Celebrating Volunteers
Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.
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Cover photo: Turnbull Side Trail Stile
by Christine Elliot
It has been an incredibly exciting first six months as CEO, the kindness and generosity of our Bruce Trail Conservancy staff, members, donors and volunteers has been inspiring.

In winter, as the year comes to a close, our thoughts often turn to gratitude. And the Bruce Trail Conservancy has much to be thankful for. In this issue of Bruce Trail Magazine we focus and send our thanks to our incredible community of volunteers.

As a Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteer for many years, I have felt the excitement in being part of a volunteer team and have been amazed by the talented people who give their time and skills to support our mission. In the past three months, my appreciation for our volunteers has only grown.

As we celebrated together at our 2019 BruceFest & Annual Meeting in Hamilton in September (see page 12), I was struck once again by the remarkable impact volunteers have on our success as a trail organization and land trust. We could not accomplish what we do without the extraordinary efforts of a wide range of people. A sincere thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting, and to volunteers of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club for coordinating and hosting an enjoyable weekend. Special thanks to the amazing musician Sarah Harmer for donating her time and talents to perform on the Friday night of the Annual Meeting weekend.

Then in October, volunteers from throughout the organization pulled together for our largest trail-wide event of the year, Bruce Trail Day (see page 8). Since its inception, Bruce Trail Day has introduced thousands of people to the Bruce Trail and many of those participants have deepened their engagement to become Bruce Trail Conservancy members, donors and volunteers. Thank you to volunteers in each of the Clubs for hosting a wonderful Bruce Trail Day and for all of your work in celebrating our mission and growing our community of supporters.

One of our esteemed founders, Dr. Philip Gosling recently reminded me that the Bruce Trail was conceived with the idea of inspiring individuals and engaging them to work together to save the Niagara Escarpment. Creating and maintaining the Trail, and preserving and conserving the Escarpment, are efforts we’re meant to undertake together. There is something very powerful about hundreds of people from different backgrounds and life experiences coming together to help accomplish a goal. We are leaving an unbelievable gift to future generations.

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Caledon Hills End-to-End – October 10-12, 2020
The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club invites you to join us for our “Fall Colours” End-to-End hike on Thanksgiving weekend. Plan to participate in one of the most enjoyable and challenging hiking experiences of the year, a 71.4 km hike through the spectacular fall colours of the Caledon Hills.
You can complete the distance over all three days of the weekend or the same distance over Saturday and Sunday (two-day event held biennially).
The cost for the three-day event is $40.00 and the two-day event is $30.00. This fee covers daily bus transportation, refreshments, and the end-to-end badge on completion. Payment can be made by cheque or Interac e-Transfer. Registration opens May 1, 2020 and space is limited.
For further registration details, email Sandy Green, sgreenhikes@gmail.com or visit caledonbrucetrail.ca

Dufferin Hi-Land
dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

Dufferin Hi-Land Winter End-to-End – Jan. 11 & 25, Feb. 8 & 22
Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club will again be offering the four winter hikes required to earn our Winter End to End badge. Hikes include both leisurely and moderate pace options in some of Dufferin’s most beautiful areas. Our popular moonlight hikes will be held on January 11 and February 8, 2020. Daytime hikes are scheduled for January 25 and February 22. Snowshoes or icers are strongly recommended for all hikes. Full details will be posted at dufferinbrucetrailclub.org/hikes.html

Dufferin Hi-Land Two-Day End-to-End – May 9-10, 2020
Join us for two days of hiking the hills of Dufferin County, enjoying the spring flowers and earning your Red Trillium Badge. The hike distance is approximately 28 km per day, with checkpoints providing refreshments and assistance along the way. For registration details visit dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

25 km Boyne Valley Challenge – June 20, 2020
Can you conquer all the Boyne Valley Hills in one loop hike? This hike is being offered for the first time in 2020 with a new badge to earn for the first time in 2020 with a new badge to earn for your sore feet and quads! Come and experience the beauty of the Dufferin Hi-Land section, earn this brand new beautiful badge, and experience the best of Dufferin County hospitality at our checkpoints. For registration details visit dufferinbrucetrailclub.org/club.org.

Photo: Man Khun Chan
BLUE MOUNTAINS
bmbtc.org

Blue Mountains End-to-End – May 23 & 24
Please join us for our annual two-day End-to-End hike. On both days we meet at 6:45 am at the Highlands Nordic Centre near Duntroon where bus transportation takes us to the start of hiking for that day. On Saturday we hike from Swiss Meadows and on Sunday from Lavender. The Saturday hike is followed by an optional social gathering and BBQ. Set your own pace for approximately 33 km each day. Hikers may drop out at checkpoints located approximately every 10 km. Badges awarded to those completing both days.

Cost of the End-to-End is $40 ($45 for non-BTC members) plus Eventbrite fee. This includes transportation, refreshments and badge. The BBQ is $15 (burgers, salads, beverages and dessert) plus Eventbrite fee.

Registration opens February 1 through Eventbrite.ca. For more information visit bmbtc.org/E2E.html or by contacting Mary-Lynne Chenard at btcblueevents@gmail.com.

BEAVER VALLEY
beavervalleybrucetrail.org

Beaver Valley Snowshoe Adventure – January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22
BVBTC invites you to join us this winter in our beautiful Beaver Valley for the Snowshoe Adventure Badge excursions.

Enjoy sparkling winter afternoons in the snow and, if you haven’t experienced the trail on moonlit evenings, now’s your chance! We will be leading two daytime snowshoe hikes on January 23 and February 22 and two moonlight snowshoe hikes on January 11 & February 8.

Participants completing all four hikes will receive the Beaver Valley Snowshoe Adventure Badge – affectionately known as the “berserk beaver”. Please bring $5 to the final outing for the badge. Check our Hike Schedule at beavervalleybrucetrail.org for details.

Hike-a-thon winners
Congratulations and thank you to our top individual fundraiser, Magdalena Vanderkooy. Magdalena encouraged $1,695 in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and will receive a painting from contemporary Canadian artist, Charles Pachter. This will be the fifth year Charles has generously donated one of his works as a prize for the Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon.

Our top team fundraisers were the Islington Trail Blazers Wayne Crockett, Lisa Lifshitz, Duro Vukman and Nijole Mockevecius with a total of $7,743 raised. Special prizes were awarded to the following participants, who were part of a team yet individually raised an extraordinary amount: Wayne Crockett ($3,530 raised), Lisa Lifshitz ($3,218 raised), Larry Haigh ($2,100 raised).

Hike-a-thon hikers also put many kilometres under their boots throughout October. Our award for the most kilometres hiked by an individual went to Ruth Moffatt, who hiked a remarkable 422 km in October 2019.

Many thanks to our generous Hike-a-thon sponsor, Baffin Inc. To help encourage and thank our Hike-a-thoners, Baffin generously provided gift cards to those Hike-a-thoners reaching various levels of fundraising.
Bruce Trail Day 2019 was a wonderful day of celebration and exploration along the Niagara Escarpment. At eight locations along the Trail, Clubs hosted a day of free activities for the public including guided hikes, family activities, conservation projects, and opportunities to learn more about the Bruce Trail, membership and volunteering. New members who decided to join at a Bruce Trail Day event were treated to a waterbottle or a free Bruce Trail Reference Guide, courtesy of our event sponsor Ontario Power Generation.

Welcome to all our new members and special thanks to:

• local site partners including City of Burlington, Niagara College and Blue Mountain Resort
• event sponsor Ontario Power Generation; and
• all the amazing volunteers who planned, led and hosted Bruce Trail Day events.

24-hour hashtag challenge raises $5,000
Bruce Trail Day had a special online component this year – giving people the opportunity to support the trail they love even if they couldn’t make it to one of our events.

For 24 hours on Bruce Trail Day, October 6, every use of the hashtag #BruceTrailDay2019 on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter generated a $1 donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy from Ontario Power Generation.

Thank you to everyone who participated. With all the posts, tweets, shares and likes on October 6, we received the full $5000 maximum donation from Ontario Power Generation. Plus, all these posts reached thousands of new people, introducing them to the Bruce Trail and the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
Land Acquisition Successes

Our latest nature reserve has come to fruition in the recent months, thanks to the diligent work of volunteers and staff, and the support of our generous donors. With each success, we are ever closer to achieving our vision of the entire Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

**Woodend Meadow Nature Reserve – Niagara section**

*Niagara-on-the-Lake, Map 2*

*57 acres preserved*

*373 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route secured*

Our newest nature reserve in the Niagara section sits adjacent to the Woodend Conservation Area, near the junction of the QEW and Highway 405.

Woodend Meadow Nature Reserve features significant meadow habitat bounded by Escarpment slope and deciduous forest to the west. A small wetland and watercourse grace the southeastern edge. This ecologically sensitive land is part of the Homer Escarpment Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, and the Upper Six Mile Creek wetland complex.

This essential acquisition not only secures 373 m of the Bruce Trail’s Optimum Route, it represents an important step in removing 615 m of the Bruce Trail from roads in the area. •
Seeking Art for 2021 Bruce Trail Calendar

Help us show off the beauty of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment to raise money to support our mission.

We invite you to provide a colourful image of your explorations on the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment, showcasing its natural beauty, heritage and the people who hike it. We prefer original artwork, so please no prints, photographs or photocopies. High resolution digital submissions are acceptable if original is too large to ship or deliver in person.

A panel of judges will choose 13 pieces for inclusion in the 2021 Calendar. All artwork remains the property of the artist and will be returned as soon as possible. Each artist who enters will receive a complimentary copy of the 2021 calendar.

All profits from the sale of the calendar go toward the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy: Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Subject matter: must be along the Bruce Trail or related to the Niagara Escarpment – scenery, flora, fauna, historic sites, etc.

Size: HORIZONTAL FORMAT no smaller than 7 ½” x 10 ½” as this is the finished size of the calendar. Originals can be larger but must be in a horizontal format.

Medium: any medium may be submitted, except prints, photographs and photocopies. Please consider reproduction quality when selecting the medium.

Information required to be printed or attached clearly on the back:
• your name, address & phone number
• medium used
• title of the piece of work
• location along the Bruce Trail
If dating work on the front, please omit the month.

Deadline Friday, March 13, 2020
All artwork is to be received at the Bruce Trail Conservancy office by 4:30 pm to be considered.
Physical/Courier address – 55 Head St, Suite 101, Dundas, Ontario L9H 3H8;
Canada Post address – PO Box 857, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3N9

For more information: contact Allison Wright at awright@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 227.

Leave Them a National Treasure

The Bruce Trail has introduced millions of people to the beauty and fragility of the Niagara Escarpment.

This is where precious habitat is saved and memories are made. You can give future generations the joy of discovery on the Bruce Trail.

Please consider creating a natural legacy by including a gift in your will to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

For more information, please contact:
Gloria Vidovich
Planned Giving & Donor Relations Officer
905-529-6821 ext. 248 or gvidovich@brucetrail.org

All inquiries will be kept confidential.
This December, Pat Stainton is retiring after 28 years working for the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Chances are if you have called the Bruce Trail Conservancy head office or visited us at Rasberry House or our current Dundas location, you have been greeted by Pat. Pat began working for the Bruce Trail Association (as the Bruce Trail Conservancy was known) in the summer of 1991, and has been a steadfast member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy team ever since.

After a 19-year career at Dofasco, Pat joined us as Office Administrator which was, at the time, one of only four staff positions aside from the Executive Director. Having been familiar with the Bruce Trail around her hometown of Burlington and at her cottage on the Bruce Peninsula, Pat’s knowledge and connection to the people and places of the Trail made her a wonderful asset. Pat quickly became a friendly familiar face to the members, volunteers and hikers who visited the office or came to one of many events.

Over the years Pat has taken on many responsibilities at the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Along with answering phones and processing memberships and donations, Pat was in charge of the Bruce Trail Store for many years. Pat has also been coordinating Bruce Trail End-to-End recognition. If you finished the Trail over the last two decades, Pat played a part in getting your End-to-End certificate and badge to you.

Pat often reflects on the great memories and friends she has made at the Bruce Trail Conservancy including the many office volunteers she has worked with over the years. Pat has an uncanny ability to remember names and faces, as many of our members have experienced. She has been known to go years without seeing someone and still be able to ask after them and their family by name. Her remarkable memory and ability to connect with our members is priceless and will be missed.

Please join us in wishing Pat all the best in her adventures to come. Happy trails, Pat! •
Realizing the Dream

Bruce Trail Conservancy named top environmental charity in Canada by Maclean’s

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is honoured to have been named top environmental charity in Canada for 2020 by Maclean’s magazine. Maclean’s undertook a major review of hundreds of Canadian charities this year and released its 2020 charity ranking in October to help its readers make effective decisions about charitable giving. Starting with information from Charity Intelligence – a nationwide research organization – Maclean’s assessed charities based on what they do with each donated dollar, and how transparent they are about it.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy not only ranked first among environmental charities, we ranked second across all charitable sectors. We are proud to be recognized alongside the large national charities doing important work in our society. We remain committed to being transparent in the use of your funds and to making the most of the donations you have entrusted to us.

See the full listings, overview and methodology at: www.macleans.ca/society/canadas-best-charities-2020-overview

Report from the 2019 Annual Meeting

The Bruce Trail Conservancy 2019 BruceFest and Annual Meeting on September 20-22 was hosted by the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club at the Scottish Rite in the heart of Hamilton. Members were treated to great series of workshops, talks and hikes, a fantastic silent auction, and opportunity to network.

The weekend began with a Friday social featuring a special performance by musician and Niagara Escarpment advocate, Sarah Harmer. On the Saturday, CEO Michael McDonald kicked off the business meeting, and Board Chair Warren Bell presented a review of the past fiscal year. The evening focused on celebrating the extraordinary volunteers who contributed to the successes of 2019.

Many thanks to the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club for hosting an excellent event, and to the staff of the Scottish Rite for the warm hospitality.

Save the date for the Bruce Trail Conservancy 2020 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Beaver Valley Club, October 16-18, 2020.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

| Warren Bell (Chair) | Bruce King |
| Leah Myers (Vice Chair) | David Lamb |
| Cynthia Archer | Jaclyn Moody |
| Stephanie Bird | Anjlee Patel |
| Marlis Butcher | Frank Schoenhoeffer |
| John Dickason | Wendy Thompson |
| David Hass | Bonni Titterneyer |
| Brian Johnston | Michael Treuman |
| Corrie Kellestine | Danielle Waters |
| John Whitworth | George Willis walking stick winners Kai (9) and Lara (7) Gibbons |
Recently I had the pleasure of hosting my first Donor Recognition Evening as CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. It was an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate the milestones of generosity that so many of our donors have achieved. The night was made even more special as we were joined by one of the BTC’s founders and Honorary President, Dr. Philip Gosling.

Dr. Gosling shared with us how the dream of the Bruce Trail, which began over 50 years ago, is becoming reality. He expressed his genuine gratitude to all of you – our volunteers, our donors, and our community partners, who continue to keep this dream alive so that future generations can enjoy the natural wonders of our Niagara Escarpment.

I too, could not be more thankful for your contributions and your passion for our cause. For perhaps there has never been a more important time to preserve this ribbon of wilderness.

Climate change is having devastating effects on our natural environment, threatening biodiversity and significantly altering our planet’s ecology. Voices of youth around the world have risen, concerned that not enough is being done to save the environment.

To some, the climate crisis can feel like an overwhelming challenge. But not for us.

We are an organization built on a dream of a better world.

We have an opportunity today, to make a real, positive impact on the future of our environment.

In fact, we have the opportunity to collectively have our impact for conservation doubled. I’m thrilled to announce that all donations made by the end of the year will be matched thanks to a challenge grant from an anonymous donor.

Imagine 3,276 acres of pristine forest wilderness, along 8 km of spectacular Bruce Trail, preserved in its natural state, forever. All because of you!

This is being made possible by the preservation of Driftwood Cove, a remarkable Escarpment property on the Bruce Peninsula. Last year, as part of a collaboration with Parks Canada, the Bruce Trail Conservancy made a $1.9 million commitment to preserve Driftwood Cove.

Thanks to the generous support we have received so far, we have been able to partially fund the cost to purchase this exceptional property. But our journey is not over. We still have more money to raise before we can fulfill our financial commitment towards this once-in-a-lifetime acquisition.

Your support can take us the rest of the way!
You can make a difference. Your donation today will:

- **Protect 3,276 acres of wilderness** along 8 km of Bruce Trail at Driftwood Cove - fulfilling our commitment to preserve this extraordinary property.

- **Preserve the biodiversity** of the Niagara Escarpment’s ecosystems, through our land acquisition and land stewardship programs.

- **Mitigate the effects of climate change** by conserving and connecting natural environments, which store carbon and help people and wildlife to adapt to changing conditions.

- **Bring the Bruce Trail ever closer to being 100% secured** within a permanently protected natural corridor.

The best part is, by making your donation today, the impact of your gift will be **Doubled** thanks to a generous challenge gift made by an anonymous donor, who like you, believes in taking action to help safeguard against the consequences of climate change.

Your gift will help preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. And I know you believe that’s a dream worth investing in.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Michael McDonald
CEO, Bruce Trail Conservancy

*PS. Please take advantage of this generous matching gift opportunity by making your donation today.*

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**Donate today at brucetrail.org**

Or by phone at 1-800-665-4453 or by mailing in the form below to Bruce Trail Conservancy, PO Box 857, Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9

Yes, I want to make an unforgettable impact on the future of our environment.

Enclosed is my:

- ☐ Monthly Gift: $___________ / month
- ☐ Single Gift: ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $___________ other

Payment by:

- ☐ Cheque (payable to The Bruce Trail Conservancy or marked “Void” if pledging)
- ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card #:_________________________ Expiry Date:__________ Signature:_____________________

Name:_________________________ Member #:__________ Email:________________________

☐ Please send me information about the spring 2020 nature reserve tours for donors.

☐ I am interested in learning more about making a gift to Bruce Trail Conservancy in my will.

☐ I have included the Bruce Trail Conservancy in my will.

If donations to the profiled properties exceed the required funds, or the BTC is not able to secure the profiled properties, your donation will be used to secure and steward other lands within the Bruce Trail’s conservation corridor.
Experience the Unexpected

Be a part of the unexpected. Experience the thrill of a small-ship expedition. Explore the Canadian Arctic and Greenland together with scientists, Inuit guides, Arctic explorers, and artists. Learn about climate change and marine wildlife. Meet Inuit who manage to thrive in one of the most remote places on Earth.

Bruce Trail Conservancy Members are entitled to an additional 5% Savings. Terms and conditions apply.

CALL FOR DETAILS
1.800.363.7566
adventurecanada.com

Heart of the Arctic · High Arctic Explorer · Into the Northwest Passage
Out of the Northwest Passage · Greenland & Wild Labrador

© Kristian Bogner, Dennis Minty, Danny Catt, Scott Forsyth
For over 50 years, volunteers have been the driving force behind the Bruce Trail. Born of a community of concerned citizens coming together to protect and provide public access to the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail continues to be maintained, protected, promoted and guided by volunteers.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is fortunate to benefit from the combined passion and efforts of over 1,400 volunteers who have chosen to support our mission and make difference for the future of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment. On and off the Trail, volunteers are involved in nearly every aspect of our organization. Our work would simply not be possible without this contribution.

“The Bruce Trail changed my life. I learned the pleasure of working with others. It lengthened my stride and gave joy to my heart.”

Dr. Philip R. Gosling, BTC Founder and Honorary President, at the Bruce Trail Conservancy 50th Anniversary Volunteer Celebration

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE
Without the year-round support of volunteers, the Bruce Trail would not be what it is today. The expertise, time, guidance, and passion that our volunteers bring to their roles is priceless and irreplaceable.

When many of us think of volunteering for the Bruce Trail Conservancy, our thoughts turn to clearing trail, painting blazes, and building boardwalks. The work of keeping our footpath safe, enjoyable, and sustainable is indeed a crucial responsibility, accomplished entirely by volunteers. However volunteers also perform many roles beyond trail work with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and our 9 Bruce Trail Clubs: on the trail, on our nature reserves, in our communities, and behind the scenes from home or office. Here are just a few of the ways our volunteers contribute to our mission:

Trail Development & Maintenance
The Bruce Trail and its side trails are 100% maintained and developed by volunteers. From painting blazes, to building structures, to monitoring conditions, to rerouting and building new trail, volunteers are needed at every step to keep the footpath safe, navigable, enjoyable and sustainable.
Hike Leaders
Each of our nine Bruce Trail Clubs offer an extensive program of organized hikes, throughout the year, for members and non-members. Trained volunteers are responsible for leading and organizing these hikes - sharing with others the wonders of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment.

Land Stewardship
Volunteer Land Stewards actively care for each of the over 230 properties that are owned or managed by the Bruce Trail Conservancy. As the Bruce Trail Conservancy acquires more land in our efforts to establish a permanent and secure route for the Bruce Trail, our Land Stewardship needs grow.

Landowner Relations
Landowner relations volunteers help the Bruce Trail Conservancy build and maintain healthy working relationships with landowners, both public and private, whose land the Trail crosses, and resolves concerns as they may arise.

Citizen Science
Volunteers are contributing to our understanding of Niagara Escarpment biodiversity through our new Citizen Science program. By sharing observations of plants, birds and fungi using our project on the iNaturalist app, these volunteers help to build a map of species distribution along the Bruce Trail.

Corporate Volunteering
When we have a need for many hands on a single project, corporate volunteers often come into play. Groups of employees from a local company roll up their sleeves for a day of trail work or land stewardship. In return they get a great team building exercise.

Trail Angels
Trail Angels could be considered the literal ‘driving force’ of the Bruce Trail. Trail Angels are volunteers who provide transportation to solo or small groups of hikers - helping with a car shuttle or providing short distance pick-ups or drop-offs at Trail access points.

Office Support
Much of the behind-the-scenes work at the Bruce Trail Conservancy office is supported by volunteers. Answering phones, mailing packages, entering data, and managing archives are just some of the ways volunteers keep us running.

Outreach & Promotion
Volunteers share their love of the Bruce Trail and help grow our support base through delivering presentations, running booths, taking photos, building websites, writing newsletters & blogs, running programs for kids and more.

“I volunteer to make a difference in conserving the Escarpment. I enjoy introducing new/potential members to the wonders of the Bruce Trail.”
Les Babbage (Hike Director – Dufferin Hi-Land Club)

“The BTC helped improve my health. The more I volunteered the healthier I became. It helped me keep busy.”
Bruce Manion (Hike Leader and Trail Captain – Niagara and Iroquoia Clubs)

“I enjoy hiking the Bruce Trail and it’s my way of saying thank you to everyone that makes the trail possible.”
OJ Grolman (Trail Captain – Blue Mountains)
Benefits of Volunteering

While there are numerous ways in which volunteering benefits the Bruce Trail, there are also benefits volunteers receive through the very act of volunteering.

Volunteering is good for our minds and bodies. A report of the Corporation for National & Community Service (2007) noted: “Research demonstrates that volunteering leads to better health… Those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.” Not only do we feel a “helper’s high” from doing good, we benefit from the increased social interaction that comes about through volunteering.

“I wanted to give back to my community with something I am passionate about.”

Troy Mitchell (Trail Monitor – Iroquoia Club)

“I is important for me to continue to develop what began 50 years ago.”

Patricia Barton (Land Steward – Peninsula Club)
Finding meaningful connections to others through a common cause can have profound effects on our overall well-being. Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore our interests and passions. Doing volunteer work we find important and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing break from our day-to-day routine. Volunteering also provides us with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into our personal and professional lives. Volunteering can build new skills or enhance existing ones. Whether to enhance a resume, change careers, or share expertise, using and growing skills can be important at any life stage.

Volunteer Coordinators in each of the 9 Bruce Trail Clubs, we’ll help match your interests, experience and availability with our needs and help you find an appropriate and fulfilling role.

“I wanted to do something with my family and get my children interested in the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail.”
Marc Kelsey (Trail Captain – Peninsula Club)

“I greatly enjoy all the remarkable people I meet through volunteering. We all share a like-minded goal of caring for and preserving this beautiful Ontario landscape for future generations to enjoy.”
Jean Kerins (Caledon Hills Club)

“Volunteer to help further the preservation dream for my grandchildren.”
Diane McKenzie (Fundraising – Caledon Hills Club)
At the Bruce Trail Conservancy 2019 Annual Meeting, we were pleased to celebrate our volunteers and recognize the following award winners for their outstanding contributions to the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Volunteer of the Year: Tom Thayer
For extraordinary contributions to the Bruce Trail Conservancy within a single year.
Tom Thayer was named Volunteer of the Year 2019 for his extraordinary work and leadership in building the new unified online hike schedule. Tom put his coding and coordination skills to use to initiate, test and develop this system, and worked with all 9 Clubs to make sure it worked for their particular hike program. The Hike Schedule is now the most visited webpage on the BTC website.

Calypso Orchid Environmental Award: Laurence Christie
For significant contributions to the restoration and preservation of the Bruce Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve, or significantly enhancing the education of users or potential users of the Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.
Laurence Christie is an invaluable leader and mentor in the Caledon Hills Club who has spearheaded many initiatives to protect and restore habitats. On BTC properties, Laurence has planted trees and kept records of tree health, built and installed bird boxes, eliminated invasive species, and enhanced monarch butterfly habitat. The Club uses methods devised by Laurence to build trails with minimal impact on the environment and turns to him for expertise on tree planting and other restoration initiatives.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Malcolm Sanderson
For a lifetime of volunteering with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and Bruce Trail Clubs.
Malcolm Sanderson receives this special honour this year for many decades of service in countless roles in support of the BTC mission. Malcolm has wholeheartedly supported the organization since he joined in 1972 and received an Honorary Membership in 2016. Malcolm has moved to Ottawa this fall and is missed by his Bruce Trail family.

Susan Oleskevich Award: Dave Paape
For outstanding long-term commitment to the construction and maintenance of the Bruce Trail.
Dave Paape receives this year’s Susan Oleskevich Award for his steadfast involvement in trail work and Club leadership since 1984. As Trail Worker, Trail Captain and Trail Director for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club, Dave has participated in and led innumerable work parties. On the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board, Dave has served as Trail Director (9 years), Landowner Relations Director (7 years), Vice President (4 years) and BTC Board Director from the Club (3 years).

Volunteer Awards 2019
Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting

Volunteer Years of Service Awards
The Bruce Trail Conservancy would like to thank all volunteers for their dedication and commitment. The Volunteer Awards listed below acknowledge years of service given to the Bruce Trail Conservancy on the Board of Directors, as part of a Bruce Trail Conservancy Committee, helping at Bruce Trail Conservancy events or at the head office.

Three Years:
- Nick Avery
- Suzanne Field
- Gary Hall
- Bruce King
- Leah Myers
- John Sinclair
- David Lamb
- Lucy Leung
- Brian McKnight
- Anjlee Patel
- Rick Waters
- Dorothy Wengler

Five Years:
- Stephanie Bird
- Fred Douglas
- Hugh Fuller
- Rob Graham
- David Hass
- Carl Alexander
- Carol Sheppard

Twenty Years:
- David Knox
**Philip & Jean Gosling Award: Niagara Club**
For the year’s most significant trail project which improves or protects the environment.

The Niagara Club wins this year’s award for completion of a major reroute and construction of a new bridge in Louth Conservation Area. Thanks to a handshake agreement with the landowner immediately east of Louth CA, the Club was able to reroute the main Trail out of a perennially wet area and farmer’s field to a mature forested area with better drainage part way up the Escarpment. A sturdy new bridge over a tributary of Fifteen Mile Creek was built with wood repurposed from a boardwalk in the old wet section, with help from volunteers from PCL Construction.

**Tom East Award: Sydenham Club**
For the year’s most significant trail project which places the Bruce Trail on the Optimum Route, or adds a worthwhile new side trail.

The Sydenham Club’s trail reconfiguration on the Kemble Wetlands & Kemble Rock Nature Reserves earned it this year’s Tom East Award. This project removed 1.9 km of Trail from roads and created several looping options for hikers. 3.5 km of new main Trail now wind through the beautiful Kemble Wetland Nature Reserve, and three new side trails were created (Don Richards Side Trail, Kemble Wetland Side Trail, and the intriguingly named Mystery Cabin Side Trail).
When temperatures dip and snow blankets the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail can feel like our own winter wonderland. But winter hiking brings its own set of challenges. Here are a few important ways you can stay safe while hiking this winter.

**Plan ahead**
- Check weather conditions before heading out and be prepared for them to change.
- Choose a route that is familiar to you. When trails are covered in snow, it can be harder to find your way. Be extra attentive in looking for trail blazes.
- Avoid hiking alone. Bring a friend or two for safety and fun.

**Plan for earlier, shorter days**
- Choose a shorter distance than you would normally cover in summer conditions. Snow and ice will slow your hiking speed.
- Nightfall arrives earlier in winter months. Start early in the day and plan to be off the trail before dark.
- Pack a flashlight or headlamp, with fresh batteries.

**Wear and pack layers**
- Staying dry is key to staying warm in the winter and layers will help you do both.
- Start with a good base layer, add a mid-layer, and then a shell on top. Cover your head, neck and hands. Add or remove layers to minimize sweating.
- Don’t overdress at the beginning. You should feel slightly chilly before you start as you’ll warm up when you...
hike. Pack a puffy jacket you can pull out when you stop for a snack.
- Avoid wearing cotton since it holds moisture. Opt for synthetics or wool. This goes for socks too.

Keep your footing with boots, icers & poles
- Wear sturdy, waterproof footwear with a good tread and use extra caution in icy conditions.
- Icers, or similar removable footwear traction devices, can help secure your footing and make it easier to walk and to balance on challenging terrain.
- Hiking poles can help with stability on ice and snow by acting like extra limbs. When not using hiking poles, carry them horizontally with the points facing forward.

Fuel your body and stay hydrated
- Hiking in the cold burns more calories, so bring extra snacks and drinks. Calorie-dense foods such as nuts and chocolate are great.
- Dehydration can be a common problem in winter. It’s tempting not to drink as much when you’re cold and it’s not as easy to notice how much you are sweating. Make sure to bring and drink plenty of water.

Remember: the Bruce Trail is not maintained in the winter
Trail conditions vary according to season and the weather. The Bruce Trail is not maintained during the winter months. Hazards exist along the Bruce Trail. You are responsible for your own safety.
Friendship Trails - Costa Rica Calling

Volunteer & Hiking Vacations in 2020 with the World Trails Network

Since 2016, six groups of Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteers have assisted the community of San Luis, Costa Rica in building and improving the Sendero Pacifico (Pacific Slope Trail) – one of the BTC’s nine international Friendship Trails. You can be a part of this growing international partnership in 2020 by participating in a rewarding volunteer vacation or challenging hiking program on the Sendero Pacifico, arranged through the World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas (WTN-Americas).

Whether you choose a volunteering vacation or a hiking-only program, be prepared for unique and beautiful Costa Rican landscapes, and significant physical activity. Volunteer trail work programs involve hard physical labor. Hiking programs require strong hiking abilities due to mountainous terrain. Both the volunteer and hiking programs include local activities to acquaint volunteers and hikers with the people and way of life in rural Costa Rica.

Program costs range from $700 – $900 (USD) per person for 9 – 10 days and include accommodation, meals and ground transportation. Flight fares are extra and self-arranged. Beach resort time or other tourist activities can be experienced by staying on for a few days after the program ends or by arriving a few days beforehand.

For more information about the 2020 Sendero Pacifico programs, contact info@wtnc-americas.org.

About the Sendero Pacífico

The Sendero Pacifico (Pacific Slope Trail) is a growing network of recreational trails in the Bellbird Biological Corridor in Costa Rica. The trails pass through a variety of ecological life zones, land uses, and communities between the...
Monteverde Cloud Forest and the Gulf of Nicoya. This grassroots project envisions a network of freely accessible hiking trails in Costa Rica with trails being developed by communities along the way. The primary trail will eventually extend about 70 km. The Bruce Trail - Sendero Pacifico Friendship Trail was established in 2015 and consists of a 7 km route along the Bruce Trail in the Beaver Valley twinned with a 7 km section of the Sendero Pacifico from San Luis to the Children’s Eternal Rainforest. For more information visit senderopacifico.net.

World Trails Network creates Ros Rosetti Volunteer Award
The World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas (WTN-Americas) announced in October that it is establishing the Ros Rosetti Volunteer Award in honour of the tremendous contribution Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club volunteer, Ros Rosetti, has made to the World Trails program. WTN-Americas plans to offer the award annually to an individual who has made a significant volunteer contribution to a World Trails Network Friendship Trail relationship in the Americas, fostering an active and fruitful exchange between two trails communities. Ros initiated, coordinated and participated in all 6 of the Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteer working vacations to Sendero Pacifico. Nat Scrimshaw, Chair of WTN Americas says “[Ros’] tireless work to promote the Friendship Trail between the Bruce Trail of Canada and the Sendero Pacifico of Costa Rica has made for a real exchange between two trails communities, a model of what World Trails Network Friendship Trails can be”. WTN has announced that the first recipient of the award will be Ros herself. Congratulations, Ros, and thank you for your wonderful work on behalf of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
NIAGARA
Map 3 – Short Hills Provincial Park Annual Closure
Short Hills Provincial Park will be closed on the following dates to honour treaty rights with a First Nation deer harvest: Oct. 22 and the morning of Oct. 23, 2019; Nov. 14 and the morning of Nov. 15, 2019; Nov. 28 and the morning of Nov. 29, 2019; Dec. 5 and the morning of Dec. 6, 2019; Jan. 16 and the morning of Jan. 17, 2020
Each harvest day will begin one half-hour before sunrise and end one half-hour after sunset. The park will be closed the morning after each harvest for maintenance until noon. Visit the website of Short Hills Provincial Park for more details: www.ontarioparks.com/park/shorthills/alerts

IROQUOIA
Map 9 – Road Closure
Mountain Brow Rd between King Rd and Flanders Dr is permanently closed as of June 10, 2019. The Bruce Trail has been rerouted down Flanders Dr where it crosses Mountain Brow Rd and goes over a stile before veering east to connect with the existing main Trail. Please note that there is no longer roadside parking available on Mountain Brow Rd.

Map 9 – Fisher’s Pond Nature Reserve
Following the recent acquisition of the Fisher’s Pond Nature Reserve, the main Bruce Trail has been rerouted to the east side of the pond while the old main Trail has been converted into a side trail.
Fisher’s Pond Side Trail = 1.2 km
New main Trail = 475 metres

TORONTO
Map 11 – Sixth Line
At the request of the landowner, the location of the Bruce Trail has been moved as shown.
Decommissioned trail = 530 metres
New main Trail = 485 metres

CADEDON HILLS
Map 19 – Turnbull Side Trail – Annual Closure
The landowner has requested an annual closure of the Turnbull Side Trail to accommodate hunting season on their land, October 1st through to December 31st. A trail closure notice has been posted at the trail access. Please obey the landowner’s wishes. Trespassing will not be tolerated.

DUFFERIN HI-LAND
Map 20 – Melodonna Side Trail (new)
A new side trail has generously been established on private land and has endearingly been named for the landowner’s wife. This side trail creates a 2.2 km loop with the main Bruce Trail and creates a 3.8 km return trip from the roadside parking on Prince of Wales Rd at 15th Sideroad.
Melodonna Side Trail = 1.3 km

BLUE MOUNTAINS
Map 23 – Temporary Closure
Due to severe flooding, the section denoted on the map is closed until further notice.
BEAVER VALLEY
Map 25 – Fox Ridge Nature Reserve
In one of the most ambitious Trail Development projects undertaken by the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club in recent years, the main Bruce Trail has been rerouted off Fox Ridge Road. The new route initially flows through private land which leads to the Fox Ridge Nature Reserve (purchased by the Bruce Trail Conservancy in 2018).
Highlights of the new route include:
• open meadows with apple trees
• lush valley featuring a lovely stream, old growth Sugar Maples and many large Ironwoods
• views of Georgian Bay from several spots including an area known as the "Grassy Knoll" (where a bench will be installed in the future
• mature Sugar Maple forest along the Escarpment edge
Decommissioned trail (taken off of road) = 1.3 km
New main Trail = 3.1 km

SYDENHAM
Map 31 – Parking Change
At the request of the landowner, parking is no longer permitted for Bruce Trail hikers at the KOA Campground.

Map 33 – Camping Change
At the request of the landowner, camping is no longer permitted at The Glen Camp.
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Trail Changes & Notices

Map 33 – Reroute
By request of the landowner the main Bruce Trail has been rerouted onto Indian Acres Road West and Gordon Sutherland Parkway.
Decommissioned trail = 840 metres
New main Trail = 710 metres

Map 33 – The Gap Side Trail & parking
The Gap Side Trail has been extended along Concession 14 where there is roadside parking just east of Sarawak-Keppel Townline intersection with Church Sideroad W. The recommended roadside parking that was previously at the west end of Concession 14 has been moved to this new location as a result of high water levels.
The Gap Side Trail = 1.8 km

Map 34 – Big Bay Sideroad - reroute
With the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s purchase of a 24 acre parcel, 1.8 km of main Trail has been moved off of Big Bay Sideroad placing 1 km of main Trail on BTC preserved land and 1.2 km on Cole’s Sideroad. As a result, the Slough of Despond Side Trail has been shortened by 1.2 km.
Decommissioned trail on road = 1.8 km
New main Trail = 2.3 km
Slough of Despond Side Trail = 8.4 km

Map 34 – Kemble area Nature Reserves
An expansive 316 acres of BTC preserved land has been decorated with a new trail system taking 1.9 km off of Concession 20 and Cole’s Sideroad. A 900 m side trail honouring Don Richards provides access from Cole’s Sideroad leading past a new Mystery Cabin Side Trail, the Kemble Wetland Side Trail, and connecting with the Bruce Trail. This route, beginning and ending at Cole’s Sideroad creates a 4.2 km round trip.
New main Trail = 3.5 km
Abandoned main Trail = 1.9 km (all on road)
Kemble Wetland Side Trail = 750 metres
Don Richards Side Trail = 900 metres
Mystery Cabin Side Trail = 970 metres

Peninsula
Map 37 – Ivan Lemke Side Trail – temporary closure
The Ivan Lemcke Side Trail is closed for an unknown duration due to high water levels.

Map 37/38 - Barrow Bay Cliffs Nature Reserve
A new trail network has been established on the newly acquired Barrow Bay Cliffs Nature Reserve, including a new side trail named in honour of former Bruce Trail Conservancy CEO Beth Gilhespy. Until a complete reroute of the main Trail can be complete in this area, a ‘dead-end’ spur of the main Trail has been blazed white. This spur passes two access points for the John Appleton Side Trail, and numerous lookouts, before connecting to the Beth Gilhespy Side Trail at the east end of the nature reserve.
New main Trail = 2.5 km
John Appleton Side Trail = 1.4 km
Beth Gilhespy Side Trail = 3.4 km
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Bruce Trail Conservancy General Store

See our full selection of products and shop online at brucetrail.org

**Bruce Trail Poster Map**
Printed on heavy stock this beautiful, newly redesign poster map is perfect for hanging at home or at the cottage – maybe it will inspire your next Bruce Trail adventure! Same price since 2012. Poster Size: 23.94” x 35.94” Fits IKEA GUNNABO frame. **$8.85**

**The Bruce Trail App**
FOR IOS OR ANDROID DEVICES
Plan, track, and log your hikes on Canada’s oldest and longest marked footpath with this easy-to-use, official Bruce Trail App. Find it in the App Store or Google Play Store. Details at brucetrail.org **$19.99**

**Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide**
Edition 29 is SOLD OUT – (full guide and insert versions). Contact your local bookseller or outdoor retailer who may have copies remaining. Edition 30 is in the works and will be launched in May 2020.

**Downloadable Bruce Trail Reference Maps**

**BTC TRAVEL MUG**
18 oz. stainless steel, dark green mug with BTC logo. Vacuum insulated, double wall construction. Push-on lid with thumb-slide opening. Members: $22.00, Non-Member $24.00

**BTC LICENSE PLATE FRAME**
Updated design in green print features the BTC mission. **$5.00**

**BRUCE TRAIL SOCKS**
Great for on the trail or around town. Design selected by BTC Facebook Fans. One Size (7-13). 80% Combed Cotton, 17% Polyamide, 3% Elastane **$13.95**

**BTC WINDOW DECAL**
Self-adhesive vinyl decal adheres to inside of window. **$1.00**

2020 BRUCE TRAIL CALENDAR
A stunning collection of Bruce Trail-themed art from Niagara Escarpment artists. Members: $15.00 Non-Members: $18.00

**NEW**
**Fleece Jacket with BTC Logo**
Features an embroidered BTC logo on 8.9 oz 100% polyester anti-pill microfleece. Includes: coverstitch details, interior thumb grab, hanger loop at back neck, easy-grip zipper pulls. Unisex Cut (S, M, L, XL, XXL) Women’s fit (S, M, L). Colours: Olympic Blue or Black. **$49.95 $34.95**

**NEW**
**BTC TRAVEL MUG**
18 oz. stainless steel, dark green mug with BTC logo. Vacuum insulated, double wall construction. Push-on lid with thumb-slide opening. Members: $22.00, Non-Member $24.00

**NEW**
**BTC BUFF**
(Blaze & Arrow)
Multifunctional head-wear from BUFF. New design features an iconic Bruce Trail blaze and diamond. 100% polyester microfiber. **$24.95**

**NEW**
**BTC WINDOW DECAL**
Self-adhesive vinyl decal adheres to inside of window. **$1.00**

25% OFF
**NEW**
**BRUCE TRAIL MAP T-SHIRT**
This short-sleeved wicking shirt features a map of the Bruce Trail on the back with our classic diamond logo and the BTC’s mission above. Small BTC logo on the left sleeve. Small BTC logo on the left sleeve. Colours: Available in white only; Unisex cut (S, M, L) or Women’s cut (XS, S, M, L) **$15.00**

**NEW**
**LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT**
Dark green cotton shirt features a stylized Bruce Trail blaze and diamond. Unisex cut (S to XXL) **$25.00**
BTC BOOKSHELF

To order from our extensive collection of books please call 905-529-6821 or visit www.brucetrail.org

END-TO-END Badge Package
10 badges. 1 purchase.

End-to-Enders can now receive their Bruce Trail End-to-End badge and certificate PLUS each of the 9 Club End-to-End badges in one package. Submit your hike logs to the BTC once you’ve completed the entire Trail and request this package. Those wishing to collect badges as they complete sections will still need to reach out to individual Clubs. The BTC does not sell the Club badges individually. But, if you can wait until the end, you can get all 10 badges at once. Please note: the set includes only the “Hike on Your Own” badges.

$75.00 plus shipping. Not available online.

Learn more about End-to-Ends at brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/end-to-ends
Thank you to all our supporters for a remarkable year for conservation and trails.

The extraordinary commitment of our volunteers, members, donors, landowners and friends continues to make possible our critical work as one of Ontario’s largest and most active land trusts.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Bruce Trail filled 2020

Your continued support with a special donation this winter can have DOUBLE the impact through a generous matching offer. See page 13 for more on how to make the most of this opportunity.