

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TREADWAY 1989-2009

BRUCE TRAIL

# TREADWAY

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UPDATES  
EVENTS  
IDEAS  
NEWS

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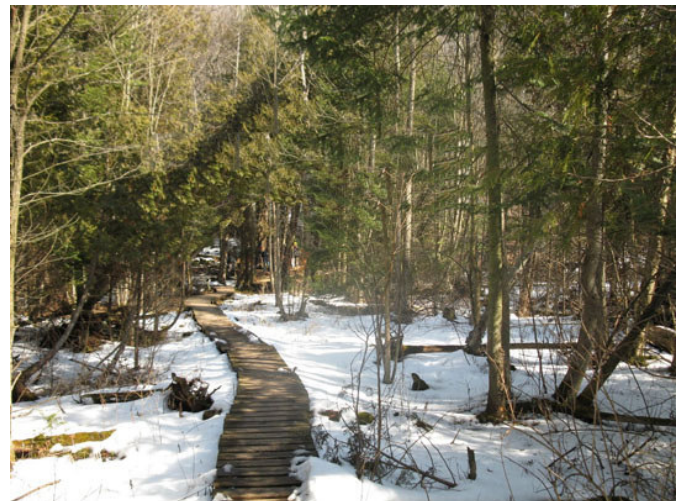
THIS TREE stands by the roadside in an open field along the Bruce Trail. Every spring I pass this way wondering if it will come alive again as it has done for the past 15 years that I've been watching it. And each year it amazes me with a burst of life on the one remaining branch that it so desperately clings to. This tree, by my guess, is over one hundred years old. What memories it must have; horse-drawn wagons, children on their way to school, a farmer plowing his field, wind, thunder and lightning, a blazing sun. Thousands of birds perched on its limbs. People taking shelter while visiting the nearby grave yard. The clicking sound of walking sticks as hundreds of hikers trek on by.

The years pass. One by one its mighty oak branches come crashing to the ground, firewood for a nearby homesteader. Millions of falling leaves reduced to a flutter. But there it stands, majestic and strong, struggling to see yet another day. It survives. It never gives up. It's determined; a monument to life and the will to endure. This is my favourite tree.

Picture and article by Don Cangiano)

## Leech-Porter Project -halfway there

In the March issue of TREADWAY we reported on a project underway in the Nassagaweya Canyon between Crawford Lake and Rattlesnake Conservation areas, the Leech-Porter side trail. It's a 480 foot boardwalk that includes a 16-foot bridge and an 8-foot rest area. So far there have been 25 work parties totaling 1500 volunteer hours.



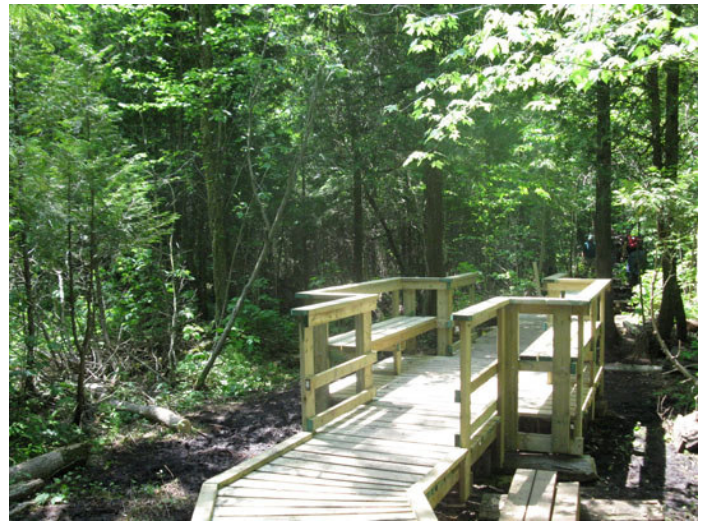
Original Leech-Porter Side Trail

The original boardwalk was built in the mid 1980's by Chris Walker and students from Bramalea Secondary School, funded in part by the provincial government - a student youth employment program and Shell Oil, who provided the materials. The boardwalk was named after Jack Leech-Porter an old-time Iroquoia member (it's a good thing we have Ross McLean around who remembers all of this history). The boardwalk has stood the test of time and served the community well. But after 25 years of hard use, it's time to replace it.



The project is progressing well, helped by a dry spring - the boardwalk traverses a creek and a marsh. Designed by Klaus Truderung, the financing was arranged by Jan Graves through the Halton South Chapter and the Hamilton Chapter of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Lumber and materials (\$15,000 worth) were delivered to the work site through the generosity of Dave Baxter and John McNally who provided tractors to haul the material. The Walkers Line causeway, designed by Paul Beneteau a few years back, was used to get supplies to the work site. The causeway was completed 7 years ago by some of the very same volunteers working on the Leech-Porter project. The trailer used to haul the material was once a discarded piece of equipment retrieved by Paul Beneteau and refurbished by volunteers.

(pictures by Richard Pomeroy)



The bridge and the rest area are now complete; still to be built is the remaining boardwalk to the east and west of the bridge. It's gratifying to see so many hikers using this side trail. On most work party days, 2-3 groups of students hike through, 25-30 hikers at a time. At this rate the Leech-Porter side trail will offer enjoyment to thousands of hikers over the next 25 years. It will be fully opened by the August long weekend. Come and see it, it's worth the trip.

From Treadway to all of our volunteers,  
have a great summer - see you in  
September.