

# A PUBLICATION FOR TRAIL WORKERS

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

JUNE 2011 EXTRA

UPDATES  
EVENTS  
IDEAS  
NEWS

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## YOU MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE ALONG THE BRUCE TRAIL

From the grape fields of Niagara to the crystal-clear waters of Georgian Bay, the Bruce Trail is a magnificent place to be. You meet the nicest people along the way; not just hikers but those other people who help make hiking along the BT a fond memory, like the group of teenagers who were out on a field trip and wanted to have their picture taken with 'real' hikers - it must have been our outfits.

Heather and George built the Northernlight Centre about 25 years ago for hikers just like us. The Centre has private rooms downstairs and a dorm upstairs that can accommodate up to 15 people. It has a fully-equipped kitchen where you can test your culinary skills preparing a simple breakfast or a five-course meal. George is a very obliging conversationalist if you care to have a friendly chat before or after dinner.

At Red Bay Lodge, Alicja and Frank are our hosts. Red Bay Lodge is like the cottage we all remember as kids; none of the furniture matches, walls covered in pictures, overstuffed chesterfields, lamps with far too many tassels, a piano with missing keys and toss cushions everywhere. But we enjoy every minute of our stay there. The food is great and Alicja and Frank are so congenial and accommodating that you know you'll return another time.

When we want to relax and enjoy a good meal at the end of a day's hike we head for the Old Mill House Pub in Creemore located across from the famous Creemore Brewery. The people there are fabulous. Families come in around the supper hour, sit down next to your table and join in on the conversation. 'Charlie', one of the locals, has his own stool at the bar with his name engraved on the back. We have our own section reserved there as well thanks to Martin.

The Cape Chin Connection Inn is located on a 100 acre homestead which dates back to the nineteenth century

settlement of upper Bruce Peninsula. Ann and Don Bard purchased it in 1988 and have restored the interior of the log home to recapture the romance of the pioneer era.



Ann Bard

This is home to us on the last leg of our end to end hike. Ann is as gracious and accommodating now as she was when I first met her 10 years ago on my first end to end hike. Ann could fill a book with stories about The Cape Chin Inn and its guests - like the two young ladies from another part of the world who were there visiting and insisted on jumping the fence so that one of them could put her arms around a calf while the other took a picture not knowing that a cow will protect her calf as aggressively as a bear will protect her cub. Ann talked them out of the idea. And the old gentleman who has hiked in these parts for years - the only contact he had with the outside world was when his wife would meet him every now and then along the trail to give him a change of underwear.

We got to know the staff at the Pie Factory in Williamsford really well, a 'must' stop on our way home. If you like home-made pies, this place is for you. They recognize us when we make our entrance into the shop, automatically rhyming off the pie offerings for the day - never less than 15 varieties.

What has all of this got to do with trail maintenance? Well, if it wasn't for trail maintenance there would be no Bruce Trail and if there wasn't a Bruce Trail we would never have met all of these wonderful people.