

Probus Club of Pelham – Hiking Interest Group (Updated September 2025) Hike Operating Procedure and Schedule October, 2025 to April 30, 2026

- **Dates** - Hikes are listed by date, occur once a week. **Tuesdays Starting** Oct. 2025 to **end of** Apr. 2026
- **Start time** - 10:00am. Try to arrive 10 or 15 min. early to discuss the hike conditions.
- **Hike Description & Start Location** - A brief hike description is provided. Highlighted link for start location. Hikes numbered 1 to 27.
- **Hike difficulty** – Estimated using the Bruce Trail 3 point rating system of Easy, Moderate and Strenuous.
- **Duration** - Hikes are usually about or just under 2 hours, with exceptions noted.
- **Hike Leader** - There is no official hike leader. Decide at the hike start. Previous hikers will have knowledge of the routes.
- **Break/lunch locations** – To be decided by the group. Some options are provided. Large groups may need reservations
- **Cancellations** - There will be no official e-mail signup or cancellation for individual hikes. Everyone decides for themselves.
- **Reasons for not Hiking** - Bad weather, rain, high winds, blizzards.
- **Rescheduled Hikes** - If desired, cancelled hikes can be rescheduled and conveyed to the group through a membership e-mail list.
- **Safety** - Everyone is responsible for their own safety. Hiking has some risks, and each individual must decide for themselves to attend or continue on a specific hike. Part way turnaround points are always an option with meetups back at the start point and over lunch. Appropriate footwear, clothing, water, icers in slippery winter conditions are recommended.
- **Pace** - The group will aim for a recreational pace with collection points bringing everyone back together with no one left behind. Everyone has their own pace so for some hikes it may be desirable to have slow and faster groups; decide at the start of the hike.
- **Guests** - Will always be welcomed with the expectation that Probus Club of Pelham membership will be obtained after 3 hikes.

Month/Yr	Day	Difficulty	Hike Description, Start Location
OCT/25	7th	Easy	1.Lathrops Nature Preserve park behind the Fonthill beer store and enter the conservation area via Marlene Stewart Park. Following the trails, many of which have been upgraded, to exit on Pelham Street, and return on a section of the Steve Bauer Trail. Lunch in town.
	14th	Easy	2.Decew Falls park at the First Nations Peace Monument, on Decew Road , and follow the trail around Lake Moodie to the hydro dam. The Bruce Trail leads to Decew Falls, and loops behind the water treatment plant to return on the Lake Moodie trail.
	21st	Moderate	3. Woodend Conservation Area/Walker Living Campus – Enter off Taylor Road and drive for about 1.3km to the far end of the access road to a parking lot near the Walker Living Campus Buildings. Hike along the Niagara Escarpment and down to the Niagara College ponds and back again. Lunch/break location after hike at the Outlet Mall food court

	28th	Moderate	4. Louth Conservation Area - 3193 Staff Ave Jordon. Start at a small parking lot and hike the Bruce Trail. The 13th Street Winery offers a lunch location about 8km away, with delicious sour cherry tarts.
NOV/25	4th	Strenuous	5. NIAGARA GORGE HIKE – Park at Niagara Glen Nature Centre Parking Lot....3050 Niagara Parkway. Note \$8.00/hour parking charge so car pool if you can. Or buy the Niagara Parks Commission parking pass for \$40 for one year. The hike is at least 2 hours and is challenging but also spectacular. It goes in a loop from the Niagara Glen to the Whirlpool. It can be shortened by staying on the top of the gorge or at one end, going from top to bottom and back. Lunch at the Grist Craft Brewery at St. David’s or Queen’s Coach in Niagara Falls
	11th	Moderate	6. Boos restaurant in Jordon - on King Street (2980 King Street). Meet in parking lot across from Boos Restaurant , by the Jordan Hollow Park . The trail goes north, using an underpass beneath King Street and at the fork to Balls Falls, go east on the Bruce Trail, crossing Glen Rd. and Nineteenth St. before circling back for about 5km and 1.5hrs. Our break options can be at the Jordan House Tavern or Boos Restaurant
	18th	Easy	7. Beaver Dams Park at the Allenburg Bridge , and take the wide gravel path to Beaverdams Road, then follow the road to Beaverdams Island, and past the fully restored Methodist church dating from 1832. A footpath leads back to the canal path, returning to Allenburg Bridge
	25th	Moderate	8. Hike to BALLS FALLS - meet at the parking lot on Glen Rd. , West on Hwy 20. Right on Victoria, Right on 7th Ave ,Left on Twenty first Street which goes into Glen Rd., with parking about 2km on left hand side. Lunch break option at the Jordan House Tavern
DEC/25	2nd	Moderate	9. Quarry Road - West on Hwy 20 right on Victoria Road. Left on Fly Road. Quarry Road is on the right off of Fly Road. Parking half way down hill called “Parking for Cave Springs Conservation” on google maps . One hike is known as the Caves Springs Witch Hunt.
	9th	Strenuous	10. Fonthill Legion Hike – Start at the Fonthill Legion off Hwy 20 , and follow the Steve Bauer Trail, east to just before Rice Road, then veer north on bush trails that follow ridges and steep hills to just before a cleared field by Hollow Rd. Return trip takes about 2 hours. Lunch options abound in Fonthill along Hwy 20.

	16th	Easy	11. Fifth Ave. – Meet at 5th Ave. which is to the east off Victoria Ave. and just north of Featherstone Winery. The sign for 5th Ave. is set back in from road. When you pull into 5th Ave., park along the fence on right side or along trees on left. The hike is about 1.5 hrs. with some hills, over to Balls Falls and back.
	23rd	Moderate	12. GLENRIDGE QUARRY – From Fonthill go east on Hwy. 20, left on Merrittville Rd., make a right at St. David’s Rd. by the Niagara Regional municipal buildings, just past McDonald’s turn left into the Quarry parking. The Quarry area has well groomed trails with one good hill climb to the summit. The Bruce trail is available in another section with two other hills.
	30th	Strenuous	13.Short Hills Park – Begin at the Roland Road parking lot near White Meadows Farm. Take the Swayze Falls Trail for 6.2 kms., about 2 hrs. Visit the Friends of Short Hills Park website for more details. Note any trail closures.
JAN/26	6th	Easy	14. Merritt Island Hike – In Welland meet at the Merritt Island Parking lot , south of Welland City Hall. Hike north on the Island, then cross over on a railway embankment to the west side and return on the Welland Canal Trail. Almost all flat but about 10kms long for 2.25 hrs. Lunch spots
	13th	Easy	15.Port Dalhousie. - Meeting at Jaycee Gardens near Port Dalhousie and do a mostly urban but scenic hike in the area. Entrance to the park is right across from Anchor Point off Ontario St, by the light. Coffee at Balzacs near the end of the route provides takeout or they have a room upstairs that seats 8 (if empty).
	20th	Strenuous	16.Rotary Park -St. Catherines, off Pelham Road. The St. Catherines Museum has produced a History of Power Glen , through which the hike will pass along Twelve Mile Creek, and traverse a section of Short Hills Prov. Park on our way up the Escarpment to Decew Falls. Return distance is about 7km.
	27th	Moderate	17.Queenston Heights – NOTL, Meet at a parking lot on the corner of YORK ROAD AND PARKWAY . Hike up to Queenston so there will be one hill and then flat afterwards. We will be on the Bruce Trail part of the way. The hike is about 1.5 hours.
Feb/26	3rd	Moderate	18.Kinsmen Park - Beamsville. Here is the google map location . You take Frost Rd. off Fly Rd. to get to the park. Hike the Bruce Trail. Lunch option includes Conversations Café in Beamsville.

	10th	Moderate	19.Short Hills Park -Start at Wiley Road parking lot off of Cataract . Hike south on the Black Walnut Trail then take the south west section of the Terrace Creek Trail to meet up again with the Black Walnut Trail, which can follow around back to the parking lot. The north and east section of the Terrace Creek Trail is permanently closed. About a 2 hr. hike and 4.6km distance. Visit the Friends of Short Hills Park website for more details. Note any additional trail closures
	14th	Easy	20.Port Colborne – Meet at HH Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne. Hike west past the Hospital to Tennessee Street and then along Lakeshore, returning via Bayview St.. Lunch options located on West Street by the canal, includes the Pie Guys .
	24th	Strenuous	21.Blue Ghost Tunnel Hike – Start at WOODEND CONSERVATION in NOTL, just off the entrance from Taylor Rd. The hike proceeds west across Taylor Rd., beside Royal Niagara Golf Course. At the old canal turn left (south) to cross over an active railway bridge. OR, to avoid walking along the active railway bridge, turn right as you reach the old canal and go north to Glendale Ave. Then cross over the canal and come back south on a wide paved Seaway Haulage road on the west side of the old canal. The entrance path to the tunnel is off this road on the west side, marked on a guard rail, south of the railway bridge overpass,. Vere to the right on a short, steep earthen path that then goes down to the tunnel entrance. The steep path can be avoided on a trail near the pump house. This is a 9km hike well over 2 hrs. Here is one and a second history of the tunnel. Lunch/break location after hike at the Outlet Mall food court
Mar/26	3rd	Moderate	22.SHORT HILLS PARK - Start at the main parking lot off Pelham Road . Take a 1.5 hour to 2 hour hike on the Black Walnut Trail, for 4.3 kms. (its closer to 5 km). Visit the Friends of Short Hills Park website for more details. Note any trail closures.
	10th	Strenuous	23.Hike to Swazy Falls in Short Hills Park. Park at Rockway Conservation Area if parking lot arm is up (means no payment). But if parking lot arm is down park at Rockway Presbyterian Church just to the west off Pelham Rd. near Ninth St.. This is an in and back kind of hike, mostly on the Bruce Trail for about 9 kms. There is also a hike to the north from the Rockway parking lot at Wiley Dr. and Pelham Rd., that goes into the river ravine area of Rockway Conservation Area. This trail going further west will lead to the Louth Conservation Area.
	17th	Easy	24.Gerry Burkhout Trail – meet at Centennial Park in Fenwick and traverse a rail trail, there and back for 6km at Centre St. turnaround, or 7km at Poth St. turnaround.

	24th	Moderate	25. Firemen's Park , - Niagara Falls, Upper Parking Lot. This one goes to the Screaming Tunnel. Take Thorold Tunnel, second stop light turn left(Taylor Road) about 2kms turn right on Mountain Road take Mountain Road to Firemen's Park (you will go through a roundabout). Park is on the left off Dorchester Rd. (make a quick turn left after you enter Dorchester). Here is a link to a tunnel website https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/screaming-tunnel
	31st	Strenuous	26. Beamers Conservation – In Grimsby, park in the Lions Community parking lot in Coronation Park off Elm St.. Hike up Gibson St. to the start of the Bruce Trail which will take us to the top of the escarpment at Beamers Conservation Area
April/26	7th	Moderate	27. Happy Ralph's – Niagara on the Lake starting point at Happy Ralph's. Goes through some urban sections then out into a Lake Ontario spit on the George Nicholson Trail to the Port Weller Light House. About 8 km return trip.
	14th		To Be Determined
	21st		To Be Determined
	28th		To be Determined
UPDATE			NEW SCHEDULE

