Hunting: No
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Clue:

Since it is not safe to park close to the River Road Tract because of the blind curve, you get a freebie letter – Y



Directions:

To head for the next tract, make your way back to Highway 89 and turn right. In about 1km you will turn left onto Dufferin County Road 25 and drive for about 10km. The River Road Tract will be on the right side of the road. If you desire to explore the tract make sure you **DO NOT PARK ON THE BLIND CURVE OF THE ROAD.**

Description:

The River Road tract was acquired by the County in 1963 and is the second smallest tract within the County Forest having an area of 12 acres (5 ha). Though a small acreage, the River Road Tract is the only County Forest property in Grand Valley. The small tract consists of red pine which was planted in 1959.

Riverview Tract

Recreational Use:

Land Use Class: Managed (27ha)/Natural (13 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
Mountain Biking: Yes
Horseback Riding: Yes
Hunting: Yes
OFCS Trails: Yes (only on managed 27 ha)
Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Directions:

Continue down 5th Line until you come to Dufferin County Road 17, where you will turn right. Stay on Dufferin County Road 17, all the way to Highway 89 and turn right. Follow Highway 89 for about 1 km, then turn right onto 8th Line. Continue on the road for 3.7km and on your left at the corner of 270 Sideroad and 8th Line is the Riverview Tract. Here you can park off to the side of 8th Line or you can turn left onto 270 Sideroad (**ROAD CAN BE ROUGH, PROCEED WITH CAUTION**) and park further down along the tract.

Description:

The Riverview Tract is the only other tract in Melancthon Township. Like the Melancthon Tract, the Riverview Tract is mostly dominated by wetland, which is locally significant. The wetland is 86% carr, 9% swamp and 5% marsh. The wetland creates habitat for bullfrogs, muskrat, beaver, racoon, ruffed grouse, waterfowl and small game. If you decide to visit you may get the chance to see these creatures, especially the family of beavers that reside in the marsh area.

Clue:

I stand at the corner where to roads meet
Wings carried me here long ago, now here I stay
I reach always to the sky but remain firmly on the ground
So to soak up both the earth and the sun, to make the sweetest thing of all.

Melancthon Tract

Recreational Use

Land Use Class: Managed (12 ha)/Natural (48 ha)
Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation: Yes
Skiing/Snowshoeing: Yes
Fat (Winter) Mountain Biking: Yes
Mountain Biking: Yes
Horseback Riding: Yes
Hunting: Yes (except June 1-Sept 30)
OFCS Trails: No
Other Motorized Vehicles: No



Directions:

Following the road further for 7 km will take you across the top of Dufferin County, through Ruskview, Black Bank, Honeywood, and Redickville. After crossing County Road 124, in about 5 km you will come to a sharp bend in the road where County Road 21 and 5th Line merge together. In 1 km you will hit the Melancthon Tract on the right side of the road just before 5th Line and County Road 21 separate.

Clue:

I can either keep things in or keep things out,
I am a barrier to some and protection to others,
but my sole purpose is to separate.



Description:

The County acquired the Melancthon Tract in 1945 with an area of 146 acres (59 ha). The tract is one of the few areas within the County Forest that is wetland, it is part of a complex that is 90.4% swamp and 9.6% bog. What is the most interesting about the wetland is that it was classified as provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The wetland is home to a variety of species such as bullfrogs, muskrat, racoon, beaver, white-tailed deer and colonial water birds. If you desire, explore the Melancthon Tract, but be advised to bring insect repellent, the mosquitoes can get quite bad during the summer.



The following request was originally sent to Caroline Mach and Scott Burns on October 17, 2018 by the Ontario Trail Rider Association Representative for Dufferin, for feedback and for consideration after the DCFAT meeting October 3, 2018. It has been edited for clarity to be discussed at the upcoming Advisory Team meeting August 28, 2019 as a new trail proposal.

Dufferin County Forest Trail Proposal, prepared by the Ontario Trail Riding Association

The Ontario Trail Rider Association wishes to thank you for recognizing Recreational Horseback Riders as a separate user group with different needs from speed-oriented activities and offering us the opportunity to submit a trail proposal for our rider's enjoyment October 3rd, 2018.

Our original proposal was not for exclusivity but was based on being equitable to all user groups as an effort in collaboration. As the Team's advice was received, we now ask you to consider the following:

In keeping with the Advisory Team's recommendation of separate trails, we would like to propose that the 4th single trail in our original submission (see map and coordinates below), running in N/S direction, be designated for horseback riding only. Two other individual trails parallel this proposed trail on either side, at times within 66' of each other. These have been designated for cyclists use already. There seems to be no advantage for assigning a 3rd parallel trail within such close proximity to the same exclusive use while excluding others. We feel by designating this requested trail to horseback riders you would offer recreational riders the opportunity of 1.5 km of single-track enjoyment within the Main Tract. We also feel this would provide a small measure of equality for our group while completely respecting concerns of safety from others.

The North entrance of this trail is just in off a marked cyclist trail but an easy solution would be to create a separate entrance directly off the blue OCTRA loop. The distance would be approximately 40'.

The South entrance of this trail is currently marked cyclist trail also, then splits into 2 separate trails. Again, this can be modified to be accessible from the marked blue OCTRA loop. The distance would be approximately 30'.

Please note, that at no time does the proposed trail cross any of the cyclist trails and safety would not be an issue.

Both can then easily be marked as 'Horse Trails' at the entrance/exit to avoid possible confusion for other users. A group of OTRA volunteers that includes current members of the 'Friends of the Dufferin Forest' has already committed to doing any work required. As per our activity requirements any changes would mostly involve clearing brush and removing low hanging branches. We would of course also be welcoming any help from the other user groups.

By giving us your definition of single track at the October 3rd meeting we believe both of you understand the distinct difference in user enjoyment between a ride on a road versus a trail winding through the woods. Taking our current request into consideration would make this one trail the only true piece of single-track horseback riders could enjoy in the Main Tract. As the voice for the recreational, non-competitive equestrian we wish to continue to work with any other user group in the forest. While OTRA is an advocate for multi-use trail access, we left the October 2018 Advisory Team Meeting with the understanding that we are now only able to pursue separate, designated equestrian tracks according to policy within the Recreation Plan in Dufferin County. Therefore, we ask that you consider this one single track trail to be set aside for equestrian use when making your recommendations to the Public Works Committee as a way to include the interests of the non-competitive Recreational Rider in your forest.

Respectfully,

Sonja Wyss

OTRA President & Dufferin Rep

Addendum

SEGMENT #4 on the map as seen below (yellow circle): 1.5 Km of single track

Start: N 44° 12' 22.4" W 080° 00' 46.6"

Finish: N 44° 12' 43.9" W 080° 01' 14.8"



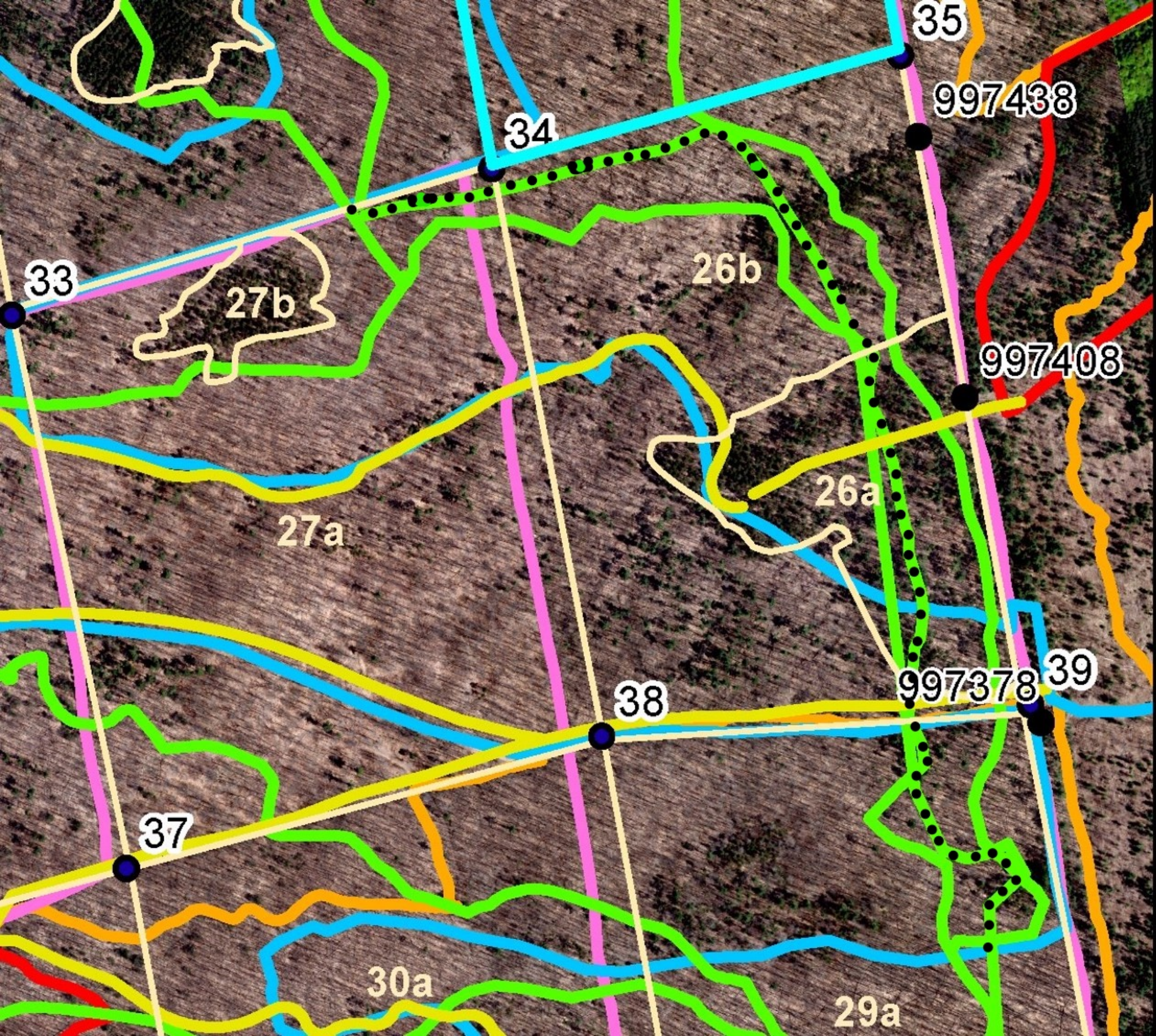
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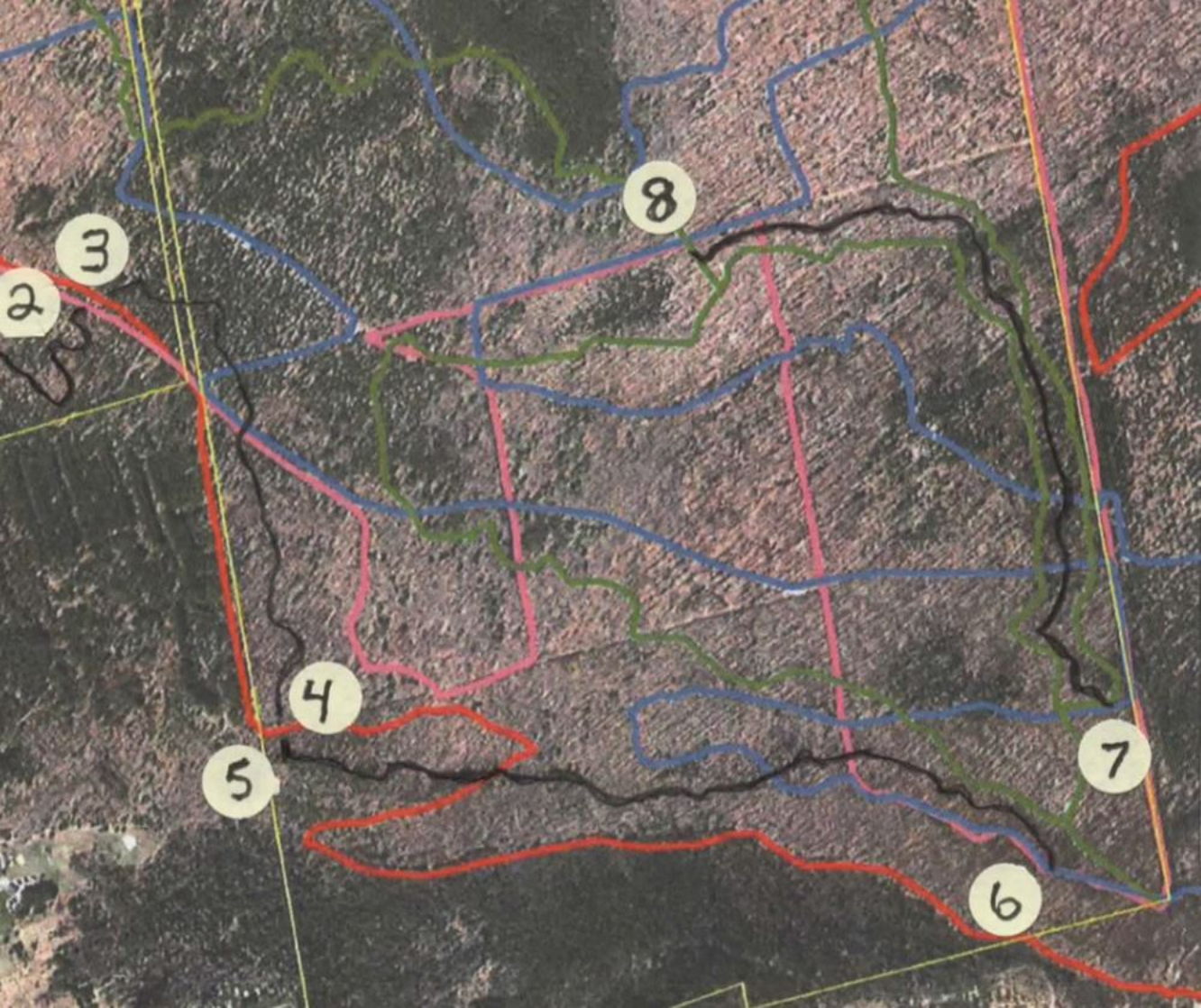
2 enlarged, detailed maps to show the proposed 'Horse Trail'

- Trail Map provided by County - marked green trail with black dots
- Terrain Map (true layout) – marked in black between #7 and #8

Please note:

The current Dufferin County Forest Trail Map does NOT reflect the actual trail layout. The 3 parallel single trails in question do NOT cross as it appears on the current trail map, except at the entrance/exit.





Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team Meeting

Submitted by Johnny Yeaman on behalf of interested members of the Friends of Dufferin County Forests (FDCF).

Topics for Review by DCFAT:

1. Proposed trail reroute.

(Indicated by dark green trail in black circle on attached map)

Members of the FDCF have brought to the attention of the County an intersection we wish to alter for user safety. In order to change this intersection effectively it may be required to exceed the 1000m limit that the Forest Manager can approve without consultation from the DCFAT and approval from the Director of Public Works as set out in the new procedure for trail alterations and additions. The reroute is indicated on the provided map and would be approximately 700-1500m in length. The FDCF have conducted a site viewing with the County.

2. Proposal for Cycling (Human powered activity) trail to bypass Forest Roads.

(Indicated by purple trail addition on attached map)

Currently there is a section of designated Forest Road that is used to join two sections of Cycling trails. As Equestrians also utilize these Forest Roads both during events and recreationally, members of the FDCF would like to seek the approval to construct a Cycling trail to avoid using these Forest Roads in the future. This would benefit both Cyclists and Equestrians. We have provided an indication of the route on the County Forest Map. The trail would be approximately 3000-5000m's in length and would parallel the Forest Road. It will require the recommendation of the DCFAT and the approval of Director of Public Works as it will be over 500m and under 10km.

Creation of these trails would increase safety, enhance user's positive experiences and continue to enhance the "Multi-use Forest enhanced through trail separation" model currently in place and endorsed by the County and County Council. These proposed trails would be constructed under the supervision and approval of the County. Members of the FDCF would complete the development and be responsible for any subsequent continued maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals, Johnny Yeaman

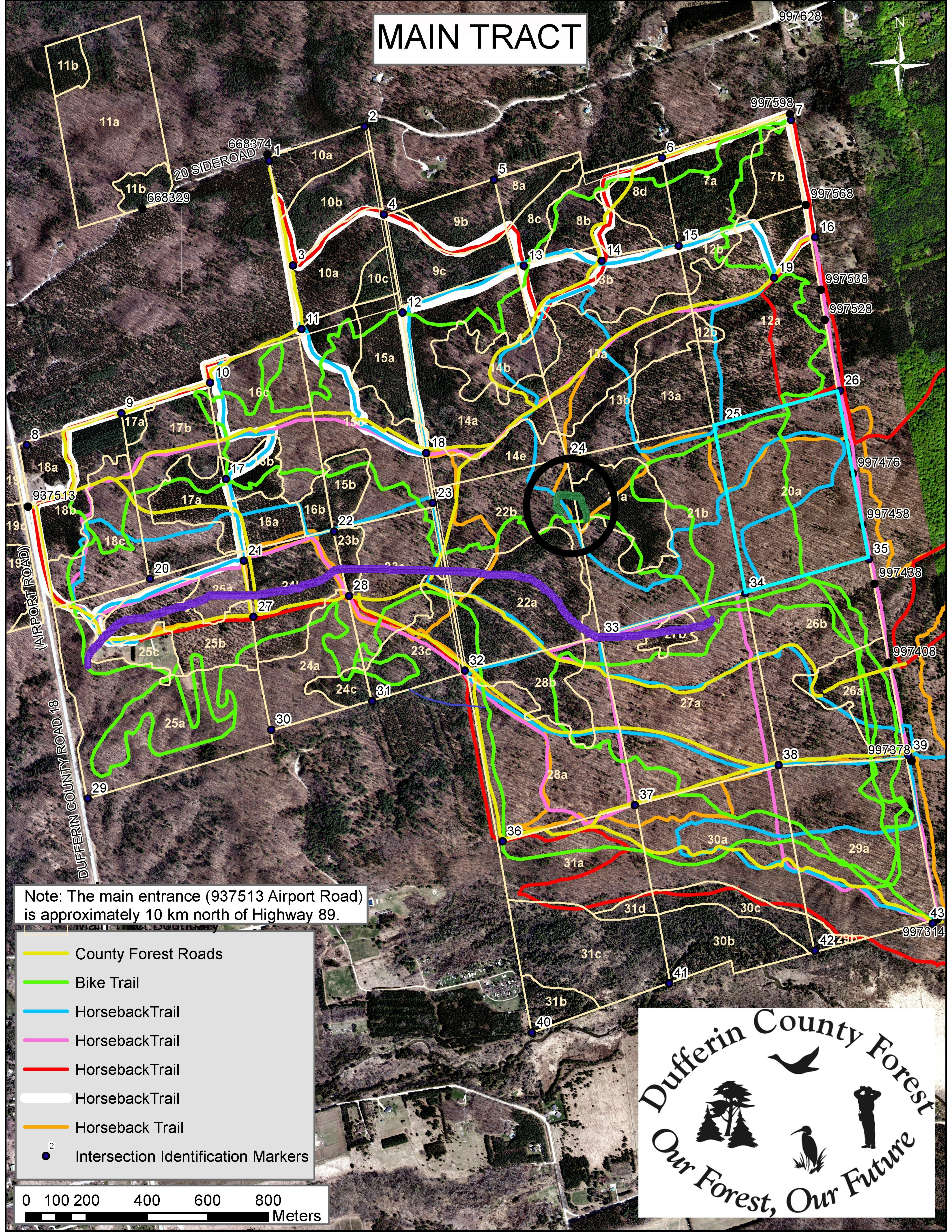
From: Forest Advisory Team Minutes – May 15, 2018

“Guidelines for Trail Additions/Changes Decision Making

Based on discussions at the last DCFAT meeting, the following guidelines have been developed:

1. If the primary consideration is safety of users, trail changes impacting up to 1km of trail will be at the discretion of the County Forest Manager.
2. If the primary consideration is not safety, the following guidelines will be used:
 - a) trail changes impacting less than 500 m of trail will be decided by the County Forest Manager in consultation with the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest;
 - b) trail changes impacting 500 m – 10 km of trail will be brought to a meeting of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) for discussion and forwarded to the Director of Public Works for approval;
 - c) trail changes impacting more than 10 km of trail will be brought to a meeting of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) for discussion and forwarded to the County Infrastructure and Environment Committee (formerly Public Works) for approval.
3. These guidelines will apply to any trail changes to the map that forms Appendix C of by-law 2017-39, whether they are completely new trails, or additions of existing but unmaintained/unmapped trails.”

MAIN TRACT



Note: The main entrance (937513 Airport Road) is approximately 10 km north of Highway 89.

- County Forest Roads
- Bike Trail
- Horseback Trail
- Horseback Trail
- Horseback Trail
- Horseback Trail
- Horseback Trail
- Intersection Identification Markers

