

SUMMER 2022



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- Call 1-800-665-4453, or
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Cover photo: Boot brush station, by Atalia Charles



MAGAZIN

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

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Chief Executive Officer's Message

With summer's joyous arrival, a sense of optimism is in the air.

What a true pleasure it has been to gather once again with volunteers, members and donors in recent months. Being together in person has reinforced for me how important the Bruce Trail and Niagara Escarpment are to so many people, and reiterated for me the strength of our collective efforts to preserve them.

It's clear the Bruce Trail has seen a dramatic increase in use since 2020 as more people have (re)discovered the joy of exploring nature locally. This has resulted in some areas seeing more human-caused impact than the trail and some sensitive environments can

handle. Though pandemic restrictions have eased and other recreational opportunities are available, trails are still seeing many visitors. The increased trail use has created challenges, yet it also represents an opportunity for the Bruce Trail Conservancy to engage more people in caring for the natural world.

In this issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine we highlight some of the BTC's recent initiatives to reduce human-caused impact on the environment and encourage sustainable trail use. You'll read about our litter clean-up and data collection project, efforts to curb the spread of invasive species, and our expanding Trail Ambassador program.

Through these initiatives and others we are building on the Bruce Trail Conservancy's long history of bringing people together to care for the Niagara Escarpment. This year marks 60 years since volunteers began building the Bruce Trail and forming Bruce Trail Clubs to responsibly connect people to the wonders of the Escarpment. Volunteers have always been, and always will be the lifeblood of our organization, and we owe them all a great debt of gratitude. We are the fortunate recipients of their forward-thinking actions and are committed to building on that legacy.

Our collective efforts do have a positive impact on our precious natural environment. Together we can tread lightly, while acting boldly to protect nature for the benefit of future generations. •

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



BLAZES

News and Events from the Bruce Trail Clubs

Please note: Events may be postponed, cancelled or revised in response to changes in COVID-19 guidelines or status. Check Club websites for details.

TORONTO

torontobrucetrailclub.org

Toronto End-to-End – September 10-11, 2022

Please join us for our annual End-to-End. We will be hiking the Toronto section over two days, approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday. There will be checkpoints



along the way providing refreshments and assistance. Official End-to-End badges are awarded upon completion. For registration details, please check torontobrucetrailclub.org and the BTC Hike Schedule (hikes.brucetrail.org) in the next few months.

CALEDON HILLS

caledonbrucetrail.ca

Prediction Hike Fundraiser – September 24

This year's fun-filled Prediction Hike will



take place at Hockley Valley Provincial Nature Reserve. Hikers will choose to complete one of two predetermined hikes, a distance of 7 km or 20 km, and upon registration for the event, provide organizers with their personal "to-thesecond" prediction of how long it will take to complete the distance on event day. Of course, there's a catch. NO time, pace, or distance technology can be used during the actual event. The hiker in each hike distance category with the closest prediction to his/her actual time will be awarded a fabulous prize. Everyone will receive a spectacular souvenir badge. Prediction Pete, our first collectible badge character will have a new friend, Prediction Parnika.

Interested participants can pre-register on the BTC Hike Schedule (hikes.brucetrail.org) starting June 30. Content deadline for Blazes for the fall 2022 issue is June 30, 2022.

Send content to: Laura Tuohy, BTC Communications Coordinator, at ltuohy@brucetrail.org

Participation is limited to 60 hikers. The registration fee is \$26.00. Further registration details will be posted on caledonbrucetrail.ca and on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Contact event coordinators, Sally and Sandy at info@caledonbrucetrail.org with any additional questions.

Caledon Hills End-to-End – October 8-10

The Caledon Hills
Bruce Trail Club is
looking forward to
hosting our "Fall
Colours" End-to-End
hiking events over the

upcoming Thanksgiving weekend. Plan to enjoy the spectacular fall colours as you hike the 71.3 km of main Trail through our famous Caledon Hills. You can complete the distance over all three days, or the same distance over Saturday and Sunday only. The cost of the three-day event is \$43 and the two-day event is

\$32. The registration fee covers processing fees, daily bus transportation, refreshments, and an End-to-End badge on completion. Registration opens June 30, 2022 on the BTC Hike Schedule. Participation is limited to one bus of hikers for each of the events. For further details and event updates, visit caledonbrucetrail.ca and follow the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club on Facebook and Instagram. Contact Sandy Green, E2E Coordinator at info@caledonbrucetrail.org with any additional questions or concerns.





BLUE MOUNTAINS

bmbtc.org

Blue Mountains End-to-End – October 1-2

Join us for a 2-day hike through the Blue Mountains section enjoying the beauty of

the rugged terrain while bathing in the spectacular fall colours. Event will cover 39 km on Day 1 and 32 km on Day 2 with 3 checkpoints offering water, snacks, and assistance along the way. Registration opens July 1, 2022 through the online BTC Hike Schedule (hikes.brucetrail.org). The \$70 fee for members (\$80 for nonmembers) will cover bus transportation to the start point each day, refreshments, online registration fees, and End-to-End badges. Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. For more information, contact Mary-Lynne Chenard at btcblueevents@gmail.com. •



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

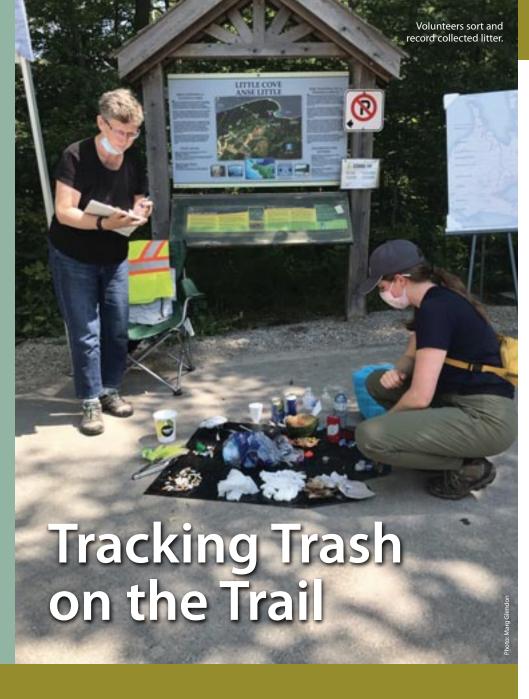
Bruce Trail End-to-End List 2021... continued

Congratulations to these members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2021 but were missing from our annual listing in the spring 2022 issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine. We apologize for the oversight.

We celebrate here your End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail – an extraordinary physical and personal journey.



E2E#	NAME	
4016	Marleen Johnsen	_
4070	Anna O'Shaughnessy	
4071	Nancy Hughes	
4072	Hayden Fargo	_
4073	Marina Lisina	
4074	Remo Pezzente	
4075	Josee Duckett	BUCE TREE
4076-8	Ruth Moffatt	1
4079	Solange Trudel	N 10 108.5
4080	Doug Trudel	
		O. C.



cleanup events. In each case, trash was sorted and counted and the information was submitted to A Greener Future for analysis. (See page 9 for a summary of the results.)

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club spearheaded the effort. In that section, the project was enhanced through local partnerships with Keep the Bruce Clean & Green, Bruce Peninsula National Park, Owen Sound Waste Watchers, Ontario Parks, and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. Litter cleanups were supported with interpretive hikes, group event displays, group discussions and a presentation. Combining education, hands-on experience and opportunities for reflection provided different ways for participants to understand the problem, and make recommendations about litter and littering behaviour on the Bruce Trail for future consideration.

Though the increase in litter on the Trail may have been triggered by pandemic restrictions, litter remains a challenge along the length of the Bruce Trail. To address the ongoing need, and more extensively cover the entire Trail, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is launching the Hike it, Love it, Keep it Clean! litter project this year (see page 10). We'll be building on last year's success and engaging more people in this important work for a cleaner, healthier natural environment along the Bruce Trail. •

Tens of thousands of pieces of litter were removed from the Bruce Trail in cleanup events last summer. Volunteers and staff armed with garbage bags, buckets, tongs and gloves picked up litter and recorded what was collected to give us a better understanding of what gets left behind.

Litter has been an increasing issue along the Bruce Trail over the past few years as more people have sought to enjoy natural outdoor spaces, especially during the pandemic.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy partnered with A Greener Future last

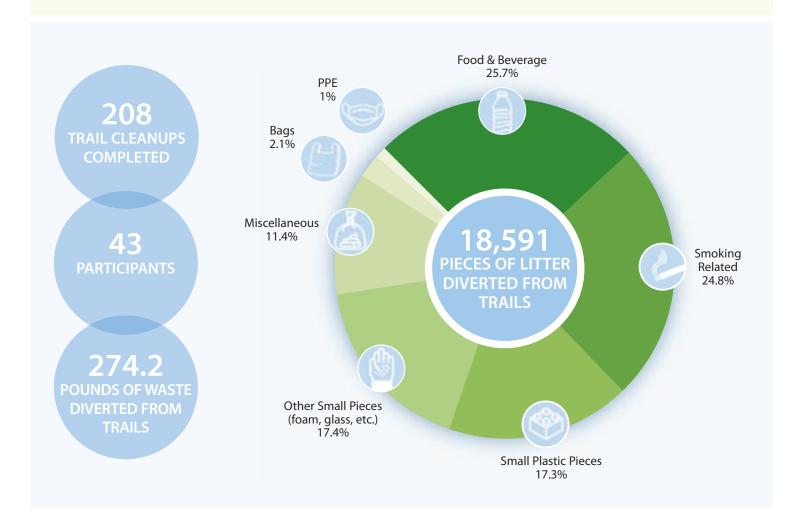
summer to launch a community science pilot project focussed on collecting litter - and data about that litter - along the trail and at busy trailheads. From June through September, 18,591 pieces of trash were diverted from the Bruce Trail through individual and group



Bruce Trail Cleanup Results

JUNE 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021

*Results compiled by A Greener Future



25.7%

Food and Beverage litter -

including cans, food wrappers, plastic cups, bottles, lids, straws, utensils, and more - comprised over one quarter of the total litter collected, or 25.7%. Food wrappers alone were the fourth most commonly collected item in the program at 2,288 pieces.

24.8%

Smoking-related items -

including 4,486 cigarette butts.
Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. Commonly mistaken as biodegradable, cigarette filters are plastic and leach toxic chemicals into soil and waterways before turning into microplastic pollution.

17.3%

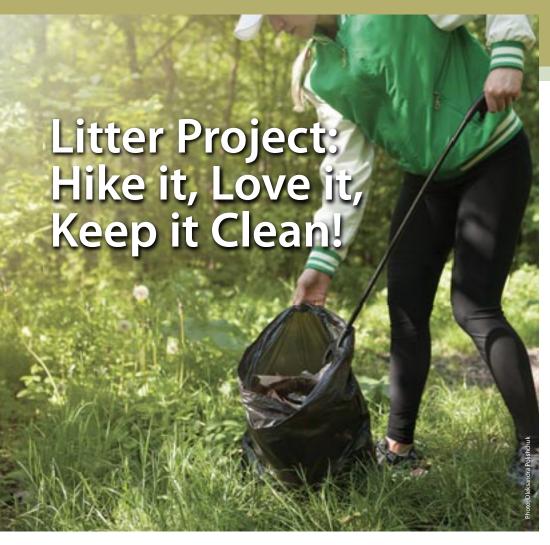
Small plastic pieces

totalled 3,328 items or 17.3% of the total litter collected. Plastic is extremely persistent and does not break down into harmless chemicals. Left alone, these pieces would contribute to the growing global issue of microplastic pollution.

But wait...there's more.

The haul collected in this project was above and beyond the un-tallied litter that volunteer Trail Captains, Land Stewards and conscientious hikers picked up over the same period. Thank you to all the volunteers and hikers who work to keep our trail and protected natural areas clean and healthy.

Help keep up the momentum by participating in our Hike it, Love it, Keep it Clean! litter project this year (see page 10).



Join the Bruce Trail Conservancy's trail-wide summer volunteer project to keep the Bruce Trail clean and learn about the litter that is ending up on the Trail.

In response to an increase in litter along the Bruce Trail over the past few years and building on a successful pilot project completed in 2021 (see pages 8-9), the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is launching the Hike it, Love it, Keep it Clean! project this summer.

We're looking for volunteers to help clean up litter on the Trail - individually or in groups - and report back on their findings. By submitting some basic data about your litter collection, you can help the BTC learn more about the types of litter found on the Trail and identify hotspots for litter. This information will inform future litter prevention, education and cleanup campaigns.

Anyone hiking along the Bruce Trail is welcomed to participate. This is a great volunteer opportunity with flexible hours and an immediate positive impact on the environment. Those under 16 years old should be accompanied by an adult.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Prepare:

Choose a destination for your hike. Pack gloves, tongs or a litter grabber, garbage bags and/or a bucket, along with the rest of your hiking gear. Review the safety information in the instruction video at brucetrail.org.

Collect Trash:

Go for a hike on the Bruce Trail or its side trails, keeping an eye out for litter. Consider collecting items in a bucket to make recording easier and to deal with items that may poke through a garbage bag.

Stay on the Trail:

Stay on marked trails to avoid trampling vegetation, spreading invasive species, or getting lost.

Record and Report:

Count the number of items of various types of litter you've collected. It may help to lay them out on one of your garbage bags and separate with your tongs. Record your findings in the litter data collection form. Submit your results online at brucetrail.org.

Dispose of Litter:

Dispose of the litter you have collected. Recycle wherever possible.

Get a Badge:

If you complete three litter pickups along the Bruce Trail and submit your data forms, you'll receive a special Hike it, Love it, Keep it Clean! badge.

Earn this badge when you submit your data from three or more litter pickup hikes.



Encourage Others:

Let others know about the program. Wear your new badge. Organize a group event with your neighborhood, school or service club.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Wear gloves, or use tongs or a litter grabber, to handle litter.
- Do not pick up sharps, syringes or other items of that nature.
- Wash your hands after completing a litter pick up.
- Follow regular hiking safety guidelines.

For more information visit

brucetrail.org/pages/get-involved/ volunteering/litter-project or contact Meghan Croll at mcroll@brucetrail.org. We look forward to seeing your litter collection results! •

BPDS Students Clean Up Litter and Share Their Experience

Students in Grades 2, 3 and 4 at Bruce Peninsula District School (BDPS) in Lion's Head helped to clean up the Bruce Trail this spring and reported on the litter they found.

Led by their teachers Sarah Garcia-Peacock, Trish Preston, and Ali Mielhausen, they explored their community's section of the Bruce Trail and worked as a team on a litter pickup. Back in the classroom, they carefully sorted, counted and talked about what they had found, and completed the BTC's Litter Collection Data Sheets.

The Bruce Trail has become an important part of student learning at BDPS, a UNESCO Associated School where sustainability and global citizenship are integrated into the curriculum. The litter audit, hikes and other learning activities on the Trail are part of a "Learning for a Sustainable Future" project.

Thank you BDPS students for leaving the trail better than you found it!

Special thanks to BDPS teachers for making the Bruce Trail part of students' learning and encouraging them to explore and care for natural spaces in their community.



Dear readers...

After their litter cleanup, the Grade 3/4 students wrote letters to the editor of the Bruce Peninsula Press to encourage others to follow in their footsteps. Here are highlights from a few of those letters:

On April 21 and 20 me and my class went on a Bruce Trail and beach walk/litter pickup. It was fun like always but there was lots of trash... There was mostly plastic items and random things like the following: plastic bags, cigarette butts, plastic lids, containers, bottles, and dog poop bags. That part I was not very happy about. But I think if we all try and do at least one good thing a day, we can help make the world a better place.

– Mabel C

...We saw rusted cans from weeks ago, granola bars from this week and last we found food containers...We found lots of dog bags and random plastics. We found lots and lots of cigar butts. Please stop throwing those on the ground! Most importantly, we have to use earth friendly wrappers and make sure we don't drop garbage. If we do drop it make sure to pick It up. Thanks! The animals will thank you!

– Owen C

... I think most of the trash came from people that were not wanting to hold it and take it to the garbage or recycling... Please don't throw trash on the ground.

– Samuel C

I wanted for you to know that when you go on trails make sure not to throw garbage or recycling in the beautiful forests of the Bruce Peninsula.

Adalyn C



... One day I hope that there will be no more litter on the beach. I enjoyed the litter pick up. I hope we do it again so we can help the earth.

– Ruthie

...The Bruce Trail Club lent us buckets for litter and some people brought gloves. For the Trail pickup there surprisingly wasn't much litter! But the caves and forests were beautiful... Note for everyone at home don't leave litter around help clean it all up! Put your garbage in the garbage can and put your recycling in the bin and use your fruit leftovers for compost.

- Lily W



Twenty-eight boot brush stations have been installed at trailheads along the Bruce Trail to limit the spread of invasive plant species and encourage an important hiking habit.

Invasive plants have many ways of spreading to new areas, including by hitching a ride on people's boots, clothing and pets. Hikers can unknowingly carry plant seeds stuck to our clothes or in the treads of our footwear. As we hike, the seeds fall off and we inadvertently spread unwanted species along the trail.

Invasive species like Garlic Mustard, Common Buckthorn and Dog-strangling Vine are an increasing concern along the Bruce Trail. These hardy plants spread easily and quickly. When they establish themselves in new areas, they can outcompete or hinder the growth of native species, including rare and at-risk species. They drastically reduce the biodiversity of sensitive natural spaces. Preventing spread to new areas minimizes the cost and time associated with eradicating intact infestations.

Boot brush stations give hikers a reminder and an opportunity to remove hitchhiking seeds from their boots before and after visiting an area, minimizing the opportunity for the spread of invasive species to other areas. Each station includes an educational sign encouraging hikers to use the built-in brushes at the base to clean their footwear. A gravel reservoir at the base catches fallen seeds and other debris.

Are Boot Brush Stations Effective?

How do we know if these boot brush stations are actually working? While it can't be proven that boot brush stations are 100% effective against the spread of invasive species, an investigation of the seeds found at and near boot brush stations can give us an idea of the species being carried on boot treads.

Researchers from Southern Illinois University designed a project to test the efficacy of boot brush stations. They sampled dirt mounds created under the stations, and the dirt from the nearby trails. Under the stations, they found seeds of 39 different plant species, 14 of which were exotic species. From the dirt along the trails, they found a different community of seeds, suggesting that the brushes did appear to be removing seeds from boots. (Visit naisma.org for more on this project.)

The stations along the Bruce Trail provide an opportunity for future research. In the meantime, the presence of these curious stations can help to raise awareness of the role that hikers play in stopping the spread of invasive species.

Where Can You Find Them?

Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteers and staff have installed 28 boot brush stations in the Peninsula, Toronto, Iroquoia and Niagara sections of the Bruce Trail since 2018. They have been placed in key locations - either where invasive species have already taken hold (and are potential seed sources), or in more pristine areas or restoration sites where avoiding new introductions is key. These stations will continue to be maintained and monitored by volunteers and staff.





Depending on their efficacy and available resources, the program may expand to other locations in future seasons.

Encouraging a New Hiking Habit

As visits to and between natural areas increase, so does the chance that invasives will spread. These boot brush stations are one tool to curb the spread of invasive species by giving hikers the opportunity to take immediate action.

It may seem counterintuitive to clean your boots before heading out on a dirt trail. But making sure your shoes, gear, and pet's paws are clean before entering and leaving a trail can help limit the spread of invasives from site to site. It's an important part of leave no trace hiking. •

How Hikers Can Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

- 1. Start your hike with clean shoes and gear to ensure there were no seeds or plant parts hitchhiking from your last adventure. Use a boot brush station if there is one, before entering an area.
- 2. Stay on marked trails, and keep your dog on a leash. This reduces the chances of picking up invasive 'hitchhikers' and localizes any spread, making management easier.
- 3. After your hike, clean your boots, clothes, gear and pets. Remove mud, seeds, burrs and bugs. Keep a hand-held boot brush in your bag or car to help make this important step a hiking habit.

Invasive Plants on the Move

These three invasive plants are among the targets for boot brush stations along the Bruce Trail. Their seeds can be easily spread by people and animals.







Trail Ambassador Program Expands

As more people are drawn to the Bruce Trail this summer, many will be greeted by the Bruce Trail Conservancy's expanded crew of Trail Ambassadors.

Natural areas along the Bruce Trail continue to see high numbers of users, boosted in part during the pandemic. This has led to increased impacts on the environment and on the trail experience. This summer, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has hired Trail Ambassadors to address some of these impacts and help trail users to have a positive experience while hiking safely and responsibly.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Trail Ambassador program, the team will expand from six Ambassadors in three Club sections to eighteen Ambassadors covering all nine Bruce Trail Club sections.

Working in pairs and focusing their time at popular hotspot destinations, they'll interact with hikers to promote trail etiquette and hiking safety, and raise awareness about the BTC. They'll provide hikers with the information and tools they need to minimize their impact on the surrounding environment, reminding even experienced users of practices that may be getting overlooked.

Together with Club volunteers, Trail Ambassadors will also help with trail maintenance and land stewardship projects. Litter pick up and invasive species monitoring will be a regular part of their daily activities. At the end of the summer, ambassadors will provide reports that will feed into stewardship, maintenance and communication plans for the Trail, and help to improve the Trail Ambassador program.

By both promoting leave no trace practices on site and directly addressing some of the major human impacts, Trail Ambassadors will help to protect the Niagara Escarpment environment and enhance the Bruce Trail experience for all. •











BTC Trail Ambassadors, Summer 2022

Our Trail Ambassadors would love to meet BTC members. Please introduce yourself if you see them on the Trail this summer.

Niagara:	Jacob, Ryan
Iroquoia:	Kat, Megan
Toronto:	Keagan, Charlotte
Caledon Hills:	Alexis, Matt
Dufferin Hi-Land:	Sonia, Breanne
Blue Mountains:	Jeslyn, Kaitlin
Beaver Valley:	Laura, Maggie
Sydenham:	Bess, Emily
Peninsula:	Rhiannon, Vanessa

Responsible Hiking Reminders



As summer adventures on the Bruce Trail beckon, this is a great time for a refresher on how to tread lightly as we hike.



1. Plan Ahead

Research your hike. Check for trail changes. Book any necessary parking reservations. Plan an alternate destination in case you find the trail or trailhead busy. Pack essentials like water, food and clothing layers.



2. Park Safely and Legally

If a trailhead parking lot is full, do not park on the road. Where roadside parking is allowed, look for and follow any signage. Do not block driveways or farm gates.



3. Stay on the Trail

Staying on the marked trail will ensure that you remain safe, sensitive vegetation is not damaged, and relationships with private landowners along the Trail are not strained. Walk in the middle of the trail, even when it's wet or muddy.



4. Pack Out Your Trash

Pack out everything you pack in, even biodegradable items and toilet paper. Bring trash home if bins are full or unavailable. Minimize waste by using reusable containers for your water and snacks.



5. Leave Nature as You Found it

Leave rocks, mushrooms, plants and other natural objects where you find them. Avoid open fires or leaving your mark on trees or rocks. Do not feed or disturb wildlife. Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.



6. Manage Your Pet

Leash your pet at all times on the trail. Pack out the poop. Watch for trail signs showing areas where pets are not allowed.



7. Be Mindful of Private Property

Many landowners graciously allow the Bruce Trail on their property. Trespassing or misuse of the trail could lead to a request to remove the Trail from their land.



8. Welcome Other Trail Users

Everyone's experience in nature is unique and personal. Be considerate of other users. Help encourage an inclusive community of outdoor explorers. Want to Take Next Steps in Responsible Hiking?

Leave the Trail better than you found it:

Carry a garbage bag and (safely) pick up trash you find on your hike. Volunteer for the BTC's litter project (see page 10).

Clean your boots, gear, and pets before and after your hike:

Help prevent the spread of invasive species by removing mud and hitchhiking seeds (see pages 12-13).

Share responsibly on social media:

Share your commitment to responsible hiking, on the trail and off.

Show thanks to those who are practicing responsible hiking. See more at brucetrail.org/pages/social-media-guidelines

We can protect the Niagara Escarpment while exploring all the Bruce Trail has to offer by following these tips to minimize our impact.



As a boy, I used to gaze at the Niagara Escarpment from the living room window of my family's home in Clarksdale, on the west side of Burlington.

The view is one of my earliest memories. I never wondered what lay beyond the ridge, what more distant horizons my future self might eventually explore, only that I enjoyed looking at the rocky, forested wall at the end of a stretch of empty fields. Clarksdale was a new suburb then. My family moved in when I was four years old in 1955 and stayed for four years. I've since lived in many other cities and provinces, and

the memory returned to me only when a Collingwood friend told me about the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

I live in Toronto now. I bought a membership and reference guide, and on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend decided to hike the first 20 kilometres of the Iroquoia Section from Grimsby. I don't own a car but I live next to Union Station. My friend said she had never heard of anybody relying **Bruce Trail Story**

Our Bruce Trail community abounds with stories.

We want to hear yours.

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 Conservancy Magazine. Essay, poem, lyrics, journal, blog - your story can take any of these forms. Details at brucetrail.org/pages/ your-bruce-trail-story or contact communications@brucetrail.org

on public transit to hike the Bruce Trail but encouraged me to try.

I took a GO train to Burlington, a GO bus to the Grimsby stop at Casablanca Boulevard and the QEW, and a taxi to the trailhead. It was a beautiful fall day. Families were ambling up the escarpment and then pausing to take pictures at the lookout points. I followed along, not realizing that to cover 20 kilometres in one day I had better get going. That was my first Bruce Trail lesson. The distance to Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek was far - much farther, with all the ups and downs, than even the literal map distance. Anyway, I made it. From Battlefield House, I caught the #5 bus to the Hamilton GO station for the ride home, and I was sore for the next three days.

After that my hikes were shorter. By studying GO train schedules, Hamilton bus routes, and Bruce Trail maps, I worked out 13- to 15-kilometre segments. From where I had left off, I advanced to Claremont Access in Hamilton, to Sherman Falls in Ancaster, to Sydenham Street in Dundas, and to Waterdown Road in Waterdown.

For a Bruce Trail hiker without a car, Waterdown looked like the end of the line, but by then I wanted to finish the section. I aspired to complete an end-to-end. The problem was that hiking the next 14 kilometres from Waterdown would land me in isolated farm country near Mount Nemo on Walker's Line. I might not be able to get a taxi back and might not even get a phone signal. An idea struck me. On my next trip, I took a taxi from Waterdown to Walker's Line and hiked the trail back to Waterdown.

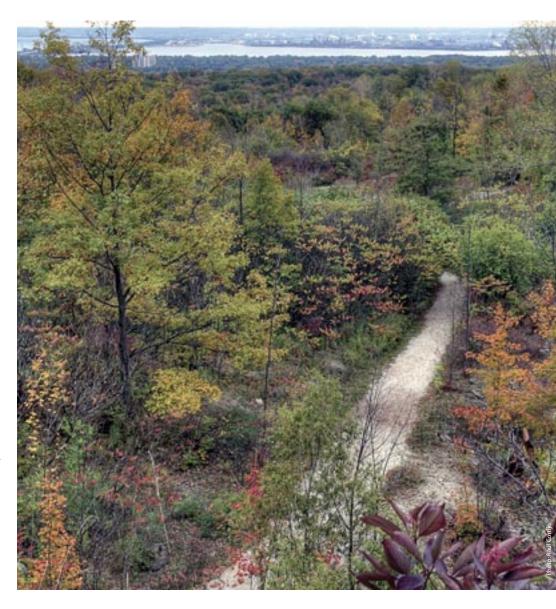
By then I had covered 85 of Iroquoia's 122 kilometres. To shave off another 10, I took the GO bus to Milton, rode my bicycle to Kelso Conservation Area and hiked the final stretch. A gap of 27 kilometres remained. It seemed far, much farther than from Grimsby to Stoney Creek. If I got tired halfway I'd be stranded, but by then I was an experienced hiker and in good shape. I thought I could do it. I notified friends in Ancaster of my plans, took a train to Burlington, caught a taxi to Walker's Line, and set out. Fog covered the first stretch. The air felt damp. The forecast called for a high of eight degrees, a raw day, but I made

good progress through Mount Nemo, Yaremko-Ridley Park, Crawford Lake Conservation Area, and Rattlesnake Point, all the way to Appleby Line. From there I got a taxi to the Milton GO station and arrived safely home.

Now my kitchen cupboard door displays an Iroquoia End-to-End badge. When I look at it, I sometimes think of one excursion in particular. On the trail beyond Waterdown, I suddenly realized that I was traversing the ridge I had stared at as a child. To my right, I could see Lake Ontario and the Burlington Skyway, which I remembered passing sometimes in the family car in 1958 when the bridge was being built. Below me straight ahead I recognized my old Clarksdale neighbourhood. I couldn't pick out the exact street – it was too far away – but a wave of sensations swept

through me. I was feeling energized by the walk and crisp autumn air, and for weeks I had been gaining an affinity for the topography and vegetation of the Niagara Escarpment. Staring down at my old neighbourhood, I could easily imagine a small boy looking back up from a living-room window, and I felt a special connection to myself as a child. •

John Goddard is a Toronto Bruce Trail Club member, journalist and author. He filmed his End-to End of the Toronto section – getting to and from hikes by public transit and bicycle – in a series of informative videos. Check them out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCRYPBOQhCY



Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

Protecting land on the Niagara Escarpment is a year-round activity. As you read this, Bruce Trail Conservancy staff and volunteers are busy identifying, negotiating and coordinating land acquisition agreements that will create new protected natural areas along the Bruce Trail.

While we highlight some of these urgent opportunities in our fundraising campaigns, like Colpoy's Bay East Nature Reserve, there are other equally important properties we are simultaneously working to protect. We must often act quickly to purchase land for conservation before the opportunity is lost. Donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy throughout the year help to sustain our efforts and act quickly when opportunities arise.

We are happy to report that donor support has made these three new protected natural areas possible.

Colpoy's Bay East Nature Reserve - Peninsula section Wiarton area, Map 36*

402 acres | 1.7 km of Bruce trail Optimum Route
Thanks to the collective efforts of more than 650 donors, the vital forests of Colpoy's Bay East Nature Reserve will endure, benefitting generations to come with their tremendous beauty and biodiversity.





Colpoy's Bay East Nature Reserve is flush with iconic Niagara Escarpment features including interior forest, treed talus, caves and crevices. Naturally buffered from human structures and open areas, the interior forest habitat at Colpoy's Bay East is home to rare and at-risk species including Butternut, Louis's Baneberry, and Eastern Wood-Pewee.



The property also features treed talus and cliff communities which are important and rare ecosites in Ontario and ideal habitats for a variety of snakes, salamanders, and ferns. The caves and crevices on the property provide sheltered sites for vulnerable bat species to hibernate over the winter months.



Colpoy's Bay East Nature Reserve, when combined with neighbouring protected natural areas, creates more than 12 km of uninterrupted conservation land containing the Bruce Trail. Connecting fragmented pieces of land provides critical habitat for wildlife like Fishers and Black Bears who rely on large, contiguous forest areas for their long-term survival.

For many years this property's owner generously allowed the Bruce Trail to cross their land. Their thoughtful decision to sell the property to the Bruce Trail Conservancy will permanently secure 1.7 km of Bruce Trail Optimum Route and more than 2 km of side trail while protecting valuable habitats along the Niagara Escarpment.



Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas continued

Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve - Caledon Hills section Mono Cliffs, Map 19

98 acres | 956 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route Located south of the popular Mono Cliffs Provincial Park, Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve secures nearly a full kilometre of the Bruce Trail and protects several valuable ecosystems including interior forest, wetlands, and karst landscape.

A thick stand of Eastern White Cedar provides important wintering grounds for Whitetailed Deer, after which this nature reserve is named. Other forest ecosites on the property include a mature Sugar Maple forest and a conifer plantation.

Two naturalized ponds on the property are surrounded by meadow marsh. These wetlands are an important breeding habitat for frogs and wetland birds like Common Yellowthroat and Wood Duck.

The southern part of the property contains a significant area of karst landscape. Here, the worn, rocky terrain reveals hidden crevices and rushing watercourses carving through the ground's surface. The karst acts as both a water purifier and a carbon sink for the area.

Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve adds to local ecological linkages and is part of a larger natural area extending from the Orangeville Reservoir north to Mono Centre and east beyond Hockley Valley.





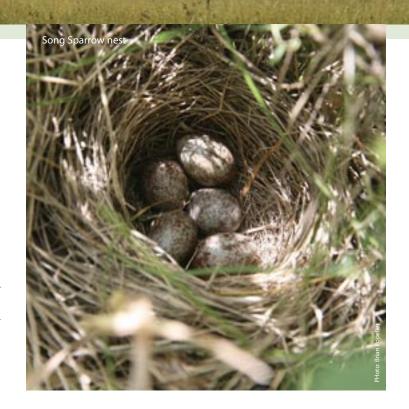
Avalon Meadow - Blue Mountains section

Devil's Glen, Map 22

3.7 acres | 183 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route
Avalon Meadow is a small scenic property adjacent to Devil's
Glen Provincial Park. This newly protected natural area is
primarily meadow habitat, featuring tallgrass species and
native wildflowers including Canada Goldenrod, New
England Aster, and Panicled Aster. Song Sparrows and Field
Sparrows nest and forage in the open space. A small patch of
Sugar Maple forest along the edge of the meadow includes at
least one Butternut tree, an endangered species in Ontario
and Canada.

The Bruce Trail has crossed the property for several years through a generous handshake agreement with the landowner. Now this 183 m of trail is secured in perpetuity, offering views of the surrounding rolling hills, a safe crossing of County Road 124, and a connection to protected natural spaces. •

* All map numbers and kilometre references refer to those found in The Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide, Edition 30



Explore BTC Protected Areas in the Bruce Trail App

Just where are the Bruce Trail Conservancy's protected natural areas? Use the Bruce Trail App to find out and get a bird's-eye view of our growing conservation corridor.

The Bruce Trail App is best known as a navigational tool, but you can also use the app to explore the Bruce Trail Conservancy's 300+ nature reserves and other protected natural areas.

Select "BTC Protected Areas" in your map options for the app and look for the green and white diamond markers indicating each property. With multiple map backgrounds to choose from, you can learn more about what lies within and around the boundaries of each area.

As each new area comes into our care, we add it to the app and you can witness the growth of our conservation corridor.

Visit brucetrail.org/pages/bruce-trail-app for details.

A note on visiting: Most BTC protected natural areas are accessible to hikers along the Bruce Trail or our side trails. However, some areas currently have no trail on them and are not accessible to the public. You can use the app to easily see which BTC protected natural areas have trail on them.





By Antoin Diamond, BTC Vice President of Land Acquisition

During my hikes recently, I've been thinking a lot about the future, and the past.

Since I joined the Bruce Trail Conservancy's land acquisition team 15 years ago, development along the Niagara Escarpment has been steadily growing. Land is highly prized by many, which makes our mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever that much more significant. Having the Bruce Trail nestled among growing communities is truly a natural treasure.

Over the years, the Bruce Trail Conservancy has experienced incredible successes, not only in securing 70% of the Bruce Trail permanently, but also in growing our conservation corridor. The work of our founders not only started an incredible legacy, but also led a conservation movement in Ontario.

Imagine what the Escarpment would look like today if the founders hadn't started their efforts 60 years ago? Or how the progress of the Trail would have been impacted without the generosity of landowners.

These moments of reflection often happen as I'm hiking on the Bruce Trail. I take in the surrounding landscape and make note of what has changed. I allow myself to imagine how it would look today if the land hadn't been secured.

Would houses be closer? How fragmented would the land have become? What would have been the impact on the local

In those moments, the joy of preserving land for conservation fills me with gratitude. It feels good knowing that the Trail will be there forever.

We are so fortunate that throughout the Bruce Trail Conservancy's history, forward-thinking supporters have acted to benefit future generations. One of these actions that has struck me deeply is the choice many have made to leave a gift in their will to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. What a personal and powerful decision. I have seen firsthand how these gifts have made a tremendous difference in our efforts.

It may be hard to imagine the impact of a gift so far into the future, but I can tell you that our vision to secure the Bruce Trail within a permanently protected conservation corridor is a longterm one. It will require a source of dedicated funds to ensure this important work for conservation continues well into the future.

The impact of a gift in will is immeasurable. It can enable the Bruce Trail Conservancy to continue to act quickly when opportunities arise, and ensure that the Niagara Escarpment will be cared for in perpetuity. It can bring joy to future generations.

I encourage all those who have felt a special connection to the Bruce Trail, and who reflect on ways to make the world a better place, to consider including a gift in their will to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. May we all be inspired to build on the work of past generations, and together secure this natural legacy permanently. •

To learn more about leaving a legacy gift in your will, or to notify us about your gift, please contact Gloria Vidovich at gvidovich@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 248, or visit brucetrail.org/pages/gift-in-your-will



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

A goodbye and new horizons for Kevin Durfy

This June we bid farewell to Kevin Durfy, BTC Director of Finance, who is retiring after 11 years at the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC).

Kevin joined the BTC staff in 2011, and five years later became the organization's first Director of Finance and a foundational member of the leadership team. During Kevin's tenure he stewarded the organization's finances through remarkable growth, helping to build the BTC into what it is today. His accounting expertise and hard work ensured that the organization's finances were managed, tracked and reported with skill, care and transparency.

Kevin has been an invaluable support to BTC staff in all departments, to the board of directors, and to Bruce Trail Clubs. He developed processes to increase our financial effectiveness, efficiency and capability, and introduced new accounting software for use by the BTC and Clubs. He worked closely with Club Treasurers through the years to facilitate consistent approaches to finances across all nine Clubs.

When he wasn't crunching the numbers, Kevin could often be found behind his camera capturing special moments at BTC events, or landscapes at our BTC protected natural areas. We're so grateful that he shared this talent and creativity this way, and that his photos will add to the legacy he leaves with the BTC.

Reflecting on his time at the BTC, Kevin shared, "These past 11 years have been an incredible personal journey and an exciting time of change for the BTC. I will leave knowing that the BTC is in a very healthy state and have every confidence in the future of the organization. Great results lie ahead."

Kevin's dedication and commitment to the BTC and the Trail has been tremendous. We will miss his guidance, expertise, warmth, and humor. We thank him for everything he has done for the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Bruce Trail Clubs, and our supporters.

Please join us in extending best wishes to Kevin in his adventures to come. •



FOR THE LATEST TRAIL CHANGE AND NOTICES, VISIT BRUCETRAIL.ORG/TRAIL_CHANGES

Trail Changes & Notices Online

Did you know? Our Trail changes online are up-to-date and searchable. You can search by Map Number, Club Section, Edition of Guide Affected, and even by text in the description. Visit brucetrail.org/trail_changes

Bruce Trail App Has All Latest Trail Changes

Our new Bruce Trail App for iOS and Android devices lets you have the most up-to-date trail data on your phone. Trail reroutes, temporary closures, parking details, and BTC protected areas are updated regularly and are ready when you open your app. Visit brucetrail.org/pages/bruce-trail-app for details.

Reservations Required

Be prepared to make parking reservations at some parks and conservation areas along the Bruce Trail. Parking reservations are currently required for:

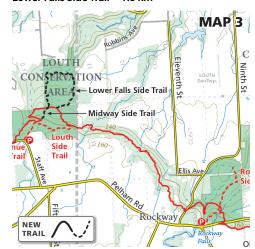
- Conservation Halton (conservationhalton.ca; parksvisit.ca): Mount Nemo, Rattlesnake Point, Crawford Lake, Hilton Falls CAs
- Ontario Parks (reservations.ontarioparks.com):
 Forks of the Credit, Mono Cliffs
- Hamilton Conservation Authority (conservationhamilton.ca): Spencer Gorge CA (Webster Falls, Tew Falls, Dundas Peak)
- Credit Valley Conservation (cvc.ca): Cheltenham Badlands CA, Belfountain CA
- Bruce Peninsula National Park (pc.gc.ca/bruce): Halfway Dump and at the Grotto / Cyprus Lake
- Lion's Head, McCurdy Drive (www.northernbruceparking.ca)
- Little Cove Road (www.northernbruceparking.ca)

NIAGARA

Map 3 - Louth Conservation Area, New Side Trails

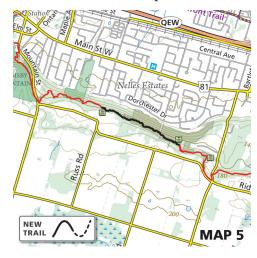
In cooperation with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, two new side trails have been established within Louth Conservation Area.

Midway Side Trail = 215 metres Lower Falls Side Trail = 1.6 km



Map 5 - Ridge Road, Reroute

Thanks to the generosity of landowners along Dorchester Drive in Grimsby, 590 m of Bruce Trail has been removed from Ridge Road East and rerouted to the Escarpment brow through BTC protected natural areas and private land.



TORONTO

Map 14 - Terra Cotta Overnight Rest Area, Reopened

The Overnight Rest Area at Terra Cotta CA which was temporarily closed in August 2021 reopened in May 2022. Hikers must contact Credit Valley Conservation at least 24 hours in advance of their stay (1-800-367-0890,

parks@cvc.ca). No fee. No fires are permitted. Flush washrooms are available at the Park Store during hours of operation. Vault toilet is available at Area 5 overnight. Please practice no-trace camping. (Location: km 40.4; N 43.715984, W 79.966183)

CALEDON HILLS

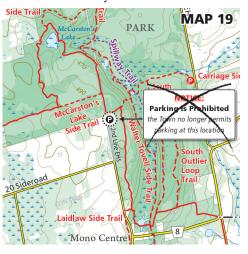
Map 14 - Belfountain Conservation Area, Reopened

Belfountain Conservation Area reopened June 8, 2022, after being closed since April 2021 to complete critical restoration work. Reservations are required. See Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) website for details: https://cvc.ca/discover-ourparks/belfountain-conservation-area/

DUFFERIN HI-LAND

Map 19 - 2nd Line EHS, Parking restrictions lifted

Limited roadside parking on 2nd Line EHS north of 20 Sideroad is now available (6 cars). Do not block entrances. When no space is available, consider using the large parking area down the road at Mono Community Centre.



Map 19 - 25 Sideroad, Parking restrictions lifted

Limited roadside parking on south side of 25 Sideroad where the Walter Tovell Side Trail intersects with the road (6 cars). Do not block gated entrance. When no space is available, consider using the large parking area just up the road on 2nd Line EHS (at Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve).



Map 20 - 1st Line East, New recommended parking

Roadside parking on 1st Line East. Park on the inside of the curve on the south side. Capacity for 7 cars.



BLUE MOUNTAINS

Map 22 - Balsam Wetlands Nature Reserve, Reroute

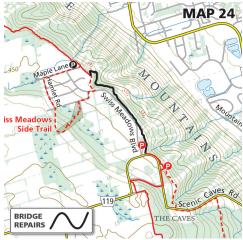
The main Bruce Trail has been routed off Conc 10 South Nottawasaga through the BTC's new Balsam Wetlands Nature Reserve, as shown on the map.

New Bruce Trail = 5.3 km Walker Aggregates Side Trail = 700 m Franks Lime Kiln Side Trail = 190 m



Map 24 - Blue Mountain, Bridge Repair Blue Mountain Resort is undertaking repairs on footbridges along the Bruce Trail paralleling Swiss Meadows Blvd. Work began mid-May and is expected to last a few weeks. Hikers are advised to

last a few weeks. Hikers are advised to follow Swiss Meadows Blvd as an alternate route to complete this stretch. This alternate route will not be blazed.



BEAVER VALLEY

Map 26 - Eugenia Falls, Winter Closure lifted The main Bruce Trail through Eugenia Falls Conservation Area reopened April 30, after a winter closure (area outlined in the Winter 2021-22 issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine).

Map 27 - Sideroad 16C, Parking Prohibited Parking is now prohibited at this location as per the Township. This is no longer a Bruce Trail recommended parking location.



PENINSULA

Map 38 - McKay's Harbour, Camping Prohibited

The McKay's Harbour overnight rest area (ORA) at Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve has been closed indefinitely by Ontario Parks. McKay's Harbour Side Trail remains open.



Map 39/40 - Borchardt Road, Reroute Sparked by the BTC's protection of Cape Chin Woods Nature Reserve in 2019 and arrangements with neighbouring landowners, this new route has taken 670 metres of Bruce Trail off the road.



New Parking Reservations at Lion's Head and Little Cove

Reservations are required from May 15-Oct 15 to park in the McCurdy Drive parking lot in Lion's Head (Map 38, km 81.6) and in the Little Cove parking lot on Little Cove Road (Map 42, km 158.9). Both can be booked at www.northernbruceparking.ca

When parking at Little Cove you will also be required to display proof of a Parks Canada Discovery Pass or parking pass from another Parks Canada location from that day. If you do not yet have a Parks Canada Pass, you can purchase a day-use pass through the online booking platform. •

Two young Bruce Trail explorers were inspired to create these pieces of art featuring seasonal scenes on the Trail. Thank you Anaia and Danielle for sharing your creativity with us!

> A "spring" in my step. Ross McLean Loop Anaia M. Age 10, Owen Sound

KIDS' CORNER SUBMISSIONS

Kids, do you have a drawing, poem, story, photo, hike review, or other creation inspired by the Bruce Trail? We'd love to share it in an upcoming Kids' Corner. Send your creations to communications@brucetrail.org. Don't forget to include your name, age, description of your entry, and permission from your guardian.





Winter at Smokey Hollow Falls. Grindstone Creek Danielle G. Age 9, Hamilton



We are grateful to all 1,058 donors who made a donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy between January 1 and March 31, 2022.

Thank you to those who gave \$250 - \$9,999

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Bill Nestorovich

Bruce Trail Conservancy General Store

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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! Poster Size: 23.94" x 35.94" \$8.85

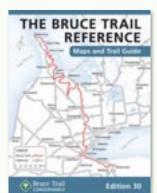
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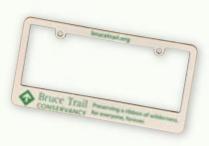
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BTC MAP BUFF

\$24.95

Multifunctional headware from BUFF. The design features an overview map of Bruce Trail. 100% polyester microfiber.

Enamel pin replica of our diamond trail marker for the Main Trail (white), or Side Trails (blue). 1 inch x 1 inch. \$5.00



CANVAS DRAWSTRING BAG

17.5" x 14" \$15.00



BTC DOG LEASH

For our canine Bruce Trail fans. 6 ft woven leash. \$19.95





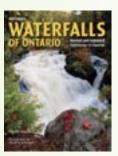


BTC BOOKSHELF

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



SECRETS OF SYDENHAM \$20.00



WATERFALLS OF ONTARIO, 3RD ED \$29.95



PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO \$32.95



BUTTERFLIES OF ONTARIO & EASTERN CANADA \$28.95

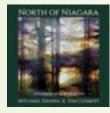


TRAIL TO THE BRUCE \$49.00



BIRDS OF ONTARIO \$28.95

Kids' Corner



NORTH OF NIAGARA CD

Twelve classical music pieces inspired by the Bruce Trail, composed by Academy Award winner Mychael Danna and his music partner Tim Clement. Available as a limited edition CD or on digital platforms everywhere. \$19.98



SARAH'S DINOSAUR \$5.00

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 Not available online.



Learn more about End-to-Ends at brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/end-to-ends



