



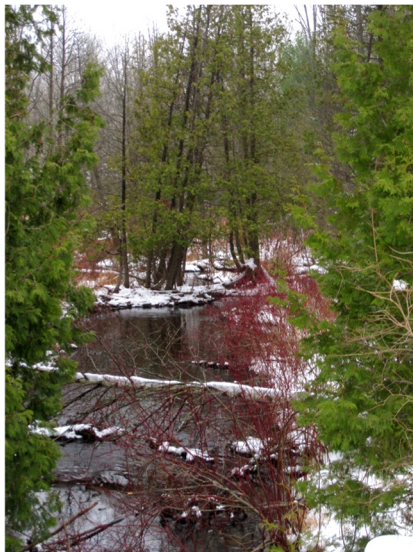
Headwater Hikes

Britton Forest Tract Milton

Britton is the most easterly of five contiguous tracts in the Halton Regional Forest.

Unlike walking in most forests, such as in the Oak Ridges Moraine when precipitation filters through the sand and gravel hills, the amount of surface water in wetlands and creeks in Britton is astounding, especially along the western and southern sides of the loop shown overleaf.

Here, due to the karst dolomite of the Niagara Escarpment, precipitation can be held near the surface, causing areas of moss; quickly infiltrate to a modest depth, bubbling up into Britton's abundant wetlands and small streams; or flow to more distant groundwater, aquifers, and up-wellings.



Moderately undulating land and alternating soil depth in Britton present a wide array of forest species, from various types of evergreens and birch thickets to mature stands of hardwood.

In Robertson, more of the water is held just below the surface, creating a large amount of moss on prevalent rock outcrops and contributing to the high percentage of trees that cannot breathe through the water, and so fall before obtaining full splendor.

Our forests are important not just for habitat, regulating local climate, and forest products, but also for where and how they store water, impact water chemistry, and contribute to the fundamental relationship between terrestrial and aquatic species.

Headwater Hikes is an OHI project sponsored by The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation



Possibility grows here.

Local Partners:

- ◆ Oakvillegreen Conservation Association
- ◆ Regional Municipality of Halton



OHI Headwater Hikes—BRITTON FOREST TRACT

Location	10200 6th Line Nassagaweya, Milton, Ontario L9T 2X7
Map Search	Halton Region Forest Complex, then see Halton Complex
Watershed	Sixteen Mile Creek, managed by Conservation Halton. See http://www.conservationhalton.ca/
Hike Type and Length	Multi-use trail is 3m wide granular roadway, too rough for wheelchairs. Numerous single-track trails for hikers, bikes, horseback riders, and skiers. Hike suggested below is about 90 minutes.
Rating	Easy footing with mild undulations. Side trails narrow and can be muddy and/or slippery and rocky. You'll need footwear with a good tread.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

1. Heading in from the southern parking area, note the thinning of the pines done in 2014. Stay right: small path to the left is closed.
2. Cross over the first wetland, then bear right to begin the large circular path.
3. After bearing left at the fork, the trail is surrounded by mixed forests and passes through two archways where evergreen boughs touch. Note the transition to moss on more prevalent rocks and the increase in fallen or leaning trees.
4. This section features numerous streams and wetlands of the upper reaches of Sixteen Mile Creek.
5. Decision time: head back to the beginning or head in to Robertson. It is more than 30 minutes to 4th Line, and 30 back.
6. The trail passes through one last large wetland, below, with steady flows. Linger a moment before heading on, bearing right at the next fork to return to the parking lot.



Please read the Safety Guidelines and Disclaimers at
www.ontarioheadwaters.ca/Hikes/Safety.

Contact: Andrew@ontarioheadwaters.ca 416 231 9484



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