

A PUBLICATION FOR TRAIL WORKERS

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

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UPDATES
EVENTS
IDEAS
NEWS

EDITOR

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Update from the TD&M Committee

I took over the Chairmanship of the Trail Development & Maintenance Committee last year. It is a great honour to be associated with such a hard-working and professional group of volunteers as you all are.

Twice a year the Trail Directors from each club meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. Our most recent meeting was in March, and I would like to share with you some of the key issues we talked about.

In the area of stewardship, we are asking everyone involved in trail building to be aware of sensitive environmental issues, and especially of the endangered species which we encounter on the trail. Your club stewardship partners can help you with this. For example, it is best not to do bridge building during the spring or early summer months when fish will be spawning. If we are working in a conservation area or on private land, we of course need to ensure that we have discussed our trail building plans with the property owners. If we are laying new trail on BTC-owned land, one of our two BTC conservation officers must review the planned trail before we build.

To assist clubs with trail building where they have large projects and need extra help, we are planning to revive the "flying squad" idea which we used to use extensively. We are seeking up to 50 volunteers to make themselves available to help other clubs when needed from time to time. If any of you would like to join this group and make a positive difference to the trail, please let me know.

Speaking of large projects, we have now engaged an engineering firm to assist us when we need to build one of those extra-long bridges. If you are confident in your own engineering skills, that's fine! But if you would like a review of your plans, or if the landowner requires an engineer-approved design, we can help. Eric Best is the contact person to assist you with this.

At our meeting we discussed a major recent success at Peninsula Club. After years of negotiations, the Club has now

received permission to run the trail along a key municipal road allowance. This may help us avoid nine km of road walking! As I am sure you know, road allowances are essential to us in many areas. Some municipalities welcome us running the trail along road allowances; others are more reluctant. If you encounter any problems in this area, Peninsula Club's experiences may be helpful to you.

Your committee has a modest budget to spend on worthwhile trail-related projects. If you need funds for maintenance or trail building, let your Trail Director know and we may be able to help.

We had a discussion about signage, especially our use of detailed "you are here" maps. The consensus was that there are more places where we can use these signs effectively – wherever the trail may be confusing to a novice hiker, or where we overlap with other trail systems. BTC staff will be happy to work with us to make these signs. If you think you could use some "you are here" signs on your sections of trail, please discuss with your Trail Director.

A few other points of general interest. We are planning to organize a Trail Maintenance Workshop – details to follow. We are also working on updating the Guide for Trail Workers, which is now some ten years old. We still have a few copies of the old Guide if needed. Finally, this year we will once again be requesting club submissions for the Tom East, Gosling and Susan Oleskevich awards. If you think your section of trail deserves an award, don't be shy! Suggest that your club send it in an entry. We should all be proud of the excellent work we are doing along the entire length of the Trail.

Please get in touch with me directly by email if you have any ideas of how we can make our Trail even better.

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BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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The above Contact List includes volunteers who regularly represent their Clubs or Committees at the semi-annual TD&M Meetings, and have a common voluntary interest in matters relating to the Development and Maintenance of the Bruce Trail in general.