



# Caledon Comment

Winter 2022/23

Vol 58, No 4

## All-Natural Christmas Trees for Sale

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## 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE

**PRESIDENT**  
Marilyn Ross  
marilyn76@rogers.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Sandra Green  
sgreenhikes@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**  
Sally Cohen  
salydave445@gmail.com

**TREASURER**  
Andree Zeritsch  
andree\_zeritsch@rogers.com

**BTC CLUB DIRECTOR**  
Heidi Bischof  
heidibischof777@gmail.com

**HIKING DIRECTOR**  
Rob Martin  
rojmart5@gmail.com

**TRAIL DIRECTOR**  
Heather Murch  
heather.murch@hotmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**  
Lynn Dobson  
Chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com

**LANDOWNER RELATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Louise Carberry  
louise.carberry@rogers.com

**FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR**  
Linda Vezina  
vezina.linda@gmail.com

**LAND STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR**  
Gary Hall  
garyhall@rogers.com

**PUBLICITY DIRECTOR**  
Vacant

**VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR**  
Lynn Dobson  
Chbtcvolunteerdirector@gmail.com

**EVENTS DIRECTOR**  
Vacant

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Bob Ferguson  
bobferguson@gmail.com

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**  
Danielle Koren  
Danielle@koren.ca

Peter Leeney  
pfleeney@gmail.com

Janice McClelland  
janicedon86@gmail.com

Diane McKenzie  
dimckenzie@bell.net

## Support Volunteers

**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR**  
Louise Porter  
louise.porter@sympatico.ca

**ARCHIVIST**  
Helen Billing  
helen.billing.ca@gmail.com

**BADGE COORDINATOR**  
Colleen Darrell  
badges@caledonbrucestrail.org

**CAL E-NEWS EDITOR**  
Kristina Zeromskiene  
calenews@caledonbrucestrail.org

**CALEDON COMMENT EDITOR**  
Jean Kerins  
jeankerins@yahoo.ca

**LANDOWNER RELATIONS ASST.**  
Elizabeth Staite  
staite@rogers.com

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATORS**  
Colleen Darrell  
Colleen.darrell@gmail.com

Danielle Koren  
Danielle@koren.ca

Kristina Zeromskiene  
kristina@kris-egis.com

**STUDENT HIKING PROGRAM**  
Elizabeth Ganong  
studenthikecoordinator@caledonbrucestrail.org

**TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**  
Dave Moule  
salydave445@gmail.com

**WEBMASTER**  
Dave Guzda  
webmaster@caledonbrucestrail.org

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news and photos from the trail.



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is our club email newsletter that  
keeps members up to date on club  
issues and activities between edi-  
tions of the Caledon Comment.  
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Visit our website, [www.caledonbrucestrail.ca](http://www.caledonbrucestrail.ca) for lots  
more information about us, including event news,  
hike listings and to sign up for our blog.



**DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING EDITION:**  
**January 10, 2023**  
Email your submissions to:  
[jeankerins@yahoo.ca](mailto:jeankerins@yahoo.ca)

## ADVERTISING

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## President's Message—Marilyn Ross

I hope you all had a chance to get out and enjoy some wonderful hiking during the great summer and fall weather.

The Caledon Hills Club has resumed several in person activities including a Fundraising River Cruise event which was enjoyed by many. See page 6. This exciting event, planned and organized by Peter Ostrowsky and Linda Vezina, took place along the Grand River and included a great hike beforehand and a lovely dinner on board the boat.

Another fun fundraising event was the second annual Prediction Hike which took place this year in Hockley Valley. Once again it was planned and organized by Sandy Green and Sally Cohen. See page 9.

This year all 9 Bruce Trail Clubs were able to hold Bruce Trail Day in person and our club event marshalled at the 5 Sideroad parking lot. Over 75 hikers enjoyed the many hikes provided and more than 20 volunteers, under the leadership of organizer Danielle Koren, were present to ensure visitors had a great time. I am sure the participants in these events have enjoyed seeing their hiking friends again. See page 13.

The Biodiversity Committee has been busy as well. Two boot scrubbers have been made by Norm Randle and one was installed at the entrance to the trails at the 5 Sideroad parking lot. This gave Bruce Trail Day hikers a chance to try out the scrubber prior to heading off on their hike and they were given information on the importance of cleaning their boots to reduce the tracking of seeds from invasive species along the trail. See page 12.

We will again hold our annual Christmas Trees sales at Hockleycrest Farm each weekend starting Nov 26 until Dec 18 or until the trees, planters and Grinch trees are sold out. See cover page.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Winter Hike, Social and Potluck event on Sunday Dec 4 where we will hear a presentation by Beth Gilhespy as well as enjoy a hike and our fine dining which we will all provide. I look forward to seeing as many as possible at this fun event. See page 7.

## PLEASE HELP REDUCE COSTS!

**IN 2020 THE CLUB SPENT \$4604 ON PRINTING AND POSTING THE CALEDON COMMENT.**

**DESPITE RISING PRICES, WE EXPECT THIS OUTLAY WILL DROP WELL BELOW \$3000 IN 2022 BECAUSE OF EVERYONE WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC VERSION INSTEAD OF THE PRINTED VERSION. THESE SAVINGS GO DIRECTLY TO FURTHERING THE BTC'S MISSION OF *PRESERVING A RIBBON OF WILDERNESS, FOR EVERYONE, FOREVER.***

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**HIKING IN CORFU, GREECE**

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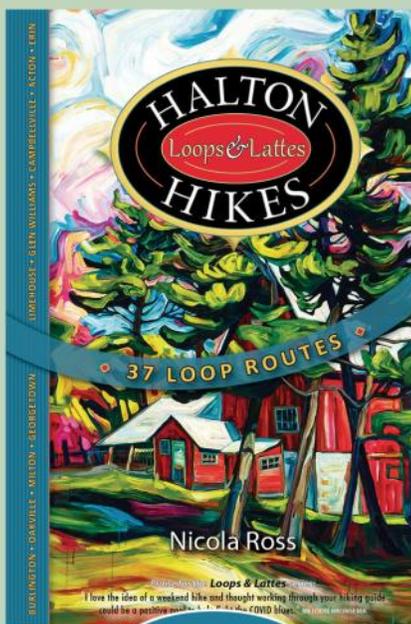
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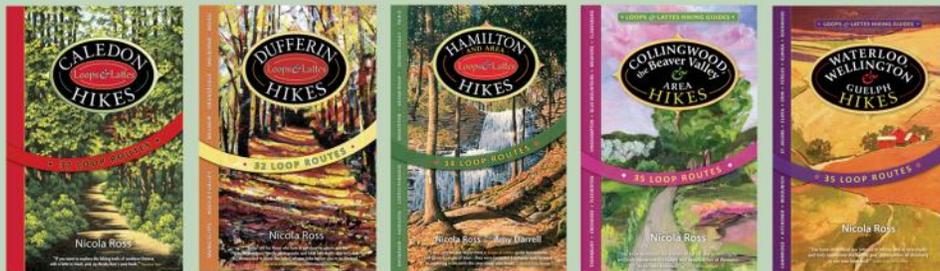
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Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club  
presents

## The New Canadian Curling Club



WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26, 2023 | 8 P.M.  
Theatre Orangeville | 87 Broadway Ave, Orangeville  
(519) 942-3423 ext. 2800 or 1-800-424-1295

TICKETS \$45 EACH

Tickets: Through Theatre Orangeville by April 1, 2023. Please identify yourself as part of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club group.

If you are interested in a pre-show dinner at 5 p.m. at a local restaurant, please email Anne Broadhead at [broadheadanne@gmail.com](mailto:broadheadanne@gmail.com).

*All funds raised by the club go to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission of "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever".*

## Grand River Luncheon Cruise – by Peter Ostrowski

We have always hiked on land, but this time things were different. As part of our club's fundraising efforts and to celebrate the end of summer and Covid restrictions we thought a leisurely cruise through some of Southern Ontario's prime rural countryside was in order.



Fourteen hikers arrived early on September 11, 2022 to explore a section of the Grand Valley Trail with hike leader extraordinaire, Bill McDonald, leading the pack. The friendly group followed the winding path beside Big Creek, enjoying the country setting and working up an appetite for the greatly anticipated cruise meal, served while cruising the reaches of the Grand River south of Brantford.

The weather was perfect, the scenery green and rural, and the conversation engaging. The captain and serving crew provided entertaining backdrop and terrific service (did I mention the bar?) with a choice of three main entrees. Delicious!

The Grand River watershed is the largest inland river system in Southern Ontario, and includes an intensive agricultural area, with farms making up 70% of the watershed, and much of the rest with the Carolinian Forest. The forest canopy we floated through was just showing signs of changing colour and we did see many of what might have been great blue herons.



Notably, the Grand River is home to the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation.

Close to 90 species at risk are found in the watershed, 90 species of fish are found in the river, and close to 250 species of birds call the area home.

Over 40 participants filled the Grand River Princess, and our fundraising objectives were met.

Thanks go out to the Grand River Dinner Cruises for hosting and providing professional services, to Linda Vezina Fundraising Chair for organizing, Bill McDonald for leading our hike, and to Peter Ostrowski for brainstorming this refreshing idea.



All Caledon Bruce Trail members are invited to our

# Winter Hike, Social & Potluck

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**  
**10:00 - 3:00**  
**@ CALEDON VILLAGE PLACE**  
**18313 Hurontario Street**

Plan to attend the whole event or drop in at your convenience.

Meet in the parking lot of Caledon Village Place at 9:45 for a hike.  
Hikers will then drive to the hike starting point. (Hike: 1 1/2 hours)

At 12:30, appetizers will be served at Caledon Village Place.  
The BTC Merchandise Table, Silent Auction and Raffle will open.

**Potluck Meal**

**Guest Speaker: Beth Gilhespy**

**Dessert and Prize Winner Announcements**

Share a potluck dish. List the ingredients.

Bring items for the silent auction/raffle.

CHBTC Designer T-shirts can be purchased for \$25.00 each.

Contact Nellie and Sandy at [info@caledonbrucetrail.org](mailto:info@caledonbrucetrail.org) for further details.

Our guest speaker, Beth Gilhespy has titled her presentation "Reflections on Wildlife and Wild Space Conservation". Beth will be taking us on a visual journey of endangered wildlife and wild space preservation. Beth has been a conservation professional for over 30 years. She is currently Executive Director of the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy, which secures funds for Toronto Zoo endangered species conservation programs. Between 2004 and 2018 Beth was Chief Executive Officer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, where she oversaw the preservation of more than 6,500 acres of land along the Niagara Escarpment. Beth also served on the Niagara Escarpment Commission from 2017 to 2019. Prior to her work at the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Beth worked for 15 years as a consultant specializing in the environmental impact of toxic chemicals. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Guelph.

# Elevate your adventure.

Use code  
**CALEDONBT**  
and for each tour booked by  
your club for 2023, we will donate  
\$25 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

*Let's hike in 2023!*

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## Prediction Hike Fundraiser 2022

The spectacular Hockley Valley Provincial Nature Reserve was the setting for this year's event. Fall had officially arrived two days before. Bursts of red, orange, and yellow dotted the forest. It was a jacket and gloves in the morning and stuff them in your backpack later kind of day. Families, friends, and badge seekers from sister Bruce Trail Clubs, Niagara, Iroquoia, Toronto, Dufferin, and Peninsula joined, filling the parking lot to capacity.

Hikers chose to complete one of two predetermined "hilly" hikes, a distance of approximately 7 km or 20 km. At registration, they had provided a personal "to-the-second" prediction of how long it would take to complete. With volunteers stationed at every junction, the hikers strategically hiked the trail to finish as close to their predictions as possible. No time, pace, and/or distance technology was used during the hike. Photos were definitely allowed, with a promise not to peek at the time. The trails were well groomed, thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Club's top notch trail maintenance team.



A time of celebration was enjoyed by all at the end. Hikers animatedly compared their experiences on the trail. Fresh samosas, delicious home baked cookies, and lemonade made it a party.

Lily, a recent immigrant to Canada. was invited by some friends to join them on the 20 km hike. This was her first long hike ever. She started with a smile, grimaced a few times in between and ended with a huge smile. Her perseverance and positive attitude were inspirational.

Everyone received one of our collectible badges designed by Colleen Darrell. Both "Prediction Pete" and "Prediction Parnika" proved to be coveted additions to badge collections.

Hikers who completed their hikes closest to their predicted finish times were awarded a gift certificate from either the Black Birch Restaurant or Am Braigh Farm. For the 7 km hike, Carole Jenkins won for finishing 10 seconds faster than her predicted time. Bev Belcher and Alyssa Besenyodi hiked together, completing their 7 km hike 1 minute 37 seconds over their prediction, sharing second place. For being 36 seconds faster than their planned finish, 20 km hiking buddies, Kim Gravelle and Betty Buck were the closest to their predicted outcome.

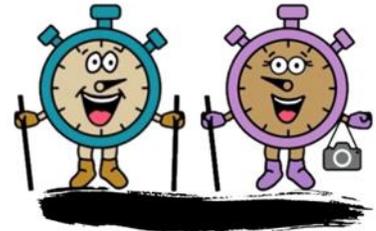
We thank these two highly recommended establishments for their kind and generous donations to the event. For fine dining and a casual atmosphere, plan a visit to the Black Birch Restaurant located on at 30738 Hockley Road. <http://www.blackbirchrestaurant.ca/#covid-19-takeout> Looking to buy locally grown organic vegetables and eggs, head out to Am Braigh Farm at 873393 Fifth Line EHS. <https://ambraighfarm.com/>



Of course, events like this only happen when enthusiastic volunteers get together. Thank you to the team of 21 volunteers for helping to make this one so fun and filled with joy.

Over \$1000.00 was raised and has been donated to the Club for trail maintenance and development.

The story of Prediction Pete and Prediction Parnika is not over. We look forward to another exciting adventure next year.



Written by Sally Cohen and Sandra Green  
Event Coordinators

For more photos, visit our Caledon Bruce Trail Club Facebook and Instagram accounts.



### Volunteers Needed for the 3rd Annual Craft Workshop to make Grinch Trees

Saturday, November 19th @ 9am AND 1pm at Hockleycrest Farm

If you are interested in attending, you can contact Linda Vezina at 647 774 6469 or email [vezina.linda@gmail.com](mailto:vezina.linda@gmail.com) for more information.

We will be working in a large workshop with large double doors open to the fresh air. Layer up and wear your long johns!

Bring a snack, and some water and be prepared to have some fun!  
We will have hot apple cider and homemade cookies on hand as well.  
There is access to a warm washroom.

I hope to see you on Saturday, November 19th at Hockleycrest Farm - 933445 County Road 18 (Airport Road) Mono, 4.4 km north of Hwy 9 on the east side. Watch for the Hockleycrest sign! Lots of parking outside the workshop. See you there!



## “Fall Colours” End-to-Ends So Much Fun—by Sandy Green, Event Coordinator



Our Board of Directors, Trail Maintenance Workers, and Event Volunteers were so excited and pleased to finally host our “Fall Colours” 2-Day and 3-Day End-to-Ends, after a two year COVID pause.



Close to 100 hikers signed up for our up and down, up up and down down, lumpy and bumpy 72 kilometre Caledon Hills challenge, held over a very glorious, foliage peaking Thanksgiving Weekend.



Put yourself in their shoes. On day one, the 2-day hikers started at Coolihans Sideroad and hiked 37 kilometres north to the Mono Community Centre. On day two, they hiked 35 kilometres from the Badlands to Coolihans. The 3-dayers hiked 27 km north from 5 Sideroad on day one, 21 km from the Badlands to Heartlake Road on day two, and finished the middle 24 km on day three.

Did they have fun?

**YES!**



One of the hikers, Moeyyad Qureshi, introduced me to the “Fun Scale”. (Google says, the scale was devised in 1985 by Rainer Newberry, a geology professor at the University of Alaska.)

I said to Moeyyad, “I hope you are having fun”.



His response went “something” like this...

“On the Fun Scale, I have had Type 1 fun. The landscape is magnificent. I’ve had a good time with my friends and enjoy meeting the enthusiastic volunteers. At times, I have experienced Type 2 fun. This hike is challenging and not always pleasant, yet I will look back with a sense of accomplishment and some fond memories. Right now (huge sigh and wince) I hurt. I don’t want to go on. I don’t feel particularly good and I won’t feel great for a few days, but darn this experience is going to make a great TRAIL TALE.”



I shared this conversation on the bus the next day. After a moment of reflection, the hikers all agreed, they were having fun. When a gorgeous autumn scene caught their sight, they had fun. Spending time with loved ones and making new friends was super fun. The quirky lady with a sunflower on her hat, who often drove by and seemed to pop out of nowhere was fun. And even when their muscles screamed and their feet cried on another ascent or descent, they really were having “fun”.



*Continued on Page 12*



Thank you, hikers for spending your Thanksgiving Weekend in the Caledon Hills.

Thank you, Peter Leeney for “rovering” each day and Dave Moule for getting everyone squeezed into our limited parking spaces. Heather Murch and Fran DeBrabandere, you knew when to sweep and when to back off.



Thank you to our caring, friendly, and generous checkpoint volunteers, Sharon Kerr, Mary-Ellen Cole, Bill Murray, Lynn Dobson, Franca DeAngelis, Fred Nix, Dwayne Green, Simon Arndt, Alex Rubino, Colleen Darrell, Greg Huffman, Heidi Bischof, Peter Ostrowski, Robert Moogk, Mike Fich, Barbara Forster, Jean Trask, John Maxwell, Carol Maxwell, and Sally Cohen.

Sooooooo thankful, we all had FUN!



## Introducing Our New Boot Brush Stations

If you are a regular hiker on the Bruce Trail, you might have noticed a few boot brush stations usually located at trail heads near parking lots. Thanks to the carpentry skills of Norm Randle, the Caledon Hills Club now has two stations – one already installed at the 5 Sideroad parking lot adjacent to the Tai Chi Centre in Mono and the other to be installed at Dunby Road on the Vallis property. In the future we hope to install boot brush stations at all trail heads in the Caledon section.



### Why Boot Brush Stations?

One of the prime threats to biodiversity along the Bruce Trail is the growing prevalence of invasive species like garlic mustard, Dog Strangling Vine, and Wild Chervil (Cow Parsnip) to name a few. Our best defense against invasive species is educating the public to increase their awareness so that they can 1) recognize the various invasives, 2) understand their negative impact on biodiversity and 3) take action to prevent their spread.

### How Can You Help?

One of the simplest ways to prevent the spread of invasive species along our trails is to get in the habit of scrubbing your boots to remove mud, dirt and seeds before heading out on the trail and again at the end of your hike before heading home. Encourage other hikers to follow your example to keep our trails free of invasive species.



## Bruce Trail Day by Danielle Koren

After a two-year pause, many outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers came out to celebrate the annual Bruce Trail Day with us. Blessed with beautiful fall weather, people enjoyed the free guided hikes, family activities and information to help them explore the Bruce Trail.

Celebrating our ribbon of wilderness together, Bruce Trail Day is an annual celebration of the incredible Bruce Trail and the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment, hosted by the Bruce Trail Conservancy at each of its nine Bruce Trail Clubs.

A big thank you to all our volunteers who made this successful day possible and a special thank you to Dixie Orchards, Caledon for donating the fresh and delicious McIntosh apples.



## “How Old is that Tree??” by Janice McClelland

Have you ever wondered, “How old is that tree” as you hiked along a forested section of the Bruce Trail?

I have wondered that many times.

This summer I learned how to determine the probable age of a tree, with the help of the Bruce Trail Conservancy ecologists and assistance from my co-hikers on a Forest Bathing walk.

Here’s how it all started, what the amazing result was...and what I now understand about the relationship between size and age of trees...

I have always enjoyed the music of a stream as it slides and tumbles its way through the forest and then there is the sight of trees standing straight and tall – some very tall – and some with a very large girth.

I was hiking with friends in the Dufferin Highlands section, map 21. We were north of Lavender in an area where the Bruce Trail had secured the land to ensure that the trail will be there forever. Large maples reigned along a fence line – more often than not, there was a wire fence that passed into the tree on one side, disappeared into the trunk and then re-emerged on the far side of the tree’s trunk. They appeared to me to be soldiers who had survived the battle and were still standing strong.

Skip forward to a Forest Bathing walk in June along the Bruce Trail in the Iroquoia section, just north of Britannia Rd. Stately northern red oaks lined our footpath.

A seasoned CHBTC Trail Captain then gave me a tip about the location of what appeared to be a very old maple tree, adjacent to a side trail in the Caledon section. Following the Trail Captain’s directions, I spotted this giant tree.

Adam Brylowski, an Ecologist, at the Bruce Trail Conservancy, had loaned me a Diameter Tape that cleverly converts a circumference measurement to diameter – (a diameter measurement is needed to roughly estimate the age of a tree). On a subsequent Forest Bathing walk, I and my fellow walkers took the time to touch the bark and, using this Diameter Tape, measured the circumference of this old-timer.



Margie Woodgate, Anne Broadhead and Marilyn Ross with an Old Soldier

## How Old is This Tree?? *Continued from Page 14*

Following instructions, we measured the circumference at a point 54 inches up the trunk from the ground.

Taking the circumference reading, I converted it from centimetres to inches and multiplied by the growth factor of 5 for sugar maples. That gave us an approximate age of 277.5 years!!! That means that this maple started life around 1745!!

I subsequently verified my calculations with Adam Brylowski. Adam's response was, "It looks like the calculation is correct to me. That's one big sugar maple!".

Using the same measurement method and calculation, a maple on my home property showed to be roughly 210 years old, starting its life in 1812. (This correlates with the age of the house – built in stages in the mid and late 1800's.)

How does the sugar maple that we measured along the side trail stack up against the age of other sugar maples? Well, it's old - very old - but not the oldest sugar maple in Ontario. That verified pre-eminence goes to a 350 year old sugar maple in Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park in the Peterborough area – a maple not that large in diameter, however, a core sample showed its ring count.

In a recent CBC interview for Sunday Magazine, (available on-line) Doug Larsen, University of Guelph emeritus professor of integrative biology, talks about how he and Pete Kelly studied unspectacular cedars growing along the Niagara Escarpment - where no one expected the trees to be over 150 years old.

In fact they found many ancient cedars, amongst them the oldest living tree in Ontario - a knarled white cedar growing on the cliffs of Lions Head - over 1330 years old, having germinated in 688 AD. This tree started to germinate right after the ice sheet melted in southern Ontario - it saw most of human history... Doug reminds us that we need to be humble to find out how things can be sustainable over the long run.

If you would like to learn more about old trees and their environments, [Ontario's Old Growth Forests](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Michael Henry and Peter Quinby, is recommended. You will learn, as I now have, that tree size and age don't always equate.

To learn more about roughly determining the age of a deciduous tree, type into your browser *estimating a tree's age without cutting* and go to the treehugger website.

Consider joining the CHBTC's Biodiversity Facebook Group and/or join CHBTC Biodiversity walks. You will certainly learn more about the world around you.

Best of all, enjoy the diversity of trees as you hike.

	<b>We Love Hikers!</b>
<p><b>Daily fresh produce</b> <b>Excellent selection of meats</b> <b>Fresh baked buns and breads</b> <b>Store-made deli sandwiches and hot table</b> <b>Only a 4-minute walk south of the Caledon Trailway on Airport Road in Caledon East</b></p>	



## Save the Date

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALES AND MORE AT HOCKLEYCREST FARM – See Cover Page**

**WINTER HIKE, SOCIAL AND POTLUCK—Sunday, December 4th— See Page 7**

**THEATRE ORANGEVILLE FUNDRAISER—Wednesday, April 26, 2023 –See Page 5**

### RESPECT OF THE LAND

1. Hike only along the blazed routes. Do not take short cuts. Use the stiles and do not climb fences.
2. Obey all signage.
3. Always respect the privacy of people living along the Trail. Many landowners graciously allow the Bruce Trail on their property for pedestrian use. Trespassing or misuse of the Trail could lead to a request to remove the Trail from private property.
4. Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out the litter.
5. Leave flowers, plants and trees for others to enjoy.
6. Where dogs are permitted, keep them on a leash and under control at all times.
7. Do not disturb wildlife and farm animals.
8. Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.
9. Everyone's experience in nature is unique and personal. Help encourage an inclusive community of outdoor explorers.

The Niagara Escarpment/Gchi-Bimadina/Kastenhraktátye is the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabek, HuronWendat, Tionontati, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia. Together may we care for this land and each other, drawing upon the strength of our mutual history through peace and friendship, to create a lasting legacy of conservation for generations to come



### The Bruce Trail Conservancy Mission:

**Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.**

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