



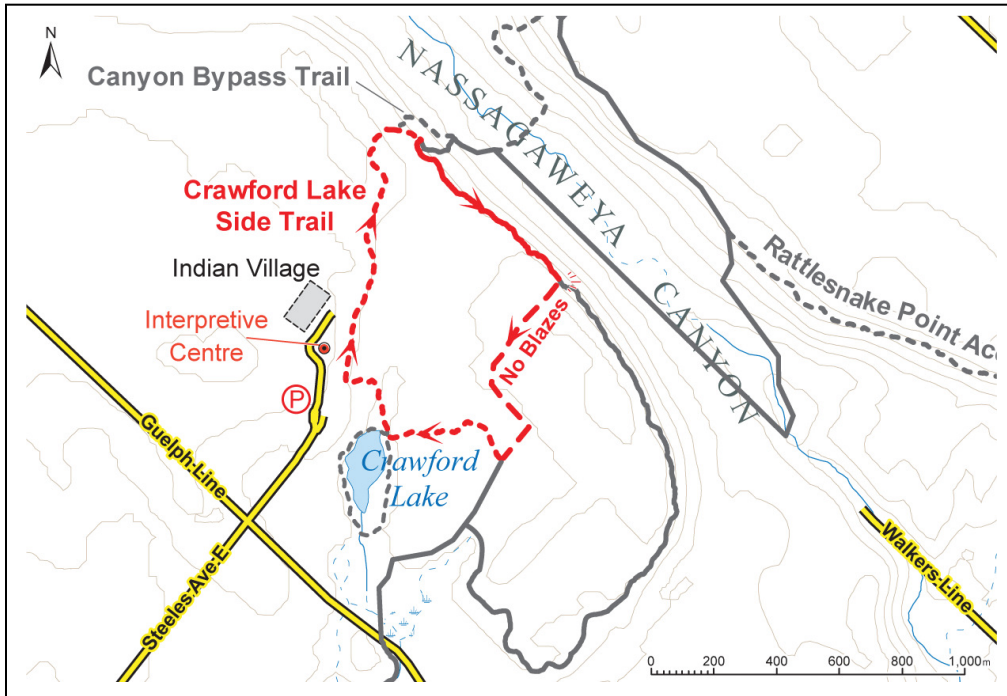
Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

Crawford Lake Conservation Area Trails

Hike Length: 0.75 km or 3.2 km

Section: Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club



How to get there and Where to Park: From Highway 401, head south on the Guelph Line to Steeles Avenue and turn left (east). The area is well signed. Conservation Halton has a large parking lot. Bruce Trail members should bring their membership cards for free entry to the Conservation Area's parking lot, except on special event days. Non-members or members without their cards will be required to pay for parking.

Description of Hike: From the parking area, head east a short distance to the Conservation Centre. Maps are posted frequently along the Trails to indicate the various hike options.

For a short hike, take the 750 m boardwalk around Crawford Lake. For a longer hike, pick up the blue blazes of the Crawford Lake Side Trail as they head east along a rocky path through abandoned farmland and past stone walls and old barn foundations. You then join the white blazes of the main Trail, which you follow south for 700 m to an interpretive lookout over Nassagaweya Canyon. On the far side is Rattlesnake Point and the Milton Outlier.

From the lookout head directly west for 700 m on a wide forest track (no blazes here). You will then reach the Crawford Lake Side Trail where you turn sharply right and return in 400 m to the Conservation Centre.

Be sure to spend time at Crawford Lake. It is a unique geological time capsule where a curious phenomenon occurs. The lake is *meromictic*, so deep for its surface area that the lower levels of water are never disturbed by wind or temperature changes. Without an annual turnover of water, there is little oxygen present in its depths, and therefore minimal bacterial breakdown. Layers of sediment build up and provide an accurate record of the human and natural history that has surrounded the lake since it formed. Corn pollen discovered in the sediments on the bottom of the lake made researchers aware of a fifteenth-century Indian village buried under the ploughed field to the north of the lake. The reconstruction of the village is well worth a visit before you return home.