

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY 50th Anniversary Celebrations



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**



Over the next 5 years, the BTC and its Clubs will be celebrating a series of 50th Anniversary milestones: from planning and Trail building in 1962 to the official opening of the Bruce Trail in 1967.

Join us this year as we celebrate the trailblazing of 1962.

In 1962 a phenomenal amount of work and effort was dedicated to mapping, clearing and blazing the Bruce Trail, and to securing access agreements along the planned route. It was in 1962 that the first Bruce Trail Clubs were formed and that people of Ontario began exploring the Niagara Escarpment in a meaningful way, because of the Bruce Trail.

THREE BRUCE TRAIL CLUBS TURN 50 IN 2012

The Toronto, Blue Mountains and Sydenham Clubs were each founded in 1962. Why not make this your year to explore these sections and celebrate with the Clubs?



TORONTO CLUB FOUNDERS DINNER

THURSDAY JUNE 28

The oldest of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs, the Toronto Bruce Trail Club was founded on June 28, 1962, during its first meeting at Edwards Gardens. This year, we return to that beautiful location to celebrate the past 50 years, and look forward to the next 50. The Founders Dinner will be a gala celebration, with guest speaker John Riley (conservationist and NEC Board Member), and an Escarpment-inspired and locally-sourced meal. A number of very special items will be available through a silent auction. Tickets are \$175.00 per person. Any profits from the event will be presented to the Bruce Trail Conservancy as a contribution from the Toronto Club. Details and online ticket sales available at bruce-trail.org in the Upcoming Events section.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB END TO END

JUNE 9 & 23, JULY 7 & 21, SEPT. 8 & 22, and OCT. 13

To commemorate its 50th Anniversary, the Blue Mountains Club will be offering a series of 7 hikes, spread over 7 weekends in the Summer and Fall of 2012, covering the Blue Mountains section End-to-End. See Blazes on page 6 for details.

SYDENHAM CLUB'S LOOPING THROUGH SYDENHAM: 25 SHORT WALKS AND HIKES

In time for its 50th Anniversary, the Sydenham Club has released the 2nd edition of its highly regarded loop and short hike guide. Now updated and expanded to include 25 enjoyable walks with maps, notes and narratives. A handy, pocket-sized reference available through the Club. \$20. Visit www.sydenhambruce-trail.ca for details.

OUR ANNIVERSARY GOAL: 5,000 acres of Niagara Escarpment landscape containing the Bruce Trail, secured, stewarded and made available to the public over the next 5 years.

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY 50th Anniversary Celebrations

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 – 11 AM - 4 PM
Trail Centre, Dundas Valley
Conservation Area, Hamilton

All Bruce Trail volunteers past and present are invited to share in 50 years of Bruce Trail memories and the celebration of 50 years of Bruce Trail volunteering. Program includes: catered BBQ lunch; live music; speakers, including Dr. Philip Gosling; historic displays; a giant group photo; and guided hikes.

Be one of the first to pick up a copy of:

- Bruce Trail Reference Guide – 27th Edition
- Dr. Philip Gosling's: "Can They Save this Ribbon of Wilderness? Personal Stories of Putting the Bruce Trail on the Ground, 1962-1963"

For details visit brucetrail.org or contact Jackie Randle at jrandle@brucetrail.org or 905-525-1978

TRAILBLAZERS ANNIVERSARY EVENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 – 11 AM - 1 PM
Phillip Gosling Volunteer Forest,
Mono Township

Celebrate the first hikes, the first plans, and the trailblazers – the 'ordinary people' who came together in the early 60s to create the extraordinary Bruce Trail. Each person contributed in different ways and these same types of people, these same types of contributions, are needed today to help the Bruce Trail thrive and grow. On June 24 we'll honour the successes of the past and build excitement around the work ahead for the BTC. All are welcome.

Program:

- Guest speakers, including Abby Hoffman (Olympic athlete, Bruce Trail Lifetime Member, and daughter of Bruce Trail pioneer Dorothy Medhurst)
- Archival displays focusing on the early years of the Trail
- Free picnic lunch; Unique 50th Memento; Raffle prizes
- Guided hikes (5 or 10 km)
- Opportunity to cheer on the hikers in the 50 km Trailblazers' Challenge

Directions:

Phillip Gosling Volunteer Forest
0.5 km east of Airport Road on 5 Sideroad
(Map 18, km 47.2 in the Bruce Trail Reference Guide)



CAN THEY SAVE THIS RIBBON OF WILDERNESS?

By Beatrice Riddell, Financial Post November 18, 1961

The shaded strip that winds across the map of southern Ontario, above, is the Niagara Escarpment, a 240-mile ribbon of rugged hills and forests smack in the middle of Central Canada's industrial heartland.

It rises, wild and beautiful, above housing subdivisions, steel mills, shipyards, farmland and the sky-blue waters of Georgian Bay's resort coast – stretching from Niagara Falls at the U.S. border to Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

In the months ahead, you're going to hear a lot more about the Niagara Escarpment. A group of conservationists, mostly businessmen, soon will

start a campaign to preserve this geological phenomenon as a recreation area.

Some see the strip of wilderness as another Appalachian Trail, a paradise for hikers and rough-it campers, the growing breed of "outdoorsy" Canadians who really like to walk.

Why the sudden interest in the escarpment?

Much of it is still wild but a very large part of the escarpment is now in private hands. Many Canadians fear it is in danger of being spoiled by indiscriminate quarrying operations and real estate development.

Quarrying has spoiled the face of the escarp-

ment in some of the most scenic places. Already the Caledon Hills (actually part of the escarpment), about an hour's drive from Toronto, are being snapped up for private country estates.

Conservationists and industrialists are meeting in Hamilton this week. At a conference sponsored by the Conservation Council of Ontario representatives of all groups concerned are discussing the possibilities of compatible commercial and public recreational use of the escarpment.

For the construction industry, the escarpment is the closest source for stone and gravel for Toronto and Hamilton building.



From the south

- Take Airport Road north through Caledon, crossing Hwy 9 at Mono Mills.
- Turn right (east) on 5 Sideroad. Proceed for ~0.2 km.

From Orangeville

- From Hwy 10, take Hwy 9 east (signs for Newmarket) for 9km to Airport Rd.
- Turn left (north) on Airport road. In 3.5 km turn right (east) on 5 Sideroad.

Park at the Tai Chi Centre on north side of 5 Sideroad. Watch for BTC event signs.

RSVP by June 13 to book your lunch. Contact Laura Tuohy at 1-800-665-4453 ext. 29 or ltuohy@brucetrail.org

50 KM TRAILBLAZERS' CHALLENGE SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Join the Challenge: This summer, be one of 50 hikers to take part in a unique, long-distance hike along a fantastic section of the Bruce Trail, and help raise funds for the BTC. Participation is capped at 50 hikers and at the time of printing there are still spaces available. You needn't be a member to participate. The one-day hike follows a 50 km route along the Bruce Trail through the Caledon Hills, passing through the Trailblazers Anniversary Event, and ending at Mono Cliffs Provincial Park. Hikers will be treated to a pre-hike rally, a shuttle bus to the trailhead, refreshment stations, a post-hike feast and celebration, and a commemorative badge.

Sponsor a Hiker: Hikers are asked to raise a minimum of \$500 by June 22 to participate. The funds raised will go towards BTC's Anniversary Goal to secure, steward and make available to the public 5,000 additional acres of Niagara Escarpment landscape containing the Bruce Trail by 2017. All sponsoring donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt.

To register or sponsor a hiker, visit brucetrail.org and click on the big 50km Trailblazers' Challenge image or contact Laura Tuohy at 1-800-665-4453 ext. 29 or ltuohy@brucetrail.org.



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY



Construction men say quarrying affects only a small area of the escarpment.

"If more than 20 miles of the 240 miles is affected in 100 years, it will be most surprising" says I.L. Jennings, vice-president of Standard Paving & Materials Ltd.

But, conservationists say, a total of 20 miles of quarrying in small sections along the way could spoil the whole escarpment.

"In the long run," Jennings told FP, "quarrying can contribute to the recreational use of an area. Victoria's famous Butchard Gardens were built out of an old quarry. So was part of Hamilton's Royal Botanical Gardens.

"Eventually quarrying will produce more lakes, excellent parkland" he said.

But while builders say the escarpment cannot be considered "sacred ground", they are in sympathy with the recreationalists and conservationist in protecting the face of cliffs.

"Legislation to prevent tampering with the face of the escarpment is reasonable" Jennings says.

What the Conservation Council wants is this:

- A comprehensive survey of the escarpment (with the Ontario government taking the lead) to discover its complete recreational potential and how key areas could be set aside for public use.

Land might be recovered for public use by outright government purchase of some areas, by government assistance to municipalities and conservation authorities to buy adjoining sections and by easements of private land.

- Control of quarrying operations so they will not spoil the appearance of the escarpment, while protecting the rights of industry to obtain stone and gravel.



- Establishment of parks and ski areas.
- Creation of hiking trails – possibility one long Appalachian like trail along the whole 240 miles.
- Scenic motorways that will not interfere with the walking trails
- Creation of nature conservation areas, with controlled public access, to preserve some of the continent's rarest plant life and geological formations. •