



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

Annual Meeting
September 22, 2018

Club Reports

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

Membership and volunteering is the heart and soul of this and all Bruce Trail Conservancy Clubs. Again this year membership grew as did volunteer support of trail and land. With their help we were able to support our Mission and provide additional funds to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Scores of volunteers continued to support great programs for our Club. We have added Stewardship teams to manage the growing land held in trust, in particular the Cape Dundas donated lands. Volunteers keep the trails in great condition and respond immediately to special maintenance projects which are often a result of severe weather which can block exposed and hard to get to areas along the escarpment. A total of about 1,700 hours were logged this year.

A special stewardship project has been launched which aims to plant 100 large, local species trees in prominent areas. This will be an annual event with a goal of planting at least 100 large trees by the club's 100 anniversary (2 per year). You can support this with a donation or labour, these are big root ball nursery stock trees of about 250 pounds.

This year two strong hike leaders have organized two end to end events which both take eight days to complete; a remarkable service to hikers who like escorted hikes. In addition, a unique trip to the Cup and Saucer area on Manitoulin Island was arranged.

Another service to individual hikers is the Trail Angle shuttle (Uber of the north? With no fee other than a donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. A network of volunteers book transportation to trailhead for hikers who do not have vehicles or support to do this on their own (about 110 per year). This is especial helpful when traversing the Nation Park since cars are limited to 4 hour parking, making it difficult for long distance hikers to arrange it on their own. Special concessions have been arranged between our Trail Angles and the Park. Thanks to both, our web site supports do-it-yourself hikers with outlines of suggested plans for end to end hikes.

Of course the most exciting announcement of late – which took place after the fiscal year was ended but deserves mention regardless – was the partnership of the Bruce Trail Conservancy with the National Park securing over 8K of wonderful wilderness and lakeshore trail forever. Our Club extends its thanks to Bruce Trail Conservancy Board for its vision and the Park for its commitment to protecting land.

Our club is pleased to host this year's Bruce Trail Conservancy Annual Meeting and our volunteers worked all year to make it in keeping with the unique aspect of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club location.

Submitted by Walter Brewer
President, Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

Sydenham Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

1. Membership

- Our club membership has increased by 10% since a year ago, reaching 527 members on June 30, fiscal yearend, the highest it's ever been. We credit our Outreach efforts (Owen Sound Health Fair, Mosaic magazine, Facebook, etc.) as well as renewals of lapsed members for this success.
- Our annual Spring Social in May was popular again, at Walters Falls this year, with 3 different hikes and the usual delicious potluck supper.

2. Public Relations

- Our website www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca was re-vamped and modernized last year, via new Webmasters, and is getting good comments and lots of visits including people using smartphones now.

3. Volunteers

- Our Club Board of Directors has had some changes this year. We welcomed 4 new Directors to our Board at our Club AGM last weekend, including a new volunteer who plans to start spending more time at his cottage up near the Sydenham area, our Bruce Trail Conservancy, Chair - Warren Bell. Thanks Warren for also helping out at the Club level!
- One of our key Landowner Relations volunteers, Clark Campbell (also a former Club president) has recently moved out west. He was our team lead for the annual delivery of calendars to our landowners, so we'll need to fill those empty shoes in the near future.

4. Hikes

- Our Club End-to-End hike series had a year off in 2018, but will resume in 2019 (it's every other year). So, come on up to Sydenham section next year!
- We continued to have a good series of regular hikes throughout the year.
- Our annual Lebanese Friendship hike was on June 24 at our Lebanon Mountain Friendship Trail at the Bayview Escarpment. We welcomed a good contingent of our Lebanese friends from the Toronto area to join our own Club members for this hike, and a delicious potluck supper afterwards with great Lebanese food!

5. Land Securement

- The Bruce Trail Conservancy secured **3 properties** this past year in Sydenham Club. A great year for us!
 - A small 12-acre property near the Bayview Escarpment Nature Reserve was donated by the landowner, thank you!
 - A 24-acre parcel just east of the Slough of Despond will allow us to take almost a kilometer of Main Trail off paved roads.
 - And the crown jewel of course is the Kemble Wetland Nature Reserve, a 140-acre parcel right next door to the Kemble Rock property which we secured last year. These 2 properties together comprise a 300-acre conservation and nature reserve, with gorgeous valuable wetland, and when we get some boardwalks finished we will have moved a **3-kilometer** stretch of Main Trail off of ugly muddy road walking in that area. If you haven't seen this awesome re-route as yet, near Kemble Mountain, do make plans to check it out soon!

- A plug for **Bruce Power** – my favourite nuclear power plant – not only did they **donate half the funds** needed to purchase the Kemble Wetland Nature Reserve in 2017, this year some of their employees have started volunteering to help us build trail on that property. Thank you!
- We opened our new Donor Plaque garden in June (at our Lindenwood property) which contains 8 Donor recognition plaques at this point. It's right by our parking lot on that property, and our former Side Trail there has been converted to Main Trail, and so this is an easily accessible location. We think this will increase the recognition of these plaques, while also helping avoid proliferation of plaques throughout the Trail.

6. Trail

Several areas of activity this past year:

- Two more re-routes in addition to those already mentioned
 - a new handshake agreement across from Kemble Rock, up on the mountain, has allowed us to move 1 more kilometer of Main Trail off the muddy and torn-up Cole's Side Road
 - on the east side of Owen Sound, we lost a handshake last fall, and had to move the Trail onto roads
 - you win some, you lose some
- We opened a new Side Trail on the Sydenham Nature Reserve property near Rockford, which had been donated by long-time member and volunteer Cliff Keeling.
- We also spent a lot of effort as usual clearing fallen trees during the spring. Not to mention miles & miles of weed-whacking all summer! Many thanks to our Trail Captains and Trail Director Ron Savage & his crews of trail workers, for all their efforts!

7. Land Stewardship

- We now have well over 40 properties to care for in Sydenham, and a large crew of Land Stewards volunteering for those jobs. Thanks to Bob Knapp our Director and the whole Stewardship team for taking good care of these Bruce Trail Conservancy properties, completing more boundary staking this year, and dealing with encroachment and other land management issues.

8. Finances

- Finances are generally in good shape. Our expenses were below budget, but our income was also down quite a bit compared to the previous year, since we had no End-to-End hikes (which are a great fundraiser). And we're looking at a 'special project' this fall to replace the aging Rocklyn Creek bridge, which will need some supplies and materials, so we'll wait till later this fall to see how much we can donate to the BTC this year.

9. Fundraising

- Our Trail Director Ron Savage is not only an excellent Trail Director, he's also an accomplished author. Following his best-seller book 'Silent Valley' a few years ago, Ron has now published another book called '**Sydenham End to End**', with tales and stories about the Bruce Trail in the Sydenham section – including some history of the land, anecdotes about some of our generous landowners, and some personal narratives as well. Copies are for sale in fine book stores near Owen Sound, as well as right here today at this Annual Meeting! All proceeds will be donated to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Thank you Ron!

Submitted by Frank Schoenhoeffer
President, Sydenham Bruce Trail Club

Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

This last year has been a busy and eventful year in the Beaver Valley. These are some of the highlights.

The new TD&M Director has been focusing on setting up infrastructure to support the trail captains. Key new resources include the new TD&M Management Committee (comprised of the new and past director and 3 zone leaders), improved information systems, and enhanced sawyer, riding mower, quartermaster and “flying squad” work crews. Special projects include acquiring the funding and various permissions to build the 3rd Line bridge, rerouting Trail at Hogg’s Falls due to flooding, and completion of new Trail on the Allen property.

This year marked the Club's fifth year of working to combat two invasive species in our Section, garlic mustard and buckthorn. Following an early process in which Land Stewards and Trail Captains were asked to scout for and report any of these invasive species on their properties, the Club has been using teams of BVBTC volunteers -- and in some cases recruiting members of the general public to help as well -- to do an annual cull. Although a daunting task, we continue to make slow but steady inroads against buckthorn. Bruce Trail Conservancy Biologists are convinced that after five years of attacking garlic mustard, we should see a significant difference next year.

All Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club owned and managed properties have Land Stewards assigned and 4 additional people who volunteered to be Land Stewards have been paired up with existing Land Stewards while waiting for more properties to come into our care. Two new properties closed this year, with a third, East Mountain, scheduled to close at the end of October. The newly acquired Vandaleur Nature Reserve secures 493 m of Optimum Route and preserves 46 acres of conservation land. Fox Ridge Nature Reserve secures 1,060 m of Optimum Route and preserves 72 acres of conservation land.

Our newest group of volunteers is the Landowner Ambassador team. In the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail section we have approximately 127 Landowners who have agreed to having Main Trail or Side Trail on their lands. This is too many people for one person to effectively communicate with, so the 117 km of Main Trail and 29.5 km of Side Trails were divided into 12 Ambassador Land Groups. Each Ambassador Land Group is associated with one or more Landowner Ambassadors to foster good relationships with our Landowners whose generosity is greatly appreciated.

This year’s trail activities included 2 inaugural spring Kid’s Hikes which met with such great success that more are scheduled for the fall. A Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club End to End was offered last Fall over 4 days, and our biennial Falling Waters Challenge took place over this Labour Day weekend. We partnered once again with the E.C. Carr Observatory, this time for a Steps, Sustenance, Stars event. Afternoon hikes were followed by a BBQ potluck picnic, a presentation by RASC followed by telescope viewing. A 5 day canoe/hiking trip to Killarney Provincial Park is scheduled for October. Our Trail Angels continue to busily shuttle grateful hikers around the valley, quite the challenge to keep up with the requests!

We are pleased with the success of initiatives to communicate and collaborate with others whether it be with our members through our monthly Beaver Bytes communiques and the Beaver Tales newsletter, or the public at large through our revamped website and our Facebook page which has seen a 114% increase in “likers” over the past 2 years. Presentations to local community groups, including the Municipality of Grey Highlands, and collaborations with community trade shows and markets serve not only to promote the Bruce Trail Conservancy profile, but also that of our Club. Inter-Club activities were strengthened through representation at the Bruce

Trail Conservancy Club Communications Committee, the Working Together Conference last November, End-to-End hiking events and our Costa Rica Friendship Trail volunteer work trips where 23 people from 7 different Bruce Trail Conservancy Clubs participated in March. Two 2019 Costa Rica work party trips – 20 Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteers from 7 Clubs - have a full roster already. Since the first of such trips in December 2016, a total of 63 volunteers from all 9 Clubs have assisted the small community of San Luis with the development of a hiking trail that helps to re-establish the Bell-Bird Biological Corridor from Monteverde Cloud Forest to the Pacific Coast Mangrove Reserves.

An area of achievement that warrants special mention is that of our Information Services systems. A new relational database called BUILT - Beaver Valley Updated Information on Lands and Trails - was developed using MS Access and successfully launched this year. It contains detailed information on Land Stewardship, Trail Development & Maintenance and Landowners. All information about volunteers and their multiple roles, is cross-correlated to Bruce Trail Conservancy Properties, Property Plans, Audits, Landowner Properties, Trail Sections etc. The system is flexible enough to easily produce summary and detailed reports to enable and enhance the operational efficiency of the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club. Thanks to the new system, our volunteer details will be so much easier to update and keep current. In addition, all Board Directors, Land Stewards, Land Ambassadors, Trail Captains, Sawyers, etc are now able to access key information (generated from BUILT and other sources) through their individual folders on our Club's google drive.

The Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club Board met twice throughout the summer to review and reformat our Strategic Plan to be sure the work we do as a Board continues to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy Strategic Priorities as well to provide direction for Club operations.

Submitted by Jill Smith-Brodie
President, Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

Membership – 660 members in 2018 (610 for 2017) – increase of 8 %

Trail Captains – 37

Land Stewards – 14

Hike Leaders – 36

Active Volunteers – over 100

Hikes & other events– over 130

2018 has once again been a busy and successful year for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club. Our continued success is due to the positive contributions of our many volunteers. Of course, we are always looking for new volunteers who help to keep the club fresh with new ideas and initiatives.

1. Trail Building and Stewardship

- We are very excited about a newly acquired section of the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail just north of County Road 9 which will eliminate close to 2 km of road walking and will join up with the new Dunedin Ravine Nature Reserve Trail acquired last year. A crew of volunteers has already been working to clear and blaze part of the trail. We look forward to participating in an official opening in the future.
- Trail captains and other volunteers have worked hard to keep our trail prepared for the E2E participants, as well as for the many who travel from far and wide to complete our section. Many favourable comments of praise have been received. We thank the many who help with this work under the very capable leadership of Trail Maintenance Director Linda Finley.
- This spring under the direction of Land Steward Director, Dave Knox, 15 volunteers planted additional white oak, red maple, white pine and white spruce saplings in an area where we had planted a few years ago. This additional planting will eventually create a continuous corridor of trees along the trail creating a buffer zone between the open field and the trail.

2. Communications

- Several members have promoted the Bruce Trail this spring and summer at local festivals and markets. The public is very interested in learning about the Bruce Trail, so this initiative has been very successful. We will be participating in the local Doors Open event at the end of September providing historical information to visitors about the Franks' Lime Kiln near km 35.9.

3. Fundraising

- Our annual E2E and Barbeque continued to be successful fund raiser with 172 hikers registered. 97 hikers completed both days and were presented with our End-to-End badge. A BBQ was held to mark the end of the event which also raised funds for the club.
- This year we also had a very successful '*Soup's On*' fund raiser, where members registered to have lunch at a member's home after a winter snow shoe. Another well attended fund raiser was held in early summer, where a picnic lunch was served to participants after a hike at the top of Blue Mountain. More fund raisers like these will be planned for next year, as there was good participation and they were a great opportunity to raise funds for the club.
- Also, each year, volunteers continue helping over two days at the Centurion Cycle Race at Blue Mountains for which the BMBTC is presented with a generous donation.

- This year one of our board members decided to source and sell Blue Mountain Bruce Trail shirts as another fund raiser for the club. Over 72 members are new owners of this attractive wicking and UV resistant long-sleeved shirt. It is a conversation starter while on the trail and is a very good source of publicity.
- For the past several years various members of the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club have organized two different Three Days on the Peninsula hiking events – one in September and the other in early October. These are very successful fundraisers where a total of 100 Bruce Trail Club Members participate in their choice of hikes on the beautiful trails of the Peninsula. It is also an excellent social activity where we get to know one another and meet new Bruce Trail Members.

4. Other Events

- Along with our usual full roster of trail hikes, this year we started the E2E of the Sydenham Trail, including 9 hikes this year and planning 9 more hikes to complete the section by the end of next summer.
- As the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club continues to grow, we encourage new members to get involved in the life of the club. The trail would not exist without our volunteers. We thank all who give of themselves to make our Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club the success that it continues to be.

Submitted by Jill Doble

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club Blue Print Editor,

on behalf of Michael Treuman, President, Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

While we're still the smallest Club in terms of membership we are routinely leading the Bruce Trail Conservancy in growth based on a percentage basis.

We have sent out information on our School outreach program to many schools in Dufferin County and we're on the Simcoe County Board of Education's intranet teacher's resource page.

We're looking forward to our new Bruce Trail Day plans at our property at the Splitrock Narrows. Activities will include kids' workshops (helping build bird boxes for the property, wild flower seed spreading) and of course guided hikes around the Splitrock Narrows property, BBQ and displays.

Condition of our trails ..EXCELLENT!, because of our dedicated team of trail captains. And our Trail Director treats his responsibilities as a full time job.

Our hike schedule will be including plans for a new 25k challenge to be introduced in 2020. 2019 will see our usual biennial 1 day and 2 day end-to-end hikes. As well, our webmaster, Tom Thayer has developed a new Hike Management System which is being reviewed by all Club Hike Directors with a view to developing a BTC-wide unified hike schedule.

Sadly the Dufferin Hi-Land Club is coping with the passing of James Griffin, one of our most hard-working and talented contributors to the Dufferin Hi-Land Club. A memorial bench will be established in James' honour at a tranquil place at Splitrock Narrows.

Submitted by Jim Preyde
President, Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club

Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club continues to support the Mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The following are a few examples of some of the club initiatives.

1. Fundraising

- Our “new” fundraising effort last year - a movie screening - was very successful, raising over \$7,000 in donations, so we’re presenting a movie again this year, *the Gardener*, on October 21st in Elora. The film will be preceded by an inspiring visual presentation by Beth Gilhespy on nature reserves acquired by the BTC. The film event builds awareness of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Land Securement Program and provides an enjoyable opportunity for supporters to donate. The film screenings, along with our theatre nights and Christmas Tree sales have enabled the Club to make significant contributions to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

2. Hiking Program

- There is currently a very active hiking program. New additions over the past year have been Kids Hikes, these are short hikes with multiple stops intended for children 4 to 10 years of age. There was also a series of hike referred to as “5@5” five kilometer hikes at 5:00 pm for the after work crowd. These hikes complimented our other hikes such as the ever popular Tuesday Hikes and the annual E2E hike. A new hike being planned for later this year is a Corporate Hike. To help support these new and varied hikes we will be offering Hike Leader Training in November.

3. Membership

- The membership of the club at the end of June 2018 was 974 members an increase of 10% from 2017. During this fiscal year we are hoping to surpass the one thousand mark.

4. Social Media/Web Site

- The club continues to provide information on different internet based applications. Instagram and Facebook continue to grow and our web site has become the main resource for hike listings.

5. Finance

- The club financial position remains strong allowing us to continue to give back to the Bruce Trail Conservancy financially.

Without the drive and commitment of the numerous volunteers who give countless hours of their time to enhance the Mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, these achievements and many others could not be accomplished.

We should never lose sight of those things which we have done and done well. However, it is critical for us to always look forward and try to find better ways to do the things we have done in the past as well as experiment with new and different things in all areas of the organization.

Submitted by David Lamb
Director, Bruce Trail Conservancy

Toronto Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

Toronto Club welcomed four new directors, all of whom took on important portfolios: Karim Mishriki, Treasurer; Lucy Leung, Hiking Director; Alina Lin, Membership Director; and Brigitte Peters, Communications Director. I am particularly pleased that with these new Directors, we have significantly improved diversity in age, gender and ethnicity on the Board, enabling us to better reflect the communities which our Club serves. All of the new Directors have done an outstanding job to date.

Three Directors retired: Paul Vanhanen, Wayne Crockett and Brenda Brazier. Paul and Wayne put in outstanding contributions over many years, handling landowner relations and our hiking program, respectively.

Positive momentum returned to our membership program, as it has to the Bruce Trail Conservancy as a whole. Our club membership has risen to over 3,000 for the first time in many years. Thanks are due to Alina and to all the other volunteers who have participated in recruitment events, also to our hike leaders, who are continually promoting Bruce Trail Conservancy membership on their outings.

In September we had the privilege of hosting the Bruce Trail Conservancy Annual Meeting. Our AGM committee, comprising of Peter Leeney, Marlis Butcher and Paul Vanhanen, did a superb job, and everything went like clockwork. There were lively discussions during the meeting about changes to the Bruce Trail Conservancy By-Laws! Intense heat meant that turnout for our Sunday hikes was low, but those who did participate in these and in the Saturday events had a great time.

In November we had a very successful Landowner Appreciation Dinner, organized by Paul. We were delighted to see a much higher turnout of our friendly Landowners than we have had in the past, due to considerable efforts made by Paul and other volunteers. Keeping Landowners happy is essential to our ability to keep the Toronto section of the trail open.

On December 1st there was another important event: the Bruce Trail Conservancy closed the purchase of the Maple Ridge Nature Reserve (the Kerbel property). This is an essential link for our Main Trail which lies just west of Limehouse and adjacent to the Springle Nature Reserve. Dave Tyson and the other members of our Land Management Committee worked on this purchase for more than a year. Ownership of this property secures our existing trail, opens up new possibilities for additional trail, and means that we may in future be able to take our trail off the road entirely between Limehouse and Sixth Line.

Patience paid off in May of this year when we were finally permitted to re-open the long-closed Main Trail route through the Terra Cotta forest. Nearly six km of trail is finally back where it should be! And a new route has been opened through our Lan Kwan Sum Nature Reserve. Thanks are due to our Trail Director Marlis Butcher, our other trailblazing volunteers, and to Bruce Trail Conservancy staffers Brian and Adam.

And finally, at year-end 2017, our own Dave Tyson finally published his history of the Bruce Trail, *Trail to the Bruce*, on which he has been working for many years. Congratulations to Dave on this outstanding achievement! As always, I must thank our many diligent Land Stewards, Trail Captains, Hike Leaders, Board members and other volunteers for all their work on behalf of our members and the Bruce Trail community.

Submitted by John Grandy
President, Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
 September 22, 2018

It has been an exciting and fruitful year for the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club. Our talented Board is strong and resolute in its desire to deliver a great experience to our membership. Here are some key highlights:

1. MEMBERSHIP

- Membership remains stable with a modest 4% growth against this period last year.

Club	Aug 31 2018	vs Last Report to Clubs			vs Last Year*		
		Aug 1 2018	# +/-	% +/-	Sep 1 2017	# +/-	% +/-
IR	2522	2524	-2	0%	2419	103	4%

2. FINANCE

- Club financials continue to be strong and stable. This past year we donated **\$35,000** back to the Bruce Trail Conservancy to help with land preservation.

3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- An impressive 6,921 hours has been spent maintaining the trail. (April 2017 – March 2018 statistic)
- A HUGE thank you to our invaluable Trail Maintenance Team for their hard work and efforts.

4. HIKING PROGRAM

- We have an incredibly rich and diverse hiking program in our club. This year we offered over 600 hikes during the calendar year. We proudly and successfully introduced a Junior Hiking Badge program this past year. It has been very well received by the membership. We also introduced a Hike Mentorship Program, and enhanced our Trail Angel efforts. We also hosted several exciting special hiking events. Thank you to ALL of our hike leaders for their time and talent!

5. PUBLICITY & PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Our club made great strides in public outreach this year. We participated in many community events, and introduced some solid branding/fundraising programs to the public.

6. MEDIA

- Our club continues to be active in the social media arena in our attempt to engage with the membership and help reach potential new members. We very recently redesigned and launched our NEW website. We also made the move to a paperless newsletter.

7. LANDOWNER RELATIONS

- We have worked hard at maintaining good relations with the landowners in our area. We handed out over 100 calendars, and continue to interact with our landowners as often as possible.

8. LAND STEWARDSHIP

- We have 15 properties we are currently managing with the help of some dedicated volunteers. We are thankful for their support.

9. LAND SECUREMENT

- We are always working hard to identify and strategically acquire properties in our catchment. This year we acquired the Red Oak Nature Reserve in Stoney Creek.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to our amazing board and club volunteers for all of their work in helping to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Submitted by Michael McDonald
President, Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club

Niagara Bruce Trail Club
Report to the Bruce Trail Conservancy
September 22, 2018

1. Trail Development and Maintenance

- 4 trail reroutes completed
 - Ball Ave area, Thorold, due to construction
 - Woodend, to reroute the trail off road
 - Shorthills Provincial Park, to reroute the trail off road
 - Jim Rainforth Side Trail, closed at the request of the landowner
- Trail reroute planned in Louth Conservation Area with assistance from PCL Construction, to reroute the trail onto higher ground.

2. Land Stewardship

- The club has nominated Vince Zvonar for this Susan Oleskevich award in recognition of his dedication and commitment to trail maintenance.

3. Landowner Relations

- At the request of the landowner, no parking signs have been installed on Cherry Ave. and noted in the 29th reference guide.

4. Hiking Program

- Hike leader training was held in June
- We offered 4 special event hikes in 2018
- Hiking 101 program – Spring and Fall. Registration fee is now being charged
- Mood hikes program continues
- The regular hike schedule offers hikes 5 days per week, with multiple hikes offered on Saturdays, catering to various interests and abilities.

5. Members and Volunteers

- The Club now has 840 members, an all-time high
- The Board welcomed Alicia Aitchison as Hike Coordinator, Koosje Stassen to Landowner Relations, George Prins as Membership/Volunteer Coordinator and Kathleen Orth as Newsletter Editor. Margaret Northfield has transferred to Public Affairs and Publicity. We acknowledge the contributions and thank retiring board members, Bill Ford, Merle Richards, Trudy Senesi and Rowan Shirkie.
- The members approved a minor revision to the bylaws, separating the Landowner Relation and Land Securement Secretariat into two positions.
- There are currently 2 board vacancies – Vice President and Director at Large.

6. Fundraising

- The club presented a \$22,000 donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy at the Annual Meeting held April 30, 2018.
- Bruce Trail Conservancy promotions at Station One coffeehouse, The Exchange Brewery.
- Club volunteers supported Niagara Ultra marathon, which donated proceeds to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
- Neck gaiters are selling well.

7. Communications and Publicity

- *The Grapevine* newsletter is edited and produced by Kathleen Orth, and published quarterly.
- Special Events Exhibits: Information kiosks at Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival, Pelham Summerfest.

Submitted by Debbie Demizio
President, Niagara Bruce Trail Club