



50th Anniversary Milestones Project

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

As this third year of the BTC's 50th Anniversary Milestones Project comes to a close, we wrap up our celebration of the monumental work done by the BTC since the early 1970s in preserving and conserving the Niagara Escarpment.

In the Spring, Summer and Fall 2014 Bruce Trail Magazine issues we profiled 43 unique and ecologically significant Bruce Trail properties. Majestic forests, lively wetlands, graceful shorelines and a rich array of plant and animal life are preserved forever because of the BTC.

In this issue we conclude our series on Preserving and Conserving with profiles of seven nature reserves donated to us by the owners of the land themselves. Many of these landowners had allowed the Bruce Trail to cross their properties for decades; by donating their land, they have added permanence to their long

history of sharing. The donation of these seven nature reserves, amongst the many dozens donated to the BTC over the past 50 years, is a testament to the trust the landowners have in the BTC's ability to care for their land. Acquisition of these seven nature reserves has meant 331 acres of Escarpment landscape and almost 4 kilometres of Bruce Trail were permanently preserved. We extend our sincere thanks to these landowners, as well as to the dozens of other generous landowners who have entrusted us with their precious land. •



McNally Nature Reserve

IROQUOIA SECTION

Donated in 2006 by Patrick McNally
27 acres; 572 km of Bruce Trail

High on the Escarpment overlooking Burlington, this diverse property includes a mature Sugar Maple-Oak forest and a quarry that provided stone for the building of the 3rd Welland Canal in 1887. Work to restore the remainder of the property to a natural state has included invasive species removal, native wildflower meadow plantings and coniferous plantation thinning.



Tallgrass Prairie at NOTL Easement



Carolinian Forest at NOTL Easement

Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Easement

NIAGARA SECTION

Donated in 2001 by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. 176 m of Bruce Trail

Amidst growing urbanization, this oasis of Carolinian Forest sports a lush Sassafras grove, Tulip Trees and rare Tallgrass Prairie remnants. Other rare species include Butternut, Rue Anemone and Red Mulberry.

Young Wetland

BEAVER VALLEY SECTION

Donated in 2001 by Fred & Shirley Young
56 acres; 268 m of Bruce Trail

This extensive wetland is home to Wood Ducks, Great Egrets, Sandhill Cranes and a tenacious family of beavers.



Photo: Sarah Piddock

Pinnacle Rock Nature Reserve

BEAVER VALLEY SECTION

Donated in 2013 by Frances Richardson
134 acres; 1,500 m of Bruce Trail

In addition to Pinnacle Rock, an impressive slab of dolostone rock tipped on end at the Escarpment face, this beautiful nature reserve contains diverse habitats including a wetland, meadow, dense hardwood forest, old growth cedars, and a stream with a series of waterfalls. These habitats provide shelter to rare and endangered species including Butternut trees, Bobolink, Canada Warbler, Monarch butterflies and Hart's Tongue Fern.



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Pitcher Plant at Lillie Family Nature Reserve

Photo: Brian Poppeier

Photo: Alex Kummeling

Escarpment at Lillie Family Nature Reserve

Lillie Family Nature Reserve

PENINSULA SECTION

Donated in 2012 by John & Sue Lillie

94 acres; 408 m of Bruce Trail

Magnificent Escarpment cliffs overlook Dyer's Bay, providing a home for rare Wall Rue, Ontario Goldenrod and Massasauga Rattlesnake. Further inland, an unusual floating bog sports a profusion of carnivorous plants (including Pitcher Plants and Sundews) and orchids.

Webwood Falls Nature Reserve

BEAVER VALLEY SECTION

Donated in 2011 by James Horwood
29 acres; 744 m of Bruce Trail
A coldwater stream, vital habitat for several fish species including trout and salmon, tumbles over Webwood Falls at the site of a former grist mill. The steep river valley below winds through a mature Sugar Maple-Beech forest and shelters the rare Hispid Buttercup.

Webwood Falls



Photo: Adam Brylowski

Jefferson Salamander at West Fork Nature Reserve

West Fork Nature Reserve

CALEDON HILLS SECTION

Donated in 2009 by David Kendall & Grecia Mayers
3 acres; 193 m of Bruce Trail
Tucked amongst thick cedars and boulders, nature is reclaiming a former quarry site, providing a pristine habitat for the threatened Jefferson Salamander.

Photo: Brian Popeliter