

## Junior Hiker – Hike Summary



Complete **7** hikes from the list below. Hikes may be completed independently, or as part of a guided group hike.

Keep a log of each hike including the date hiked, and the distance travelled. Submit your logs to be eligible for this badge.

All of these hikes are featured in the book *Exploring Sydenham* by Ron Savage. A summary is provided to guide your hike. Consider using the book for additional information on the hikes, and to participate in the search for hidden codes! There's a badge for that too!

<https://sydenhambrucetrail.ca/sydenham-hiking-guides/>

For more information about youth badges and requirements, visit our website <https://sydenhambrucetrail.ca/hiking/youth-hiking-program/> and contact [YouthHikingCoordinator@sydenhambrucetrail.ca](mailto:YouthHikingCoordinator@sydenhambrucetrail.ca)

For information about any of our hiking programs, contact [hikedirector@sydenhambrucetrail.ca](mailto:hikedirector@sydenhambrucetrail.ca)

	Name	Trail Length	Parking access (GPS Coordinates)	Trail Description**
1	The Walters Falls Loop	4.5 km	Holland Sydenham Townline / Grey Rd 29 (44.496437, -80.721401)	<p><b>This trail is both scenic and steeped in history as Walter's Falls was home to a bustling sawmill over 100 years ago. Walter's Falls is one of only a few twin waterfalls in Ontario.</b></p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate: Steep ridges, rocky in sections, may be slippery when wet.</b></p> <p><b>Follow MT south to Grey Rd 29. Carefully cross the road to reach Walter's Falls ST and follow it south to toward the thunderous roar of the Fall's at Walters Fall Inn. Take a moment to enjoy the view from the observation platform at the edge of the falls before crossing the bridge. Continue north on the ST to reach the MT at Grey Rd 29. Crossing the road carefully, continue on the MT to return to your vehicle.</b></p>

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2	Bognor Marsh Loop	5.1 km	Bognor Marsh Conservation Area Grey Rd 18 (44.538525, -80.782217)	<p>Bognor Marsh is home to one of the largest marsh systems in Grey County, a habitat for waterfowl, and other marsh living animals, birds and plants. Interpretative plaques along an extensive boardwalk highlight the diversity, and a viewing deck permit observation of the many species of wildlife in the marsh. The trail also ascends the escarpment with views of the marshlands below.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate: May be muddy and low-lying areas may be flooded at times.</b></p> <p><b>Follow the MT north from the parking area to the picnic pavilion. Turn left on MT to enter the wetlands area. Crossing the floating boardwalk, follow boardwalk to the observation deck and climb up to observe the wetlands. Continue to follow the MT west where the trail will meet a cart path, turn right. Follow the path over a bridge and up the escarpment. At the top follow the trail for 2.5km to reach another cart path. At this point, turn right to follow the Bognor Marsh ST south. It will rejoin the MT at the picnic pavilion. Continue on the MT south to return to your vehicle.</b></p>

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3	Silent Valley (Wilson Homestead Loop)	6.4 km	North end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Concession S from Grey Rd 18 (44.555691, -80.750767)	<p>Silent Valley is wonderful to explore with multiple trails that highlight the history and geology of this property. There are fossils embedded in stone walls, gigantic tumbling dolostone, and the remains a homestead. It is also the location of a plane crash in 1970. Parts of the wreckage were brought together to form a memorial to the persons lost in the crash.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous: Includes steep and rocky sections along the escarpment.</b></p> <p><b>Follow Silent Valley ST to Wilson Homestead ST. Turn left and this path west. Along this path you will see remains of a homestead, a well, and a crash site. Continue on this path as it climbs the escarpment meeting the MT. Turn right and follow MT to Silent Valley ST. Turn right following this path returning to your vehicle.</b></p>

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4	Woodford Escarpment Loop	3.0 km	Community Hall on Woodford Crescent (44.593656, -80.744459)	<p>This trail includes a glacial pothole that was fashioned into a lime kiln by pioneers in Woodford. The path also passes a disappearing stream that emerges as waterfall below the dolostone bedrock (best seen in Spring). Further along the trail passes remains of a pioneer cabin and barn (hunt for fossils here), before swinging uphill toward two narrow crevices that are fun to explore but with extra caution!</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate: Includes narrow crevices that might be icy late into the spring, trail is rocky in parts, and stream crossing is possible in spring.</b></p> <p>Follow the MT east along the crescent, then along a narrow easement on a laneway. Continue to follow the MT past a glacial pothole used as a lime kiln. Further the trail crosses a disappearing stream, continues past ruins of a settlers barn and eventually climbs the escarpment where it enters two narrow crevices. There is an optional Bypass ST to avoid entering the crevices where it might not be safe for youth, alternately you may carefully continue into the crevice to explore its fascinating geology. Go slowly and be careful with your footing. Once past the crevices you'll reach the Woodford Escarpment ST. Follow this trail to the MT, turn right to return to your vehicle.</p>

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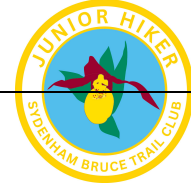
	Name	Trail Length	Parking access (GPS Coordinates)	Trail Description**
5	Cottonwood Loop	2.0 km	11 <sup>th</sup> Line north of Hwy 26 (44.623915, -80.694997)	<p>One of only a few satellite side trails on the Bruce Trail, this trail is named for the magnificent Cottonwood tree on the trail, which is very rare to find. There's also a hidden waterfall and spectacular view of Georgian Bay.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Easy.</b></p> <p>Follow the Cottonwood ST in a counter-clockwise direction. The path heads east, north, south then north again. Along the way is a magnificent Cottonwood tree for which the trail is named and a hidden waterfall. Continue north to a scenic lookout overlooking Georgian Bay, then continue west to complete the loop and return to your vehicle.</p>
6	Pines/Clearview Loops	4.6 km	8 <sup>th</sup> Concession, north of Hwy 26 (44.587484, -80.863089)	<p>The Pines is named after its white pines plantation. There is an old orchard and the remains of a pioneer cabin, further the stonework of a settler's barn. Clearview follows a wetlands, where in early spring marsh marigolds are an abundant of yellow. The trail follows a tributary of Bothwell Creek, where salmon spawn in the spring. A trip to the Polish Soldier tree rewards you with a letter from the past, an interpretative sign marks the tree.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate; may be muddy at times along the Clearview loop.</b></p> <p>Hike the access trail from the parking lot to the Pines ST, turn right and follow to the MT, turn left and hike to the Clearview ST, follow the ST south until you reach the MT, turn right and follow the MT south about 200m to the site of the Polish Soldier Tree, then turn north and follow the MT to the Pines ST. Turn right and follow the Pines ST loop past an old apple orchard, the remains of a pioneer cabin and further, the stonework of a settler's barn. Continue to the access trail. Turn right to return to your vehicle.</p>

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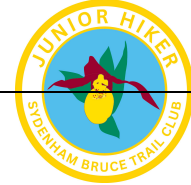
	Name	Trail Length	Parking access (GPS Coordinates)	Trail Description**
7	Sydenham Nature Reserve Loop	4.0 km	Grey Rd 18, 400 metres east of Hwy 6/10 (44.524182, -80.913753)	<p>This trail leads to a hardwood forest which includes a disappearing stream (best viewed in Spring and Fall). The trail then turns into an alluring pine tree plantation that towers above the footpath creating an intriguing tunnel effect. The area is also a good place to hunt for fossils.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate.</b></p> <p>Follow the Keeling ST north from the parking area. The Sydenham Nature Reserve ST is on the right. Hike east alongside farmland, crossing under a hydro corridor to the forest. In the forest, there is a disappearing stream and a pine tree plantation, after which the trail turns west and returns to the Keeling ST. Turn left to return to your vehicle.</p>
8	Inglis Falls (Creamery Hill Loop)	5.5 km	Grey Sauble Administration parking lot (44.535422, -80.936022)	<p>At Inglis Falls the Sydenham River plunges over the escarpment before making its way through Owen Sound and out into Georgian Bay. The 18-metre-high Cascade is the most spectacular in the area. This hike explores the waterfall, remains of a Grist mill, a hardwood forest, and tree arboretum.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate: Steep and rocky sections near falls, may be slippery when wet.</b></p> <p>Follow Harrison Park ST across the steel bridge over the Sydenham River where it meets the MT. Follow the MT to the right and to Inglis Falls. Follow the path down the steps, take in the magnificent view of the falls, then continue west on the MT across Inglis Falls Rd, along a farm field and through a forest until reaching Grey Rd 5. Turn Right onto Creamery Hill ST and follow it until reaching the Harrison Park ST. Turn right and follow the ST back to your vehicle.</p>

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9	Jones Falls (Merle Gunby Loop)	2.3 km	Hwy 6 just north of Hwy 21 at Tourist Bureau (44.560754, -80,990675)	<p><b>Pottawatomie Conservation Area</b> (named after the river that runs through it) is home to the 12-metre high Jones Fall visible from the path at the top. 100-year-old Cedars cling to the rock along the edge of the escarpment.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Easy-Moderate: Steep and rocky sections near falls, may be slippery when wet.</b></p> <p><b>Follow the Merle Gunby ST to the left and follow until reaching the intersection with the MT. Follow the MT to Jones Falls. Be careful as the path becomes quite rocky. After passing Jones Falls, turn right on the Merle Gunby ST and continue to the parking area.</b></p> <p><b>During winter months it is advisable to remain on the Merle Gunby ST in its entirety. The MT may be slippery with snow-covered crevices.</b></p>

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10	Fossil Glen/Frank Holley option for 2 <sup>nd</sup> loop	4.0 km	East Linton Rd at the bend (44.649257, -80.964331)	<p>Fossil Glen is home to an abundant number of fossils along the pathway. There is an interpretive sign by the pond. If you choose the 2<sup>nd</sup> loop, you can explore more of the fossils as the path passes within the walls of several crevices. Many examples of rare Hart's Tongue and Walking Ferns are present in this section. The Frank Holley ST includes the short Walker Homestead ST which reaches the ruins of a cabin.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate.</b></p> <p>Starting at the East Linton ST. Follow the ST up the slope to meet the MT. Follow the MT to the right where for the next 1K, the path follows an intriguing series of crevices where you can find many examples of 450 million year old fossils imbedded in the overhangs and rock walls of the crevices. Continue to follow the MT to the junction with Frank Holley ST, turn left and follow the Frank Holley ST. Along a cart path, the ST will turn left, go straight. Follow the cart path to the road where you will meet the MT. Turn left, over the stile, and across a field on the MT. The path reaches a pond with a plaque showing the examples of fossils found in the area. Continue on MT to the East Linton ST. Turn right and continue downslope to your vehicle.</p>
11	Lindenwood Pond (The Gap Loop)	3.5 km	Concession 14, east of County Rd 17 (44.667404, -80.989893)	<p>This hike enters a delightful cedar forest alongside a permanent wetland, home to multiple aquatic species, an enormous Oak Tree missed by loggers in the early 1900s, reaching the Escarpment edge, an enormous split known as the Gap. Further along an impressive fossil.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate.</b></p> <p>Follow the Gap ST past the Lindenwood Pond ST to the MT. Turn left and follow the MT to the Lindenwood Pond ST. Follow the MT another 15 metres and you will find an impressive example of a 450 million year old chain coral fossil. Turn back, then follow the Lindenwood Pond ST back to the Gap ST where you will turn right and return to your vehicle.</p>

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12	Lindenwood Loop	2.3 km	Lindenwood Rd parking access (44.685276, -80.995970)	<p>This site is to one of two donor walls with the trail passing under it's arch. There are also donor plaques on rocks in the area. A bench makes a nice spot for a break. Along the hike you will pass an alvar, a flat dolostone rock area with little to no vegetation, and a few endangered Butternut trees. Further along you will pass an massive erratic rock.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Easy.</b></p> <p>As you leave the parking area you will pass a plaque garden and the new Donor Arch. Follow the MT to your left before the Arch. The path will take you through the forest to an alvar. The Lindenwood ST appears to your right. Follow the ST until you reach the MT again. Turn right and follow the MT north through the Arch and back to your vehicle.</p>
13	Kemble Wetland Loop	2.6 km	Roadside parking on Taylor Rd at Coles Side Road (44.733240, -80.958269)	<p>Experience nature on the edge of an enormous wetlands. An interpretative plaque at the site provides more information. On the way, take time to hunt for fossils in the remains of an old stone wall.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Easy; may be muddy at times and some sections quite wet.</b></p> <p>Follow the Don Richards ST to the Kemble Wetland ST. Turn left and follow the Kemble Wetland ST to the MT. Turn right and follow the MT as it a clearing at the edge of an enormous wetland. Spend time here listening to the natural north passing Cedar Point ST and Birch Camp ST to the Don Richard ST. You will pass an old stone wall. Take a moment to hunt for fossils here. Turn right on the Don Richards ST to return to your vehicle.</p>

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14	Dodd's Hill Loop	3.7 km	Kemble Rock Rd at it northern end (44.768734, -80.933827)	<p>Explore the variety of ferns and delicate foliage that cling to the dolomite walls inside a fascinating crevice. Experience scenic views from the escarpment edge.</p> <p><b>Difficulty: Moderate: Steep and rocky sections, fissures in the rock along the escarpment edge that require careful footing. Leaves and snow may hide these fissures.</b></p> <p>Follow the Dodd's Hill ST north to meet the MT. Turn right and follow the path as it descends into a fascinating crevice. Past the gap, continue on the MT to the edge of escarpment, then continue south to the Dodd's Hill ST. You may also opt to retrace your steps to return the way you came.</p>

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