

This Week's Walk by Margeree Edwards

A Variety of Trails at Fleming College

May 28, 2021

Many years ago, I was the faculty representative on the Board of Governors at Sir Sandford Fleming Community College (as it was called at that time). The College President, David Sutherland, was adamant that a beautiful old growth forest on the south and east side of the property would not be cut. It would remain as a natural area. At the rate at which the College has grown, it is surprising that David got his wish. Today, 42 years later, I walked the trail through the forest for the first time. It is a very open and well lit forest. Very beautiful.

The Nature Trail is just one of several trails on the College campus. To get to them take Lansdowne Street west, go over Brealey, and pass a long strip plaza on the left. Take the next street to the left (at Shoppers Drug Mart). The name of the street is Dobbin. Drive south on Dobbin past large houses and come to the 'official' entrance to the college, complete with stone 'arches'. Go through the entrance and travel the street until the first street on the right. Turn right in front of a long stand of pines. Drive past the Aspin parking lot and come to the Oak parking lot on the right.

Enter the Oak parking lot and immediately look to the left for a gravel/dirt road that leads you into the trails area. There are maps that show the trails and, as you move along, you will see the teepee (also written TP). Past the TP is a T intersection with signs and arrows to the trails. The trail to the Nature Area is to the left.

It is a beautiful walk into the Nature Area. On this occasion, thousands of trilliums, just past their prime, covered the floor of the forest. But soon it was clear that my experiment to test an insect repellent without Deet had failed, miserably. Even constant applications were not enough. The mosquitoes soon learned that there was no repellent on the back of me and they stung me through my clothes! Bring a strong bug spray and wear white, which mosquitoes don't like.

The other trails are newer, very neat, and easy to follow. Bikes, baby carriages, and wheelchairs are possible on some.

Once you drive in to the TP and have your bearings, you will want to park so go back out the road you just came in, out of Oak Parking lot, and straight ahead of you is the Visitor parking lot. It is pay and display but, now, with no students, I saw no one paying.

It is a bit strange that when you first come into the college this way, into a mass of parking lots, it all looks so complex, but once you have driven around a bit, it all takes on a form that makes it easy to understand. There are three large buildings marked A,B,C, D. The trails are closest to the "B" building.

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

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