Upcoming Annual General Meeting - Please join us!

Our Sydenham Club AGM will be held on Sunday October 20. This is a great social event for our Club, you can visit, hike, and dine with your fellow Club members! And hear what the Club’s been up to all year!

This year we’ll visit the western part of our Club section – the Kemble Mountain area. Our organized hike will explore the nearby Ross McLean Side Trail loop. Then, have your voice at the business meeting, and we’ll finish the day with our usual delicious potluck supper.

Please come and join us!

Schedule:

- Meet at the Church in Kemble by 2:00 pm. We’ll have a bus to take hikers over to the Ross McLean Side Trail. This is one of the jewels of the Sydenham section, and is featured in our “Looping Through Sydenham” hiking guide. Enjoy the fascinating geological forms – the crevices, the large “island rocks”, the underground waterfall, and not to mention the shoreline of Bass Lake, the ferns, and the wildflowers.

- Business meeting in the Kemble Church right after the hike.

- Potluck about 5:30 p.m. Please bring a salad, casserole, or desserts. (more salads and casseroles, less desserts) Please bring your own plates, cups, and cutlery.

All positions on our Board of Directors are open for nominations. See the list on page two. Can you help? Would you like to get more involved in the running of our Club? In particular, we need a new Hike Coordinator (see Ruth Nielsen’s report on page four).

Any current member may nominate any other current member, who has agreed to stand for election, by contacting the Nominating Committee (see official notice also on page two) up to two weeks prior to the AGM. Come on out and give it a try!

As well as the AGM, Bruce Trail Day is another big annual fall event.

Refer to Page five for details.

Frank Schoenhoeffer
SBTC President
**SBTC EXECUTIVE**

President
Frank Schoenhoeffer 519-395-4935
franksch3@gmail.com

Vice-President
Bob Knapp 519-371-1255
rmknapp@yahoo.com

Past-President
Cliff Keeling 519-376-6519
rockford@hurontel.on.ca

Treasurer
Bruce Price  519-376-6876
bprice.ca@bmts.com

Secretary
Judy Mapleson
judyped@rogers.com

Trail Director
Ron Savage  519-371-2276
savey@sympatico.ca

BTC Representative
Don Richards 519-483-5647
lodonrichards@bmts.com

Publicity & PR
Sandra Howe 519-477-1537
soleandspirit@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor and Advertising
Bob Hart  519-377-3672
roberthart@yahoo.ca

Volunteer/Membership Committee
Frank Schoenhoeffer 519-395-4935
franksch3@gmail.com

Events Coordinator – open

Archivist
Pat Savage  519-371-2276
savey@sympatico.ca

Hike Coordinator
Ruth Nielsen 519-422-1489
rnielsen@bmts.com

Directors at Large
Del Bonham 519-832-9473
kib73@eastlink.ca
Jim Coburn 519-372-1326
jimwcburn@rogers.com

Land Stewardship
Bob Hope 519-376-5296
bob@rbhope.ca

Landowner Relations Committee
Cliff Keeling 519-376-6519
rockford@hurontel.on.ca
Frank Schoenhoeffer 519-395-4935
franksch3@gmail.com
Ron Savage  519-371-2276
savey@sympatico.ca

Webmaster
Jamie Hember  519-745-1375
info@sydenhambrucetrail.ca

---

**NOMINATIONS FOR SBTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

All positions on the Board of Directors (see list at left) are open for nominations.

Any current member may nominate any other current member, who has agreed to stand for election, by contacting the Nominating Committee up to two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on October 20, 2013.

Nominating Committee:

Don Richards  lodonrichards@bmts.com

Frank Schoenhoeffer  franksch3@gmail.com

---

**Bruce R. Price CPA, CA**

Your Personal Chartered Accountant

565 6th Street West
P.O. Box 844
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 5W9

voice: 519.376.6876
fax: 855.376.9560
email: bprice@bprice.ca

---

**MORTGAGE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

LICENSE #10421

STEVE HENCZE
“The Casual Guy”
Mortgage Agent
License #M09002425

HEAD OFFICE
12 Ray St., Hamilton, ON  L8P 3V2
T: 905-529-2521
F: 1-866-604-8860

OWNEN SOUND
T: 519-375-9224
E: sheacze@bruce telecom.com
W: www.thecasualmortgagegey.com

“YOUR MORTGAGE AGENT FOR LIFE”

---

The Sydenham Hiker is the official newsletter of the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club. Reproduction or use of the whole or part of its contents without written permission is prohibited. Views expressed are those of the authors and not of the SBTC. Letters to the Editor are welcome and are published at the discretion of the Editor. Send letters by email (preferred) to robertghart@yahoo.ca or by letter mail to The Sydenham Bruce Trail Club Box 431, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P7
Some interesting items from our members:

Ron Irwin tells us I am on the Bruce Trail when ever I can. You will find me anywhere between the Blue Mountains and Owen Sound area. I use the trail to help me prepare for my Ultra Runs anywhere from 50K to 100 miles and up to 48 hours.

I recently discovered the " Polish Tree" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhitW2rs_P0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhitW2rs_P0) very cool!

After running Doug Barbers " Dam Tough Bluff" race at Harrison Park I started blogging all of my runs including all of my Bruce Trail adventures. You can find my blog here ... [http://westgreyrunner.blogspot.ca/](http://westgreyrunner.blogspot.ca/).

Mal and Marianne Williams advise that the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club will again be organizing a Yurt Camping Weekend on Friday Jan 24th at noon until Sunday Jan 26th at noon at MacGregor Point Provincial Park. The park website [www.ontarioparks.com/english/macg.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/macg.html) lists current costs.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Sept 22nd from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Lake Charles School House. Yurts book quickly so those wishing to attend the camping weekend will need to book and pay at or before the planning meeting. For more information, contact Marianne at schoolhouselady@gmail.com

Barbara Palmer shared this photo on our Facebook page in June:

I took this photo of a young fisher last week while hiking on the Bruce Trail north of the Gap. We encountered two very young, very curious fishers.
While researching the original owners of one of our new BTC properties through the Registry Office, Canada census records and genealogy accounts; I slowly realized that there was a captivating story to be told. The story below is my account of:

**Silent Valley**

*by Ron Savage*

**Just after the end** of the American Civil War and just before Canada became a country, Scottish born John Wilson decided he would become a farmer in the new world. It was 1866 and Upper Canada was giving out free land grants of 200 acres to encourage settlement in its vast unopened territories. The only conditions were that the settler would guarantee to clear at least 5 acres of land, build a house and open the road across the front of his property.

John had always wanted to live in a valley that reminded him of his home in Scotland and as luck would have it he found what he was looking for. The property was an impressive 200 acres tucked away in a small valley. The heavily treed basin was sheltered on the north by the cliffs of the Escarpment and on the east and south by high drumlin hills. There were two small villages close by - Bognor to the south and Woodford to the north and east both about a two hour hike or an hours ride by buggy.

Woodford was the larger of the two being a bustling pioneer village with a grocery and hardware store, a mill, a livery stable and three boisterous hotels. It was early August of 1866 when John went to the registry office in Owen Sound and transferred the land he had selected from the Crown into his name.

John, who was 40 years old at the time, had encouraged his parents, John senior and Jane, to immigrate to Canada with him along with his 19 year old son, Archibald, and his 15 year old daughter, Mary. They decided that they would all live and work together on the farm. Their first job was clearing the land and building a small cabin until they could build their permanent home. The abundant stands of cedar were turned into boards for both of these houses and later the barn. They built their first home on gently sloping ground near a small, strong flowing creek that provided a good source of water. They built their second home a little further north on a gentle rise in the valley beside the same stream. Around this home a cedar rail fence guarded Mary’s flowers and kept the livestock feeding on their vegetable gardens. On the other side of the stream John built his barn. This was to be no ordinary barn; it had to be huge.

continued on next page
Mark your calendar for…

Bruce Trail Day Sunday, October 6th

Bruce Trail Day is an annual event celebrating Canada’s oldest and longest footpath, hosted by the Bruce Trail Conservancy and each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs.

Bruce Trail Day is also held in conjunction with the Ontario Heritage Trust’s Trails Open Ontario event. The OHT launched Trails Open Ontario in 2007 to promote trail use and education, natural heritage conservation and stewardship, and physical activity and healthy lifestyles. This event is promoted in newspapers, at travel centres, and at heritage events across the province. Bruce Trail Day is an important part of it.

Each BTC Club is hosting free guided hikes and family activities to help you, the members, as well as the general public, to explore the Bruce Trail and discover the amazing variety of life along the Niagara Escarpment. Check out www.brucetrail.org for further details.

The Sydenham Club event this year will be held in Wiarton, at the picnic pavilion near the Bluewater Park Rail Station.

Part of our celebration that afternoon will include seeing the Club End-to-End hikers finishing the final stretch of their 170 km journey through the entire Sydenham section! Details are not finalized at press time, but our Bruce Trail Day hikes will start at 1:00 pm, and explore some lovely loop trails in the Wiarton area. Keep checking www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca and the SBTC Facebook page for updates!

Bring your family and friends, and learn about our year-round hiking programs, trail maintenance opportunities, and what we are doing to establish a conservation corridor from Niagara to Tobermory.

Frank Schoenhoeffer, SBTC President

The new owners had no interest in farming and slowly the buildings fell into disrepair. Timber and boards from the barn and house were removed and used to build other homes and barns in the area. The forest started to reclaim the land that the Wilson family had worked so hard to clear. The property became appealing only to loggers and hunters. Over the following decades the forests were twice heavily logged. For next 70 years the valley became more and more silent. One day that stillness was about to be violently shattered.

Continued from previous page...

John and his son Archibald had plans of grazing a large number of beef and dairy cattle as well as their horses so the barn would have to be massive. The Escarpment being literally in their backyard meant they had a plentiful supply of stone for the barn foundation. They even found a stone mason, most likely John senior, who squared off some of the larger dolostone boulders they used in the corners. Their next job proved never ending – clearing the land of its forest and rocks. Clearing the fields of its huge boulders was especially back breaking work. The larger stones had to be winched onto stone boats and then hauled to the edge of the fields by their teams of strong horses. Slowly the fields were cleared and the forest opened. One of the fields was especially pleasing to the family as it soon filled with a profusion of buttercups.

Several years later John’s parents passed away and as John became older he sold the farm to Archibald who was now married and starting a family of his own. John continued to live and work with his son on the homestead. In the late 1880s John passed away. Archibald with his wife Isabella continued farming in the valley and raising their nine children. In 1904, after Archibald’s death, Isabella sold the family homestead bringing to an end almost 40 years of four generations living in the valley.

Continued from previous page...

www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca
If the Bruce Trail, like the Chinese, had a designation for each year then this certainly would be the Year of the Falling Trees. Usually by this time of the year we are all caught up with our usual spring clean up of fallen trees. Not this year! Just when you think you have the last one cleared another Trail captain calls and reports more dead falls. It doesn’t help either when a logger drops almost 500 meters of trees across our Trail! In between clearing trees we did find time to remove and rebuild a bridge behind the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Office. It is a very large structure and required removing the old rotting bridge (see photo), rerouting the stream bed and building a new bridge. Chris Hachey, the Land Management Coordinator of the GSCA, sent the following note:

I just wanted to pass along a huge “thank you” on behalf of Grey Sauble Conservation for completing the boardwalk replacement project at Inglis Falls. I have said this many times but we truly have a valued partnership with the Sydenham Bruce Trail club. Please pass along my sincere thanks to all the volunteers.

Thanks again!
Chris

Our Trail Captains are the backbone of our Bruce Trail Club. This summer two of our long serving and hardworking Trail Captains have decided to hang up their loppers and enjoy a much earned retirement. On behalf of the Sydenham Club I would like to thank Len Holley and Frank Bouma for their many, many years of volunteering to keep their section of Trail safe for hikers to enjoy. Len has held many positions in our Club going all of the way back to the early days when he and Curly Harnden were hike leaders. Len also did a stint as the Sydenham representative on the BTC’s board. Frank has been a Trail Captain for as long as I can remember up on the West Rocks and has been our lead sawyer for many years until he retired from that position last year. Congratulations and thank you Frank and Len – we wish you all the best in your retirement.

If you are interested in following in the footsteps of Len and Frank I have several interesting Trail Captain positions now open. Please give me a call or send me a note if you are interested in a rewarding career as a Trail Captain.

Ron Savage, Trail Director

---

THE INVESTMENTS YOU NEED. THE SERVICE YOU DESERVE.

Michel J Landry, CFP®, FMA
Financial Advisor
340, 10th St. East, Suite 107
Owen Sound, ON N4K 6P7
519-371-1956

www.edwardjones.com Membrar CIPF
EdwardJones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca
I wasn’t a member of the Bruce Trail Club when we first came up to the area 9 years ago. We lived in Toronto and didn’t have easy access to the trails that people who live up here take for granted. When we arrived I thought, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful to own a small piece of this beautiful land and learn a little about how to take care of it.” This thought is the greatest part of becoming a land steward for the Bruce Trail, except for the need to shell out the cash to own it.

When it comes to Land Stewarding, our Sydenham club is really lucky. We have 39 properties in Grey County; many of them are pristine Escarpment land that our club members to the south would give an arm and a leg to be able to steward. In the past, our local club had only a few people stewarding multiple properties. While this makes it easier to manage, it makes much more sense to me to “spread the wealth”, which is what I’ve been trying to do.

Recently, one of our long term stewards has moved from the area, freeing up three properties for three new stewards. These properties are all in the Woodford area and vary in size and complexity. We may also be having a fourth large property available for stewarding in the near future, so there are suddenly lots of stewarding opportunities that weren’t available a year ago. Each property has a name, so here is a small profile of each.

The Graham property is 100 acres just east of the town of Woodford and borders HWY 26 on its south boundary. It contains a variety of features including wetland, a historic farm, escarpment face (above and below), and is about 60% forest.

The Ward property is 78 acres east of Woodford with easy access to the town. It contains a variety of features including wetland, active farming, Escarpment face (above and below), is about 30% forest, and includes main-trail and a side trail. This stewarding includes 2 very small properties (one is an easement) that allows us trail access on the western boundary.

The Fligg property is great for someone who is just gaining an understanding of a forest. It is a long 15 acre property mostly forested, escarpment face (above and below), with the trail running through the middle of it. It is easy to get to and borders the Vincent-Sydenham town line on its eastern side. This town line is the first road east of Woodford, north of HW 26.

Anyone who would like to learn about the nature of the forest first hand, should contact me. I will give you a tour of the options for our Sydenham Club. It can be a wonderful learning experience and is a valuable service to the community.

Bob Hope, Land Stewardship Director
From the Archives…..

A BLAST FROM THE PAST
– A FEEL GOOD STORY

This article is a clipping from an unidentified local newspaper dated September 11, 1969

Pat Savage, Archivist

“Michigan Girl Scouts Hike Bruce Trail, Planning on Alaska Hike Next”

The Bruce Trail has been used for many hikes. Twenty-nine Girl Scouts, four chaperones and a 10 year old boy (34 in total) from Saginaw, Michigan have added a new wrinkle. They are hoping the trail leads them to Alaska.

The Mitten Bay Girl Scouts are really good campers says Bill James one of the four staffers on the hike who had accompanied the girls on a previous hike and he is one of the major powers pushing for the Alaska trip. The youngest member of the group is Frankie, Bill’s son who rode part of the way in a rented truck but also managed to do some hiking.

On August 12, 1969, the group started at Cape Croker making their way down through Wiarton, to the Sydenham Bruce Trail and Blantyre stopping at Colpoy Bay, Skinner Bluffs, Linden Wood, Indian Falls, Harrison Park, Dr. Erb’s farm in Sydenham Township and finally at Mrs. J. Willan’s farm in Blantyre. They walked eight hours some days and four or five hours on other days.

The sprit of these girls was exemplified by Andrea Majewski who flew in from Richmond, Virginia to Midland in order to joint her friends on the hike. With the hike nearing completion, Andrea said she was sorry the hike was over and she wanted to stay. This appeared to be the general feeling of all the girls.

The girls were unanimous in their feelings about Canada saying they loved it and presented Sid Pearce and Alex Smith of the Owen Sound Bruce Trail Club* with cards signed by the hikers. The Bruce Trail was instrumental in arranging this trip. Mr. Pearce presented each hiker with the Bruce Trail Crest and a special chevron for the Sydenham trip from Wiarton to Blantyre, a colour brochure depicting the trail and a map of Grey and Bruce Counties.

* now known as the SBTC

Check out our website at www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca