

This Week's Walk by Margeree Edwards

Apr 23, 2021

The Less Travelled Part of Jackson Park

The most travelled part of Jackson Park in Peterborough is around the Concrete Bridge where people set out on the Trans Canada Trail. After 1.1 km they are at First Bridge, sometimes called the 'Pink Bridge' where the creek goes under the trail. A beautiful meadow has been excavated to improve the quality of the water by holding back silt and reducing flooding. To the north is a high ridge, often used in the past as a great toboggan run.

At this point, for any number of reasons, people turn back to the beginning. They have, at the very least, seen a beautiful forest and a gurgling stream.

Some push on for another 0.8 km to Second Bridge. Fewer walkers go as far as or beyond Second Bridge which is a shame as it is one of the most beautiful parts of the whole trail. What many people don't know is that Second Bridge can be accessed directly from Parkhill Road.

Starting from the main entrance to Jackson Park (the one with the stone pillars) drive or bike west on Parkhill Road for 2km. You will see, on your right, a sign for the Trans Canada Trail and a parking lot for about 15 cars.

A paved trail leads down the slope (fairly steep) to a magnificent stand of tall, tall trees - the kind you can see through with leaves like crowns at the top. Soon you come to the creek, larger here, and Second Bridge. You can choose to go to the right in the direction of First Bridge or you can go to the left to Third Bridge.

The trail to First Bridge (0.8 km) is forested and has many flowering bushes in the spring. It is the trail to Third Bridge (1.0 km) that fewer people get to see. It is very interesting with a deep ravine, more so on the north side than the south, and a sharp ridge across the top. The creek is now to the left of the trail. When you get to Third Bridge there is a view of Lily Lake to the north.

The landscape is quite different at Third Bridge and right through (1.2 km) to Ackison Road. As a wetland, it has fewer trees, more grasses, and evidence of critters, such as turtles, that come out onto the gravel path to lay their eggs in the spring. Jackson Creek itself, takes on a meandering path, like loops, through the wetlands.

Send your ideas for walks to Margeree Edwards at inmecom@gmail.com or text to 705 768 6703. Thanks.

Previous walks are at <https://peterboroughunitarian.ca/this-weeks-walk/>