

A PUBLICATION FOR TRAIL WORKERS

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

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UPDATES
EVENTS
IDEAS
NEWS

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The Beaver Valley Club is extremely proud of their new Mill Creek Bridge, and well they should be.

It was a community effort that put together this magnificent structure, now complete and ready for years of use. Along with their volunteers, the club was delighted to have had the 32nd Combat Engineer Regiment to assist with the project. With their technical expertise and many young strong workers, it was far easier this time

around than the first time. That was back in the late 80's when **Chuck Grant** and a crew of BVC members did the entire job. Our current BVC members have marveled at the work done at that time. Just getting the materials into the site was very difficult.

Capt. Brian Lee who was CO on the job spoke for his group of soldiers when he stated that it had been an excellent training project, and they were very pleased to have built a bridge that they knew would be there for many years and appreciated by hikers who would use it well into the future. Local landowners and TD Friends of the Environment also made key contributions. The project was a superb example of how different parts of the community can come together for a very positive result. A win-win situation all around.

Chuck Grant was highly regarded for the many years he served as BVC Director of Trail Development and Maintenance. He loved the Bruce Trail. The Chuck Grant Side Trail just downstream from the re-built bridge will always remind us of the huge contribution he made to the Bruce Trail in the Beaver Valley section. Chuck passed away recently and will be sorrowfully missed by his many friends and family.

A NEW TRAIL FOR A VETERAN TRAIL DIRECTOR

In the Sydenham section, the main Bruce Trail has been located around The Glen since it was first opened in 1967. The land had been acquired by the Conservation Authority under the leadership of legendary Mac Kirk.

With its proximity to Owen Sound it has always been a popular hiking destination. From the cliffs, there are some great vistas across The Glen over a sea of trees. On a fall day, especially, the view of the colourful hardwoods against the Escarpment cliffs can be spectacular.

The Trail, however, was linear, forcing any day hiker without a second car to retrace his steps. This past year Ron Savage spent many an hour searching for a route across the floor of The Glen that would allow a loop hike. Central to the trail creation was the close cooperation of Chris Hachey, Property Manager for the Conservation Authority. Over the years this relationship has strengthened the Sydenham Club considerably.

Then came about six days of work parties where Ron was assisted by his loyal team of Sydenham volunteers. The result is a new hiking loop of about 6 km. As it is discovered by the public, it will undoubtedly become one of the highlights of hiking in the Owen Sound area.

On November 23, at a Sydenham Club Board meeting (at which Ron was unable to attend), an unanimous resolution was passed, naming the new side trail “in honour of a most deserving person who has contributed many years of dedicated service to building and improving the Bruce Trail in the Sydenham Club.” It will be called **The Ron Savage Side Trail**.

Treadway readers may remember a profile on Ron about a year ago when he was named to the Honour Roll. He has just completed 11 years as Sydenham Trail Director, and he says that he does not plan to retire for another 11 years! His most significant

achievement was the building of the 69 km Bayview Extension, opened in 2007, but he also has effected a number of other important reroutes in Sydenham. Four times during Ron’s tenure, the Sydenham Club has won the Tom East Award for its work in achieving Trail on the optimum route: 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2011

Ron is one of those strong Trail Directors who over the years has been responsible for so much of the Bruce Trail success. He has a broad skill set: a strong vision of the dream, the ability to motivate volunteers, an eye for the best trail route, a skill in dealing with a wide variety of people including government bureaucrats, and the ability to work safely and efficiently in the bush. But perhaps most importantly, Ron makes sure that his volunteers have fun. That is why they keep coming back and gain that satisfaction of being part of this quest to “realize the dream.”

Upon receiving this honour, Ron responded immediately to his executive: “I thank you for your wonderful thought at naming a side trail after me. It is certainly an honour that I will cherish. I have always been in awe of the amount of time, energy and accomplishments that our past honourees have devoted to building and maintaining the Bruce Trail in our area. It is certainly a privilege to be counted with them. Over the past years I have spent many hours in the Glen. I have found it to be a wonderful, fascinating place of solitude and beauty. It is a place where you can sit on the cliff edge for hours just gazing out over the green canopy of the forest. I am extremely proud of this new side trail. It will create a wonderful loop trail that I hope will provide the same enjoyment for many others that I feel while in the Glen. I thank you for this honour”.

If you have yet to experience **The Ron Savage Side Trail**, I suggest you do so as soon as you can this coming spring. You will thoroughly enjoy it.

Weed Wacker