

*Legend*

- RAIL TRAIL
- BRUCE TRAIL
- PARKING
- DUNDAS VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA



## Experience the Valley's Rich Cultural Heritage!

### *Hermitage Ruins and Gatehouse*

The Hermitage is the legacy of George Gordon Browne Leith, second son of a Scottish baronet who immigrated to Canada in the 1850s. For many decades, the grand 100-hectare estate was home to the Leith family and its servants. Regrettably, The Hermitage burned almost completely in October 1934. Shortly after, Alma Dick-Lauder, Leith's daughter, camped on the site, then built a small home inside the ruins where she lived until her death in 1942.

The Gatehouse, known as The Lodge, was built around this time and for many years was home to Penelope Hutchinson, a granddaughter of George Leith. Today, The Gatehouse serves as a museum and testament to a remarkable family and their magnificent estate. Group tours of The Gatehouse and Hermitage ruins can be arranged. Call (905) 627-1233. Located on the Main Loop Trail, just off Sulphur Springs Road in Ancaster.

### *Griffin House*

An excellent example of Ancaster's early history is preserved in a simple 1.5-storey house just west of the Hermitage Ruins. The Griffin House was the home of Eneals Griffin, his wife Priscilla, their children and descendants. Born into slavery in Virginia, Eneals Griffin escaped to freedom in Canada in 1828-29. In 1834, the Griffins purchased the house with 50 acres of land and for the next 150 years their descendants farmed here. Archeologists have unearthed over 3,000 artifacts on this small site including stoneware, porcelain, clay pipes and masonry. The home has been restored to the pre-1850 period as a site for interpreting Black-Canadian history. Group tours and themed hikes are organized by the HCA and Fieldcote Museum. The Griffin House is located just off Mineral Springs Road. For more information, call (905) 627-1233 or (905) 648-8144.

### *Thomas A. Beckett Living Forest*

Each year, supporters of the Conservation Foundation Living Forest Fund are invited to help plant trees and shrubs in the Thomas A. Beckett Forest. Many donors plant a tree to mark special achievements and to honour the lives of loved ones. Their donations have supported the purchase and planting of trees, maintenance of a trail and development of interpretive materials in the forest itself. The forest is named for Judge Thomas Beckett, a well-known conservationist and the first chairman of the HCA. Under his leadership from 1966-72, the HCA began a major lands acquisition program, which included lands in the Dundas Valley.

The forest is located adjacent to the Governors Road parking area. To find out more about making a donation, please call 905-525-2181 ext. 168.

## Dundas Valley Conservation Area

The Dundas Valley is one of southern Ontario's most spectacular natural treasures. Highlights of the 1,200-hectare conservation area include lush Carolinian forests, colourful meadows, cold-water streams, stunning geological formations and an array of rare plants, birds and wildlife.

The area is part of a large glacial valley that spreads out into Lake Ontario. It was excavated by a succession of glaciers that disappeared some 10,000 years ago. The final landscape detail has been shaped by glacial melt water, and more recently by streams flowing through the valley.

The rich natural environment existing here and along the Niagara Escarpment has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

## Trail System

A 40-kilometre trail system and the world-famous Bruce Trail provide access to almost every part of the Dundas Valley. The network is organized along three major trails: the **Main Loop Trail**, including several secondary trails branching from it; the world-famous **Bruce Trail**; and Canada's first inter-urban rail trail - the 32-kilometre **Hamilton-to-Brantford Rail Trail** which is one of the region's most important walking, cycling and equestrian routes (it's also part of the **Trans Canada Trail**). Links to Paris and Cambridge extend this latter trail by 80 kilometres.

**Note:** Because of rugged terrain, Dundas Valley trails have limited accessibility. Wheelchair and scooter users are encouraged to use the Rail Trail. An all-terrain wheelchair is available at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre by appointment only.

## Share the Path

The Dundas Valley Trail system is open to hikers, dog-walkers, joggers, cyclists, equestrians and cross-country skiers. Please remember that enjoyment and safety among such a diverse group begins with every individual. Observing these general rules of etiquette will help ensure a great trail experience for everyone.

- ◆ Stay on the main trails. There are many rare and sensitive plants and small animals that are easily damaged or hurt if you leave the trails.
- ◆ Keep to the right and allow other users to pass to your left.
- ◆ Let others know you're there – sound your bell or call out before passing.
- ◆ Please pack out what you carry in.

If you have questions about trail etiquette or require assistance (including first aid), be sure to ask a member of the Dundas Valley Volunteer Patrol. They are easy to spot in their purple shirts and jackets.

## Trail Centre

The Trail Centre is the focal point for the valley trail system. Modelled after a Victorian railway station, it provides important visitor services, including:

- ◆ Snack bar and washrooms
- ◆ Interpretive displays and brochures
- ◆ Gift shop and trail maps
- ◆ Group, corporate and bus tour information
- ◆ Facility rentals
- ◆ Guided hike and workshop registrations
- ◆ School and youth programs
- ◆ Group Camping by permit



## Weddings, Meetings & Special Corporate Events at Maplewood

The Dundas Valley has everything your group will need to experience the natural wonders of this World Biosphere Reserve - from beautiful hiking and biking trails to stunning waterfalls, vistas, and convenient facility rentals.

Want to add a natural element to your special event? Maplewood is perfectly suited for meetings, weddings, and corporate events. Located in the heart of the valley, this picturesque building is surrounded by lush deciduous forests, ravines and trails. A chapel is located nearby. Maplewood accommodates 120 people.

Need help planning your event? Then let our experienced staff arrange catering, activities, or custom-designed functions to meet the needs of just about any size group. For information on rentals and other facilities and programs in the valley, please call (905) 627-1233.

For corporate and group sales inquiries, call 1-888-319-4722 or visit [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)



## Environmental Education

The Dundas Valley Conservation Area offers over 30 exciting outdoor environmental education adventures for students in Grades 1-12. Weekend programs are also available for special interest groups.

For more information about programs and fees please contact the Education Co-ordinator at 905-627-1233 or Email: [dvalley@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:dvalley@conservationhamilton.ca)  
 Fax: 905-627-9722

### Dundas Valley Volunteer Patrol

provides information and assistance (including First Aid) to trail users. The volunteer patrol consists of equestrians, cyclists, hikers and dog-walkers. The only requirements for becoming a patrol member are basic first aid certification, enthusiasm and a willingness to help others. Training, including first aid, will be provided. For more information call: 905-627-1233



## Hours of Operation

The Dundas Valley Conservation Area is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset, unless otherwise posted.

The Trail Centre is open weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Summer Hours (July- August): 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For trail conditions, please call 905-627-1233 or read the postings at the Trail Centre and Governor's Road entrance.

## Admission

At each of the park's four parking lots there is an Honour Fee Station, where users of the park can deposit the park entry fee. Children under the age of 12 years are free!

## Stay on the path - get the map!

### Dundas Valley Adventure Map

Topographical and waterproof, it's the first to provide complete and accurate detail of the spectacular Dundas Valley. Designed for cyclists, hikers, and equestrians.



### HCA Annual Pass

Get year-round access to HCA conservation lands. The annual vehicle pass admits the driver and all passengers or a horse and rider.



### Trail Access Pass

Enjoy HCA trails all year-long. This pass is designed for individuals who arrive at HCA conservation lands on foot or bicycle. For more information about the map or our annual passes, visit the Trail Centre, the HCA's main office or [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)

### Enjoy Your Stay

In order that all those who use this conservation area may enjoy it completely, we ask you to observe the following:

- ◆ The Liquor Control Act is enforced.
- ◆ Visitors must not deface, remove, or damage any property in the Conservation Area. Destruction or disturbance of plants and animals is prohibited.
- ◆ Refuse must be placed in receptacles provided. A limited number of receptacles are located in the conservation area. Please carry out what you carry in.
- ◆ Dogs and other pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
- ◆ Vending, soliciting, or advertising is prohibited except by written permission of the Authority.
- ◆ Firearms are forbidden except by Authority permit.
- ◆ Motorists must observe the posted speed limits and park in the designated areas.
- ◆ Snowmobiles and ATVs are prohibited except by Authority permit.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority reserves the right to bar entrance or eject any person or persons whom the Authority deems detrimental to the operation of the conservation area.

For further details, please refer to Ontario Regulation R.R.O. 132/80 or contact the Hamilton Conservation Authority Administration Office at 905-648-4427 or 905-525-2181.

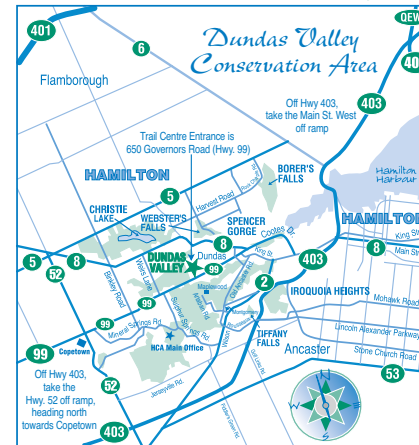


Contact us for more information about Dundas Valley:  
 905-627-1233  
 1-888-319-4722

[dvalley@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:dvalley@conservationhamilton.ca)

For the latest event listings, visit our website at: [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)

## How to get to Dundas Valley



Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!



Follow this sign to the Dundas Valley Conservation Area

The HCA is a corporate body established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in partnership with its member municipalities and the province of Ontario.



Dundas Valley is wheelchair accessible. Some assistance may be required. Please ask staff to assist when necessary.



This brochure is printed on recycled paper and can be recycled.



Hamilton Conservation Authority



Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!