



Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

Hilton Falls Conservation Area and the Philip Gosling Side Trail

Hike Length: 5 km

Section: Toronto Bruce Trail Club



How to get there and Where to Park: From Highway 401, head north at Guelph Line (exit 312) and then east on Campbellville Road for 4 km. The Halton Region Conservation Authority has a large well-signed parking lot. Bruce Trail members should bring their membership cards for free entry to the Conservation Area, except on special event days. Non-members or members without their cards will be required to pay for parking.

Hike description: Begin at the southeast corner of the parking lot and follow the Philip Gosling Side Trail for 600 m to the white blazes of the main Trail. Philip Gosling was the first Trail Director of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the man responsible more than 40 years ago for putting the Bruce Trail on the ground. He is recognized by the Bruce Trail Conservancy as one of the four Founders.

When you reach the white blazes of the main Trail, turn right (south) and shortly before Campbellville Road, notice the plaque: "Near this spot the first blaze on the Bruce Trail was painted in July, 1962." It "commemorate[s] 40 years of cooperation between the landowners and the volunteers of the Bruce Trail."

Now turn north (away from the road) and follow the white blazes uphill for 600 m. Then take the blue-blazed Hilton Falls Side Trail on your way to the falls. Just before the falls is a large pothole. Just after the glaciers retreated, this spot was part of a watercourse that carried the glacial torrents over the Escarpment. Rocks rotating in the swirling waters gradually drilled large holes in the bedrock.

Next you reach the Falls. They cascade over the rock face from a height of about 10 m. The best view is from the gorge below, reached by a flight of stairs that lead to a viewing platform. Across the creek are the ruins of a mill which dates back to 1835. Many myths and legends surround the old mill. It has been said that gold has been found nearby. Another story is that Hilton Falls was a stop on the underground railroad, an escape route for slaves from the United States in the 1850s and '60s. After viewing the falls, simply take the Conservation Authority's clearly marked trail back to the parking lot.