

Nicola Ross' new hiking guidebook "Halton Hikes Loops and Lattes" describes 37 loop routes that will appeal to all levels of hikers. 'Loop' hikes all begin and end at the same location so no need for shuttles or doubling back on your hike. The 'latte' refers to the author's dedication to suggesting local hot spots near each hike to pick up a good cuppa coffee!

HOC is offering our members a series of hikes based on loops from this book. Over the course of last year and this year, our goal, as a club, is to complete all the hikes in this book. The hikes occur on a consecutive Saturday and Sunday once a month, starting in May and ending in December. There is no cost to go on a hike and you do not need to buy a book although you might like to.

No Registration is required. The remaining hike details will be published as soon as they are available. Please check back here.

Sat Nov 10th #26 Limehouse Combo Loop 11.5 km Jim and Patti Blair

This hike features many changes in scenery and the author suggests you walk a long way without worrying about roads or houses.

The starting point for this loop is easy to find when coming from the Hamilton/Burlington/Oakville area. Just come north on Hwy 25 about 14km from the 401. Turn east on side road 22 for about 3km and the parking lot is on the north side at a bend. It's a large Bruce Trail gravel parking area. If you reach Limehouse you've gone too far. Allow an hour to drive from the Burlington area.

There's a Tim's and other possible refreshment stops on Hwy 25 just after you come off the 401. The hike is over rough terrain in places so hiking poles may be helpful. Bring your lunch to have at the halfway point. **The hike starts at 10-00 a.m.** Optional Latte stop afterward in Milton.

Sun Nov 11th Remembrance day 8k loop in the ravines of North Oakville Phill Armstrong

An early start for this one so we can get a good walk in before ending up at the North Oakville Cenotaph memorial for the one minute silence at 11-00 a.m. and the ceremonies that follow.

We'll then repair to the Pipes and Taps pub close by for lunch.

Arrive for about 8-30 a.m. and street park on Oak Park Blvd at Taunton out side the Pipes and Taps Pub. In the unlikely event that there's no space there's plenty of room in the lot behind accessed from Taunton. Don't wait in the cold, walk 200 metres east on Oak Park to the Tim's on Trafalgar Rd where it's warm. **We'll set off from Tim's at 9-00 a.m.**

The route will take us down the Morrison Creek system, through Sheridan College grounds and up the McCraney Valley system to the Cenotaph. It's about 8km and I will try to adjust the pace so we arrive just before 11-00 a.m. and not have to stand waiting too long in the cold.

After the ceremonies are over we'll walk 300 metres to our cars and the pub.

This hike was originally #9 Credit Valley Footpath. Loop South of Glen Williams 10k however the trail is closed by extensive construction and unusable at this time.

Sat Dec 8th #7 Crawford Lake Loop 7.2 km

Asia Shin

The 468ha Crawford Lake Conservation Area is a gem. This hike allows us to see some of the best features. We'll go around the lake boardwalk and hike the Bruce trail along Nassagaweya Canyon with views over to Rattlesnake Point.

The walking is generally easy but there are some very rocky sections so poles may be helpful. A visit to the Longhouse Village after the hike may be possible particularly if the weather is good. The sculptures on the paths near the visitor centre are also very interesting.

Hike starts at 10:00 am from the parking lot immediately to the left of the entrance kiosk. There is an entrance fee unless you have a Halton Conservation Pass.

Directions: North on Guelph Line via Lowville. Approx. 3km north of Lowville turn right on Conservation Rd.

Optional latte or pubstop afterwards.

Sun Dec 9th #2 The Author's Loop Georgetown 5.9 km

Nicola Ross <https://www.nicolaross.ca/>

Please register on line for this hike, even though there is no cost, so the trip leaders know the numbers to expect.

To Register: Go to the date (Dec 9th) first, then click on the event

Look for the registration button, click it, then follow suggested actions.

This will be our last hike in this series. We've followed Nicola's little book for 2 years and have finished nearly all of them. This last walk is short about 6km and showcases natural areas, boardwalks, and the Chris Walker Trail that brings us into downtown with it's gracious old homes.

We'll meet Nicola at 10-00 a.m. in Heather's Bakery Café at 103 Main St S, Georgetown. It's right downtown and there's plenty of off street parking including the Main Street Parking Lot that is free. You might want to get there a little early to have time for a leisurely coffee before the walk starts at 10-30 a.m.

Nicola is a Writer Hiker and Outdoor Enthusiast. Her published books include:

Caledon Hikes: Loops and Lattes (2015) - 37 routes

Halton Hikes: Loops and Lattes (2016) - 37 routes

Dufferin Hikes: Loops & Lattes (2017) - 32 routes

Hamilton and Area Hikes: Loops and Lattes – co-authored with Amy Darrell (2018) - 34 routes

Caledon (1999) - with photographer Gord Handley

Dufferin County (2003) - with photographer Rosemary Hasner

There could be a pub stop after the walk for lunch.

My Cell phone will be on all morning should you need to contact me

Phill Armstrong 416 895 3937.