

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TREADWAY 1989-2009

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

FEBRUARY 2010

UPDATES
EVENTS
IDEAS
NEWS

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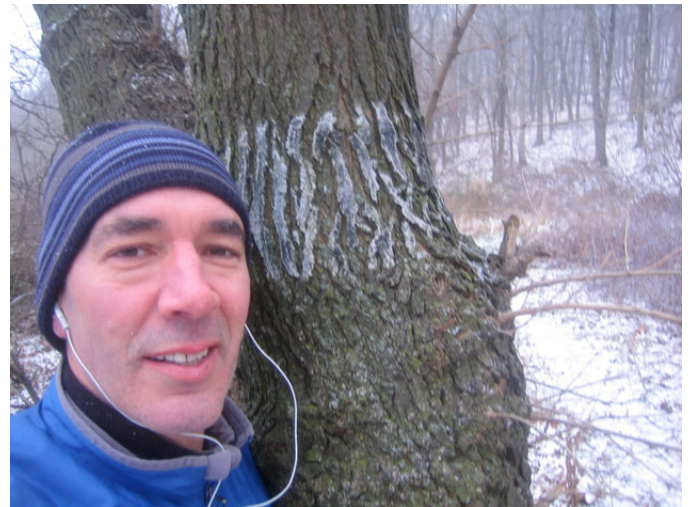
Editor's Note

ON A POINT OF CLARRIFICATION

The above is an unusual headline for an editor's note but then if you want to grab someone's attention you do something unusual right? Recently, TREADWAY introduced a new idea called the "Honour Role"; a special issue of TREADWAY published from time to time featuring short biographies on some of our most outstanding trail maintenance volunteers who have served the Bruce Trail Conservancy admirably for years. These great people are "role models" for the BTC, their stories are inspirational to all who love the outdoors and who are dedicated to the preservation of our beloved Niagara Escarpment. It is within this context that we have named the issue "Honour Role" rather than "Honour Roll". The name has caught the attention of many readers particularly the "diction purists" who were quick to point out that although they enjoyed reading about our heroes, the usage of the term "Honour Role" is incorrect. I beg to differ. First of all it's perfectly acceptable to use a pun in this manner; to "honour" the "role" that our volunteers are playing. It makes the name of our publication all the more interesting. The

"Honour Role" issue of TREADWAY has initiated more comments than any previous issue of TREADWAY in the past several years. You might even say that TREADWAY's "Honour Role" is on a roll....oops, on a bun! Can that be right?

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT



of English language usage, a Trail Captain came across the above "blaze" while strolling along the Bruce Trail. He described it as "growsome" - very appropriate. It definitely grew some over the years. Perhaps it was left as a reminder of our past - like the diamond marker growing out of a tree that someone else discovered some time ago - all part of our heritage. (Way to go Grant!)

A HAZARDOUS TREE

AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Recently, my computer has been bombarded with emails, probably yours has too, on what is considered a “hazardous” tree. As the debate lingers on, new terminology is being invented day by day to describe trees that pose a threat. I won’t elaborate on this, it will only muddy the water. It seems to me that Merriam-Webster has the correct definition - that’s not Merriam-Webster the trail worker, I mean Merriam-Webster the dictionary people; “a source of danger”, sounds simple enough. One could say every tree in the forest is a source of danger - alive or dead. Live trees shattered by lightning, torn apart by the wind, weakened by ice and snow are a source of danger every bit as much as a dead tree. Trees that line my street and hang over the sidewalk are a source of danger.



*Dead tree leaning away from the trail.....
Does it come down?*

Judgment has to enter the debate somewhere and who better to pass judgment than those who have spent years building and maintaining the trail. In my opinion, I don’t think it’s good judgment to ignore

the problem altogether, on the other hand, I don’t think it’s good judgment to “clear cut” the forests around our trail. If it impedes the hiker or is a source of danger, clear it away, otherwise let nature take its course.



Guards and spotters in place

When clearing trees: remember the basic rules; have enough help on hand in case of emergencies like a hung up tree; have guards in place to protect the volunteers and hikers; have a “spotter” in place; keep the cutting zone clear at all times; the sawyer must be trained and fully equipped; a “bucker” should be in place to clean up the work zone; volunteers on the work party should wear hard hats, safety goggles are a good idea; first aid equipment should be on site; have plenty of rope on hand; ask for help from a neighbouring club if necessary.



Lots of help in case of emergencies

Article Donald Cangiano
Pictures Richard Pomeroy