



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
 BEAVER VALLEY CLUB

BEAVER TALES

Spring
 2022

The Newsletter of the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Box 3251 Meaford Ontario N4L 1A5 / www.beavervalleybruce trail.org

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.



YOU
 can help stop the
 spread
 of the Demon Seed!
 Thoroughly clean your boots
 or shoes after every hike.

WANTED!

DEAD OR ALIVE

For Assault and Battery on our Native Ecosystem



Garlic Mustard Varmints

Alias: *Alliaria petiolata*, aka Dangerous Dan McWeed, aka The Demon Seed

Yes, pardners, Garlic Mustard huntin' season is upon us again! May is the best time of year to spot this nasty invasive species and blast it to tarnation.

So, you dead-eyed members of the Bruce Trail Gang, pack a garbage bag so you can nail it in its tracks, or report its hideout to the Sheriff (or his deputized representative, Joan Nuffield, at info@beavervalleybruce trail.org).

As in the last two years, we will be rounding up some posses in May to go after some of the more dastardly infestations. Deputy Joan will be contacting volunteers to suggest some "pull party" dates and times at an area location near you!

REWARD FOR INFORMATION ON ITS WHEREABOUTS!

Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Officers and Key Support Volunteers

Board of Directors

President: Joan Nuffield
Vice President: Nadia Dubky
Past President: Jill Smith-Brodie
Secretary: Ruth Plant
Treasurer: Alan McPherson
Trail Activities: Glenda Collings
Trail Maintenance/Development: Bob Hann

Volunteers and Membership: Kelly Killoran
Land Stewardship (Acting): Jamie Ufton
Landowner Relations: Jill Smith-Brodie
Information Services: Mike Osborn
Member at Large: Brendan Thompson
BTC Representative: Bruce King

Key Support Volunteers

Zone Leaders: Neil McFadgen, John Burton, Cliff Kachaluba
Chainsaw Crew Leader: Blain Horsley
Motorized Grass Cutting Crew Leader: Peter Bryce
Invasive Species Managers: Bob Hann and Joan Nuffield
Webmaster: Irena Marinko

Emergency contact: For trees down on the Trail, etc., contact Blain Horsley at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org, sending location, tree size, and a photo if possible. For assistance with grass cutting on a section of Trail that is accessible by a rider-mower, contact Peter Bryce, and to report any other problem with Trail maintenance, please contact Bob Hann.

Please feel free to contact any other Board officer or other volunteer via info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org.



Volunteers : Like many volunteer organizations, the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club is always looking for interested people to serve on the Board, on the Trail, or in other capacities. If you would like to help out, please contact Kelly Killoran at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org.

Newsletter Submissions : Are you a hiking addict, a local history buff, a budding auteur, an amateur geologist or naturalist? We would love to print any articles, photos or stories that you send us. Deadline for submissions, Fall Issue: September 15, 2022. Send to Editor of "Beaver Tales" at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org.

Get "Beaver Tales" – Electronically: In order for us to save trees and cut our "Beaver Tales" newsletter costs, we are asking members to sign up for it electronically. Please notify the Editor, or the BTC at info@brucetrail.org, if you want to switch to receiving the Newsletter electronically, and you will receive a link to each new issue as it comes out. Thanks!

Advertising in "Beaver Tales": Ad rates for one year (3 issues): Business card size \$60; ¼ page \$120; ½ page \$180. Contact Steve Griffiths for advertising information at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC): Box 857, Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9 / 800-665-4453 / 905-529-6821 / Fax 905-529-6832 / www.brucetrail.org / info@brucetrail.org. **MISSION STATEMENT: Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.**

"On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it." Jules Renard

President's Message

Spring 2022

In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love,
And our volunteers get antsy for the go-ahead from above,
Greening life bursts into view all around us on the scarp,
So naturally I want to talk about strategic planning. (*Wait, come back! It gets better!*)



In the winter of 2020/21, your Board undertook a process to step back and discuss what we had been seeing around that time, out on the trails and on the lands we steward, and to decide what if anything we needed to place more focus on, as a matter of long-term strategic necessity. There was a lot to observe – climate changes that were creating more muddy areas and making more frequent – and in some cases, quite different – trail maintenance a necessity; more ex-urban migration into the area; higher land prices; more development pressure; and of course more hikers and visitors to the area. Lots to observe, and it moved us to develop some strategic priorities to better protect our section of the land and the “ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever,” and all that entails.

I am delighted to be able to report that, in the months since those late-2020 discussions, our membership has reacted in the way it always does – with a generous and enthusiastic response in time, ideas, muscle power and skills. Today, I would venture to say that we are in many ways more equipped and better prepared for the ever-growing body of regular and irregular trail work that faces us than we ever have been. Here are a few examples where our membership and leadership have been able to meet the challenges:

We now have 24 (up from 12) whippersnippet crew members! These folks tackle many of the long stretches of tall grass that are too much for Trail Captains and cannot be reached by one of our rider-mower crews

The number of rider-mower crews (a driver and a spotter with a mower on a trailer) we have has increased from three to four

Our Club has purchased two more battery-operated whippersnippets (with what look to be more comfortable harnesses, at least for some people's bodies) and more battery packs

We have been having some success experimenting with using Assistant Trail Captains to cover off when the TC(s) are not available or need assistance – 10 trails now have an ATC. Even TCs are occasionally permitted to have a life during prime hiking season!

The size of our “flying squad” volunteer list has also increased. These folks tackle specific projects like creating new boardwalks in soggy areas, and they have already been quite busy this spring!

More and better signage – I swear Bob's Little Shop of Signage in a corner of both our garage and our furnace room seems, at some times of year, to be always in production. With “You Are Here” cartography help from Scott Langley

Approvals and funding have been obtained for a large multi-faceted build (boardwalks, steps, bridges, hopefully barriers, etc.) and logistical project to address environmental protection, public safety, parking and other concerns at an overused local tourism destination

Any concerns reported by private landowners are responded to immediately and at a personal level. (All-time most memorable landowner complaint: some strangers were paddling around in the landowners' pond one evening, explaining that they were “looking for the Margaret Paul Side Trail.” *In the water??*)

Our summer Trail Ambassadors are proving invaluable in dealing with on-the-ground issues at trailheads and in documenting species on the lands

On a more personal note, I was particularly touched the other day when I heard that one of the flying squad members who had been helping with a major build in the early spring felt bad because he could not meet the (revised) afternoon schedule for the next phase – so he decided to help out by pitching in with morning preparations on the day instead, to make up for the “sin” of having a scheduling conflict! I won't name him here so as not to embarrass him, but, wow, the team spirit among our volunteers frankly just brings a tear to my eye.

I think we have all been missing the camaraderie of the events we, as Club members, used to be able to share together before COVID – the barbeques, the barn dances, the Christmas party, the trivia nights, the volunteer and landowner appreciation night, with all its cheeses and homemade desserts, all of it – for far too long.

So I am very happy to report that we will be hosting an event late this summer or early fall so that all our interested members can (we hope) gather and share some fellowship with like-minded Club members, because it will be safe and outside in what we hope will be good weather, and it will involve lots of excellent cheeses and desserts – and maybe some more adventurous eating opportunities as well. Let's party (soon)!

SLOVENIJA

July 15 to 25, 2022

Slovenija is where the Alps meet the Mediterranean and is a country of amazingly unspoiled beauty.

Our program includes hikes behind the thundering Slap Pericnik waterfall, through Vintgar Gorge gushing with white water, on the slopes of & Mt. Triglav, and around the glacier-fed Lake Bohinj. Home base for the entire holiday will be the fairy-tale setting of Bled. Dates specifically chosen to catch the Bled Days Festival, when organizers launch 15,000 candles in egg shells onto Lake Bled, illuminating the whole lake!

KENYA WALKING SAFARI

September 11 to 23, 2022

Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too!

Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsman in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on Facebook.



We post daily on topics such as hiking tips & tricks, travel information, gear reviews, trip announcements and more. Plus, we're pretty entertaining 😊



Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter **Let's Hike**

Email us at info@letshike.com and ask to be put on our mailing list. You can unsubscribe any time, and we will never

share your information with anyone.

COMING UP IN 2023

Dominica * Portugal * Japan
Amalfi Coast (Italy)

Ireland * Galapagos Islands
Provence & Cote d'Azur (France)
Tour du Mont Blanc * Corfu (Greece)

Ask to be placed on the **Interested List** for the trip you want in order to be notified once we are ready to start taking reservations. There is no obligation on your part; it's simply the best way not to miss any important announcements.

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Health and Safety Corner ... Stay Safe!

Ticks and Lyme Disease

Protect yourself from Lyme disease by avoiding long grass, wearing long-sleeved shirts and tucking your pant hems into thick socks while hiking. Stay on the Trail, as brushing against plants can allow ticks to attach to your clothing. When you get home, check for ticks on your body (or have a friend assist with this step). For more information, check out the facts at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/lyme-disease>.

Don't Leave Valuables in Your Car while Hiking

Hikers leaving valuables in their car may get a nasty surprise when they return. We have had a least one such report already this season here in the Beaver Valley.

Lost Hikers

We encounter a surprising (to us) number of lost hikers while working on the Trail, and who knows how many other lost hikers there are out there? Some guides are inaccurate. You can download individual maps to your phone for \$3 apiece at <https://brucetrail.org/store/category/11> or can buy the Bruce Trail APP for \$3 per month.

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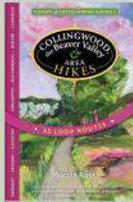
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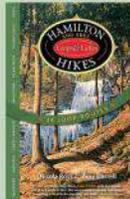
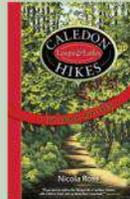
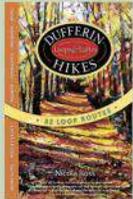
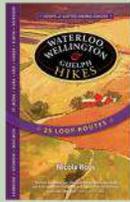


NEWEST RELEASE
Fall 2020



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Trail Development and Maintenance:
Director’s Report

by Bob Hann

Our TD&M team has already hit the trails running this Spring. TCs are madly working to complete their Trail Status Reports by May 16 and to make sure their trails are in pristine shape to welcome regular hikers, the end of May BTC Audit and the June 4 Falling Water Hike. Already, since January, the chainsaw team has dispatched 244 dangerous trees. In the last two weeks alone Flying Squad volunteers have contributed over 200 hours of work and fun. And as well, behind the scenes we have continued to get the planning done, and permits and funding in place, for our main development projects for this year.

Later this month will see the deployment in full force of our mowing and whippersnapper teams to tackle the inevitable first onslaught of long grass, and the completion by our Flying Squad of the string of boardwalks in the trail through the Lover Valley Nature Reserve. For the rest of the year, almost all of our development resources will be devoted to the \$170,000 Trail Network Improvement Project (TNIP) at Hogg’s Falls, which includes 600 feet of boardwalk, two 50-foot bridges, one 35-foot bridge, trail reroutes and major signage improvements. We will be busy.



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Conservation News and Notes

Duh ... So Climate Change is a Problem?

The U.N. issued a new report on climate change at the beginning of 2022, providing an “updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges.” The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change*, found, among other things, that even limiting warming to around 2°C (3.6° F) still requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by a quarter by 2030. The outlook? The funding currently being devoted to this goal is three to six times lower than levels needed. The IPCC Working Group Co-Chair suggested that this level of investment “relies on clear signalling from governments and the international community, including a stronger alignment of public sector finance and policy.” For more information: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>.

TC Energy Project Stumbles but ...

Trans Canada Energy’s proposed pumped energy storage project on Georgian Bay near Meaford has attracted considerable public opposition since first proposed some two years back, accessing a section of the DND tank range to conduct feasibility studies for a plant that would suck water out of Georgian Bay every night, when energy is cheap, then release it into turbines and out again during the day, to create energy to sell at higher daytime rates, when demand is high. *The Owen Sound Sun-Times* reports that TCE is seeking a “long-term contract with the province’s Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to build and operate its estimated \$4.3 B project in Meaford,” and though the project failed the first-stage assessment criteria, the Ontario Energy Minister has directed that TCE get another kick at the can. “Should the proponents of these projects make significant improvements to the ratepayer value of the projects, including through improved financing, I will consider moving them beyond Gate 2,” the second assessment stage, said the Minister in a November 2021 letter to the energy supply regulator. Although the IESO’s report is not available to the public, the reference to “ratepayer value” presumably refers in part to the net energy consumer that the plant would be, though producing energy when demand is highest. Read more at: <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/meaford-pumped-storage-plan-advances-despite-ratepayer-value-concern>

Grey Highlands Secondary School once again tackles Garlic Mustard

We are delighted to announce that once again, environmental studies teachers at Grey Highlands Secondary School in Flesherton are continuing the school’s tradition, started by our own John Burton, of organizing students in a day or two of picking Garlic Mustard at area infestations. This year, Jenna MacLeod and Jessica Butler are leading the charge, which students have engaged in for a few years now, at Old Baldy in particular, where Garlic Mustard is a major concern. The teachers and students have made a huge contribution over the years to the area’s control efforts with this nasty varmint, complementing the efforts of our Club and local residents of Kimberley, Kolapore and other areas who have educated themselves about its dangers and join in the annual area effort. Picking is already underway in some of our “favourite” spots! If you are not on our Garlic Mustard mailing list but would like to be, contact Joan Nuffield at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org.

The Valued Vine

Our trail maintenance volunteers occasionally have to remove or prune vegetation to keep the trail corridor safe and passable. Yet we are careful to do this in a way that minimizes impact, particularly to key native species. Native vines like Wild Grape, Virginia Creeper and the lesser-known Canada Moonseed, can grow prolifically. BTC ecologist Brian Popelier reminds us that despite their bad reputation for aggressive growth, these plants are important to Escarpment ecosystems. Brian adds, “Canada Moonseed is the host plant for the relatively rare looper Moonseed Moth, and Grapes and Virginia Creepers are hosts for no less than six sphinx moth species in southern Ontario.” Our volunteers are mindful to prune these vines, judiciously, only if they are impeding the trail corridor or if they appear to be overwhelming and bringing down a trail-side tree.

**Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club
Annual General Meeting
Virtual Voting takes place from June 16-23, 2022**

Once again, our Annual General Meeting in June this year will be “virtual” – we will not meet in person, sadly. However, we are planning an outdoor get-together for all in late summer or early fall, to celebrate our members, our volunteers and our landowners, and we look forward to seeing you then!

At the AGM we are seeking to fill some key positions in our Club, now or in a few months. If you or anyone you know may be interested in any of the following positions, please contact Kelly Killoran at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org:

Club Secretary: Recorder and planner for Club Board meetings, which occur about 5 times per year, including the AGM in June

Vice President: Assists the President and strategic priorities of the Club

Membership and Volunteering Director: Welcomes new members, helps place new volunteers in suitable "jobs", organizes an annual thank-you event for volunteers

Communications Director: Directs the Club's communications efforts, including in-person, social media and other media; the Director is supported by a website, Facebook and Instagram team

Landowner Relations Director: Working with our landowner ambassadors, manages relationships with owners of lands which are crossed by the BV Bruce Trail and properties adjacent to those lands

Hike Leaders: Training and mentorship are available at no cost. You choose the length and location of the hikes you offer and our Trail Activities Director is always there for advice and assistance. We're a friendly bunch!

**Calling for nominations for the
Keith Solomon Award 2022**

Veteran Bruce Trail member Keith Solomon was instrumental in motivating volunteers to join him in blazing the Bruce Trail through the Beaver Valley. Every year, an award is presented in his name to “celebrate an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to the improvement or preservation of the Bruce Trail in the Beaver Valley.”

Please submit your nomination, with a few words in support of your candidate,
by May 27 to Kelly Killoran at info@beavervalleybrucetrail.org

The Keith Solomon Award 2022 will be presented at the
Beaver Valley Club Annual General Meeting



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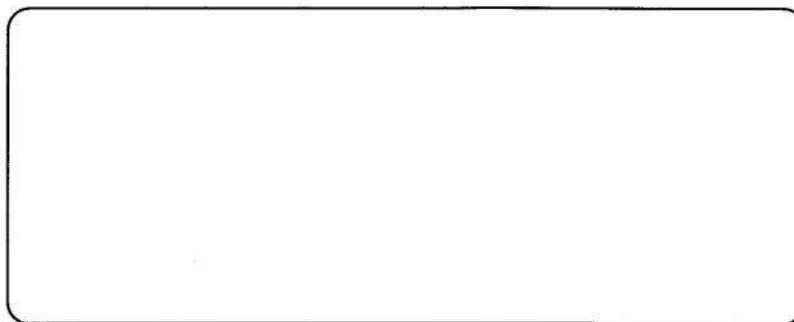
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Travels Through 2023

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Journeys in Time: Discovering Morocco April 14 to 24, 2023 Wait-list only

Final information for 2023 to be completed — the tour will be similar to this year:

<http://worldwide.on.ca/morocco2022/index.html>

Andalusia 2: Exploring Moorish Spain April 25 to May 5, 2023 Limited

Final information for 2023 to be completed — the tour will be similar to this year:

<http://www.worldwide.on.ca/andalusia2022/index.html>

Jewels of the Mediterranean: Sicily, Malta & Gozo: September 30 to October 14, 2022
Very Limited space — <http://worldwide.on.ca/jewels2022/index.html>

The pandemic has impacted all travel but for the safety of our travellers it has been necessary to alter some previously booked tour departures. We extend apology for all inconveniences.

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