

Silent Valley - A stunning jewel in a beautiful necklace

Whenever any of us put boot to treadway, what we desire is to be left with one memorable hiking moment. The source could be geology, or flora or fauna or caves or vistas or historical architecture.

No matter what your motivation for hiking, Ron Savage's *"Silent Valley - A stunning jewel in a beautiful necklace"* assures you that you will be satisfied many times over when you hike Sydenham's Silent Valley Nature Reserve. Ron's attractive genial style and visual presentation makes his booklet an engaging read. It is obvious from the first page that Ron has done extensive archival research and exploring of the caves and forest. The passion with which Ron writes stems from the stimulating discoveries he has unearthed. Silent Valley is such a cornucopia of delights that you can spend an entire day exploring, learning and hiking.

In "The First Settlers" chapter, Ron relates the history of the Wilson family from 1804-1997. There are pictures of the barn's foundation, the well and the footing of the home. As well as relating family history, he incorporates fascinating facts and pictures of stoning machines, lime kilns, barn raising, and how to shore up the walls of a hand dug well. Ron's enthusiastic first person reporting of the Wilson's history is never a list of dry facts.

Silent Valley's 200 acres offer hours of fun for amateur and professional geologists. In fact, over the last 15 months Ron has helped lead several geology hikes. Because Silent Valley dates from the Silurian era and the valley had been a subtropical shallow inland sea, fossil outcroppings abound. One does not have to look far to find syringopora, horn corals, cephalopods, crinoids and halysite corals. As Ron states, one of the most dramatic effects of glaciation is a "huge crevice and cave system found on the western boundary of the valley. It contains easily the deepest crevice cave in the Sydenham section at 23 meters." (p.9) He does an excellent job of explaining how the crevices and caves were formed.

The most gripping chapter deals with "The ill-fated flight of Cessna CF-OUR". Partial remains of Richard Bradley's plane were discovered by Ron when he was searching for possible side trail routes. After respectfully cordoning off the crash site, Ron went to the library and researched the accident. What he discovered is retold succinctly and respectfully.

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be directed to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's land securement efforts. Order your copy today via the General Store – page 34 or by visiting bruce-trail.org/store

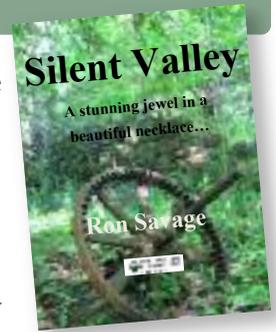
When you leave the wreckage you will note an extremely large variety of ferns, wildflowers and wildlife. Some of the ferns are rarely seen elsewhere. Birds abound. Ron was, "amazed by the abundance of partridge or ruffed grouse." (p.23)

After reading and pouring over the pictures in "Silent Valley", you will come to understand why Ron is so passionate about this great Bruce Trail acquisition.

Reviewed by Bill Nelson

"I read every word with pleasure and admiration of the story so well written. Indeed it warms my heart that I have known and remember so many volunteers who by their actions wrote the history of the TRAIL and who shared the vision to protect such very special places like the Silent Valley." Dr. Philip Gosling, Bruce Trail Founder, on Silent Valley - A stunning jewel in a beautiful necklace

*"If you haven't had a chance to read Ron Savage's new book about one of the BTC's latest property acquisitions, Silent Valley, then I suggest you put it on your "must read" list. In just 33 pages Ron has opened up an exciting new concept of preserving and conserving our conservation corridor containing the Bruce Trail. Jam packed with stunning photos of this beautiful 200 acre property, the reader is also treated to photos of the first homesteaders of the valley, early census rolls, land deeds and grant documents. We are witnesses not only to the rugged beauty of the land and its geological history but also to snippets of its human history that Ron has uncovered. The BTC is not only saving the environment every time it purchases a piece of property, it is saving a piece of our heritage, as Ron so passionately shows us in his book *Silent Valley - A stunning jewel in a beautiful necklace.*" Jean Kerins*



Leave Them A Natural Legacy

For information about the benefits of making a bequest or becoming a Heritage Club Member, please contact:

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All inquiries will be kept confidential.

