

Annual Report 2018-2019



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WELCOME MESSAGE

For 45 years, Hike Ontario has had one goal – to encourage walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario. In this, our 45th year, Hike Ontario is proud of how far we have come and look to the future with great enthusiasm.

Our success in 2018-2019 is firmly rooted in the success of our member organizations. Strong, professional organizations dedicated to providing Ontarians and visitors with exceptional hiking and walking experiences.

The beautiful simplicity of hiking trails often obscures the incredible investment of volunteer time, energy and money provided by trail organizations and clubs. Millions of people use trails with little thought to who made them possible. We know who made them possible – you.

We extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Hike Ontario Board of Directors and to the many volunteers across Ontario that making hiking trails possible.

Thank you for walking the Hike Ontario journey with us.

See you on the trails,

Terri and Ian



**Terri LeRoux,
President**



**Ian Bailey
Vice President**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Directors at Large

Frieda Baldwin
Mike Bender
Tom Friesen
Shompa Hai
Roma Juneja
Terri LeRoux
Bill Mungall
Lewis Williams

Staff

David Rosenblun-Bordeau
Office Administrator

Club Representatives

Bernard Goward, The Avon Trail
Scott Robeson, Bayfield River Valley Trail Association
Anne Armstrong, Bruce Trail Conservancy
Dave Kirkpatrick, Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Raymond Soucy, Elora Cataract Trailway Association
Jim Wood, Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.
Charles Whitlock, Grand Valley Trails Association
Mike Curtis, Guelph Hiking Trail Club
Wayne Terryberry, Hamilton Burlington Trail Council
Roland Gatti, Humber Valley Heritage Trail (Kleinburg)
Allison Stoecker, Maitland Trail Association
Peter Schaefer, Oak Ridges Trail Association
Sharen Yaworski, Rideau Trail Association
Ian Bailey, Thames Valley Trail Association
Carole Blaquiere, Voyageur Trail Association



**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
2018 -2019**

Terri LeRoux, President
Ian Bailey, Vice President
Sharen Yaworoski, Secretary
Roma Juneja, Treasurer
Tom Friesen, Past President
Lewis Williams, Chair, Certification Committee
Mike Bender, Chair, Education Committee
Shompa Hai, Chair, Fundraising Committee
Bill Mungall, Issues, Policy and Advocacy Committee
Frieda Baldwin, Chair, Planning and Development Committee





OUR MISSION

To encourage walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario.

OUR VISION

Hike Ontario is the province's most valuable support resource for hiking and walking groups and pedestrian trail users.



OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage walking for recreation, transportation and health
2. Provide courses in introductory safe hiking and hike leadership in both wilderness and non-wilderness settings to people of all ages
3. Support and facilitate trail development for walking and hiking throughout Ontario
4. Enable good trail maintenance and hiking practices and the enhancement and quality of the walking experience
5. Encourage and facilitate the development of trail building hiking clubs in Ontario
6. Advocate for a club or clubs when requested or when an initiative is deemed necessary
7. Promote education and research into the health benefits and other aspects of recreational walking
8. Encourage conservation and appreciation of the natural environment
9. Maintain and disseminate information on hiking and hiking trails

HIKING IN ONTARIO

- **44%** of Canadians aged 15 and over reported they had been **hiking or backpacking** in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. (Stats Canada, 2017 census)
- Nearly **7 in 10** Canadians participate in outdoor or wilderness activities (Stats Canada, 2017 census)





HIKING TRAILS IN ONTARIO

Ontario is home to the second largest network of trails in Canada, with over **80,000 kilometres** spread out across the province (National Trails Coalition, 2010).

Who manages these trails?

- Ontario Parks: 330 Provincial Parks with 10 million visitors year
- Conservation Ontario: 300 Conservation Areas, 2600 kms of trail with 6 million visitors a year
- 444 Municipalities
- Trail Clubs and Organizations
- Private trails (campgrounds, tourism businesses)



HIKE ONTARIO: LIVING OUR MISSION

COURSES:

7 Certification Courses

LEADERSHIP COURSES:

1. Certified Hike Leader
 2. Wilderness Day Hike Leader
 3. Wilderness Trip Hike Leader
-

GENERAL INTEREST COURSES:

4. Safe Hiker
 5. Wilderness Hiker (New)
 6. Navigation: Map & Compass (New)
 7. Navigation- GPS (New)
-

COURSES:

In High Demand



40 Courses delivered across Ontario



38 Certified Instructors



New Master Hike Instructor designation introduced



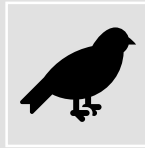
466 Participants

COURSES:

Creating Community
Connections



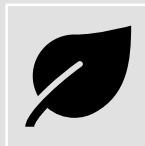
National Cadet & Junior
Canadian Ranger Program



Wye Marsh: Courses delivered
on site



Ontario Colleges and
Universities: Safe Hiker Course



Central Lake Ontario
Conservation Authority:
Workshop for new Canadians

EDUCATION:

Inspiring and informing



Established New Education Committee with enhanced membership (2019)



Annual Numbers of Website Visits: 131,363; Unique Visitors: 87,140; and total Hits 1,665,229



12 Newsletters Produced and Circulated



Social Media Followers: 34, 832



Researching the Establishment of Informal and Formal Hiking Clubs to help grow and support the sector

Advocacy:

The Voice for all Hikers

Hike Ontario presented at the Ontario Ministry of Finance's Pre-Budget Consultation in Waterdown, encouraging the Province to finish up the Ontario Trails Strategy by striking a task group on landowner incentives (at no cost to the Province) , and linking this to the prospect of a growing number of trails, and to improved health benefits for the populace and the Province.

Hike Ontario and the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) produced and presented a 3rd annual workshop on strengthening Landowner Relations to a full house of 24 club attendees at the BTC headquarters in Dundas, Ontario with a particular emphasis on clubs building relationships with municipalities.

Hike Ontario made two visits to Ontario Public Service (OPS) staff at the head office of Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) in Toronto to lobby for continued action on elements of the Ontario Trails Strategy and for base funding for Hike Ontario similar to that provided for Provincial Sports Organizations.

Hike Ontario has a representative on the Risk Management Committee, struck by the Ontario Trails Council. Focus to date has been the completion of a draft, generalized trail classification system that can be further refined and used by all trail user groups on a voluntary basis (once approved by MTCS and the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee).

PARTNERSHIPS: Stronger Together



Hike Ontario is a proud member of Hike Canada, Ontario Nature and the Ontario Trails Council.



Parks Canada and the Trans Canada Trail (the Great Trail)



Canadian Mental Health Association: Mood Walks Program



Corporate: Mountain Equipment Coop and Coleman

PARTNERSHIPS: Stronger Together



Carolinian Canada: Go Wild Grow Wild Expo promotion and participation



Ontario Parks: Healthy Parks, Healthy People promotion and volunteer support



Conservation Ontario: Step Into Nature Healthy Hikes promotion and participation



Hike Haliburton Festival: Promotion, sponsorship and course offerings during the festival

PROGRAMS:

MOOD WALKS



Proud Partner since 2011

In 2019, 35 staff and volunteers of Ontario Colleges and Universities were trained in Hike Ontario's Safe Hiker and Certified Hike Leader programs.

Mood Walks is a provincewide initiative that promotes physical activity in nature, or “green exercise,” as a way to improve both physical and mental health. Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, in partnership with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario, Mood Walks provides training and support for community mental health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to launch educational hiking programs, connect with local resources, find volunteers, and explore nearby trails and green spaces.

PROGRAMS:

Insurance and Risk Management

19 of our member clubs or trail associations participate in Hike Ontario's Group Insurance Program.

Trail insurance is an important component to the successful and safe development and management of trails in Ontario. Trail clubs are faced with increasing insurance costs that help protect them from liability. The pressure of higher insurance rates has placed great burden on many of the hiking and walking clubs and trails of Ontario placing many of the treasured recreational resources of Ontario at risk of closure.

Hike Ontario continues to work diligently with its trail partners and insurance providers to provide the best possible policy conditions to suit the needs of its trail clubs. This in turn is working towards managing for safe and sustainable trails systems throughout Ontario for the pleasure of walkers and hikers. Hike Ontario plays a key role in risk management assistance with trail clubs thereby assisting in insurance provision.

Member Organizations 2018-2019

The Avon Trail

Bayfield River Valley Trail Association

Bighead River Heritage Association (Trout Hollow Trail)

Bruce Trail Conservancy

Durham Outdoors Club

Elgin Hiking Trail Club

Elora Cataract Trailway Association

Friends of the Trail Inc (Quinte West)

Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

Grand Valley Trails Association

Guelph Hiking Trail Club

Hamilton Burlington Trails Council

Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association (Bolton Chapter)

Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association (Kleinburg Chapter)

Lambton Shores Nature Trails

Maitland Trail Association

Oak Ridges Trail Association

Ottawa Rambling Club

Ottawa Wilderness Adventure Club

Rideau Trail Association

Thames Valley Trail Association

Thunder Bay Hiking Association

Voyageur Trail Association

Waterloo 55+ Seniors' Hiking Club

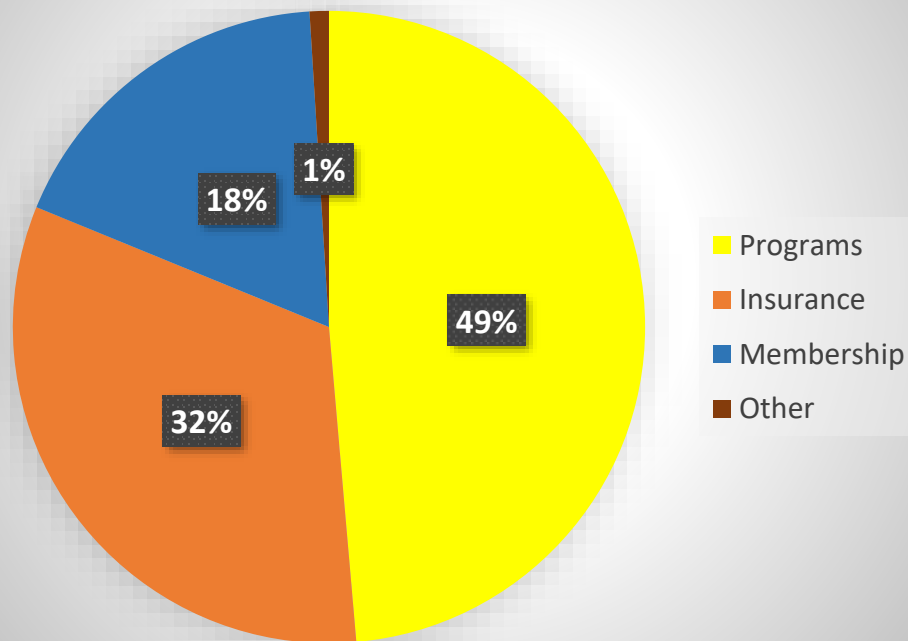


Financial Statements

Financial highlights for the year ended June 30, 2019

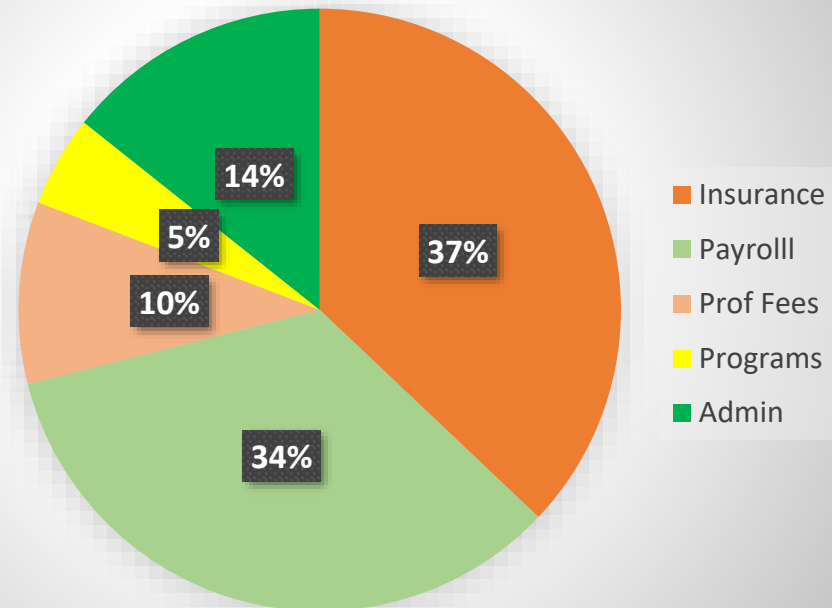
Hike Ontario is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.
To receive a copy of our full financial statements, please contact info@hikeontario.com

Revenue



Total Revenue \$65,990

Expenditures



Total Expenditures \$44,862



Hike Ontario
www.hikeontario.com
