



Headwater Hikes

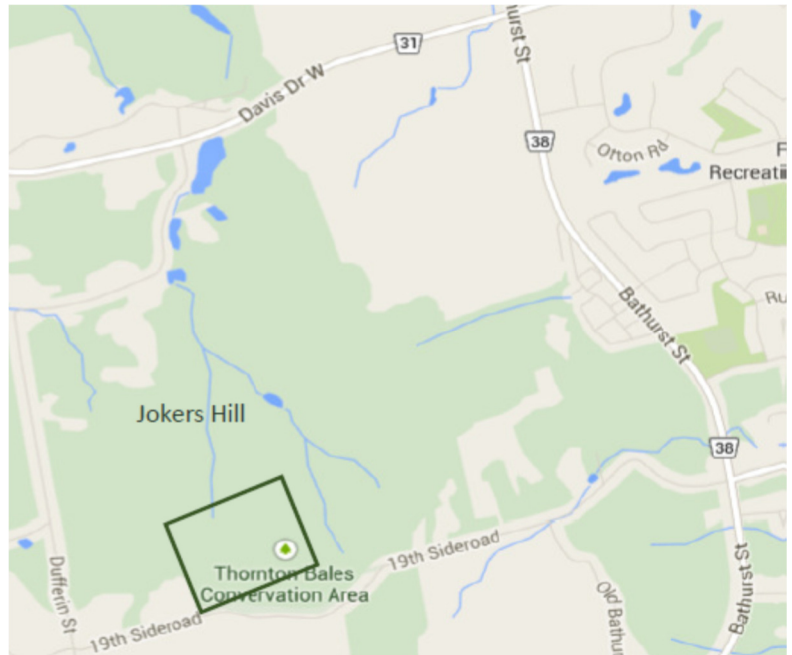
THORNTON BALES CONSERVATION AREA KING TOWNSHIP

Everything about Thornton Bales is LARGE: the famous 99 steps down from 19th Side Road; the trees; the undulating hills.

The hills themselves are sand and gravel, soaking up the rain for surface and ground-flow.

The drawing to the right shows several wetlands, ponds, and sections of both first- and second order streams.

It also shows the approximate boundary of Thornton Bales and the larger Jokers Hill, the part of the University of Toronto's Koffler Scientific Reserve that is open to the public.



Many of the streams in this area, some ephemeral or intermittent, flow toward wetlands and the large ponds nestled against Dufferin Street near its junction with Davis Drive.

As is well known, however, groundwater filtered by the Oak Ridges Moraine does not necessarily flow the way the ground tilts, and may furnish base flow to various other streams, wetlands, and wells in the broader area.

Winding over and around the hills, this Hike is fairly strenuous, with an option to head to a small pond in Jokers Hill. If you decide to explore this adjacent area, make sure you read the note in Item 5 overleaf.

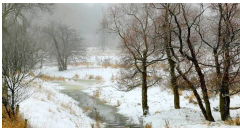
Headwater Hikes is an OHI project sponsored by The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Local Partners:

- ◆ **STORM Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition**
- ◆ **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**



Possibility grows here.



OHI Headwater Hikes—THORNTON BALES

Location

19th Side Road, between Dufferin and Bathurst, King Township, Ontario

Map Search

Thornton Bales Conservation Area

Watershed

East Holland sub-watershed, Lake Simcoe. See www.lsra.on.ca

Hike Type and Length

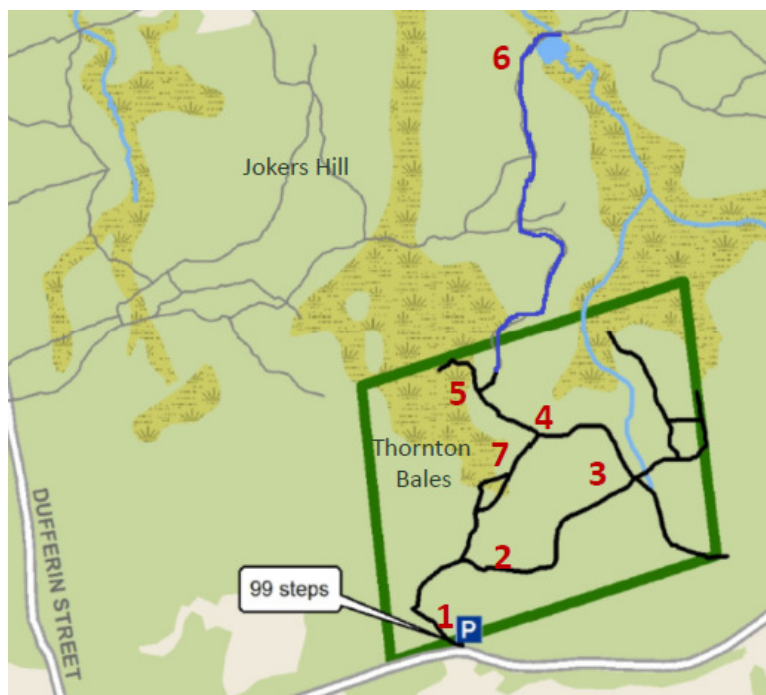
Multiple pedestrian trails that can engage you for hours.
The Hike suggested below is about 90 minutes.

Rating

Rugged. Many sections of undulating, narrow trails with rocks and roots. And if you go down the 99 Steps, you've gotta come back up.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

1. The 99 Steps are just below a ten-car parking lot on 19th Side Road.
2. Head right at the bottom of the hill.
3. Bear left at this junction.
4. Ignore the first left and take the first right.
5. If you wish, head left to the wetland or allow a good 20 minutes to get to the pond. If you choose the pond, see the trail maps and rules for Jokers Hill at <http://ksr.utoronto.ca/hiking-trails/>
6. A lovely, small pond. Catch your breathe before heading back. Turn left at 5 and right at 4.
7. Enjoy the long stroll back to the 99 Steps. Are there really 99?



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

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