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.

Getting There

Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area 8861 Nottawasaga 15/16 Sideroad, Clearview 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 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.



Alternative formats available.

The Bluffs Snowshoe Trail

Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area



Explore the Escarpment

Snowshoeing is a great way to get the whole family outside during the long winter months.

Explore the Niagara Escarpment as you snowshoe through the caves, hardwood and coniferous forests, and open meadows of the Nottawasaga Bluffs.

This 400-acre conservation area offers breathtaking vistas of the surrounding countryside and glimpses of the area's history. See where pioneers once toiled to cut a living out of the wilderness. Timber and limestone proved to be big businesses for this area, resulting in the establishment of nearby communities like Singhampton and Glen Huron.

The 1.1 km looped snowshoe trail runs through the forest and provides unique views of the topography of the site.

Alternatively, take the linear trail from the parking lot to connect with the main line of the Bruce Trail as it makes its way through the property to the lookout over the bluffs.

Note: Take care to stay on the trail. Deep crevices and steep drop-offs can be hidden beneath the snow.



