

This Week's Walk by Margeree Edwards

The Water Walk in Lakefield

June 4, 2021

Peterborough is surrounded by water. Even the logo of the City of Peterborough is a series of waves, rippling. So it was surprising to me when one of my walking buddies asked for a trail that went all the way along a shoreline that I had to stop and think for a minute. Aw yes! Lakefield is perfect! A circular route, first on the shore of the Otonabee River and then following the outline of Lake Katchewanooka and back to the Otonabee.

Earlier editions of this column have included several trails that have some connection with water. Past issues can be found right below a current column, such as this one.

The trail begins at the west end of Lakefield Beach on a paved lane with wide boulevards of cut grass on either side. On the left side, the shoreline is an excellent example of what the sign there says, "A healthy shore is a natural shore": To the right side, many in the long string of houses show their cottage design, while others have been built as year-round homes. Most have beautiful landscaping and show-off gardens. The island to the left is Gordon Island, a great place to test your expertise by swimming out and back. The view beyond is of the village on the other side of the Otonabee River.

The trail intersects a road called Hague to the right. Take that road to its intersection with D'Eyncourt Street. On the north / west corner of the intersection locate a sign saying 'Imagine the Marsh Conservation Area'. Take the gravel road that looks like somebody's driveway, and head north. By the way, the beautiful tree you passed right on the corner is a Green Ash.

Soon the trail breaks out into a lovely shoreline area with a viewing tower and close-up scenes of the marsh. The 'occupants' of the marsh change with the seasons but include very large fish that jump up high out of the water (several have succeeded in jumping into my canoe). Sometimes there are swans which can be rather snapish with people if the female is on the nest. And then there are the Canada Geese, hundreds of them in spring. Some parade through the water with mom at the front of a long string of babies and dad at the end keeping order as he lets the world know, through little peeps, that he's very proud of his family of 10.

Where the trail of wooden slats turns into two, take the trail on the left to the shore line of Katchewanooka Lake.

The shore line here has a wide walking space, but visually is dominated by trailers and a camping ground. It is presently the site of ongoing debate as to whether it will remain as it is, or what it might be in the future and what it will look like. Given that the village owns the land, there are many considerations.

Following the shoreline leads to the intersection of Katchewanooka Lake and the Otonabee River which curves around to the beach and the end of the trail.

My walking buddy enjoyed the trail and being close to the water. It is nice, she said, to be out of the city at some place different but not too far away. There is also the opportunity to add more sections and extend the trail at the west end. She said the community feels safe.

For those who do not know the location of Lakefield Beach it is on the west side before the bridge over the canal and can be found on Google Maps. Beach water is tested regularly and there is sand. Parking is available and there are washrooms.

PLEASE NOTE:

This is the first in a series of columns that will combine walking trails and opportunities to cool down in a swimming area.

I welcome your suggestions to Margeree Edwards at minmecom@gmail.com or by text to 705 768 6703.

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