INSIDE: NEW LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Bruce Trail
M A G A Z I N E

Sharing Bruce Trail Stories
A Message to our Members regarding COVID-19

As this issue of Bruce Trail Magazine goes to press, the world has been shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic. We send positive wishes to each of you and want to let you know what steps the Bruce Trail Conservancy is taking in response to COVID-19.

Bruce Trail Conservancy and its Clubs are following the instructions of world public health officials and are embracing ‘social distancing’ to do our part to support the health care system, and to keep our volunteers and members safe.

At the time of printing, the Bruce Trail Conservancy office is closed and staff are working remotely until at least April 6, 2020; all BTC and Club events through April 30, 2020 have been cancelled or postponed; and all organized hikes, trail angel services, and trail maintenance group activities through April 30, 2020 have been cancelled.

The Bruce Trail itself remains open, yet some access points, washrooms or visitor centers operated by our partnering conservation organizations (like parks and conservation areas) may be closed.

Since the situation is in flux, please visit brucetrail.org/news/707 for the latest information.
For any questions or concerns, please contact us by email at info@brucetrail.org or by phone at 1-800-665-4453.

Finding strength in our community and in nature

The ongoing support from our members, volunteers and donors amidst the COVID-19 pandemic speaks volumes of your kindness - towards others and towards the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Your kindness is the bedrock of what is good, and will be what helps us all get through this current crisis together.

The reality is, these uncertain times can put a strain on physical and mental well-being. As a committed community of nature enthusiasts, we know that spending time outdoors, hiking the Trail and enjoying nature is a proven way to relieve feelings of stress, and improve overall health.

In such times we at the Bruce Trail Conservancy are reminded of how grateful we are to have supporters whose devotion to the conservation and exploration of nature is unparalleled. Together, we will continue to ensure there are protected natural spaces close to home where we can find solace and rejuvenation in times of crisis and beyond.
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**Bruce Trail Magazine is available digitally.**

To receive your Bruce Trail Magazine by email:
- Fill out the request form at brucetrail.org (News & Events > Bruce Trail Magazine)
- Call 1-800-665-4453, or
- Email info@brucetrail.org to make the switch
Stories are powerful. They have the ability to stir emotions, encourage thought, and inspire action.

The Bruce Trail story is one that has inspired me. I am propelled by the idea that a footpath, created by communities of concerned citizens, is not only connecting people to the natural world, but is also building concerted action to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

But the Bruce Trail story is not a single narrative. There are many stories that make up the Bruce Trail. And it is their collective power that will make a lasting impact.

The Bruce Trail has stories of discovery and adventure. Thousands of people make their way along the Trail each year, discovering more about the Niagara Escarpment, and possibly even themselves by spending time in nature.

The Bruce Trail has stories of hope and progress in the face of adversity. In a world where climate change and the loss of biodiversity can seem like insurmountable obstacles, we are protecting and restoring more natural spaces on the Niagara Escarpment every year.

The Bruce Trail has stories of collective effort. Volunteers work together every day to plan, build, steward, and promote the Trail and our protected natural areas. Members, donors, volunteers, and staff all contribute by giving of their time, money, skills and passion to support the Trail and the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment.

In this issue of Bruce Trail Magazine, we invite you to consider your own Bruce Trail story. We’ll be starting a new column that feature these stories, big and small, so that we can share all of what makes the Bruce Trail important. See page 19 for details.

Often our personal connections and memories make the most potent of stories. One of my earliest memories is of my father taking me and my brothers on an adventure – an adventure hiking the Bruce Trail. On that day we spent hours scouring the rocks for salamanders. I had never seen one. I remember, when we finally found one, the joy and wonderment of seeing a new creature for the first time. The earthly smell that came from picking up the rocks, and the anticipation and delight in looking for these wonderful ecological treasures are things I often think of. I wanted to share this sense of joy and wonder with my own family, and so a generation later we took to the Trail in search of salamanders. The story continues.

Stories create more stories. Action creates further action. This is how our collective Bruce Trail story becomes a movement that will continue to make a positive impact on the future of our environment.

I encourage you to find and share your Bruce Trail story.

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Due to the changing situation surrounding COVID-19, these events may be postponed or cancelled. Check Club websites for details.

NIAGARA
niagarabrucetrailclub.org

Niagara End-to-End – May 16-18
Cover this historic 82 km section of the Bruce Trail over three days enjoying panoramic views of vineyards, orchards and Lake Ontario. Rocky sections, heavily wooded areas and remnants of historic settlements - the Niagara section has it all. Registration is $50 for the entire weekend ($40 for 2, $30 for 1 day). Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch on final day and badge. Registration now open: bit.ly/Niagarae2e20 Event Co-ordinator: Debbie Earle, debbie.niagarae2e@gmail.com

Laura Secord Hike – June 13
Enjoy a part of our Canadian heritage by hiking along the Bruce Trail from Laura Secord’s Homestead in Queenston to DeCew House in Thorold. We are sure this 30 km hike was a challenge for Laura in a long dress and no Nikes but we never heard any complaints. Follow her lead and rise to the challenge.
Check in by 5:45 am at Niagara Region Offices parking lot, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St Catharines. The bus will take you to Queenston to start your trek. The hike takes between 5 and 7 hours to complete depending on your pace. Registration is $30. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch and badge. Event Co-ordinator: Janet Davey, needstogolf@gmail.com

DUFFERIN HI-LAND
dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

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 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

TORONTO
torontobrucetrailclub.org

Toronto Section End-to-End – May 30-31
Please join us for our annual self-led End-to-End hike. Enjoy the history and scenery of the Toronto Club section by completing the 50 km distance over two days (approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday).
Buses depart on both days at 7:45 am sharp from Limehouse to bring all participants to the start of the hike. There will be no leader, but there will be checkpoints every 10-11 km, with volunteers providing snacks, water and assistance. Official End-to-End badges are awarded on completion.
This is an event for experienced hikers as the terrain is varied and quite challenging and hikes will go rain or shine. The hike will be completed independently and at your own pace, but it is expected that participants will be able to finish by 4:00 pm.
Registration information will be available on, or shortly after April 15 at torontobrucetrailclub.org. Registration is $40 (plus Eventbrite fee). No cheques or cash accepted on either day of the event. Tickets must be purchased in the name of the participant. Registration deadline is May 17. For more information, contact Jacquline Van Dyke (End-to-End co-ordinator) at Torontoe2e@gmail.com on or after March 1. Space on the hikes will be limited so please check torontobrucetrailclub.org regularly.

The End-to-End and Challenge Hikes listed here are not recommended for beginner hikers. Visit our Hike Schedule at brucetrail.org for a full selection of hikes at a variety of levels.
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.

**Registration now open** through Eventbrite.ca. Search for “Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club – 2020 End-to-End. 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. For more information visit bmbtc.org/E2E.html or contact Mary-Lynne Chenard at btbblueevents@gmail.com.

BEAVER VALLEY

$beavervalleybrucetrail.org$

Falling Water Hike – May 23
Come and test your mettle! This is a 31.1 km loop hike that traverses the beautiful, rugged upper Beaver Valley. It’s a challenging hike during which you’ll experience all that spring has to offer, including cascading creeks and waterfalls. The $20 registration fee covers the cost of refreshments and the badge. To register please visit beaver-valleybrucetrail.org.

Beaver Valley End-to-End – August 29 & 30, September 5 & 6
Due to popular demand we are now holding our End-to-End yearly! Registration will begin by email on May 1 to Glenda Collings g60collings@gmail.com. No registration emails will be accepted before May 1 to be fair to all. You will be sent payment details when your email is received. Then, once your payment is received, you will be sent confirmation that you are registered along with details of the event. The registration fee of $60 includes transportation, refreshments and the End-to-End badge.

VISIT CLUB WEBSITES FOR MORE NEWS, EVENTS AND HIKES.

Leaving 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.

Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

Charitable No: 11921 7578 RR0001

WWW.BRUCETRAIL.ORG 7
Mark your calendars for the Bruce Trail Conservancy 2020 Annual Meeting.

October 16-18, 2020
Hosted by the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Location:
Beaver Valley Ski Club
100 Pioneer Dr, Markdale, ON N0C 1H0

Friday evening:
Cocktail event

Saturday:
Business meeting, hikes & workshops, dinner

Sunday:
Hikes

Registration begins in September. Details to come at brucetrail.org and in the next issue of Bruce Trail Magazine.

Photo: Stew Hiltz
Photo: M. Yaraskavitch
Photo: Glenda Collings

Newsstand Edition of the Spring 2020 Bruce Trail Magazine
Due to the evolving situation surrounding COVID-19, plans for the Annual Meeting may need to change. We will keep members notified by email, mail, and through brucetrail.org.

Metcalfe Rock Cedar Root

Photo: Pamela Katch
New Landowner Stewardship Program

The Bruce Trail Conservancy’s newest program encourages and assists private landowners along the Bruce Trail corridor to enhance wildlife habitat on their properties and contribute to the ecological health of the Niagara Escarpment.

Along the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail winds through protected areas like parks, conservation areas, and over 11,800 acres managed by the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Beside and between these protected areas are properties owned by private landowners.

Many of these landowners are partners in creating a superb hiking experience, fostering exploration of the Niagara Escarpment by allowing passage of the Bruce Trail on their land. Now, our landowners can also become partners in conservation.

Landowners play a key role as caretakers of forests, waterways and fields between ‘islands of conservation’. The Niagara Escarpment is home to over 1,500 species of plants and animals, including over 130 species of conservation concern. Conservation organizations like the BTC work diligently to protect and steward land on the Escarpment, but we cannot work in isolation. If we are to preserve the ecological health of this unique landform, especially in the face of climate change and habitat destruction, we need to work with our neighbours.

Through our new Landowner Stewardship Program, BTC staff and volunteers will offer information, advice and resources to interested landowners to help them steward the land they love in a way that contributes to healthier, more biodiverse, more resilient Niagara Escarpment ecosystems. Through free site-visits BTC staff and volunteers can offer guidance to landowners about:

- environmentally-friendly land management practices and planning;
- identifying and controlling invasive species;
- sourcing and planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees;
- maintaining wildlife-friendly habitats (especially for rare and at-risk species);
- opportunities to involve volunteers in larger projects;
- opportunities to permanently preserve land.

Although still in its infancy, our new Landowner Stewardship Program draws on the experience and expertise of our Land Stewardship Program, which cares for BTC-managed land, and our Landowner Relations Program, which fosters and strengthens relationships with our landowners. We are excited to build on both of these programs to develop a community of environmental stewards that will ensure further preservation of our ribbon of wilderness.

For more information on the program, or to arrange a site visit, contact Lyndsey Wilkerson, BTC Landowner Stewardship Coordinator at 1-800-665-4453 ext. 232 or lwilkerson@brucetrail.org.

Learning to identify the invasive Common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) is key to its control.

Native shrubs and flowers ready to be planted in a backyard.

Photo: Patrick Hodge

For more information on the program, or to arrange a site visit, contact Lyndsey Wilkerson, BTC Landowner Stewardship Coordinator at 1-800-665-4453 ext. 232 or lwilkerson@brucetrail.org.
GET READY FOR THE TRAILS
One step at a time

ECHO WOMEN’S HOODED SWEATER
The Echo Hoody is built with UPF sun protection and Polygiene® odor control, which makes it the latest way to work out in one ultra-lightweight, superbly breathable training top.

MEN’S WILD SKY WATER-PROOF HIKING BOOTS
Day hike, thru-hike, light hike, or your most epic hike, this boot keeps every trail possibility open with a just-right mix of technical performance and all-around trail comfort.

sail.ca
ONTARIO: BURLINGTON | CAMBRIDGE | ETOBICOKE | OSHAWA | OTTAWA | VAUGHAN
Land Acquisition Successes

MapleCross Nature Reserve at River & Ruin – Iroquoia section
Lowville, Map 10
69 acres preserved
1.5 km of trail secured
The MapleCross Nature Reserve at River & Ruin is a 69-acre oasis of natural land in the community of Lowville, north of Burlington. As its name suggests, this property features a lively watercourse and, tucked in the forest, the remains of a limestone house from the early 1800s.

The River & Ruin Side Trail has passed through this land for many years, by permission of the private landowner. When the landowner was ready to sell the land the fall of 2019, the Bruce Trail Conservancy was able to purchase and protect it thanks to generous financial support from The MapleCross Fund and from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

This scenic nature reserve sits within a designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and the Bruce Trail has been routed to lay lightly on the land. A 600 m stretch of Bronte Creek runs through the property. Its healthy, coldwater creek and associated riparian areas provide habitat for the endangered Spiny Softshell Turtle and American Eel, and many other species including Great Blue Heron, Rainbow Trout, and Wood Duck. The regenerating meadow and mixed, mature forest which make up the rest of the property provide varied habitats and are home to an impressive array of established bird populations including Yellow Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, and American Redstart.

This critical acquisition ensures that over 1.5 km of the Bruce Trail will be permanently secured on the property and significant natural habitat will be preserved in the rapidly-growing Burlington area.

This nature reserve was made possible with the financial contribution of:

Mactaggart – Peninsula section
Lion’s Head, Map 38
0.93 acres preserved
63 m Bruce Trail Optimum Route secured
The Mactaggarts generously donated to the Bruce Trail Conservancy a beautiful sliver of land high atop the Escarpment overlooking Barrow Bay on the Lion’s Head peninsula. Surrounded by Lion’s Head Provincial Nature Reserve, this small but crucial piece of the puzzle provides greater connectivity of protected land in the area and secures 63 m of the Bruce Trail’s Optimum Route.
Two New Conservation Opportunities

In communities all along the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s nature reserves and protected natural areas are keeping unique Escarpment ecosystems intact, protecting rare and at-risk species, and offering more opportunities for us to connect with the natural world.

These special spaces, together with parks, conservation areas and other protected lands form a patchwork of preserved natural area. Throughout the year, we work to fill the spaces in that patchwork, with your help.

With each new acquisition of land, you are helping us weave a ribbon of wilderness, preserving more expansive, continuous tracts along our conservation corridor. And step by step, side by side, your support is helping permanently secure more and more of the Bruce Trail.

We know that by protecting a footpath, we gain something far greater - a vibrant legacy for future generations.

Today, we have the opportunity to create two new nature reserves, if we act now.

**Skinner’s Woods** – Sydenham section

100 acres, 455 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

High on the Escarpment cliffs, near the lookout at Skinner’s Bluff, Skinner’s Woods offers expansive views of Georgian Bay and large tracts of undisturbed mature forest. Surrounded by protected land to the west and east, this important acquisition will complete a missing link and create an uninterrupted conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

The Bruce Trail runs along the northern edge of Skinner’s Woods, and with the protection of this property, the Trail will continue to provide access to a fabulous lookout to hikers for years to come.

The rest of the property will remain undisturbed and stewarded to protect its ecological health. The rich forest will continue to provide important habitat for sensitive species requiring large tracts of woodland for their long-term survival, such as the Black Bear, Least Flycatcher and Ovenbird.

*continued >*
Lime Kiln Bluffs – Blue Mountains section
36 acres, 710 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

Nestled in the Clearview Township of Simcoe County, Lime Kiln Bluffs is a microcosm of iconic geologic, ecological and cultural features of the Niagara Escarpment.

Tucked at the southern end of the property is the Franks Lime Kiln. Recently restored with help from our Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club this historic artifact from the mid-1800s is one of the few remaining of its kind in Ontario and will remain safely accessible for hikers to visit.

Further north a ridge of dolostone rises above the lime kiln area, with classic examples of Escarpment crevices and outcrops. This ridge, and the mixed forest it supports, creates a significant wildlife corridor inhabited by rare and threatened species like the Ocellated Darter dragonfly, Northern Long-Eared Bat, and the Massasauga Rattlesnake. Together with the surrounding protected lands, the property forms a large local swath of conservation land for native species like Hart’s Tongue Fern, Butternut and Stiff Yellow Flax.

To create these two nature reserves and steward them into the future, we need to raise $482,000.

Your generous gift today can help extend our conservation corridor by 136 acres and over 1 km of Bruce Trail Optimum Route, and ensure these two natural areas are preserved forever.

Join us in creating a permanently protected, rich tapestry of Niagara Escarpment natural landscape that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

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

Yes, I want to preserve Skinner’s Woods and Lime Kiln Bluffs.

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: ___________________________

☐ 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.
Seeking Nominations for Volunteer Awards

Do you know an outstanding volunteer? Someone who has gone above and beyond in support of the Bruce Trail and the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy? Help us recognize their remarkable contribution by nominating them for one of our annual volunteer awards.

These awards have been established to honour those who have made an exceptional contribution to the Bruce Trail Conservancy and to formally recognize the time, skills, enthusiasm and passion they have shared in support of our mission.

Volunteer of the Year Award
The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a volunteer who has shown extraordinary contributions to the Bruce Trail Conservancy within a single year (from April of the previous year to April of the current year). The award is not intended to recognize a lifetime of contributions as that would preclude volunteers who have been with us for a short time. Any form of volunteering for the Bruce Trail Conservancy may be considered for this award.

Honorary Membership
The Bruce Trail Conservancy Honorary Membership is a prestigious award given to a member who has made a lasting, significant volunteer contribution to the organization at both the Club and Conservancy levels. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and commitment and have accomplished significant achievements in furthering the Bruce Trail Conservancy mission. The recipient is awarded a certificate and a complimentary lifetime membership.

How to Nominate a Volunteer:
1) Request a nomination form for either award from Jackie Randle, BTC Director of Operational Resources, at jrandle@brucetrail.org
2) Submit completed nomination to jrandle@brucetrail.org by June 1

See all past recipients of these awards at brucetrail.org > Resources > Volunteer Resources > Volunteer Awards.

Volunteer Corner

The Calypso Orchid Environmental Award

Call for Nominations for the 2020 Calypso Orchid Award
Help us recognize the heroes of the Niagara Escarpment. We want to honour those individuals or groups who have made a difference for the future of the Niagara Escarpment though restoration initiatives, preservation work, and/or education.

The Calypso Orchid Environmental Award is awarded to an individual, volunteer group, institution or company that has demonstrated significant contribution to the restoration and preservation of the Bruce Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve, or significantly enhanced the education of users or potential users of the Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve. The recipient needs not be a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

How to Nominate an Individual or Group:
1) Request a nomination form from Jackie Randle, BTC Director of Operational Resources, at jrandle@brucetrail.org
2) Submit completed nomination to jrandle@brucetrail.org by June 1
Friendship Trails - Costa Rica

Volunteer Vacation Webinar in April

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 – one of the BTC’s nine international Friendship Trails. Two more groups are heading out this year.

The next opportunities for these volunteer vacations will be January to April 2021, and customized tours can be set up at any time of the year. These small group trips are a fulfilling way for volunteers and hiking enthusiasts to contribute to trails and learn new skills while exploring Costa Rican culture and supporting local economy.

Interested in learning more? Join the BTC and World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas (WTN-Americas) for a webinar this April. Nat Scrimshaw, Chair of the WTN-Americas, will outline the opportunities and share what to expect from booking your vacation to arriving in Costa Rica to the volunteer work involved. Ros Rossetti, BTC volunteer and Beaver Valley Club Past President, will share insights from her experience coordinating and participating in 6 of these volunteer vacations to Sendero Pacifico. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

To register for the webinar, contact Jackie Randle at jrandle@brucetrail.org. The exact date in April will be determined based on the presenters’ schedules. For those unable to join, the webinar will be recorded and shared on the Bruce Trail Conservancy website.

Photo: Kojoty

Sendero Pacifico, Costa Rica
As the classic saying goes, ‘many hands make light work’. Few sayings could be applied in so many contexts to the Bruce Trail Conservancy as this one, and it most certainly applies to the BTC’s Corporate Volunteering program.

Corporate volunteering has become an increasingly popular method for a range of companies and organizations to engage their employees in new ways and give back to their local communities. Groups select an organization and provide an opportunity for their employees to step away from their desks for a day in order to volunteer together for that organization. For the Bruce Trail Conservancy, it provides us with a way to gather a large group of eager hands to work on a single project that needs doing on one of our Bruce Trail Conservancy properties.

A typical day for a corporate volunteer group on the Bruce Trail includes both an interpretive hike and an important trail or land stewardship activity for which we need multiple people working together. This program serves as a great teambuilding exercise and provides us with support in our continued work to preserve and maintain Niagara Escarpment land. In addition to their wonderful contribution of labour, these groups also make a financial donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy to offset any costs associated with their event and to support our mission.

In 2019, 14 corporate volunteer groups joined us for important rehabilitation work on Bruce Trail Conservancy properties. Activities included planting of wildflowers, removal of invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard, and trail clean-up. Collectively these corporate volunteer groups donated over $15,000 in 2019 in support of our mission.

Our corporate volunteering events are remarkably fulfilling. After a full day out on the Trail, participants not only see the tangible positive impact they have had on the land and the Trail, they also feel the positive effects of spending time in nature and giving back to an important cause.

Do you know an organization or business that is looking for a corporate volunteering opportunity?

Learn more at brucetrail.org > Get Involved > Volunteering > Corporate Volunteering
Share Your Bruce Trail Story
A new column featuring stories from our community.

For over 50 years, people have been exploring, building, and sharing the Bruce Trail. During this time, our wonderful footpath has been the setting, and occasionally the main character, in stories of adventure, love, inspiration, hardship, comradery, surprise, reflection, joy, and more. Our Bruce Trail community abounds with stories.

In the next issue of Bruce Trail Magazine, we will launch a new Share Your Bruce Trail Story column to feature your stories and bring to light the many ways the Bruce Trail has affected our lives.

We want to hear your Bruce Trail story. What role has the Bruce Trail played in your life? What experiences, memories, or traditions have been born on the Trail? As a member, volunteer, donor, landowner, or hiker why have you chosen to be part of our community? From life-changing end-to-ends, to friendships made, to seemingly ordinary moments. Every story is welcomed.

Submit your story to us at any time online or by email and you may see it featured in an upcoming issue of Bruce Trail Magazine.

SUBMISSION DETAILS
- Submissions may be made via online form at brucetrail.org > News & Events > Bruce Trail Magazine or by email to communications@brucetrail.org
- Submissions can take the form of essay, poem, lyrics, journal or blog and should be no longer than 600 words.
- While submissions do not have to be about hiking, all stories must relate directly to an experience on or with the Bruce Trail.
- Entrants are encouraged to include an accompanying photo.
- Submissions may also be selected to be featured in one of other communication channels including emails, newsletters, fundraising materials and social media. If so, you may be contacted by one of our staff for more details.
- Stories received may be edited for length and clarity. You will have the opportunity to see any edits before it goes to print.
- Submissions will be accepted throughout the year and do not need to be resubmitted for consideration in future issues.
- Submit new stories as often as you would like. Stories from the same author will not be published within 4 issues (1 year) of each other.
- Any submitted stories must be the original work of the author. Stories may be published anonymously if the author desires. Previously published work is acceptable and should be indicated as such.
- Any submission that promotes actions conflicting with the Bruce Trail Users’ Code, or illegal or inappropriate activities, will be disqualified.
Realizing the Dream

Leaving a Legacy – a love story  By Janice McClelland & Don Blok

Janice and Don are among the generous individuals who have chosen to include the Bruce Trail Conservancy in their wills. Here they reveal what inspired their decision... and give us a glimpse into their Bruce Trail love story.

We met on a Bruce Trail hike in March 1986. Love shone upon us and soon we shared more hikes on the Bruce Trail, in the White Mountains, and in Cape Breton.

The Bruce Trail continued to be an important part of our lives following our wedding in 1988, and through two moves which eventually found us in Erin Township in the Caledon Hills section of the Bruce Trail. As soon as we could raise our noses above the high waters of renovating our old farmhouse in Erin, we began volunteering with the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

Many more happy Bruce Trail memories were made throughout the 2000s. Don celebrated his 80th birthday in 2005 with friends and family at the Niagara Gorge on a hike led by Beth Gilhespy, then Executive Director. Janice completed the entire Bruce Trail from 2004–2007, in a series of hikes led by volunteers Peter Ellison, and Peter and Judy Leeney, with Don joining in some of the more northerly sections.

In 2011, Janice retired and extended her volunteer activities to include the BTC Board of Directors and from 2013–2015, served as the volunteer President of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

During our wonderful times on the Trail, and through our deepening involvement, we saw first-hand the enormous contributions that volunteers make towards fulfilling the BTC’s conservation and land maintenance efforts. Like many, our experiences with the Trail have impressed on us the importance of the organization’s mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness for future generations. We’ve been passionate donors for many years, and we are so proud of the eight beautiful green pins we’ve received that respectively say, “I helped save... Duntroon Crevice Heights, Lawrence Homestead, Fairmount-Webwood Passage, Walter’s Creek, Vanishing Stream, Kemble Wetland, Maple Ridge and Driftwood Cove.”

In 2011 we made the decision to draw up our wills and included the Bruce Trail Conservancy as one of our beneficiaries. We’ve since reviewed our wills and made a change to ensure that, balancing all interests, the Bruce Trail Conservancy had a more substantial portion of whatever our humble estate will be. Our lawyer advised us regarding different ways of providing for others and we confirmed the best way for us.

Sharing nature along the Trail with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren was, and is, an important and happy part of our family life. And the friends we have made through the Bruce Trail are invaluable. We could not ask for more as we age and our perspectives on what's important in life evolve.

Including the Bruce Trail Conservancy in our wills is not only a way for us to say that nature matters to us in this part of Ontario, it’s also a way to say thank you to the Bruce Trail Conservancy for making our lives more worthwhile and endowing us with a broad circle of friends who have greatly enriched life’s experiences.

If you would like more information on how to make a gift in your will, please contact Gloria Vidovich at gvidovich@brucetrail.org or 905-529-6821, ext 248.
Each year we are humbled by the generosity of our donors and their commitment to furthering the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. In celebration of all that donors make possible, the Bruce Trail Conservancy hosted our annual Donor Recognition Evening on November 7, 2019. Nearly 200 donors gathered at the Burlington Arts Centre to be honoured and to applaud the conservation successes of the past year. The record turnout was wonderful and reflected our growing donor community.

During the evening, we heard a moving address from Dr. Philip R. Gosling, Bruce Trail founder and Honorary BTC President, and a personal greeting from Burlington Mayor, Marianne Meed-Ward. Awards were presented to those donors reaching new levels of cumulative donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy during the 2018-19 fiscal year. New and long-term donors alike were recognized, enjoyed lovely live music and food, and shared stories of their connection to and passion for the Bruce Trail.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is honoured by the support and trust placed in our organization. We are grateful for all donors’ contributions as each is ensuring a natural legacy that will be preserved forever.

Donor Recognition Evening 2019

Thank you to all our Donors and Supporters

The Bruce Trail Conservancy greatly appreciates each and every gift we receive. This past quarter, 3,064 donors chose to make a gift. We sincerely value this patronage and would like to acknowledge the following recent donations:

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Congratulations to our members who have completed an End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail – an extraordinary physical and personal journey. The following are members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2019.

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**Note:** # of Times is the number of times each member has completed an End-to-End of the Bruce Trail.
Record Number of End-to-End Recognitions in 2019

A remarkable 218 members received their End-to-End recognition in 2019 – more than in any of the past 10 years. Some completed the whole trail within the year. Others finished off that final section after years of hiking. And still others finally compiled their hike logs from previous years and submitted them.

What was it about 2019 that made it such a remarkable year for End-to-End recognition? The peak of End-to-Ends in 2017 could be attributed to our 50th Anniversary and the motivation that created. But what about 2019? Was it the particularly good hiking weather (dry spring, temperate summer, long fall)? Increased interest in our Club End-to-End events? Increased awareness of the Bruce Trail? It is hard to say for sure, but we are thrilled to recognize the efforts of these accomplished hikers.

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NIAGARA
Map 2 – Reroute
With the completion of the new bridge over the railway between Concession 6 and Mewburn Road, the Bruce Trail has been routed back to its previous location.
New main Trail = 3.4 km

IROQUOIA
Map 11 – Annual Closure
The trail system within Kelso Conservation Area will be closed throughout the winter till April 15 in order to accommodate the ski season. The temporary route follows Appleby Line.
Temporary Route = 1 km

CALEDON HILLS
Map 17 – Highway 9 crossing
The Bruce Trail now follows Highway 9 enabling hikers to cross the highway at the lights on Airport Rd.
Decommissioned trail = 110 m
New main Trail = 1.2 km

BLUE MOUNTAINS
Map 23 – Petun Side Trail - Annual Closure
Part of the Petun Side Trail as denoted on the map will be closed annually from December 1st through to March 31st.

BEAVER VALLEY
Map 26 – Beaver Valley Ski Club Annual Closure
The Bruce Trail will be annually closed on the Beaver Valley Ski Club property from November 1 to May 1 along the section from Grey Road 30 northbound to the end of Windy Lane Dr. The western portion of the Valley Crossover Side Trail leading into the Beaver Valley Ski Club from Beaver Trail Rd is also part of this closure. Hiking will not be permitted anywhere within the ski club property between these dates. In order to help us continue to maintain this long stand-
ing positive relationship, please respect the wishes of the Beaver Valley Ski Club.

A short Birch Camp Side Trail heads north into a scenic birch forest and leads to a small overnight rest area (ORA) for Bruce Trail through-hikers. This ORA provides space for three tents. Back-country latrine is provided. No water available. Please practice no-trace camping.

Cedar Point Side Trail = 850 m return trip
Birch Camp Side Trail = 8 m

**SYDENHAM**

*Map 34 – Birch Camp Side Trail and Overnight Rest Area (new)*

A new Cedar Point Side Trail has been established leading to a scenic view overlooking a marsh and shallow open water.

A short Birch Camp Side Trail heads north into a scenic birch forest and leads to a small overnight rest area (ORA) for Bruce Trail through-hikers. This ORA provides space for three tents. Back-country latrine is provided. No water available. Please practice no-trace camping.

Cedar Point Side Trail = 850 m return trip
Birch Camp Side Trail = 8 m

**PENINSULA**

*Map 36 – Temporary Closure*

This section of trail in Cape Croker Park is closed temporarily due to flooding. The duration of this closure is currently unknown. The temporary reroute is along Park Rd.

Temporary Reroute = 1.8 km

*Map 37 - Trail Closure - Ivan Lemcke Side Trail*

The Ivan Lemcke Side Trail is permanently closed due to high water levels.

*Map 39 – Walter Brewer Side Trail (newly named)*

The Forty Hills Side Trail has been renamed to honour Walter, a dedicated volunteer and past Peninsula Bruce Trail Club President, for his outstanding commitment to the Bruce Trail and the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment.●
The following donors have made gifts of $100 or more to the Bruce Trail Conservancy between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.
support the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a gift between October and December 2019.

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**

**Gifts were received to honour these special people:**

**Anniversary**
- Gary & Pat Beaudoin - 50th
- Peter & Mary Donnelly - 55th
- Brenda Lee Kearns & Brian O’Farrell - 28th

**Birthday**
- Lisa Applegath - 55th
- Bob Astley - 75th
- Tony Halms - 50th
- Gary Thrall - 70th
- Jon Venutti - 70th
- Suhail Zeytinoglu - 55th
- Eve & John Haworth - 65th
- Adriana Zeromskiene & Zenwirt Family - 75th
- Dr. Karen Ward - 70th
- Beverly & Brian Tracey - 70th
- Cecil & Margaret McLean - 70th
- Kimberly & Michael J. Albert - 50th

**In Memoriam gifts were received in recognition of:**
- Ernest & Evelyn Coleman - 30th
- Peter Coates - 25th
- Patrick G. Carroll - 35th
- George A. Calder - 30th
- Lilly Bullock - 65th
- Craig Buck - 50th
- Jack Broxholme - 65th
- James Bassett - 70th
- Donna J. Baker - 60th

**In Recognition of: 80th Birthdays**
- Merle S. Richards
- Will Overton
- Douglas Harrison
- Evan Finnegan
- Peter Bowyer
- Robert Bowyer
- Mona Braaten

**In Recognition of: 75th Birthdays**
- Bob Astley
- Lisa Applegath
- Joanne Bertrand
- Janis Bell
- Stephen Lee
- Keith O’Farrell

**In Recognition of: 70th Birthdays**
- Rob Harper
- Christine Raymond
- David & Marilyn Rush
- Adam & Emily Fyfe
- Karen Ramsay
- Doreen & John Worley

**In Recognition of: 60th Birthdays**
- Elsie & Bill Tracey
- Helen & Bill Wilmart-Collard
- Debra Waddington
- Leslie Williams
- Rod & Faye Willis
- Deborah Wills
- Helene & Bill Wilmart-Collard
- Anne-Marie & John Wilson
- Doug Wilson
- Jim Wilson & Family

**In Recognition of: 50th Birthdays**
- Brian O’Leary
- John H. McNally
- James McArthur
- Kenneth McAlpine
- Karl & Gina Massfeller
- Wilf Martini & Family
- Donald G. Marshall
- Will Martins & Family

**In Recognition of: 40th Birthdays**
- Brian Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 30th Birthdays**
- Jonathan Montgomery
- Brian Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 20th Birthdays**
- Dr. David Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 10th Birthdays**
- Dr. David Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 5th Birthdays**
- Dr. David Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 3rd Birthdays**
- Dr. David Montgomery
- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**In Recognition of: 1st Birthdays**
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- Pat & Rick Hackert & Weber
- Tony Halms & Family
- Sarah & David Beaton
- Ellen Piazza

**Presents for Preservation**
- Robert & Mary Taylor
- Shanelle Weber
- Ken & Cecile Weber
- Richard & Kay Weber
- Fredny & Francine Weber
- Doug Berry
- Watters & Family

**Blue Mountains Trail Angels**
- Virginia & JP McMorrow

**Iroquoia Trail Angels**
- Duffeln Hi-Land Trail Angels

**Niagara Trail Angels**
- Blue Mountains Trail Angels

**Beaver Valley Trail Angels**

**Support for Bruce Trail Conservancy**
- Between October and December 2019

**Supporters of the Bruce Trail Conservancy**
- John & Elleke Van Gemert
- Walter Family
- Wakefield & Vickery
- Borst Vandongen Vanderwater
- Vanderwater
- Joyce & Sheldon Vanderwoode
- Matthew Vandenberg
- Lauri Vanstone Colleen Varey
- Blijnara Vasilevska & Christopher Borst
- Claire Veenstra & Family
- Ginny Verlovenslait & Family
- Jen Venuti
- Martin & Alice Vandenberg
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- John & Elleke Van Heuman
- Paul Van Katwyk
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- teil Cresci
- Catharine Hart
- Bryan Warnock
- Doreen & John Worley
- Susan & Alex Work
- Jocelyn Wright
- Kevin Warburton
- Peter Ward & Marianne Meed-Ward
- Dr. Karen Ward
- George Ward
- Martin Wamlencik & Family
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- Margaret Watson & Family
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- Cheri Weaver & Doug Berry
- Don & Cheryl Weaver
- Ken & Cecile Weber
- Shanelle Weber
- Dana Webster
- Wednesday Hikers
- Susan Weeden
- Trudy Weber
- Betty Weinistein
- Sandra Weir & Family
- John Weir
- Russell Weiss
- Michael Weisgls
- Brenda Welch
- Dr. Donna & Bob Wells & Family
- Thomas Wells
- David Wellstood & Family
- Art Weiler
- Dorothy & Gerd Wengler
- Marla Wenzel
- Evelyn Weston & Family
- Barry & Marilyn Westhouse
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- John Wheeler
- Mark Wheeler
- Jerrold Wheeler
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- Geraldine Whiteley
- Heather Whitney
- Sandra Whitall & Family
- John Whitchworth & Family
- Kristin Wichman & Family
- Grant & Marianne Wige & Family
- John Wige
- Loma Wilks
- Brian Wilker-Frey
- Brianna Wilkinson
- Amy-Lynne Williams
- Barbara Williams
- Don Williams
- Paul Williams
- Scott Williams & Family
- Spencer & Linda Williams
- Leslie Wilhelm
- Rod & Faye Willis
- Deborah Wills
- Helene & Bill Wilmart-Collard
- Anne-Marie & John Wilson
- Doug Wilson
- Jim Wilson & Family
- Katherine Wilson
- Kathleen M. Wilson
- Marjorie A. Wilson
- Thomas & Julie D. Wilson
- Thomas Wilson
- William R. Wilson
- Audrey Winch
- Warren Winchester
- Eileen Wingate
- Bruce Winter
- Susan Wissmer & Family
- Lynn Witmer
- William Wittman & Family
- Tom & Judy Wolaver
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- Wondergem
- Connie Wong
- Robert Wong
- Glen & Karen Wood
- Ross Wood
- Margie & Rick Woodgate & Family
- James Woodger
- Steve Woollen
- World Expeditions
- Gary Thrall
- Robert Way & Family
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- Susan Wright
- Balf Wroblewski & Inge Echerick
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- Elaine & Clifton Young
- Michael & Linda Young
- Savio Yu
- Anna Zaffina & Family
- Rosemary Zehr
- Adrian & Janet Zenwirt
- Andree Zeititz
- Krystina Zeromskaie & Family
- Mehnret Zeytnoglu
- Zsa Legal

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**NEW**

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.

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Help us act now to create two new nature reserves

**Skinner’s Woods** – Sydenham section
100 acres, 455 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

**Lime Kiln Bluffs** – Blue Mountains section
36 acres, 710 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

Together we can ensure these unique and important places on the Niagara Escarpment are forever protected, and generations to come may explore them along the Bruce Trail.

Learn more about our latest conservation opportunities and how you can help. See page 13 for details.