



50th Anniversary Milestones Project

Celebrating the BTC's Role in Preserving and Conserving the Niagara Escarpment

In this third year of the BTC's 50th Anniversary Milestones Project, we are proud to celebrate the monumental work done by the BTC since the early 1970s in preserving and conserving the Niagara Escarpment.

In the Spring 2014 Bruce Trail Magazine we profiled 14 unique and ecologically important Bruce Trail properties, including properties like Kimberly Springs with its gushing spring and abundant wildlife, the lively Beaver Springs wetland, and stunning Rush Cove.

From tranquil wetlands to towering cliffs to majestic forests to stunning shorelines, the permanent protection of these lands – and careful stewardship afforded them by volunteers and staff ecologists – is something all supporters of the BTC can celebrate.

In this issue we profile 16 more properties acquired through the efforts of the BTC with funds provided by generous BTC donors and grants from the

Province of Ontario. The Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) took title to many of the properties, with the BTC retaining the responsibility for stewardship of the land. Donations and grants totalling \$1.9 million meant preservation of these 841 acres of Escarpment landscape, and permanently secured 15 km of the Bruce Trail. •



Photo: Brian Popelier



Photo: Alain Souther

Sheffield

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 1981 with BTC donor funds; title transferred to Parks Canada
10.0 acres; 90 m of Bruce Trail

The BTC gave this lovely stretch of Georgian Bay Shoreline, on the western edge of Overhanging Point, to Parks Canada in honour of its newly-created Bruce Peninsula National Park (formerly Cyprus Lake Provincial Park) in 1987.



Photo: Sam Barone

Songbird Nature Reserve

CALEDON HILLS SECTION

Acquired in 2012 with BTC donor funds
10.2 acres; 655 m of Bruce Trail

Songbirds abound amongst the endangered Butternut trees and other lush forest cover.

Taylor

NIAGARA SECTION

Acquired in 1987 with funds from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR); title held by the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT)

12.4 acres; 705 m of Bruce Trail

Escarpment outcrops and a mature Carolinian Forest adorn this quiet property, tucked deep into wine country near Beamsville.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Lowery

NIAGARA SECTION

Acquired in 1995 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT

10.2 acres; 655 m of Bruce Trail

Regionally and provincially rare species thrive in this Carolinian Forest, and share their home with the rock wall of an old railway bed, signs of a pioneering past.

Thirty-Mile Creek

NIAGARA SECTION

Acquired in 1989 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT.

24 acres; 439 m of Bruce Trail

A gentle wetland meadow leads to a rich, mature hardwood forest dotted with rocky Escarpment outcrops. There, Thirty-Mile Creek gently glides past an old mill ruin and then cascades down the Escarpment to form a lovely waterfall.



Photo: Allison Watt

Johnston Easement

IROQUOIA SECTION

Donated to the BTC in 2003

2.1 acres; 149 m of Bruce Trail

An impressive outcrop of 444 million year old Whirlpool Sandstone perches high over Grindstone Creek, dominating this impressive and diverse property in Waterdown.



Photo: University of Guelph

Hammer Property

TORONTO SECTION

Acquired in 2000 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT

16.3 acres; 310 m of Bruce Trail

A boardwalk, built and maintained by Toronto Club Volunteers, allows hikers passing through this extensive cattail marsh north of Limehouse to enjoy the property's riches without disturbing the abundance of amphibians and reptiles that call the property their home.

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Photo: Adam Brylowski

Opavsky Property

TORONTO SECTION

Acquired in 1995 with funds from the MNR;
title held by the OHT

50 acres; 1,051 m of Bruce Trail

The rich natural history of this biologically diverse property at Speyside, where Jefferson Salamanders and other Species at Risk thrive, is complemented by the historical remnants of a First Nations ceremonial rock circle.



Photo: Brian Popellier

Johnstone

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 1994 with funds from the MNR;
title held by the OHT

340 acres; 1,216 m of Bruce Trail

A large alvar – a stretch of bare rock pavement – can be found on these two properties north of Dyer's Bay. Regionally and provincially rare species including the endangered Massasauga Rattlesnake call this wild and rocky property home.



Photo: Brian Popellier

Cheltenham Badlands

CALEDON HILLS SECTION

Acquired in 2000 with funds from the MNR;
title held by the OHT

90.5 acres; 993 m of Bruce Trail

With a landscape almost alien in appearance, the Cheltenham Badlands are considered unique in all of Ontario. Slopes of bright red Queenston Shale stand in stark contrast to the nearby green forests of the Escarpment.



Photo: Brian Popellier

Rock Hill Corner

DUFFERIN HI-LAND SECTION

Acquired in 1993 with funds from the MNR;
title held by the OHT

24.9 acres; 930 m of Bruce Trail

A geological delight, Rock Hill Corner is dominated by deep crevices, a rock bridge, and the ruins of a grist mill.



Photo: Alison Watt

Lancaster

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 2006 with funds from the MNR;
title transferred to Ontario Parks as part of the Smokey Head/White Bluff Provincial Nature Reserve

15.5 acres; 462 m of Bruce Trail

A deep crevice leads to a shoreline cave, now high above Whippoorwill Bay, and fine views are found along the Bruce Trail on this magnificent property.



Photo: Beth Gilbespy

Fossil Glen (the Carnahan-Sutherland Property)

SYDENHAM SECTION

Acquired in 1989 with funds from the MNR;
title held by the OHT

55.2 acres; 778 m of Bruce Trail

A quiet glen of fossils including corals, brachiopods and other warm-water sea creatures that hint at the Escarpment's ancient tropical origins.

Devil's Monument/Minhinnick

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 1988 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT
49 acres; 1,484 m of Bruce Trail
Waves battering the Escarpment cliff face during higher lake levels 5,000 years ago created this "Flowerpot", which now stands guard high above the Dyer's Bay shoreline.



Photo: Clay Dalain



Boyd

SYDENHAM SECTION

Acquired in 2003 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT
45 acres; 2,053 m of Bruce Trail
A labyrinth of ruler-precise crevices leads hikers through the hillside near Owen Sound.

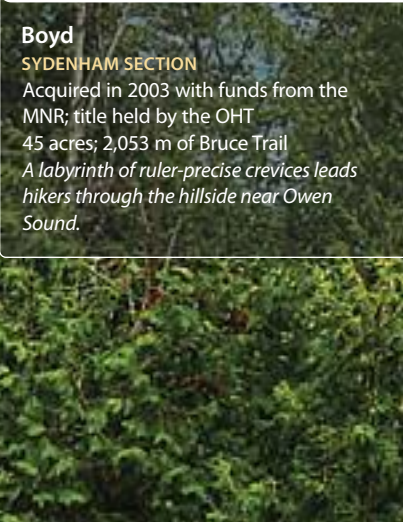


Photo: Dave Knox



Dinedune

BLUE MOUNTAINS SECTION

Acquired in 1990 with funds from the MNR; title held by the OHT
77.8 acres; 3,235 m of Bruce Trail
At the boundary of gentle farm fields and wild Escarpment edge, the Bruce Trail follows a line of crevices stretching several kilometres through the countryside south of Nottawasaga Bluffs.

