

## WINTER

Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

Unscrambled Word

## SPRING

Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

Unscrambled Word

## SUMMER

Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

Unscrambled Word

## FALL

Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

Unscrambled Word

## YOUTH NATURE CHALLENGE

### What is the YOUTH NATURE CHALLENGE?

It's a program to encourage youth to use the trails. You earn a badge for each season by participating for a full year. **You can start in any season.**

### What do I have to do?

1. Figure out the trail you need to hike each season by using the clues and trail descriptions in this brochure.
2. Hike the trail sometime during the 3-month time frame (season). Somewhere along the trail is a signpost with a puzzle -- a scrambled word.
3. Unscramble the letters and record the word in your brochure.
4. Draw a picture in the box that matches the word.

### How will I get my badges?

Once you've completed **all four hikes**, solved the puzzles and drawn your pictures, mail your brochure to:

Mary Lou Tasko  
10158 Meadowlily Crescent  
Grand Bend, On  
N0M 1T0

Be sure to include **your name and home address** (on the front). We will mail your badges to you.

**LSNT may use your illustrations for celebratory or promotional purposes!**

## TRAIL CLUES



**Winter** (December 1- February 28/9)

Snowshoes may help to hike these trails  
When fluffy powder drifts in SWALES.



**Spring** (March 1 – May 31)

Along this track the TRAINS once zoomed  
Now hikers watch the flowers bloom.



**Summer** (June 1 – August 31)

Beside the trail the RIVER flows  
Upon the slopes the dune grass grows.



**Fall** (September 1 – November 30)

The OWLS will help you find your way  
They watch the trailhead night and day.



LSNT is a local volunteer organization that maintains several trails in the Lambton Shores area.

You will hike **four** of these trails to earn your seasonal badges.

Follow the instructions in the **YOUTH NATURE CHALLENGE** to earn all four badges!

### TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

#### Lambton County Heritage Forest

9997 Port Franks Road, Port Franks

**Description:** Easy/Difficult

Three separate but connected trails (3.1-6.6 km) loop through oak savanna and Carolinian forest. A wheelchair accessible path and StoryWalk® (550 m) are also available. The 'Heart of the Trails' trailhead and 'Circle of Life' showcase native plants and indigenous artwork such as paintings and owl, turtle and the 'Seven Grandfathers' carvings.

#### L Lake Management Area

7101 Outer Drive, Port Franks

**Description:** Easy

The L Lake Trail (1.5 km) is named for the L-shaped marshy lake that sits beside the property. The trail loop passes through cedar wetlands and mixed Carolinian forest.

#### Ausable River Cut Conservation Area

9984 Northville Crescent, Northville

**Description:** Easy/Moderate

The Ausable River Cut Conservation Area Trails consist of three loops that share a single trailhead. The wheelchair-accessible loop with a StoryWalk® (500 m) passes through Carolinian forest and along the Ausable River Cut. A more challenging loop (2 km) leads through forest, over grassy sand dunes and along the Ausable River Cut. A shortcut across this loop bypasses a steep dune. On the river cut, the floating dock and attached launch is available during warmer months for canoes or kayaks.

#### Forested Dunes Nature Reserve

7101 Outer Drive, Port Franks

**Description:** Easy

Hikers can pick up the Forested Dunes Trail (3.5 km) at the halfway point of the L Lake loop. It's an easy hike out and back to Mud Creek through the Forested Dunes Nature Reserve.

#### Ipperwash Dunes and Swales Nature Reserve

End of Richardson Drive, Ipperwash

**Description:** Easy

Two trail loops are accessed from a single trailhead. The Dunes and Swales Trail (4 km) winds through Carolinian forest over sandy ridges and wet swales. The Cedar Trail (1.5 km) features several cedar coves.

#### Forest Trails

12 Railroad Way, Forest

**Description:** Easy

The Forest Trails consist of three separate trails: the out and back Grand Trunk Trail (4 km) which follows the old railway track, the Lagoon Loop (1.8 km) at the end of the Grand Trunk Trail, and the out and back paved Forest Walkway Trail (2.4 km) which leads to the Esli Dodge Conservation Area.

#### Ausable River Valley

West end of McDonald Drive, Middlesex County *or*  
West end of Elm Tree Drive, Middlesex County

**Description:** Difficult

The Ausable River Valley Trail (+6 km) follows the Ausable River across rugged terrain with steep gullies and inclines. The trail is long, and can be narrow, overgrown and muddy in sections, so it's suitable for experienced hikers only.

#### Mystery Falls

West end of Elm Tree Drive, Middlesex County

**Description:** Moderate/Difficult

The Mystery Falls Loop (4 km) is part of the Ausable River Valley trail system. Some sections of the trail are narrow and steep, but the beautiful waterfall is always worth the trek. You can also hike 1 km directly to the falls from the parking lot.



**Earn a badge for every season by hiking a trail and solving the puzzle!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A very special thank you to the family and friends of Bill Niessen whose generous donations have made this program possible.**

**To learn more about LSNT or to download trail maps or brochures, visit [LSNTBlazers.com](http://LSNTBlazers.com).**