

Rail Trail Sunday Rambles: April, May 2011

Rambles are family-friendly, casually paced outings exploring two historic abandoned railway lines. Dogs are welcome. Après, socialize with fellow rambles over lunch.

Get Ramble - Ready...

Double check date, time, location of Ramble and type of Après gathering.

- Dress in layers and carry a back-pack
- Expect anything – snow, sun, rain, wind – it's all good if you're prepared.
- Some reminders: camera, binoculars, sunglasses, hat, gloves, boots, raingear, sunscreen, bug spray and/or bug jacket, water, snacks, your dog's leash.
- Note there are no facilities on the trails

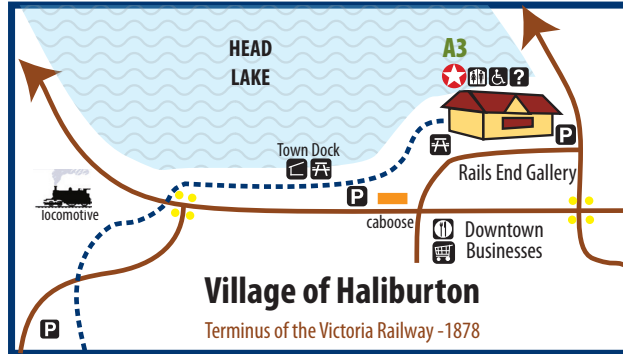
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Friends of the Rail Trail

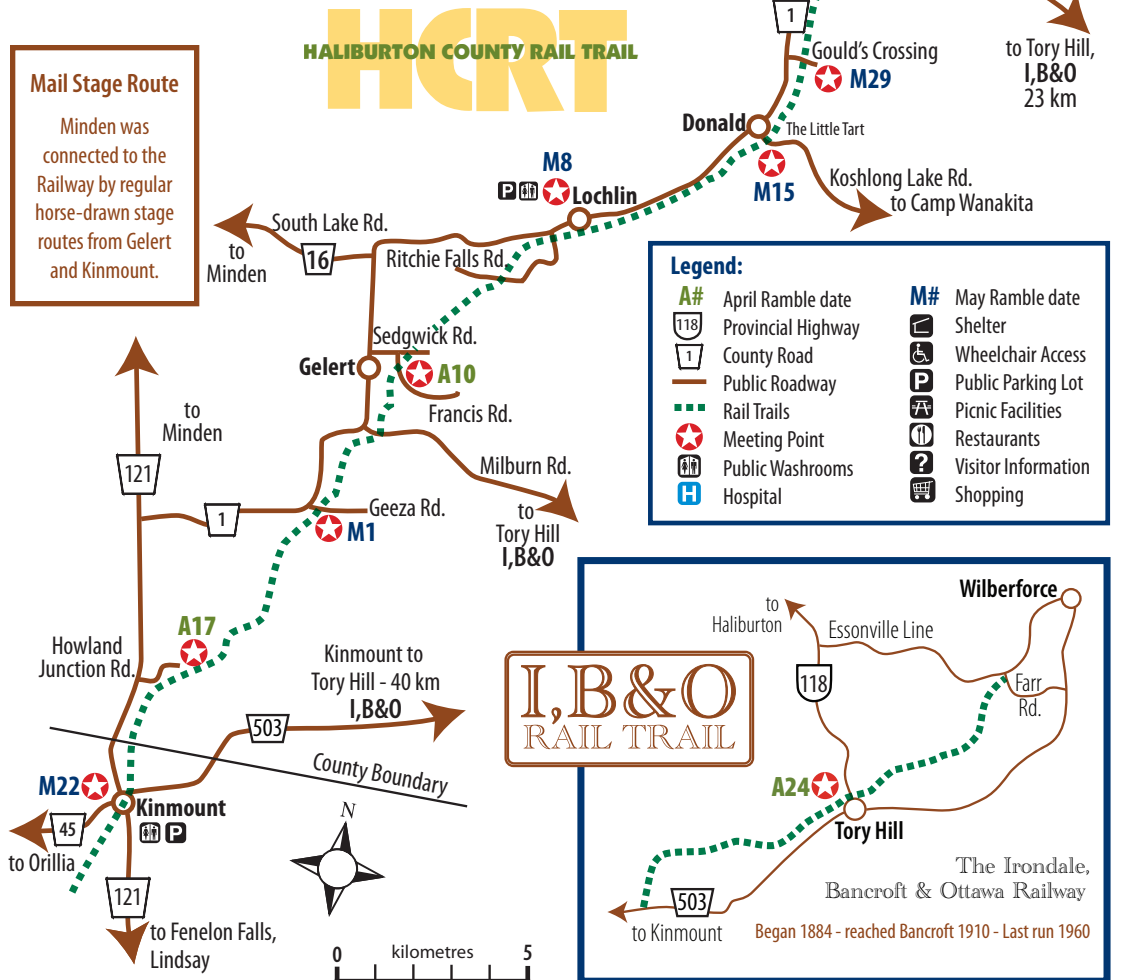
Contact:

Pamela Marsales
(705) 457-4767

Toll Free in Canada:
(888) 225-1448
wildwoodpaths
@yahoo.ca



Rambles ■ 2011 ■ Map



Friends of the Rail Trail is a membership organization; part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. Expanding its vision province-wide, FoRT is affiliated with Hike Ontario and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Whatever your potential interest, from healthy active recreation in the company of friends, exploring nature and railway history, or learning about other greenways – Friends of the Rail Trail would like to welcome you. Our website is www.friendsoftherailtrail.ca

Rails to Trails Conservancy www.railstotrails.org is a great place to learn more about rail trails.

Sundays in April: 3, 10, 17, 24

A3 • Haliburton Railway Days

Meet at Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre 11:00

The Gallery is situated in the original 1878 Railway Station. We'll start off in style, led by a Scottish piper. The Ramble passes a fen - a unique wetland type. Look for cotton grass, leather leaf and round leaf sundew.

Après: \$ We'll convene at McKecks - The Blue Line, a family-style pub sporting a Haliburton history theme.

A10 • Sedgwick Pioneer Farm

Meet at Francis Rd and the HCRT 11:00

These farmyards are steeped in history. Proud stone fencelines, functional barns and a busy gravel operation link past to present. Plan to come back in September for the Heritage Farm Tour.

Après: \$ A two-minute drive away, lunch at Wintergreen Pancake Barn, the only local maple syrup producer with dining facilities.

A17 • Turntable & Trestle

Meet at the end of Howland Junction Rd 11:00

Sadly, the engine turntable is long gone, but foundations remain. Crossing the high trestle bridge, watch for a glimpse of the stone bridge abutments of the County's other former railway, the I,B&O. See: A.24

Après: \$ Imagine you're riding the stage coach to Minden for lunch at the Dominion Hotel - in operation since 1865 - older than Canada, but newly renovated. A full Sunday brunch awaits.

A24 • Ramble the I, B & O

Meet at Tory Hill crossroads 11:00

Here's an opportunity to visit with family, friends and guests while working up an appetite for Easter supper. The I, B & O, the County's 'other railway' was abandoned in 1960. It has its own history and a different feel as a trail.

Après: L Bring a bag lunch - we may eat as we ramble.

Sundays in May: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

M1 • Wilderness Habitat Walk

Meet at Geeza Rd and the HCRT 11:00

This is one of the longest Rambles - a treat for the nature enthusiast. Explore a variety of Haliburton features such as marsh sedges, granite outcrop, rushing creek and wide beaver flood. Watch for songbirds and herons.

Après: L Brown-bag lunch at the Gelert Community Centre just up the road.

M8 • Ritchie Falls Wetlands

Meet at the Lochlin Community Centre 11:00

Less remote than Geeza Rd, this 4km ramble passes through meandering open marshland, rich habitat for critters like otters, osprey beavers and moose.

Après: L Brown-bag lunch at the Lochlin Community Centre, a former 'modern' one-room schoolhouse. FoRT volunteers will provide Mother's Day treats for dessert.

M15 • Tart and Muffin Ramble

Meet at 'The Little Tart' 11:00

Plan to pick up some artisan baked goods. Ramble will pass a dramatic rock face, open wetlands and a quarry. This is an opportunity to learn a little local geology.

Après: PL Let's try potluck for fun this week. Lunch will be again at the Lochlin Community Centre.

M22 • Historic Model Railway

Meet at Kinmount Railway Station 10:30* 11:00

Victoria Day Weekend marks the seasonal re-opening of this model replica of the rail line from Kinmount to Haliburton. *Arrive early to see the train display and meet the volunteers, before heading north to Joe's Black Rock.

Après: \$ or L Bring your choice of takeout options from town or bring a bag lunch to the picnic shelter by the river in the Austin Heritage Sawmill Park.

M29 • Rambles Grand Finale Lunch

Meet at Gould Crossing Rd and HCRT 11:00

This was the first pioneer road in Haliburton. Thomas and Isabella Gould's descendants still maintain the original 1860's land grant nearby.

Après: \$ YMCA Camp Wanakita, a year-round outdoor centre, will prepare one of their famous buffets. After lunch, there will be a talk about the History of Gelert.

RSVP to 705-457-4767 by May 25th. Tickets \$15.

L = pack a lunch

PL = bring pot-luck

\$ = remember your wallet.