

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TREADWAY 1989-2009

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

SPECIAL ISSUE 2010

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MEET JOHN GRANDY



**OFF THE TREADMILL AND ONTO
THE TREADWAY**

Early last year John Grandy retired from a career in banking. An active person with a love of the outdoors, he was looking for a new challenge. A neighbour in Toronto, Ian Clunie, was a Toronto BTC director and hike leader. He encouraged John to consider becoming more active with the Bruce Trail, and together they hiked the Iroquoia end-to-end. John then attended a Toronto Board meeting as a guest and obviously liked what he saw: in September 2009 he accepted their offer to become their membership director.

That November he attended the Working Together conference at Mono Centre and told Beth Kummling that he would be happy to take on more responsibilities. Beth never forgets anything she has been told, and with the untimely death of Bob Ellison in the spring of this year and the resulting vacancy in the Trail

Development and Maintenance chair, Beth and Peter Leeney approached John. As John describes the opportunity, it was “really exciting...being out on the Trail” and he gladly accepted the role. The October 2010 BTC Board meeting confirmed his appointment.

John’s roots in Escarpment Country go back a long time. He and his wife have a cottage at Red Bay (on the west side of the Bruce Peninsula). In 1880, his great-grandparents built a cottage in the area overlooking the Fishing Islands. They lived in Hanover and in those days, trains ran north to Wiarton. From here it was a coach ride to the cottage. They were keen fishermen, and John tells of a picture of a great aunt with a string of 99 bass that she had just caught! The love for this country was obviously “bred in his bones.”

The Bruce is “important to me”, John says. He first joined the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club about ten years ago, although he had been hiking the area long before that. With his love of being outdoors and active, the Bruce Trail satisfied both needs.

Also, the conservation of lands he regards as essential for future generations.. Last year he and his family donated a key property at Petrel Point to Ontario Nature, providing an extension to that Nature Reserve and helping to protect the remarkable wildflowers of the area..

John has two immediate goals as the BTC Trail Director: he wants to get to know the Trail, and he wants to get to know the people. In October of this year, he completed the Caledon Hills section on the club’s end-to-end (and found the Trail in really good shape), and two weeks later joined a Peninsula BTC crew who were exploring Malcolm Bluff Shores (the property that will be a key acquisition over the next year and a half.) He enjoyed the off-trail bushwhacking as we got to know the land, and he also enjoyed the camaraderie of the evening meals and the “trail talk.”

John defines his priorities as Trail Director to be trail-building, stewardship of the land, and land acquisition. He mentions especially the need to get the Trail off-road as much as possible.

The role of BTC Trail Director demands someone with a passion for the Escarpment and the energy to get out and explore the land. The Bruce Trail is fortunate to have a volunteer with his background and enthusiasm to take on the responsibility. He joins an illustrious group of Trail Directors who have come before him, starting with Philip Gosling who today is the BTC’s Honorary President.

I hope that all of you as trail volunteers have an opportunity over the next year to work with John in realizing these goals. Together we can build the Trail of which we all dream

Ross McLean

