

Land Acquisition

Balancing fun and protection of biodiversity

People have been setting aside land as protected places for millennia. Historically, most of these lands were associated with sacred places, hunting areas and timber reserves. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, after it became clear that human impact was altering the landscape, we began to establish nature reserves to protect scenic and recreational values. However, camping and other recreational uses were the focus. It wasn't until the 1960s and early 1970s that we began to preserve land for its *ecological* value.

Protecting land for its ecological value was a new concept born out of a recognition that we needed to protect natural habitat for plants and animals. While habitat protection may seem at odds with recreation, the BTC, by establishing a protected conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment that contains a respectful hiking path, has blended both in a sustainable way.

In furthering our goal in establishing a conservation corridor containing the Bruce Trail, we are proud to announce the securement of three more properties along the Niagara Escarpment this past quarter, protecting 112.5 acres and securing more than 1.5 km of the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route.

Cedar Springs Woods - Iroquoia

Cedar Springs Woods is located on the east side of Cedar Springs Road, north of Dundas Street in Burlington. It comprises 10 acres and contains 341 m of Optimum Route.

The biological diversity of this property – so close to an urban centre – is rich. The northwestern half is located within the Nelson Escarpment Woods Environmentally Sensitive Area, which contains a forested series of valleys and slopes along the base of the Escarpment. The property has a dense Sugar Maple and Beach forest and several ponds and wetland communities. There are also a number of species at risk on the property, including the Butternut tree and Eastern Flowering Dogwood.

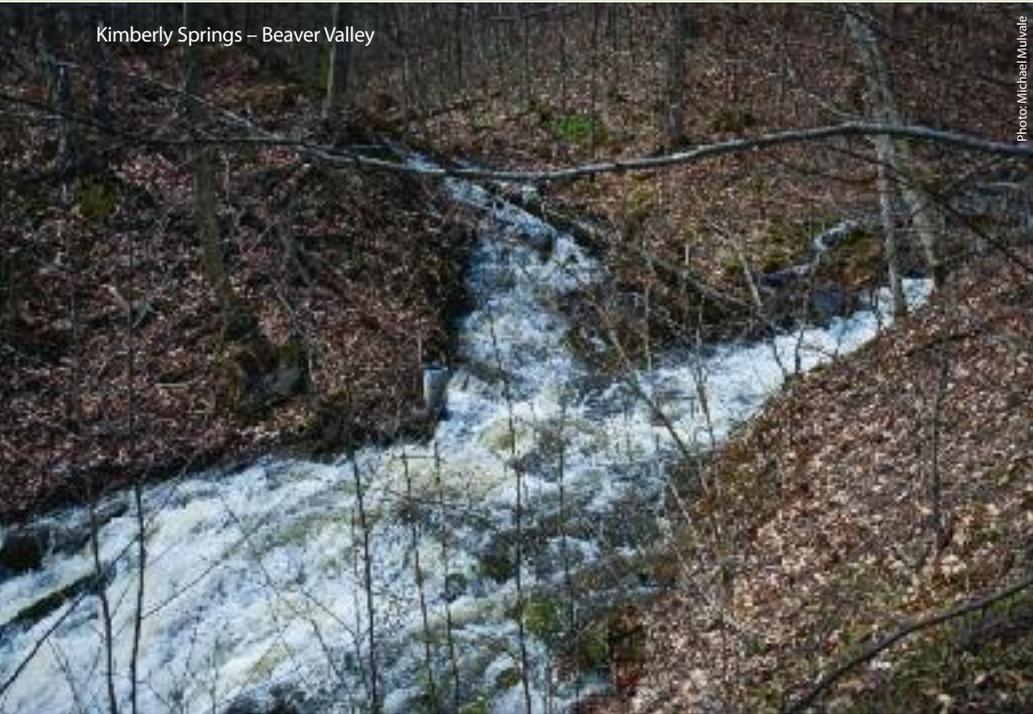
The Cedar Springs Woods transaction closed January 2013, and we were pleased to welcome donors who explored the beautiful property at an event on May 4, 2013.



Cedar Springs Woods - Iroquoia



Kimberly Springs – Beaver Valley



Kimberly Springs – Beaver Valley

Kimberley Springs lies on the western slopes of the Beaver Valley, across from Old Baldy. At 57 acres in size, the property is heavily forested with Eastern White Cedar along the Escarpment edge grading to hardwood forest on the slopes below. The Provincially and Nationally endangered Butternut is found on the property. Open meadows allow for a profusion of asters and goldenrod in autumn, and provide habitat for ground-breeding birds such as the Provincially and Nationally threatened Bobolink.

The Niagara Escarpment's cliff face passes through Kimberly Springs at its western end, in a north-south direction. Water from Wodehouse Creek, atop of the Escarpment about a kilometre to the west, makes its way to 15 sinkholes at the Wodehouse Karst, where it then plunges down into the fractured rock layers of the Niagara Escarpment. The water emerges from the rocky hillside at Kimberly Springs in lush, fern-laden wetlands, and then coalesces to form Bill's Creek which ultimately makes its way into the Beaver River.

In addition to its ecological and geological significance, Kimberly Springs contains 885 m of Bruce Trail Optimum

Route, which allows the public to experience the property's treasures in a healthy and sustainable way.

The transaction for Kimberley Springs closed on April 3, 2013, and we were pleased to give donors a snowy tour of the property on April 20, 2013.

Merkel – Sydenham

Partnerships are an important part of our Land Securement Strategy, enabling us to leverage resources to secure and steward land. The Merkel acquisition was a four-way partnership between the BTC, Grey County, the City of Owen Sound and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA).

The Merkel property is 46 acres located on the west side of Owen Sound between the donated Chalmers Lime property to the north and GSCA West Rocks property to the south. A small section of the property will

be part of a multiuse trail system (hiking, biking, cross-country skiing) that will be owned and managed by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. The multiuse trail will cross the Bruce Trail at a sharp angle and then head west. The Bruce Trail itself will pass along a 100 foot wide protected corridor, within which only pedestrian use will be permitted. The Merkel property transaction closed in January 2013, and secures 348 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route. •

Merkel – Sydenham

