

This Week's Walk by Margeree Edwards

Trent Trails at Giant Tiger

May 21, 2021

I would guess that many people in Peterborough recognize the name Giant Tiger. It is located 3.5 miles from The Peterborough Zoo, on the left side of the Lakefield highway. A large store in a vast parking lot; who would have guessed that behind that parking lot there are intertwining trails to enjoy. I had no idea until a couple of months ago when a friend invited me to walk the trails during the winter. It was not a great introduction; I fell on the ice and bruised my hip. But as soon as the ice melted, I was back for a good walk.

I am told that the property belongs to Trent University and the trails have been developed and maintained by a person in the neighbourhood - but that has not been verified. Park in the south/ west part of the lot and follow the paved road and then a dirt road to the west and around a curve to the north. Go back to the left and watch for a white sign up in a tree at the entrance to the forest. To your right there is a very large, stunning growth of bright yellow flowers - the colour of mustard. That yellow patch is opposite to the direction you want to go. The words on the sign are Private Property and Trent University. Walk into the forest and soon you come to a wooden bridge over a now-dry stream with a sign:

The trails are primarily large and circular and join each other. There are several places where you will have to decide which trail to take. There are no maps, no signs. When you ask someone about the trails, the most common response is "I got lost." My first real trip was with a friend who carries a GPS. I can't say we got lost, but we certainly took a much longer trail than anticipated. In the woods, a GPS will record your beginning and end but indications can be few in a forest.

If possible, have a look at Google Maps before you go. Be aware of the turns you have made and the times you have chosen one trail rather than another. Always as a good practice, notice what markers you see along the way: such as large rocks, strange shaped trees, moss on trees, wet areas, boards used as bridges, changes in the types of trees and the location of the meadow.

Start out by looking where you are. Know which direction you are going. Where is the sun in the sky? What direction will it be going? Getting lost is not a big deal as the land is surrounded by houses in some places and there are roads. Knowing where you are all the time you are walking or hiking is good practice.

Please forward your ideas to me at inmecom@gmail.com

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