

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The BTC's 50th Anniversary milestone celebrations kicked off this summer with events celebrating the trailblazing of 1962. This year we celebrate the first maps, the first blazes, the first Clubs, and all the work that went into putting the Bruce Trail on the ground - bringing it from an idea of a few visionaries to reality.

And there's more to come...

- Later this year, join us for 50th Anniversary celebrations at our Annual General Meeting (September 14-16; see pages 19-25) and Bruce Trail Day (September 30; see page 7).
- Over the next four years, the BTC and its Clubs will be celebrating a series of 50th Anniversary milestones, culminating with the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Bruce Trail in 2017.



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to all the volunteers, past and present who braved the rain and came out to Dundas Valley Conservation Area on June 9 to celebrate 50 years of volunteering for the Bruce Trail.

Over 400 people attended this historic event to celebrate the Bruce Trail, reconnect with others, talk about their experiences, and listen to inspiring speeches by Bruce Trail Founder, Dr. Philip Gosling, The Honourable Michael Chan Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, The Honourable Ted McMeekin Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Juno award winner Ian Thomas.

In spite of the rain we celebrated the tradition of volunteering that has created the Bruce Trail we see today. Many spoke of what the Bruce Trail has meant to them over the years. Dr. Philip Gosling, a Founding member of the Bruce Trail and the man who in 1962 worked to convince landowners to allow the Bruce Trail to cross their private property, told the group "It has lengthened my stride and filled my heart with joy". The BTC's Executive Director Beth Kümmling echoed the sen-



timent and encouraged volunteers to share their volunteer experience with others, saying "If we all act as Ambassadors for the Bruce Trail, sharing the values of volunteering and doubling our efforts, great things can be accomplished".

Special thanks to volunteers from UPS who helped out at the event, setting up tables, registering guests and pitching in where necessary—allowing our Bruce Trail volunteers to relax and enjoy the day.

Thank you to our event sponsors, including SC Johnson:



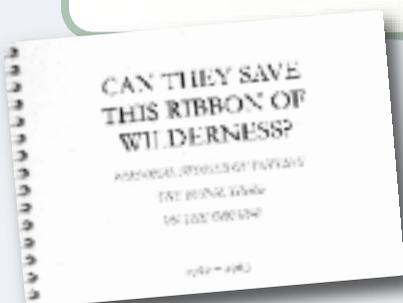
MEMORIES FROM A TRAILBLAZER

Can They Save This Ribbon of Wilderness?

Personal Stories of Putting the Bruce Trail on the Ground 1962-1963

By Dr. Philip R. Gosling

Discover more about the early years of the Bruce Trail in this collection of stories from one of the Bruce Trail's founders and trailblazers, Dr. Philip R. Gosling. Published 2012. Available by donation from the Bruce Trail Conservancy, 1-800-665-4453.



TRAILBLAZERS ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Just over 100 members, volunteers and guests came to learn more about the Bruce Trail's early days and the people that took the Trail from dream to reality.

The event was hosted at the Gosling Volunteer Forest and Caledon Hills Club volunteers made sure the event went off without a hitch. People gathered to hear keynote speaker Abby Hoffman, (Olympic athlete, Bruce Trail Lifetime Member, and daughter of Bruce Trail

pioneer Dorothy Medhurst) share her memories of growing up on the Bruce Trail and being forever influenced by her mother's respect for the hardworking individuals that laid down the trail that crossed her land since the 1960s. Bob Crossan (participant on the famous Telegram Expedition of 1962) shared his stories from that historic hike and his overwhelming feeling, even back then, that he was a part of something important and purposeful. The event was a

lovely way to honour the successes of the past and build excitement around the work ahead for the BTC.



Caledon Hills Landowner Relations volunteer Carol Sheppard and Guest Speaker Abby Hoffman

50 KM TRAILBLAZERS' CHALLENGE

A group of 35 hardy hikers set out on June 24 for the 50 km Trailblazers' Challenge, ready to hike 50 km along the Bruce Trail in one day and raise funds for the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Despite the rain in the afternoon, 28 hikers completed the entire 50 km and all hikers completed at least 25 km. This was an incredible accomplishment on one of the hilliest sections of the Bruce Trail – from Palgrave in Caledon Hills to Mono Cliffs Provincial Park in the Dufferin Hi-Lands.

What is perhaps even more remarkable, is the incredible support these hikers garnered for the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Each hiker was asked to raise a minimum of \$500 to participate in this unique event. By spreading the word to family and friends, and donating as individuals, the 50km Trailblazers' Challenge hikers raised just over \$50,000 – doubling our original fundraising goal.

Celebrating 50 years with 50 km and \$50,000. A remarkable and wonderfully appropriate achievement.

All funds raised will go towards the BTC's 50th Anniversary Goal to secure, steward, and make available to the public 5,000 additional acres of Niagara Escarpment land by 2017.

Thank you to our fantastic hikers, our 28 wonderful volunteers, and all those who sponsored a hiker in the 50 km Trailblazers' Challenge.



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO TORONTO, BLUE MOUNTAINS AND SYDENHAM BRUCE TRAIL CLUBS!

Here's a peek at some of the ways these Clubs have celebrated their 50th:



L to R: Ian Lamont Smith, Doug Brown, Philip Gosling, Howard Wills, Doug Campbell, Jim Allan

At the Toronto Club's Founders' Dinner on June 28, some of the first members of the Club reunite in front of an image of the group on its first survey hike in 1962.

On July 15 the Sydenham Club threw a birthday party in Owen Sound and opened a new side trail.



A commemorative End-to-End series is marking Blue Mountains Clubs' 50th Anniversary. See bmbtc.org for details.