



50th Anniversary Milestones Project

Celebrating the BTC's Role in Preserving and Conserving the Niagara Escarpment

In this third year of the BTC's 50th Anniversary Milestones Project, we continue to celebrate the monumental work done by the BTC since the early 1970s in preserving and conserving the Niagara Escarpment.

In the Spring and Summer 2014 Bruce Trail Magazines we profiled 30 unique and ecologically significant Bruce Trail properties. Towering cliffs, gentle wetlands, rocky shorelines, deep forests and a profusion of wildlife – from songbirds to salamanders – grace these lovely nature reserves.

In this issue we profile 13 more nature reserves acquired through the efforts of the BTC, with funds provided in partnership with the Province of Ontario, Municipalities, individuals and other conservation organizations. Their acquisition meant 1,900 acres of Escarpment landscape and almost 15 kilometres of Bruce Trail were permanently preserved. The strength of these partnerships has led to a healthier and more vibrant Niagara Escarpment for all of us to enjoy as we walk the beautiful Bruce Trail. •



Photo: Michael Steyer

Grindstone Creek

IROQUOIA SECTION

Acquired in 2010 in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), who provided 50% of the funds needed for the acquisition under their *Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program (NSLASP)*. Title is held by the OHT. 21 acres; 387 m of Bruce Trail
Lively Grindstone Creek tumbles down the valley alongside this significant property, which provides habitat for rare species such as Butternuts, American Chestnut, Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Yellow Pimpernel and Early Buttercup.



Photo: Greg Pleau

Speyside Sanctuary

TORONTO SECTION

Acquired in 2010 in partnership with the MNR and the Region of Halton, who supported BTC donors by collectively funding of almost two thirds of the acquisition costs. 144 acres; 1,620 km of Bruce Trail
Stunning wetlands and mature woods provide a home to the rare Jefferson Salamander, and a broad array of interior forest birds including the Scarlett Tanager, Hooded Warbler and the Northern Waterthrush.



Photo: Beth Gillheisy

Haddock Property

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 2005 in partnership with the MNR who provided 100% of the funds for the acquisition. The property has now been transferred to Ontario Parks and forms part of the Hope Bay Forest Provincial Nature Reserve. 41 acres; 927 m of Bruce Trail
Steep rocky ridges, intriguing shore caves and glacial potholes underlie a forest of Eastern White Cedar, Sugar Maples and Birch.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Small Purple-Fringed Orchid at Campbell

Campbell Property

BEAVER VALLEY SECTION

Acquired in 2007 in partnership with the MNR and the Campbell family, who provided roughly 25% and 10% of the funds for the acquisition costs, respectively. The balance was provided by our generous BTC donors. Title is held by the OHT, who facilitated the severance of the property to make the conservation land available for acquisition. 77 acres; 680 m of Bruce Trail
The nature reserve's unique fen habitat supports an array of flora and fauna including orchids, sedges and ferns. Wood ducks and screech owls find a home in BTC nesting boxes.

Walter's Creek

SYDENHAM SECTION

Acquired in 2007 in partnership with the OHT who provided 50% of the funds under NSLASP, and the support of our many BTC donors.

34 acres; 265 m of Bruce Trail

A profusion of brilliant red Cardinal Flowers grace the banks of beautiful Walter's Creek in mid-summer.

Cardinal Flower at Walter's Creek

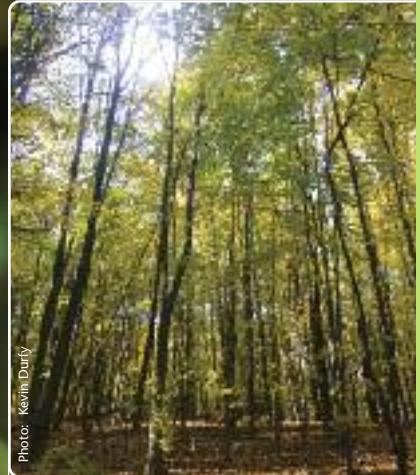


Photo: Kevin Durty

Cedar Springs Woods

IROQUOIA SECTION

Acquired in 2014 in partnership with the Region of Halton who provided 50% of the funds under their Greenlands Program, to add to the support of our many BTC donors.

10 acres; 300 m of Bruce Trail

Springs trickle through the undergrowth of a Sugar Maple and Black Walnut forest, home to sensitive species and a resident Great Horned Owl.



Photo: Brian Poppele

Hemlock Ridges

CALEDON HILLS SECTION

Acquired in 2009 with the assistance of a BTC member who purchased the entire property and sold the conservation portion to the BTC (referred to as a "White Knight"). Funds for the conservation lands were provided by generous BTC donors.

58 acres; 1,170 m of Bruce Trail

Steep ridges of glacial till provide shade for a profusion of Eastern Hemlock trees and a mature Sugar Maple forest.

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Photo: Antoin Diamond

Merkel Property

SYDENHAM SECTION

Acquired in 2013 in a four-way funding partnership between BTC donors, Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority, the City of Owen Sound and the County of Grey.

52 acres; 350 m of Bruce Trail

Straddling the West Rocks area of Owen Sound, the Merkel Property sports Eastern White Cedars and Birch near its eastern edge, grading to a forest of Poplar and Birch to the west.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Lindenwood

SYDENHAM SECTION

Acquired in 2009

Acquired in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada who provided 60% of the funds needed for the acquisition as administrators for the MNR's Greenlands program. Local landowners Gordon and Linda Edwards also provided a generous donation towards the acquisition, as did our many BTC donors.

171 acres; 1,789 m of Bruce Trail

Agriculture and conservation work in tandem at Lindenwood to maintain habitat for grassland birds such as Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. A sensitive alvar supports the endangered Butternut tree, and Hart's Tongue Ferns grace the crevices that bisect the nature reserve.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Sandhill Cranes in flight at Glassford

Glassford (Malcolm Bluff) Wetland

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 2008 with grants from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (administered on behalf of the MNR) and Ducks Unlimited Canada, which covered all of the acquisition costs.

288 acres; 2,978 m of Bruce Trail

A birder's paradise, the magnificent wetland is home to the Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Sora, Pied-Billed Grebe, and a wide range of other birds. Granite erratics, gathered into piles by farmers long-ago, provide a treasure trove for rock and mineral enthusiasts.



Photo: Beth Gilhepsy

Malcolm Bluff Shores

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired between 2010 and 2012 in partnership with Ontario Nature, who provided 50% of the funds for the acquisition through grants from Nature Canada and the MNR, and from Ontario Nature donors. The balance of the funding for this \$2 million acquisition was provided by generous BTC donors.

1,045 acres; 3,984 m Bruce Trail

Four kilometres of unspoiled shoreline, Niagara Escarpment cliff face and main Bruce Trail grace this 1,045 acre Nature Reserve along Colpoys's Bay, providing home to Peregrine Falcons, Canada Warbler, Hart's Tongue Fern and numerous other rare and sensitive species.

Pear Tree Park

TORONTO SECTION

Acquired in 2005 in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) who provided an 87% grant for the acquisition costs. Title was transferred to Conservation Halton who own adjacent land.

14 acres; 218 m of Bruce Trail

In addition to providing a meeting place for Bruce Trail exploration, and a graceful memorial to our donors, Pear Tree Park is adorned with wildflowers in the spring and magnificent Eastern White Cedars. A babbling brook feeds a provincially significant wetland.

Hepatica at Pear Tree Park



Photo: Cary Hall

Williams Caves

PENINSULA SECTION

Acquired in 2008 in partnership with the OHT who provided 50% of the funds under NSLASP, and the support of our many BTC donors. Title is held by the OHT.

19 acres; 297 m of Bruce Trail

A rich forest graces the table-land atop the Escarpment, while below in the cliff face four large caves – hollowed out by waves 5,000 years ago during high lake levels – peek out through the cedars over Georgian Bay.