



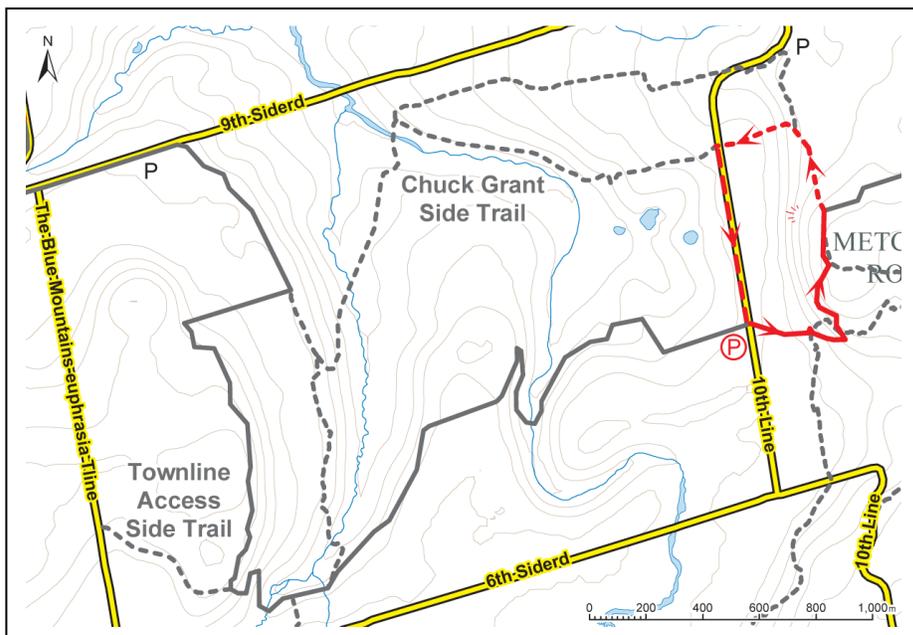
Close to nature.  
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY

## Metcalf's Rock

**Hike Length:** 2.4 km

**Section:** Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club



**How to get here and Where to Park:** From Grey Road 2 (east side of the Beaver Valley) take the 9<sup>th</sup> Sideroad to the west for one concession and turn south on the 10<sup>th</sup> Line through the 19<sup>th</sup> century hamlet of Rockhaven. Watch for the white blazes of the main Bruce Trail, and park on the west side of the road.

**Description of the Hike:** From your car, head east uphill through the property of the University of Toronto Outing Club which has developed a 60 km network of wilderness cross-country ski trails on the surrounding lands. The white blazes of the Bruce Trail cross a small stream and climb into the tumbled rock of the Niagara Escarpment.

Here you have a choice of climbing to the top on either the main Trail or via a blue-blazed side trail. The adventurous will want to take the latter through a rocky gorge 30 m high. Here a massive block is slowly separating from the main cliff, leaving behind a crevice filled with tumbled rock, tenacious cedars and a variety of ferns. Caves can be explored in the cracks or beneath the rock, including a secluded "window" high up on the cliffside facing southwest. Even in early summer, snow and ice remains in these crevices. The Trail reaches the summit of Metcalf's Rock with splendid views to the west over Kolapore Creek Valley. It is hard to believe that 100 years ago there was a community here thriving on lumbering and other resource industries. Today, Nature has reclaimed much of the land.

The Trail continues north through a succession forest. Then, where the white blazes turn sharply to the east (right), continue north on the blue-blazed Chuck Grant Side Trail. Soon the route drops sharply over the scarp edge, twisting around some fascinating rock formations. At its base in mid May is a spectacular display of trilliums. When the Trail reaches the 10<sup>th</sup> Line, turn left (south) and walk back along the road for about 400 m to your car.

For those with time and energy, you might consider the full 9.3 km of the Chuck Grant Loop, which explores the west side of the valley and Duncan Crevice Caves Nature Reserve. Although the length of this option precludes its being part of this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary contest, it is a spectacular half-day hike for the more seasoned hiker.