

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TREADWAY 1989-2009

BRUCE TRAIL

# TREADWAY

HONOUR ROLE ISSUE

UPDATES  
EVENTS  
IDEAS  
NEWS

EDITOR

DONALD CANGIANO  
1229 RUSHBROOKE DRIVE  
OAKVILLE, ON L6M 1H8  
[doncan@sympatico.ca](mailto:doncan@sympatico.ca)

## ROSS MCLEAN 35 YEARS OF HARD LABOUR



As a young adult, Ross heard about the Bruce Trail and wanting to get involved, checked off on his membership application his interest in volunteering. It took five years before he was contacted. Luckily he had not lost his enthusiasm and accepted the role of editor of the *Caledon Comment* (the newsletter of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail club). That began a decade of serving the club as Trail Director, BTA Board Representative, and Club President.

During this time he became especially interested in new trail development. With a close friend, he did much of the initial work in laying out the loop trails in Hockley Valley and Mono cliffs. Then for two years in the late 1980's, Ross was the BTA's Trail Director where his thrust was looking at alternate routes to get the trail off roads. Ross became involved in the resurrection of the Peninsula Club in the early 1990's. He became the first Trail Director and has continued on their Board to this day, holding positions such as BTA representative,

and the club's Land Securement chair. As well, he held the BTA position on the National Park Advisory Board, helping with the planning of Fathom Five and Bruce Peninsula National Parks. Ross is proud of the vibrancy of the Peninsula Club and its great success in land acquisition and optimum route achievement. Today he is an "Honorary Director" with the club.

In 2003, Ross along with Chris Walker accepted an invitation to join the Sydenham BTC's Board of Directors. What had caught their imagination was the commitment from the executive to build the Bayview Extension, a reroute of almost 70k. The Bayview Extension was opened in 2007, sadly just a few days after the death of Chris Walker. Both were honoured in 1997 with the naming of side trails in Sydenham. Ross and Chris were also invited by the Beaver Valley Club to help with what was to become the Falling Water Trail. Thus within a few years they had been intimately involved in 100 km of trail changes onto the optimum route.

Ross was always ready for a new challenge. In 1996, the Caledon Hills club could not find a new Trail Director, and their volunteers were leery of taking on too big a challenge. Chris Walker was the BTA's Trail Director, and at his request, Ross returned to a role which he had held more than two decades ago. His promise was to assume the role for two years and to revitalize their volunteer core. The major task was the hardening of the trail corridor in the Badlands, one of the Trail's most heavily visited locations where the Queenstone shale was deteriorating into muddy quagmire. A huge number of volunteers were involved, including corporate and school groups from outside the Association. For that work, the Caledon Club was awarded the Philip and Jean Gosling Award and Ross was named the BTA's Volunteer of the year. Ross has stated that his commitment to building trails will never end as long as he's alive. For Ross it's been a fun trip, with more to come.

## **RON SAVAGE A TEAM BUILDER**



At the 2008 BTC AGM, the Sydenham Club received the Tom East Award for the year's best reroute, in recognition of its building of the almost 70 km-long Bayview Extension, the longest single trail addition since the Bruce Trail creation. Then at this fall's AGM, Sydenham was awarded the Philip and Jean Gosling Award for its Rocklyn Creek Bridge and boardwalk project that protected a sensitive environment while opening up trail access to its beauties.

If it takes "a team to build a trail", that team needs a person to provide the passion for the Escarpment, the enthusiasm to motivate people, and the organizational skills to do the job. Ron Savage as Trail director for Sydenham has demonstrated those qualities over the past 11 years.

When asked how he first became interested in the Bruce Trail, Ron tells us that as an Owen Sound resident, he had known of its existence. Then some friends invited him to join them on a hike and they headed out to Bruce's Caves. "I was hooked from the first day" he says.

He became interested in trail work and soon became Trail Director for Sydenham. Although one of the smallest of the clubs, in the past decade it has been one of the leaders in establishing new trails and in achieving a higher standard of trail. Much of the credit for this success must go directly to Ron.

Ron has generated a lot of community support. Last year's Rocklyn Creek project utilized volunteers from the Church of the Latter Day Saints who were holding a youth weekend. They displayed great enthusiasm and work ethic that day, and they'll be back again next year.

Just this fall another corporate group, Edwards, from Owen Sound, sent 15 employees out for half a day, helping to build a new trail at the "Palisades", a new property just acquired near Inglis Falls. This will be a spectacular addition to the main trail.

Ron states that his goals now are to achieve more of the optimum route. When the Bayview Extension opened, there were 10km of trail on the road west of the Nature Reserve. This summer the on-road distance was reduced to 8km and 2 new handshake agreements just being concluded should bring that number down to 6km by next spring. Ron is having so much fun that although he has held the Trail Director post for 11 years, he is looking forward to 11 more, he says.

Credit must also go to Ron's wife Pat for all of her support. She too is a Bruce Trail loyalist and sits on the executive, currently as club archivist.

The essence of the Bruce Trail is volunteerism, and it is support such as this that gives us our strength. Sydenham members and all of the BTC can be thankful for all that Ron and wife Pat have contributed.