#### INSIDE: WORLD TRAILS NETWORK

# VOL. 60, NO.2. SPRING 2023ONSERVANCAONSERVANCYMAGAZINE

The Path Ahead: Bruce Trail Conservancy's 2030 Strategy Our Mission Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.



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#### Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine is available digitally.

To receive your magazine by email:

- Fill out the request form at brucetrail.org (About Us > Stay Informed > Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine)
- Call 1-800-665-4453, or
- Email info@brucetrail.org



Cover photo: Bruce Trail through the Iroquoia section, by Brooke Henry

# Bruce Trail

#### BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY 55 Head St., Unit 101, Dundas, ON L9H 3H8 Toll-Free: 1-800-665-4453 Tel: 905-529-6821 Email: info@brucetrail.org Website: brucetrail.org Charitable Registration # 11921 7578 RR0001



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Bruce Trail Founders Raymond Lowes, Dr. Philip R. Gosling, Dr. Norman Pearson, Dr. Robert McLaren

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Chief Executive Officer's Message



Since its inception in the 1960s the Bruce Trail Conservancy has had a unique and powerful model

for protecting the Niagara Escarpment.

We protect and steward natural places and the species that thrive in them, and we encourage people to explore those natural places by walking and caring for our iconic Bruce Trail. We believe that when people are connected to nature, we can achieve better conservation outcomes.

In the last few decades, this premise has been tested to incredible depths. We have experienced significant population growth and rapid development of the Niagara Escarpment. We are bearing witness to the effects of climate change and an incredible decline in global biodiversity. While the challenges are real, our dedication and passion for overcoming them has inspired the creation of a new strategic plan to guide our work to 2030. Led by an aspiration for what is possible, and developed in collaboration with the talented BTC staff, the dedicated BTC board, and the strong support of our nine Bruce Trail Clubs, this new strategy propels us forward to deliver on our mission.

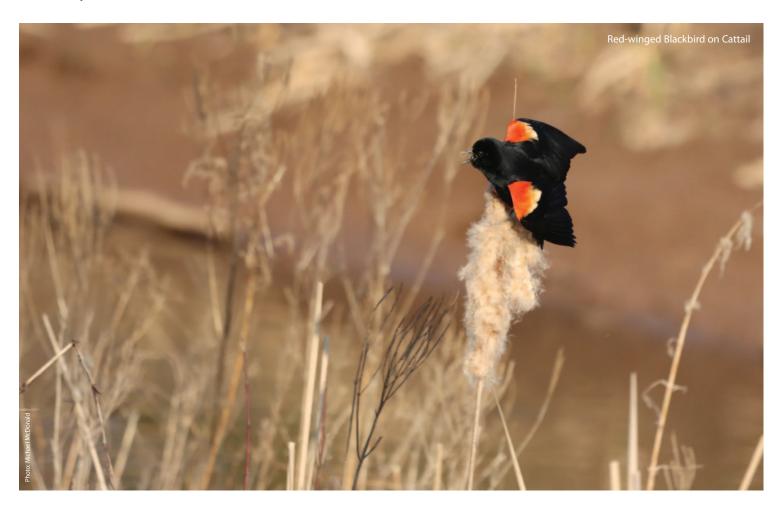
In this issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*, I'm thrilled to introduce the BTC's 2030 Strategy. On pages 10-15 you'll read more about our goals and priorities, how the plan came about, and where it will take us.

The 2030 Strategy will enable us to be a global leader in conservation, stewards of a world-class trail system, and a people-powered organization filled with a diverse group of individuals who share their talents and generosity to make it all happen. While our core activities will remain largely the same, the pace, scale and ambition of our work are expanding significantly.

As we embark on this new strategy, we commit to building an organization that truly welcomes everyone. We also commit to being an organization that understands its role in making Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

Through raising awareness, taking sustainable approaches to conservation, and providing opportunities for people to experience nature, we can ensure that the benefits of nature are enjoyed for generations to come. While the world is changing rapidly, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is more than ever committed to fulfilling our mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. I look forward to our continued work together in this critical time for people and our planet. •

Michael McDonald, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# BLAZES

#### News and Events from the Bruce Trail Clubs

#### NIAGARA

niagarabrucetrailclub.org

#### Fort-to-Fort Hike – April 15-16, 2023

Hike the entire length of the Niagara Parkway, from Fort George to Fort Erie, over two days. Enjoy approximately 27 km each day of beautiful river scenery. Small hills involved but mostly paved paths with some road walking. Registration is \$65 (\$50 for one day). Non-Members \$75 and \$60. Fee includes bus, checkpoints and a badge.

#### Niagara End-to-End – May 20-22, 2023

Cover this historic 80 km section of the Bruce Trail over three days enjoying panoramic views of vineyards, orchards and Lake Ontario. Rocky sections, heavily wooded areas and remnants of historic settlements - the Niagara section has it all.

Registration is \$80 (\$40 for one day). Non-Members \$90 and \$50. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch on the final day, and a badge. You must complete all three days in order to earn this badge.

#### Laura Secord Hike – June 10, 2023

Enjoy a part of our Canadian heritage by hiking along the Bruce Trail from Laura Secord's Homestead in Queenston to DeCew House in Thorold. We are sure this 32 km hike was a challenge for Laura in a long dress and no Nikes but we never heard any complaints. Follow her lead and rise to the challenge. Registration is \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch and a badge.

#### Merritthon – November 11, 2023

The Merritthon is a trek approximately 45 km along the first historic canal route of the Welland Canal, created by William Hamilton Merritt. Details at brucetrail.org/end-to-end-and-challengehikes-2023

Visit Club websites for more news, events and hikes.

#### **Content deadline for Blazes for the summer 2023 issue is May 1, 2023.** Send content to: Laura Tuohy, BTC Manager of Community Engagement, at Ituohy@brucetrail.org

#### TORONTO

torontobrucetrailclub.org

Toronto End-to-End – September 9-10, 2023 In our annual self-led End-to-End you can complete the 50 km distance over two days (approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday) or the entire 50 km on Saturday. Whichever



you choose, both hikes will traverse the varied terrain from just south of Hilton Falls to the south entrance of the Cheltenham Badlands. Checkpoint stations will be approximately every 10 km offering snacks, water refill, and assistance.

The 1-Day hike is \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members and includes bus transportation from the meeting point to the hike starting point, refreshments, parking and permit costs, online registration fees, and the official E2E badge. The 2-Day hike is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members and includes all of the same benefits of the 1-Day and the added cost of a second bus on both days.

Registration opens on June 1, 2023 at 8:00 pm for Bruce Trail Conservancy members at hikes.brucetrail.org under Saturday, September 9, 2023. If any spots are still available on June 15, 2023 at 8:00 pm, registration will then open for non-members.

Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. These long hikes are not suitable for beginning hikers. For both events, hikers are expected to maintain an average pace of 4 km/hr

(or more). For the 1-Day hike, hikers must reach each checkpoint by a prescribed time in order to continue and ensure everyone is off the trail before dark. Space is limited, hikes go rain or shine, and no dogs are permitted on this event. COVID protocols will be followed and masks will



be worn on the buses. For questions, please contact Jacquie Van Dyke at vdyke0946@gmail.com







CALEDON HILLS caledonbrucetrail.ca

#### Prediction Hike – May 7, 2023

Join us at Mono Community Centre, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm. Complete one of two predetermined hikes (7 km or 18 km). Be ready to provide a personal "tothe-second" prediction of how long it will take you to complete the distance on event day.

Registration opens March 30 at 7:00 am on hikes.brucetrail.org. The registration fee is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children and students. Proceeds from the event go towards trail maintenance and development in the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail section. For more information go to http://caledonbrucetrail.ca/hiking/clubbadges/prediction-hike-fundraiser-badge

#### Fall Colours 3-Day End-to-End – October 7-9, 2023

Registration opens June 30 at 7:00 am on hikes.brucetrail.org. Watch for more information about our new badge and further event details on our social media accounts and club website. Contact Sandy Green at info@caledonbrucetrail.org with your questions.

#### DUFFERIN HI-LAND dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

#### Pine River Nature Reserve Clean-up – April 22, 2023

This Earth Week, help us clean up Pine River Nature Reserve, from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, April 22. No registration required. Bring a friend! Meet at the intersection of Sideroad 15 and 2nd Line, east of Horning's Mills at 10:00 am.

#### Dufferin Hi-Land 2-Day End-to-End – May 13-14, 2023

Join us for two days of hiking the rolling hills of Dufferin County. Enjoy the spring flowers while



earning your Red Trillium Badge. Distances are approximately 29 km on Day 1 and 26 km on Day 2. There will be checkpoints along the hike with volunteers providing assistance, refreshments and snacks. Registration is \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members, and includes shuttle bus service, checkpoint snacks and refreshments, Red Trillium Badge (must complete full hike to earn badge), and post-hike refreshments. Space is limited so register early! For information and registration, visit hikes.brucetrail.org.

#### Dufferin Hi-Land 1-Day End-to-End – June 17, 2023

Celebrate the coming summer season on one of the longest days of the year and hike 56



End-to-End hikes are challenging and not recommended for new hikers. Instead, check out the wide range of regular group hikes offered by Bruce Trail Clubs throughout the year at hikes.brucetrail.org. Registration is \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members and includes shuttle bus service, checkpoint snacks and refreshments, White Trillium Badge (must complete full hike to earn badge), and post-hike refreshments. For information and registration, visit hikes.brucetrail.org.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS *bmbtc.org*

#### Blue Mountains End-to-End – May 27-29, 2023

Join us this spring for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club all-new End-to-End hike event. This year we are offering two distinct hiking options: a 2-Day Hike and a 3-Day hike. At time of

printing, the 3-Day option has already SOLD OUT, but spaces remain for the 2-Day option.

Over two days, you'll cover the 69 km distance of our section which runs



from Lavender to Swiss Meadows. Checkpoint stations will be available approximately every 10 km offering snacks, water refill and assistance along the way. The 2-Day hike fee is \$70 for members,\$80 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the start point each day, refreshments, a Saturday end-of-hike BBQ, online registration fees and the E2E badge. Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. Note, these are longer distances and generally not suitable for beginning hikers. For more information contact Christine Lasky at btcblueevents@gmail.com.

#### PENINSULA pbtc.ca

#### 2023 Peninsula Hiking Festival – October 13-15, 2023

Save the date for this fall festival on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula hosted by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. Watch for details at pbtc.ca •

## SAVE THE DATE Bruce Trail Day - October 1, 2023

#### Let's get ready to welcome everyone to a trail-wide celebration!

Bruce Trail Day is our largest outreach event of the year and a wonderful way to introduce more people to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's work in preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Free on-Trail events and virtual activities will encourage people to explore the Bruce Trail and learn more about the amazing variety of life along the Niagara Escarpment. Each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs will host a familyfriendly event unique to their section.

# Interested in joining the Bruce Trail Day team?

Hundreds of volunteers make Bruce Trail Day happen. From planning and promotion to leading activities and welcoming participants, there are many ways you can help. Apply today at brucetrail.org/apply-online-to-volunteer

Watch for details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-day-2023





# For Our Members

## **ROM Discount for BTC Members**

The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto is extending a special offer to Bruce Trail Conservancy Members: 15% off admission until April 23, 2023, for the run of the amazing Wildlife Photographer of the Year feature exhibition.

To save 15% off ROM admission, buy your tickets at rom.on.ca and enter the promo code: BTCROM

#### **Photo Contest**

The Royal Ontario Museum also invites all BTC supporters to participate in the ROM Wildlife Photographer of the Year Contest (closes Mar. 12, 2023). There are great prizes to be won in both youth and adult categories. Share your captivating images of the natural world on Twitter or Instagram and include @ROMtoronto & #ROMwpyON (or #ROMwpyJR for ages 13-17). Find out more at www.rom.on.ca/contest



# NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND Matching Gifts Reach Over \$1 Million

Thank you to over 1,550 donors who made a year-end gift to the Bruce Trail Conservancy to help advance our most urgent land securement and conservation goals.

By January 2023, your thoughtful gifts reached over \$1 million which will be matched with funds from Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund*. With this remarkable response, the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be able to act swiftly to add ecologically important lands into our conservation corridor. We look forward to sharing our latest successes with you in the coming weeks.

# Supporting Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change

Only the lands with the greatest potential to mitigate climate change are eligible for this matching grant. These include properties with large areas of forest or wetland, or opportunities for grassland restoration. Our experience in securing and actively stewarding 18,889 acres of Escarpment land, has given us the skill to add and restore these vital, carbon-rich habitats within our conservation corridor.

#### **The Match Continues**

These matching funds are part of a five-year, \$5 million matching grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada awarded to the Bruce Trail Conservancy in 2022. This federal grant represents the largest government investment ever in our work. It recognizes the importance of protecting the Niagara Escarpment's vulnerable and valuable lands and endorses our expertise as one of Canada's leading environmental charities.

It's not too late to make a gift that will have twice the impact. Donate today at brucetrail.org



## Bruce Trail Conservancy's

# 2030 Strategy

An Ambitious Plan for Conservation and Connection to Nature

## In the last six decades, the Bruce Trail Conservancy's creative approach to conservation and exploration of natural places has delivered many incredible outcomes.

It's clear that today, the natural world is under threat like never before. We are facing complex challenges which call for big, ambitious plans—for people and nature. The work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy has never been more important.

To address these challenges the Bruce Trail Conservancy has developed the 2030 Strategy. This plan brings enhanced urgency to our work, increases the scale of our activities for greater impact, and brings connection to nature front and centre.

Our mission, vision and values remain the same; they are a clear and positive expression of what we want to accomplish and how we work. The new strategy strengthens our relevance and ambition, and creates commitments that will significantly advance our mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. The 2030 Strategy is centred on five strategic and interconnected goals: urgently protect land; restore and care for Niagara Escarpment land; enhance the Bruce Trail experience; inspire generosity; and, support people and culture. Each goal is supported by strategic priorities. Together they organize our collective efforts and guide our decision-making. Like a map, they help chart our path forward.

Emphasizing both people and place, the 2030 Strategy encompasses the fullness of the work we do as a leading Canadian land trust, a conservation organization, and stewards of Canada's

"This bold strategy will enable the Bruce Trail Conservancy to be a global leader in conservation, the steward of a world-class trail system, and a people-powered organization filled with diverse individuals who share their talents and generosity to make it all happen."

Michael McDonald, CEO

oldest and longest marked footpath. It brings focus to creating positive and meaningful experiences along our iconic Bruce Trail. It reflects a renewed commitment to building a diverse and inclusive community, and deepening connections to nature. It recognizes the importance of welcoming Indigenous voices and knowledge into our work. It ensures we remain accountable to our members, donors, volunteers, and above all, the Niagara Escarpment.

The strategic planning process was in depth and collaborative, drawing on the knowledge, ideas and experience of Bruce Trail Conservancy staff, board and volunteers. Each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs contributed perspectives, insights, and advice to help shape the final 2030 *Strategy*. The result is a collective commitment that will guide our work to 2030 while strengthening our ability to "In this exciting new phase of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's journey, we're expanding the scale and pace of our work to address the urgent challenges facing the natural world. Our 2030 Strategy sets an ambitious plan for collaborative and meaningful action for the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment."

Leah Myers, Board Chair

meet ongoing and future challenges. Our strategic priorities will be measured, assessed and monitored regularly by the board, to ensure we make progress on our goals and respond with flexibility to new opportunities. As we take these bold steps over the next seven years, we will share our progress and celebrate the wins along the way. With our new strategic guidebook in hand, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is ready to embark on the path ahead. •



# **2030 STRATEGY**

## **Our Mission**

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever

## **Our Vision**

The Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment

## **Our Values**

Commitment | Integrity | Stewardship | Collaboration | Respect

## **Our Strategic Goals**

- Urgently Protect Land
- Restore and Care for Niagara Escarpment Land
- Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience
- Inspire Generosity
- Support People and Culture



#### **Urgently Protect Land**

Permanently protect lands and enhance our conservation corridor containing the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment to conserve ecosystems for future generations

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

- **Urgently secure** land within our conservation corridor
- Accelerate actions to protect ecosystems and to help mitigate the challenges of climate change
- Advocate for stronger land use policies and incentives to deliver on government commitments to protecting land and securing permanence for the Bruce Trail
- **Practice** Indigenous reconciliation through conservation by protecting Niagara Escarpment ecosystems and biodiversity
- **Collaborate** with landowners, conservation organizations and other partner agencies to secure Escarpment lands





## Restore and Care for Niagara Escarpment Lands

Steward and restore significant ecosystems to optimum ecological health

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

- **Employ** nature-based solutions to restore and enhance the biodiversity of the Niagara Escarpment
- **Protect** species at risk along the BTC conservation corridor
- Mitigate the impact of invasive species along the BTC conservation corridor
- Embrace Indigenous knowledge and conservation best practices in stewarding the Niagara Escarpment lands
- Collaborate with relevant sectors to advance ecological research

# **2030 STRATEGY**

## Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience

Actively invest in infrastructure that promotes the Bruce Trail as an invitation into nature

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

- **Ensure** the Bruce Trail meets world class sustainable trail design and maintenance standards
- **Increase** awareness of how to navigate the Bruce Trail and reduce environmental impact while enjoying the trails
- **Deliver** a plan that allows people to thru-hike the entire Bruce Trail more easily
- **Optimize** parking and trail infrastructure along the Bruce Trail through investments on BTC-owned or managed lands, in collaboration with our partners
- Maximize technology and innovation to reach out to and service new and existing audiences





#### **Inspire Generosity**

Nurture and grow our culture of giving to ensure the BTC is resourced to preserve and conserve the Bruce Trail conservation corridor

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

- Fund ambitious and measurable conservation progress
- **Share** our collective impact to encourage meaningful and inclusive connections to the BTC
- Thank our supporters by delivering meaningful experiences and service excellence
- **Innovate** to grow all sources of revenues
- **Steward** all funds transparently and to the highest standards

# Support People and Culture

Demonstrate our commitment to building an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community that celebrates and protects the Niagara Escarpment

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

- Work inclusively with the Bruce Trail Clubs to deliver the strategic priorities and initiatives
- Nurture and strengthen relationships with BTC landowners to ensure a resilient Trail and protected conservation corridor
- **Engage** members and create new ways for people to interact with the BTC that will reach diverse audiences
- **Strengthen** and deliver an excellent volunteer experience and make volunteering accessible and enjoyable for all
- Empower staff to achieve their potential within the organization







# Showing Our Pride and Building an Inclusive Outdoors

# It's a simple patch, but it can mean so much.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy logo, surrounded by the bright, welcoming colours of the rainbow. Seeing it can give someone a sense of belonging, pride, relief or safety. Wearing it can show your support for building an inclusive community, on the Trail and off.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy believes that preserving a ribbon of wilderness along the Niagara Escarpment is of the utmost importance for future generations. But to be successful in our mission, this ribbon of wilderness must truly be *for everyone*.

We know that people of many different identities use the Bruce Trail to explore nature, improve their mental and physical health, and connect with each other. We also recognize that outdoor spaces and conservation organizations have not always felt welcoming for all and that there is still work to do to create spaces in which everyone feels safe. In using the rainbow flag colours, the BTC Pride Badge is one small visible way to show support for 2SLGBTQ+ communities and allies. We encourage Trail users and BTC supporters to wear the badge on their packs or hiking gear to foster a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for all on the Bruce Trail and beyond.

AUCE ;

Learn more about the Bruce Trail Conservancy's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion at: brucetrail.org/about-us/#Diversity-Equity-&-Inclusion

#### Where to get a BTC Pride Badge

The badges are free but quantities are limited. Pick one up in person from:

- The BTC office and store in Dundas
- Most BTC booths at community events
- BTC Trail Ambassadors on the Trail in the summer

• Bruce Trail Day and other BTC events Or request a badge online at brucetrail.org/request-a-btc-pride-badge



# **Volunteer Corner**

## Seeking Nominations for Volunteer Awards

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

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

#### Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award

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

#### **Honorary Membership**

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

## Nominate a volunteer by June 30 at brucetrail.org/award-nominations

For questions, contact BTC Volunteer & Outreach Assistant Shimeem Al-Ayash at sal-ayash@brucetrail.org. •



# Calypso Orchid Environmental Award

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

# Call for Nominations for the 2023 Calypso Orchid Award

Help us recognize the heroes of the Niagara Escarpment. We want to honour those individuals or groups who have made a difference for the future of the Niagara Escarpment through restoration initiatives, preservation work, and/or education. The Calypso Orchid Environmental Award is awarded to an individual, volunteer group, institution or company that has demonstrated significant contribution to the restoration and preservation of the Bruce Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, or significantly enhanced the education of users or potential users of the Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere. The recipient does not need to be a member or volunteer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Nominate a group or individual by June 30 at brucetrail.org/award-nominations

# World Trails Network: Learning and Collaboration in Support of Trails

Around the world people are building and stewarding amazing trails to connect people to unique natural environments and cultural experiences. A growing global community of trail organizations is coming together in support of sustainable trails worldwide.

As a founding member of the World Trails Network (WTN), the Bruce Trail Conservancy is working with international trail organizations to "foster global collaboration and networking for the betterment of the world's trails". The WTN strives to connect the diverse trails of the world to promote the creation, enhancement, and protection of outstanding trail experiences and the benefits trails provide.

#### **Diverse Routes, Common Ground**

Although trails in different countries traverse radically different landscapes, climates, and political and cultural settings, there can be remarkable similarities in the goals of those creating and caring for the trails and in the challenges they face. There is much we can learn from each other.

Through global conferences, joint projects, and cross-promotional programs (like the International Friendship Trail program), the WTN is building ways in which people can exchange ideas, share expertise, and create tangible solutions for common problems.

WTN's international task teams are taking on projects in nine focus areas: conservation, sustainability, education and inclusive engagement, tourism, knowledge and research, communities, media, arts and culture, and technology.

#### Sharing Expertise and Leadership

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is a strong partner in the World Trails Network with several staff taking on leadership roles with WTN this past year:

• Jackie Randle, BTC VP of Operations, was elected Chair of the World Trails Network during the World Trails Conference in Skiathos, Greece in September.



• Brooke Henry, BTC Communications Coordinator, was named a World Trails Network Ambassador - one of 11 emerging leaders and young trail professionals who are developing new ideas for the WTN.



• Adam Brylowski, BTC Manager of Conservation and Trail, was invited to speak at the Asia Trails Conference in Taiwan and represented the BTC at this regional gathering of the WTN.



#### World Trails Conference 2022

228 participants from 32 countries gathered for the World Trails Conference 2022 in Skiathos, Greece. This biennial conference hosted by the World Trails Network offered a great opportunity to network with trail experts and enthusiasts, exchange ideas and knowledge, and showcase the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy on an international stage.

Learn more at worldtrailsnetwork.org

# New Friendship Trail: Mountains to Sea National Greenway

The Mountains to Sea National Greenway in Taiwan (MSTW) stretches 177 km from Mount Jade to the seashore at Taijiang National Park - taking hikers from the highest point on the island to its western coast.

In December 2022, a portion of this beautiful path was twinned with the Bruce Trail in a sign of international collaboration in support of trails. It marks the tenth Friendship Trail created between the Bruce Trail Conservancy and an international trail.

The Bruce Trail is twinned with section 26 of the MSTW - the Tefuye Trail a section with deep ties to the diverse ethnic cultures of Taiwan, including the local Indigenous Tsou community, and featuring much of Taiwan's natural beauty. Running from Tefuye to Zizhong through magnificent cedar forests, it follows a preserved section of the old Shuishan Forest Railway Line.

The opening ceremony for this newest Friendship Trail took place in Taiwan, with BTC staff Jackie Randle and Adam Brylowski in attendance. The group gathered at the entrance to the Tefuye Trail. with views of Mount lade in the distance. After an official welcome from members of the Tsou community, the Taiwan Thousand Miles Trail Association (TMI Trail) and the Taiwan Forestry Bureau, the friendship trail sign was unveiled and the group took a short hike. The twinned route along the Bruce Trail for the Mountains to Sea National Greenway Friendship Trail will be opening in the Iroquoia section in 2024.

#### Learn more about the Mountains to Sea National Greenway at: www.tmitrail.org.tw/page/1714

#### Deepening Taiwanese Ties Locally

The Bruce Trail Conservancy was honoured to receive a visit from Jin-Ling Chen, Director General of the Taipei



Economic and Cultural Office, Toronto, in February. Director General Chen had seen the media coverage of the new friendship trail in the Taiwan News and reached out to the BTC to discuss deepening the connection between local Taiwanese people and the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

#### **International Friendship Trails**

The Friendship Trail program has been a wonderful way for the Bruce Trail Conservancy to reach new communities Director General Jin-Ling Chen (3rd from left) and Ethan Liao (left) from Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Toronto, visit with BTC staff Michael McDonald, Jackie Randle and Adam Brylowski.

at home and abroad, to expose Bruce Trail hikers to international trails, and to engage our staff and volunteers in crosscultural learning and exchanges.

#### For more on the Friendship Trail program visit: brucetrail.org/internationalfriendship-trails

# BOOK CORNER

# **Walking Through Time**

Available soon at brucetrail.org/store

In Walking Through Time Beth Gilhespy shares her love affair with the geology of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment.

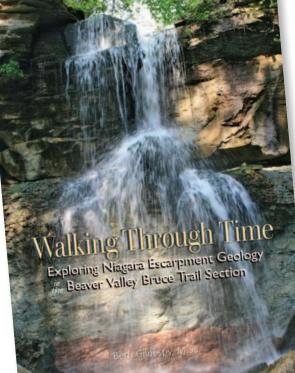
Beth takes readers on a journey to explore the formation of the Niagara Escarpment and the interesting and ancient geological features found along the Bruce Trail in the Beaver Valley area. By providing maps, photos and descriptive text for eight geology hikes in the Beaver Valley, she encourages readers to head to the Escarpment for their own geological explorations.

"To me, every walk on the Niagara Escarpment is a walk through time, starting 450 million years ago and continuing through the millennia to the still-changing landscape of today," shares Beth, "I have found profound delight in sharing my love of Escarpment geology with thousands of others on geology hikes I lead as a volunteer between 2003 and 2018. This book is a culmination of many years of exploration and encouragement from those geology hikers, and from the volunteers with whom I connected and who remain my friends."

Walking Through Time is in production and will be available soon through the Bruce Trail Conservancy store and at a launch event this spring hosted by the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club.

#### About the Author:

Beth Gilhespy has worked in the field of environmental conservation for more than 30 years and was CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy between 2004 and 2018. She is an avid explorer and frequently hikes in the Canadian Rockies, on long distance paths in the UK and locally on Ontario's Bruce Trail. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in physical geography and geology from the University of Guelph. Beth is Executive Director of the



Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy, and lives in Guelph, Ontario with her husband, two dogs and three cats. •



# A Tax-Effective Way of Supporting Conservation: Gifts of Registered Funds

You can make a significant gift for conservation and reduce taxes on your estate while retaining what you need for retirement by including the Bruce Trail Conservancy as a beneficiary in your RRSP, RRIF or TFSA.

How to Make a Gift of Registered Funds It's simple to donate the proceeds of a registered account such as a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), a registered retirement income fund (RRIF), or a tax-free savings account (TFSA).

- 1. Speak with your professional advisor (accountant, lawyer, financial planner) to see if this type of donation works for you.
- 2. Contact your plan provider with a request for a 'Change in Beneficiary' or 'Multiple Beneficiary Designation Form'.
- 3. Complete the form and designate The Bruce Trail Conservancy as sole or partial beneficiary, and return the form to your provider.
- 4. (optional) Get in touch with the Bruce Trail Conservancy to let us know you have made your gift so that we can recognize your generosity and convey our appreciation.

#### **Benefits of Donating Registered Funds**

- You retain full control of what you need during your lifetime, while arranging a bigger contribution than you thought possible towards preserving a ribbon of wilderness for future generations.
- A gift of registered funds can help offset the significant tax burden on your estate, further benefitting your loved ones.
- Your registered funds are not part of your estate, and so are not subject to probate fees.
- There is no cost to arrange the gift other than your time.



#### **Calculating Your Impact**

The Bruce Trail Conservancy continues to partner with Will Power, a national movement inspiring Canadians to think differently about charitable giving, and leave a gift to charity in their Wills. Through the campaign, you can access free resources to assist you in the estate planning process, including a legacy calculator. This simple tool allows you to see how you don't have to choose between the Bruce Trail Conservancy and loved ones in your Will or estate plans. You can do both! Check out the easy-to-use legacy calculator on our Will Power page: www.willpower.ca/charities/bruce-trailconservancy

#### For more information, contact:

Gloria Vidovich Planned Giving & Donor Relations Officer 905-529-6821, ext. 248 gvidovich@brucetrail.org



**Congratulations to our members who have completed an End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail** – an extraordinary physical and personal journey. The following are members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2022.

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>
4081	Berard, Jordan		4135	Hoppes, Tony		4187	Woods, Michael		4240	Filan, Christian	
4082	Radlein, Denny		4136	Cockerill, John		4188	Amos, Sherri		4241	Willms, Wendy	
4083	Radlein, Goss		4137	Enns, Mary Anne		4189	Minnes, Georgina		4242	Hagymasy, Shelby	
4084	Sandhu, Gurwinder		4138	Golden, Louise		4190	Holland, Tim		4243	Hesch, Christine	3rd Time
4085	Harris, Elizabeth		4139	Robertson, Bryon	2nd Time	4191	Kim, Sang Su		4244	Tyndall, Julie	2nd Time
4086	Marini, Andrea		4140	Lee, Yunie		4192	Willams, Chuck		4245	Sean Sloan	
4087	Paczkowski, Cindy		4141	Kim, Chris		4193	Bissonnette, Jesse		4246	Komadoski, Joseph	
4089	Wengler, Gerd	7th Time	4142	Thibeault, Michel		4194	Yuen, Jennifer		4247	Knezevich, Tom	
4090	Wengler, Gerd	8th Time	4143	Shannon, Elizabeth		4195	Watt, Martha		4248	Knezevich, Marlene	
4091	Wengler, Dorothy	7th Time	4144	Corner, Margaret	12th Time	4196	Sharp, Susan		4249	Rubach, Elisha	
4092	Wengler, Dorothy	8th Time	4145	Walker, Linda		4197	Lorenz, Carolina		4250	Dillman, Donna	
4093	Stevens, Joyce		4146	Freeman, Omar		4198	Junkin, Smadar	14th Time	4251	Ma, Xin	
4094	Simmons, Sandy	3rd Time	4147	Kalo, Lindita		4199	Junkin, Smadar	15th Time	4252	Huang, Helen	
4095	Moffatt, Ruth		4148	Mitchell, Cheryl	7th Time	4200	Junkin, Smadar	16th Time	4253	vanWeerden, Karen	
4096	Van Dyke, Jacquie	9th Time	4149	Cameron, Brian		4201	Law, Stuart	3rd Time	4254	vanWeerden, Peter	2nd Time
4097	Green, Sandra	6th Time	4150	MacNevin, Marlene		4202	Rakic, Alma		4255	Laws, Gayle	
4098	White, Steven	5th Time	4151	Kostandoff, Kate		4203	Rakic, Rade		4256	Dagg, Jonathan	
4099	Price, Trevor	3rd Time	4152	O'Reilly, Michael		4204	Morrison, Gael		4257	Ozols, Edite	
4100	Bullock, Jeanne		4153	O'Reilly, Nancy		4205	Lewis, Cheryl		4258	Corner, Margaret	14th Time
4101	Adam, Marie		4154	Laflamme, Christina		4206	Adair, Wendi		4259	Green, Sandra	7th Time
4102	Chamberlain, Dennis	6th Time	4155	Lailey, Christopher	5th Time	4207	Spencer Dunn		4260	Armstrong, Deb	
4103	Tomecek, Kathy		4156	Lailey, Christopher	6th Time	4208	Craig, Heather		4261	Armstrong, Don	
4104	Poorter, Andrea		4157	O'Heare, Brian		4209	Holla, Paula		4262	Killorn, Patrick	
4105	Greenlaw, Cindy		4158	Nayak, Kasturi		4210	Park, Michael		4263	Mosher, Laurie	
4106			4159	Nayak, Kshinath		4211	Bateman, James		4264	Manske, Steve	
4107	Shields, Sandra		4160	Patterson, Ruth		4212	McCabe, Kathleen		4265	Murch, Heather	3rd Time
4108	Hong, Sandra		4161	Cioci, Michelle		4213	Wareing, Murray		4266	Hribljan, Bridget	
4109	Hong, Logan		4162	00	1	4214	Wareing, Lynn		4267	Laver, Alan	
4110	Tapp, Michael		4163	Archila, Santiago		4215	Taylor, Irene		4268	Doig, Lauren	2nd Time
4111	Guppy, Melissa		4164	Archila, Kika		4216	Murphy, Linda		4269	Ang, Gina	
	Guppy, Adam		4165	Ng, Siu Kuen Rebecca	4th Time	4217	Kreutzer, Andrea		4270	Ouyang, Mijia	
	Jackman, Alean		4166	Williams, Clay		4218	Holmes, Dana		4271	Van Dyke, Jacquie	10th Time
	Smith, Art	6th Time	4167	Bulten, Debbie		4219	Lennon, Jennifer		4272	Birrell, Kathryn	
	Jung Jang, Hae		4168	Webster, Christine		4220	Gaynor, Jane		4273	0,	
	Leong Cho, Yeon		4169	McDonnell, Gina		4221	Yates, Marna			Belanger, Alain	
	Nim, Googjoo		4170	Cooke, Barbara		4222	Regier, Ron			Sweeney, Cathy	
-	Stager Piatkowski, Scott	and Jenn		Corner, Margaret	13th Time		Isber-Legge, Jennifer			Tapang, Merlanie	
	Wilson, Cathy			Firth, Paul			Bellemare, Jacqueline	-		Tyas, Sue	
	Aldridge-Low, Elaine	0.1 5	4173	De Brabandere-Garret			Stead, Graham	5th Time		Denise Shand	
	Petley, Jeff	8th Time			4th Time	4226	Rettie, Kristina		4279	Cathy Nighbor	
	Ye, Frank	2nd Time		Price, Dalton		4227	Tulloch, Sandy			Michelle Wacker	
	Zhang, Jen	2nd Time	4175	Riggs, Anthony	4th Time	4228	Leitch, Dan		4281	Jones, Robert	
-	Sweeney, Peggy			Junkin, Smadar	13th Time	4229	Leitch, Karen		4282	Jones, Rachel	
	Corneil, Laura	5 (1 / TP)	4177	Cook, Alexis			Lee, Soojin	1.5.1.00		DeBrouwer, Ann	
	Lewis, Christine	5th Time	4178	Lemire, Emily			Hastings, Herb	15th Time		Markham, David	
	Niedbala, Ewa	2.17	4179	Cheng, Howard	7.1. 7		Autchison, Alicia	0.1. 7		Sawyer, Lenora	
	Northfield, Margaret	3rd Time	4180	Cropp, Diane	7th Time		Laustoer, Elisabeth	8th Time		Zontanos, Dawn	
	Water, Nick	3rd Time	4181	,	741- 7:		Stockinger, Nils	8th Time		Hussey, Dawn	
	Gersman, Anna		4182		7th Time		Bagnulo, Grace			Heeren, Ralf	
4131	,		4183	Zehr, Rosemary	8th Time		Strong, Laura			Skoczen, Wesley	
	Dietrich, Jamie			Nasser, Hamid	0.41. 77	4237	Symmons, Carter			Kim, In Sok	
4133	Patterson, Dan		4185	O'Dell, Margaret	8th Time	4238	Silins, Mara		4291	Caijuan Gu, Susie	

4239 Bowden, Rosemary

4186 Price, Cheryle

4134 Tannahill, John

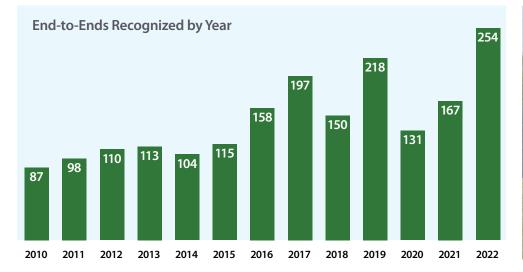
4292 Garceau, Dominique

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>	E2E#	NAME	<b>#OF TIMES</b>
4293	Yang, Ellen		4304	Cooledge, Laurie Ann	l	4315	Luszcz, Alina		4326	Bruggers, Annie	2nd Time
4294	Huisman, Lucia	2nd Time	4305	Burrows, Luke		4316	Roth, Heidi		4327	Bruggers, Annie	3rd Time
4295	Hurst, Jennifer		4306	Tong, Jacqueline		4317	Chamberlain, Dennis	8th Time	4328	Collings, Glenda	4th Time
4296	Lovell, Andree		4307	Junkin, Smadar	17th Time	4318	Haghighat, Mojgan		4329	Collings, Glenda	5th Time
4297	Thacker, Kenneth		4308	O'Dell, Margaret	9th Time	4319	Allen, Graham	2nd Time	4330	Parker, Meredith	
4298	Brans, Sandra		4309	O'Dell, Margaret	10th Time	4320	Shantz, Jenny		4331	Grieve, Heather	
4299	Cerghet, Simona		4310	Moffatt, Ruth		4321	Anderson, Matthew		4332	Barillaro, Nick	
4300	Renaud, Derrick		4311	Sroka, Olivia		4322	Dilworth, Michael		4333	Sinclair, John	
4301	Chamberlain, Dennis	7th Time	4312	Thurston, Jane		4323	Kibreab, Elias		4334	Zinn, Bonnie	19th Time
4302	Shaw, Irene		4313	Fodor, Lilla	2nd Time	4324	Stewart, Kevin		4335	Mitchell, Cheryl	8th Time
4303	Baygin, Herman		4314	Estrella, Ross		4325	Stewart, Neill				



## **Record Number of End-to-End Recognitions in 2022**

A remarkable 254 members received their End-to-End recognition in 2022 – more than in any of the past 13 years at least. Some completed the whole trail within the year. Others finished off that final section after years of hiking. And still others finally compiled their hike logs from previous years and submitted them. What was it about 2022 that made it such a remarkable year for End-to-End recognition? As with so many things, the pandemic may have played a part. Travel and gathering restrictions in 2020-21 put many individual hiking plans and Club End-to-End events on hold. Yet during that same time, more and more people were (re)discovering the Bruce Trail as a way to reconnect with nature. With restrictions lifted and motivation to hike (re)kindled, more end-to-enders were able to complete their journeys in 2022. Though it is hard to say for certain what the main drivers were for this record year, we are thrilled to recognize the efforts of these accomplished hikers.





# Trail Changes & Notices

#### 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 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/bruce-trail-app** 

#### **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): 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
- 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 – Bridge Closure, Short Hills Provincial Park

As per an advisory notice from Ontario Parks, the Bruce Trail is closed at the location shown due to a bridge in need of repair. The closure will remain in place until the repairs can be made. As an alternative thoroughfare, part of the Swayze Falls Trail can be used as a bypass (as shown in purple on the map).



#### **IROQUOIA**

#### Map 7 – Scenic Drive, Temporary Parking Closure

The municipal parking lot at 1180 Scenic Drive is temporarily closed due to ongoing construction by the City of Hamilton. Expected end date: April 2023.



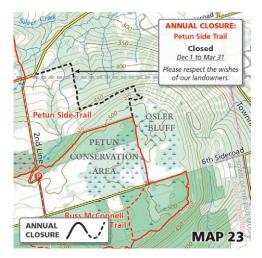
#### **BLUE MOUNTAINS**

#### Map 22 – Devil's Glen, Annual Closure

At the request of the landowner, a portion of the main Bruce Trail will be closed annually from November 30 to May 1. The alternative thoroughfare for thru-hiking during these months is the Mad River Side Trail.

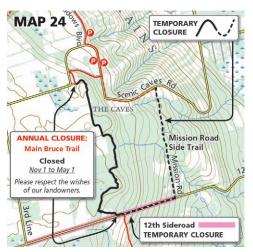


Map 23 – Petun Side Trail, Annual Closure Part of the Petun Side Trail, between Petun Conservation Area and County Road 19, is closed annually from December 1 to March 31 at the request of the landowners.



Map 24 – Scenic Caves area, Annual Closure The main Bruce Trail between 12th Sideroad and 15th Sideroad, is closed annually November 1 to May 1, at the request of the landowners. Two temporary closures are also in place in the area:

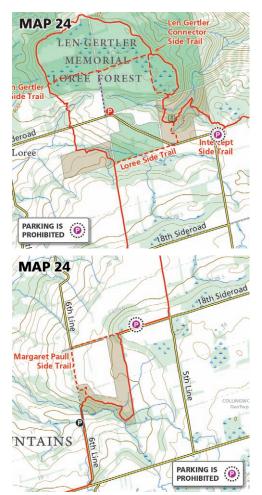
 i) 12th Sideroad between Mission Road and 3rd Line due to installation of a fibre optic line beginning November 1. This impacts a portion of Mission Road Side Trail. ii) Mission Road Side Trail which was closed in September and cannot be used as an alternate route.



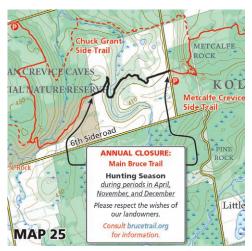
#### **BEAVER VALLEY**

#### Map 24 – Town of Blue Mountains, Roadside Parking prohibited

The Town of Blue Mountains has prohibited roadside parking at the two locations shown on the accompanying maps: 1) 4th Line at Side Road 21, near Intercept Side Trail, and 2) 18th Sideroad west of 5th Line, near Margaret Paull Side Trail. These locations are no longer part of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's recommended parking.



Map 25 – Kolapore area, Annual Closure By request of the landowner, the area denoted on the map is closed annually to accommodate hunting season. During this time, the Chuck Grant Side Trail can be used as a thoroughfare for through hiking. Closure dates: Nov. 1 - 12, 2022, and Apr. 24 - 29, 2023.



Map 26 – Eugenia Falls, Winter Closure Eugenia Falls Conservation Area including the Bruce Trail found within the property is closed for the winter (November 1 until likely April 30). The map here illustrates the extent of the closure along with the temporary unmarked detour. For more information, visit Grey Sauble Conservation Authority at www.greysauble.on.ca/ eugenia-falls-conservation-area Temporary unmarked detour = 3.8 km



#### Map 26 – Beaver Valley Ski Club, Annual Closure

The Bruce Trail is closed annually on the Beaver Valley Ski Club property during ski season beginning in November and ending late April (depending on conditions). The Valley Crossover Side Trail and Kimberley Side Trail serve as the seasonal thoroughfare for hikers. Valley Crossover Side Trail (southern portion) = 1.5 km

Kimberly Side Trail = 2.5 km





# **OUR GENEROUS DONORS**

We are grateful to all 2,943 donors who chose to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a gift between October 1 and December 31, 2022.

#### Special thanks to the following donors who made a gift of \$10,000 or more during this time:

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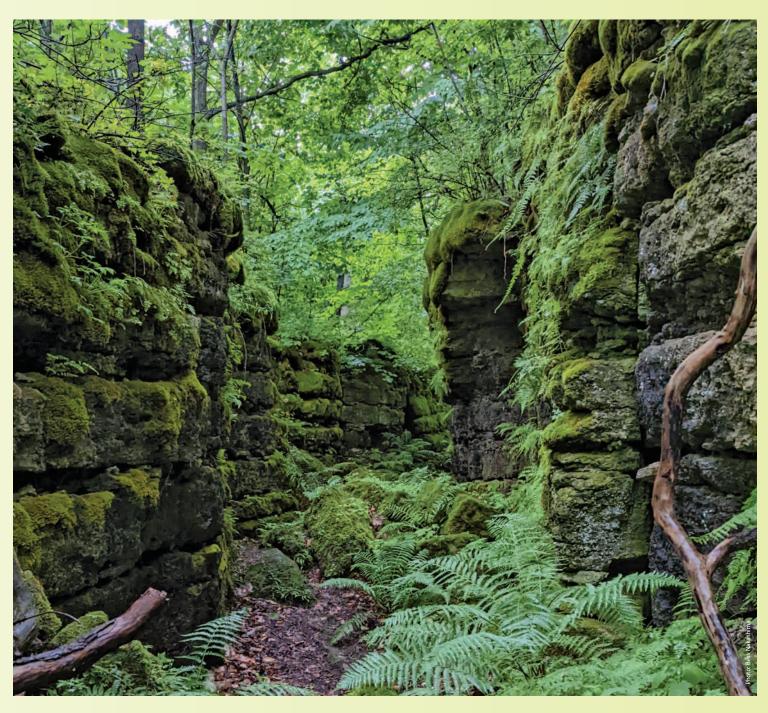
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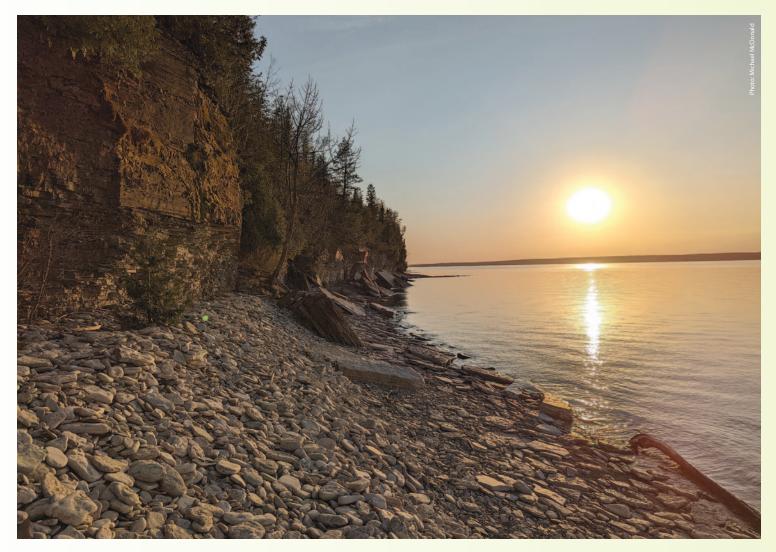
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#### 35th Wedding Anniversary Jan Mitton & Peter Fedyczko

**65th Birthday** Rhonda McMahon

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In lieu of speaker gifts Council for Clean and Reliable Energy

#### **New Years** Heather Shaw

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#### Wedding

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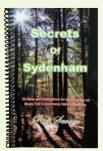


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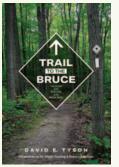
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# Taking Bold Strides on the Path Ahead

Bruce Trail Conservancy's *2030 Strategy* is our ambitious plan for conservation and connection to nature.

Through it we are increasing the pace and scale of our work so that we can address the critical needs of Niagara Escarpment ecosystems and communities.

Together with you, our members, donors, volunteers and friends, we will:

- Urgently Protect Land
- Restore and Care for Niagara Escarpment Land
- Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience
- Inspire Generosity
- Support People and Culture

Our mission, vision and values remain unchanged. In fact, they are more important than ever.

Join us as we enter this new and exciting stage on our journey.

Learn more about our 2030 Strategy inside this issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine.

