

Torrance Barrens Trail

TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES



Closest Community	Torrance
Access to Trail/ Parking	Take Muskoka Road 169 north from Gravenhurst or south from Bala. Turn south on Southwood Road (Muskoka Road 13) and travel 7 km to the Torrance Barrens sign.
Distance (km)	3 km, 5 km and 6 km trails
Total # of steps	4000 to 8000+ steps
Difficulty (easy, moderate, difficult)	difficult
Trail Description/ Key Points of Interest	The trail is marked with stone cairns, white marks on rocks and metal signs. Encompassing almost 5,000 acres, the Torrance Barrens Conservation Reserve is one of the most striking geological areas in Muskoka. The lunar landscape of the Barrens is characterized by low ridges of precambrian bedrock, separated by wetlands and peat-filled hollows, scattered boulders and even a little soil. The Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, a threatened species, can also on occasion be found here, as can Ontario's only lizard, the Five Lined Skink. Amateur astronomers have identified the Barrens as an ideal place to view the night skies with little light infiltration from urban centres.
Volkssport Rating (see page 8)	2C