



Mary Lake and Eaton Hall Lake Hike

The Oak Ridges Moraine gets its name from its rolling hills and river valleys extending 160 km from the Niagara Escarpment in the west to the Trent River in the east and was formed 12,000 years ago by advancing and retreating glaciers. The hiking group of the Chinese University of Hong Kong Alumni Association (Ontario) will have the next hiking trip at the west end of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail in King City. Here the natural area trail passes through two kettle moraine lakes which have provided some of the most popular sections of the trail: Mary Lake on the former country property of Sir Henry Pellatt, the builder of Casa Loma in Toronto, and Eaton Hall Lake (aka Seneca Lake) on the former Eaton Country Estate.

Starting from the Mary Lake, the trail meanders north to the 16th Sideroad and through prime southern Ontario woods, sun-dappled and bird-sung. On the way back, we will cross Keele Street and head east to the Eaton Hall, a French chateau built in the Norman style for Lady Flora McCrae Eaton in 1937, which is adjacent to the Eaton Hall Lake. Located in the headwaters of the East Humber River, Eaton Hall-Mary-Hackett Wetland Complex is one of the largest and most diverse wetland complexes on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

- Date:** August 15th, 2009 (Saturday)
- Meeting Place:** Mary Lake Monastery visitors' parking lot.
- Parking fee:** Free parking on most days, but a donation of \$10.00 for parking may be requested if there is other community function or church activity on the same day; Parking fee may be waived if you indicate to the attendant that you go there hiking.
- Start Time:** 9:30 a.m. SHARP (Please arrive at the parking lot 15 minutes ahead of the hike start time)
- Distance/time:** 7 km, slow pace, 2.5 to 3 hours
- Sign up for hike:** Please e-mail Peter Li (李斌 peterli@rogers.com)
- What to wear:** hiking shoes or boots, hat, comfortable clothes, rain gears (if necessary)
- What to bring:** sun screen, water, snacks, walking stick, insect repellent, sunglasses

Directions to Mary Lake Monastery Parking Lot

From the East: Take Highway 404 northbound to Bloomington Rd. Go westbound on Bloomington (becomes 15th Sideroad west of Bathurst St) until you reach Keele St. At this intersection (northwestern corner) there is an entrance to Mary Lake Monastery. Once past the ornate stone wall and open wrought iron gate, follow the long and pleasant winding road canopied by lush mature trees and turn LEFT to the parking area (denoted by P in the map below).

From the West: Take Highway 400 northbound to the King Road. Go east on King Rd until you reach Keele St. Turn left and go north on Keele St for about 2 km, look for 15th Sideroad. You will see the entrance gate to the Monastery at the left hand side (see above).

