

## Play it Safe - Tips for Winter Hiking & Snowshoeing

There's no need to stop enjoying the outdoors when winter comes! Here are a few tips that will help keep you safe and comfortable in the colder weather.

- Dress in layers, looking for items that will keep you warm and dry.
- Know your route. Know when sunset is expected and plan to be off the trail well before. Carry a map and a flashlight.
- Some trails go over waterways and near steep slopes. Check the snow/ice conditions when approaching these areas.
- Note that snowshoeing trails may take you across or alongside snowmobile routes.
- Our normal sense of thirst lets us down in winter, so be sure to keep drinking water.
- The sun may be weaker, but it can still pack a punch; use at least an SPF 15 sun screen.
- Hike with a friend. Leave word of where you are going, and when you are expected back.
- Pack a few extra items to add more comfort and safety when you are out. A first aid kit, an extra warm layer for when you stop, a piece of closed cell foam to sit on, water, some high energy snacks, spare socks and mitts, and some lip protection.

Many of these tips came from Hike Ontario. Check-out their full winter hiking fact sheet at [hikeontario.com](http://hikeontario.com).

## Getting There

Fort Willow Conservation Area

2714 Grenfel Rd., Springwater Township

## Operating Hours

Conservation Area open daily from dawn to dusk.

Trails may be closed depending on trail and weather conditions. Visit [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca) for updates.

## Parking Fees

Visitors to NVCA-operated conservation areas are required to purchase a parking pass.

- Daily Parking Pass: \$10.00/vehicle
- Annual Parking Pass: \$70.00/vehicle

Parking passes can be purchased online or in-person. Learn more at [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).



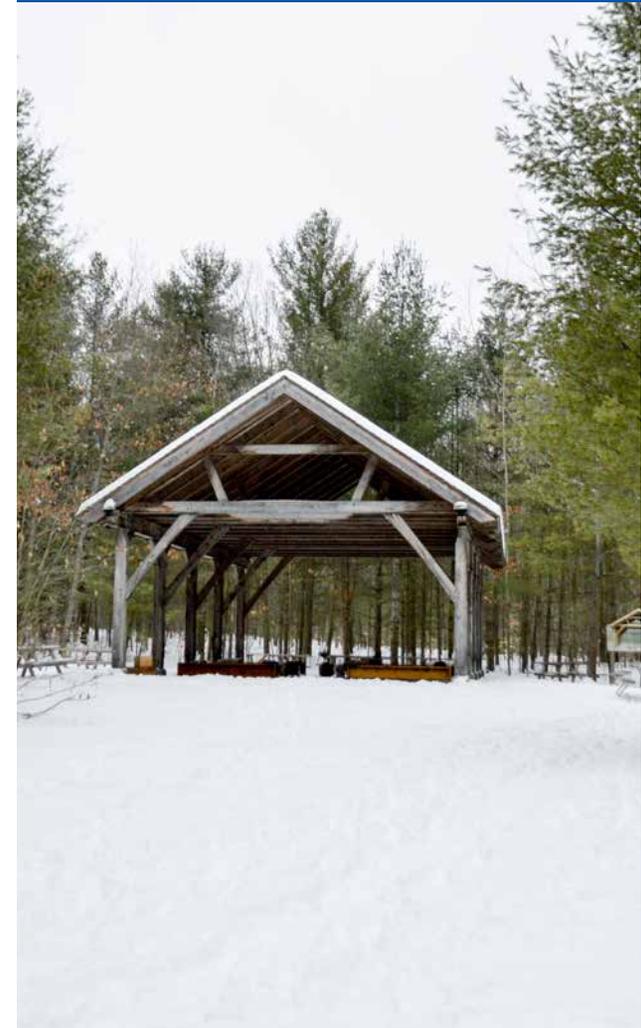
**Nottawasaga Valley  
Conservation Authority**  
705-424-1479  
[www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca)

*Alternative formats available.*

# Fort Willow Snowshoe Trail

## Fort Willow Conservation Area

*A Trail through History*



## A Trail through History

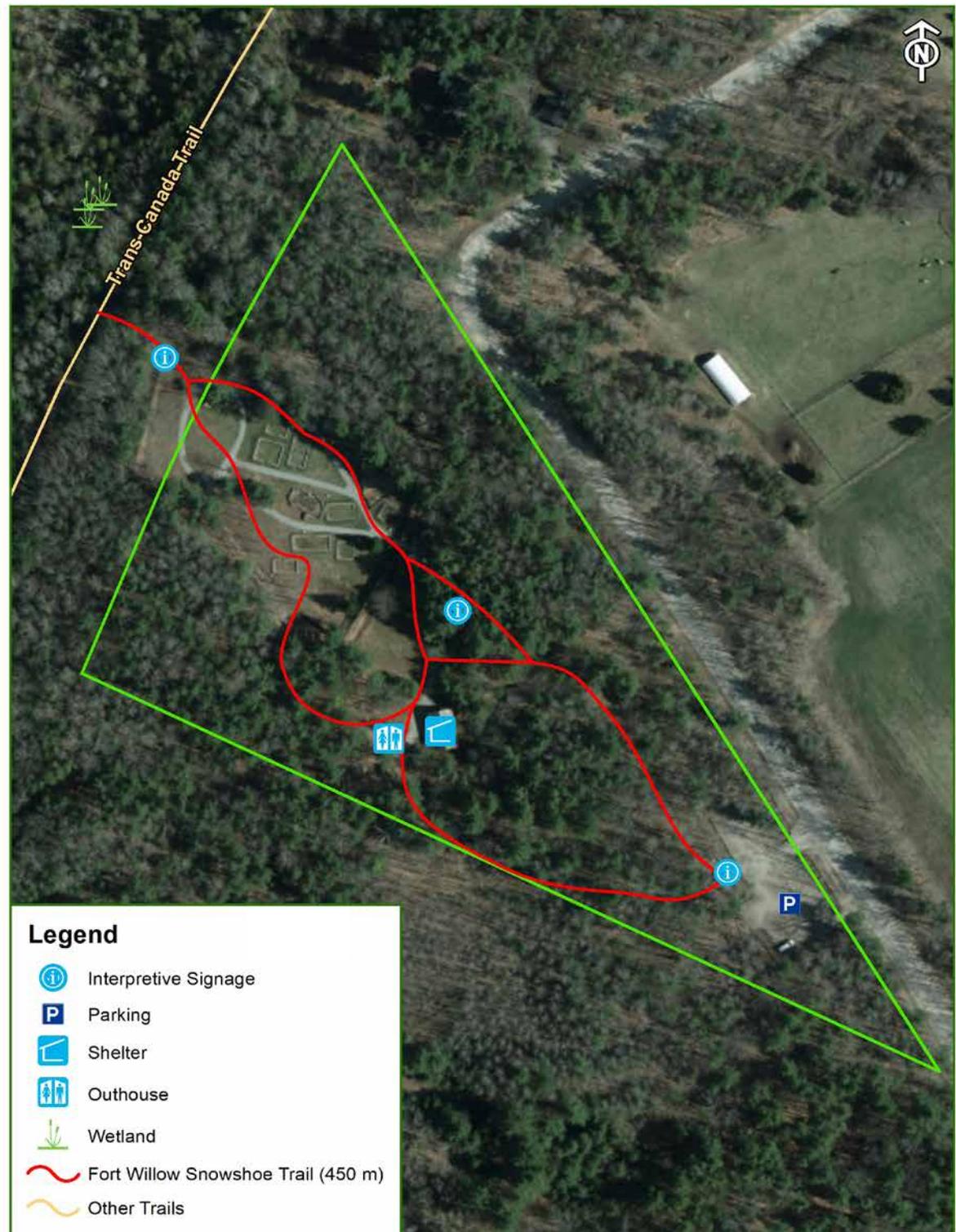
**This trail will take you into the heart of Historic Fort Willow. If the snow's not too deep, you may be able to see the outline of the fort's former buildings.**

Strategically located as a supply depot during the War of 1812, the Fort Willow area was also actively used for centuries by First Nations, fur traders and French explorers as part of a major transportation route known as the Nine Mile Portage.

Restorations and archaeological investigations have located and outlined the former buildings used by the soldiers. Information kiosks provide a thorough history of the area's past use and how its location helped ensure the geographical boundaries of Canada today.

Fort Willow is designated as a National Historic Site.

Amenities including picnic tables, seasonal dry washrooms and sheltered rest areas are available.



### Legend

-  Interpretive Signage
-  Parking
-  Shelter
-  Outhouse
-  Wetland
-  Fort Willow Snowshoe Trail (450 m)
-  Other Trails