

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TREADWAY 1989-2009

BRUCE TRAIL

# TREADWAY

HONOUR ROLL

UPDATES  
EVENTS  
IDEAS  
NEWS

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## BILL FORBES

“WE JUST WENT OUT AND FIXED WHAT HAD TO BE FIXED” That’s the way it was done back in the mid-seventies when Bill Forbes joined the Bruce Trail Association. “Things were less structured back then” Bill recalls, “no reporting, we just did it”. Bill has been a Trail Captain for the past 35 years. Bill’s section of trail runs from Vineland to Stoney Creek, part of the quaint little community of Grimsby. Bill would walk this section of trail almost daily with his good friend Reg Godwin now deceased.

The trail work was much the same as it is today; removing fallen trees, side-logging, building steps and building bridges. This sounds straight forward enough but anyone who knows this section of trail will know that you pay a price for the magnificent views. The trek up the escarpment is no

easy task. The trail follows 40-mile Creek for a stretch then ascends up the escarpment by way of stairs built and maintained by Bill and many other volunteers over the years. Constant shifting of the escarpment has necessitated the rebuilding of these steps many times, so much so that the club is now considering an alternate route. An interesting turn of events; what’s that they say about what goes ‘round comes ‘round. “This isn’t the first time that the trail has been relocated”, Bill muses. “When we finally do select an alternate route, we just may find the stone steps and small bridges that we used the first time ‘round. We also may find a few cable lines here and there that were put in place to help hikers up the steep slopes.”

Bill received a ‘Trail Award’ in 1980 for all of his hard work and dedication. Unless the weather is bad, Bill and his wife still bring their big black dog to the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area every morning, “one hour after daylight” and walk the trail. They pick up litter and contact the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority about any relevant concerns. He has cultivated a good relationship with the NPCA.

Bill has been a dedicated trail worker for over 35 years; he did what had to be done to maintain the BT in the Grimsby area. He has been one of the quiet ones who get things done without fanfare. Bill is 84 years old now. He retired as Trail Captain in October 2008. Thanks a million Bill for all that you have done for the Bruce Trail and your community. And although you’re a retired Trail Captain now, I’ll bet we can find you on top of the escarpment most mornings “one hour after daylight”



## Mac McDonald

If the Bruce Trail Conservancy had a Senate, Mac McDonald would be a “serving member with distinction”. Now 90 years old, Mac has been serving the Bruce Trail since 1987. He has worked as a Trail Captain and as a Trail Co-ordinator and to this day works unrelentingly on his section of trail.

Mac is one of the original sawyers for the Iroquoia Club. One memorable occasion was the day in the Grimsby area while felling a 70 foot tree, the tree unexpectedly snapped in half as it fell sending the trunk in one direction and the top in another. The top half of the tree came so close to

Mac that it tore the watch off Mac’s wrist.

Mac has cut trees in minus 25 degree weather; he’s put his surveying skills to work establishing new routes and has painted hundreds of blazes. He’s built steps; has constructed stone walls along creek beds and has wheelbarrowed tons of dirt and gravel along the trail. Mac has helped the Club save thousands of dollars recycling building materials and has hauled supplies to dozens of work sites. On one occasion while hauling a trailer filled with lumber, picks and shovels, the axle broke. Mac removed the broken axle from the trailer, brought it to his home where he kept his welding equipment, welded the axle, returned to the trailer and reinstalled it, rendering the trailer serviceable once again.

We’re still using that same trailer to this day. They don’t make trailers (or guys like Mac) that way any more. Mac was awarded the Susan Oleskevich award in 2009. Oh, and by the way, Mac did take time out to hike the Bruce Trail end-to-end....twice.

HONOUR ROLL recognizes members of our trail maintenance volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the Bruce Trail and their community for many years. Each club is invited to suggest members of their club whom they feel should be included in upcoming Honour Roll issues. Articles should be approximately 500 words. Please include a picture.(head shot)