



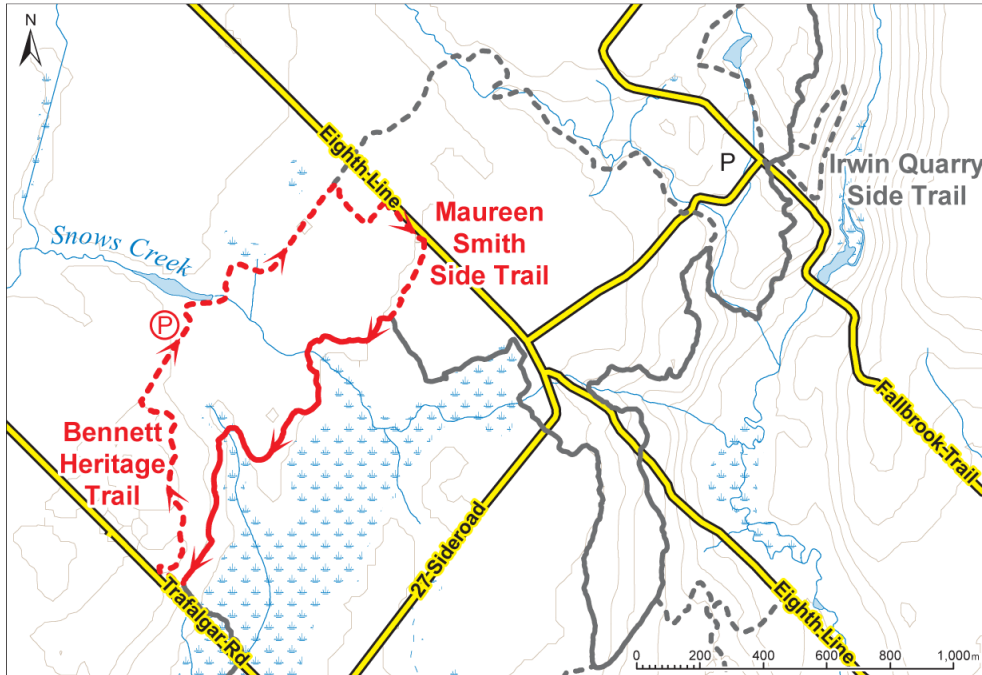
Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

Scotsdale Farm and the Maureen Smith Side Trail

Hike Length: 6 km

Section: Toronto Bruce Trail Club



How to get there and Where To Park: When Highway 7 swings west towards Acton, continue north on Trafalgar Road and watch for signs on the right which mark the entrance to Scotsdale Farm. Drive in to the parking lot..

Hike Description: The starting place, Scotsdale Farm, was bequeathed to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1982 by Stewart and Violet Bennett, owners of the farm for more than forty years. Encircled by tall maples, the modest white-clapboard house and its garden of flowers and lawn sit comfortably behind a low dry-stone wall. Rolling fields, some dotted with grazing cattle, surround the house, and a large barn dominates the farmyard.

Begin your hike by following the blue blazes of the Bennett Heritage Trail as it heads east. Just beyond the barn is a pond created by a dam over Snow's Creek, a tributary of Silver Creek. With cedar and weeping willows lining its banks and a resident family of swans, it is an idyllic spot and a wonderful place for children to play.

The Trail takes you down a tree-shaded country lane that used to be the rear entrance to the property. Just before reaching the 8th Line, turn right on the Maureen Smith Side Trail. This section honours Maureen, a long-time volunteer who continues to serve in a variety of roles with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

When you reach the white blazes of the main Bruce Trail, turn right (west). The Trail passes along the edge of fields and through a swampy area. Then the mood of the landscape changes; you enter more mature woods where tall graceful trees form a high canopy overhead. As you approach Trafalgar Road where the white blazes turn left, keep to the right on the blue-blazed Bennett Heritage Trail. It goes up a short hill and parallels the old main driveway into the farm and back to your car.