



**Caledon Hills
Map #18, South Hockley Link**

The Caledon Hills club has made a significant change to the route of the trail on the southern approach to the Hockley Valley. For many years, the club had been seeking a more attractive way to cross the 6th Concession of Mono, but without success. Consequently, there had been a long stretch of dusty road to walk on the 5 Sideroad and 5th Line, from km 50.4 to 54.0.

Thanks to new or modified handshake agreements with 7 landowners, and the purchase of one key property, almost all of that dusty road has been eliminated, and the trail follows a beautiful new route along the southern rim of the valley.

Beginning at km 49.3, the main Trail now proceeds north on the former east leg of the Hockleycrest Side Trail. (The west leg of the side trail remains as a side trail, making a 3 km loop with the main Trail.) At the northernmost point of the Hockleycrest Side Trail, near where it crosses a small creek on a culvert, the main Trail turns sharply to the north through a hardwood forest, and then heads west along an old bush road to reach Airport Road. Across the road, the Trail climbs to the crest of a hill, crosses a stile, and soon begins a trek along the edge of a farm field, where the views across the valley to the north are spectacular.

After passing the top of the T-bar ski lift on the former Cedar Highlands Ski Club, the Trail begins a steep descent into the valley. A series of side-logged switchbacks, steps and moderately steep slopes brings the hiker to the side of a pond on the ski club property. The Trail then heads west through the newly acquired Hemlock Ridges property. Here, it ascends and follows the top of an eastern ridge, then descends through a central valley before climbing to the top of an even higher western ridge. It then descends quite steeply and soon reaches the 5th Line, where it turns south to rejoin the existing trail at former km 54.0. This reroute adds 700 metres to the length of the main Trail.

In addition to the main Trail reroute, there is a change to the Hockley Heights Side Trail, and there are two new side trails within the Hemlock Ridges property. The Hockley Heights Side Trail, which previously began at km 54.0, now starts at the top of a pinnacle on the BTC property and follows the western ridge to the north, emerging onto the 5th Line through a small field at the northwest corner of the Hemlock Ridges property. A new side trail, the Hemlock Ridge Side Trail, begins on the main Trail near the centre of the property and heads north along another ridge to come out at the same small field on the east side of the 5th Line. The Glacier Valley Side Trail provides a loop opportunity along the southern boundary of the BTC property.

An official opening and ribbon cutting for all the new trails will be held on September 27th.

Main Trail:

Length of reroute = 5.2 km

Length of old route = 4.7 km

Net increase in (overall) trail length = 0.7 km

Section removed from road = 3.7 km

Length of Side Trails:

Hockleycrest Side Trail = 1.5 km (decrease of 1.7 km)

Hockleycrest Shortcut Side Trail = 40 m

Hockley Heights Side Trail = 6.7 km (decrease of 0.4 km). This includes the changes that took place to the north terminus of this trail last year.

Glacier Valley Side Trail = 580 m

Hemlock Ridge Side Trail = 610 m