

INSIDE: ADAPTING TO CHANGE ALONG THE ESCARPMENT

VOL. 63, NO.3, SUMMER 2026

Bruce Trail

C O N S E R V A N C Y

MAGAZINE



Words in the Wild:
How language shapes
our trail experience

Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

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

Honorary President

Dr. Philip R. Gosling (In Memoriam)

Bruce Trail Founders

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaclyn Moody (Chair)	Brendon Larson
Graham Allen	Stephen Morson
Gail Di Cintio	Lori Shalhoub
Nadia Dubyk	Doug Stansbury
Bill Duron	Wendy Thompson
Michael Edney	Bonni Titgemeyer
Jesse Elders	Michael Treuman
Robin Garrett	John Whitworth
Tim Johnson	Liz Yeigh
Linda Kerec	

STAFF

Executive Office

Michael McDonald (Chief Executive Officer)

Fund Development

Marsha Russell (Vice President)
Heather Anderson
Claire Davidson
Brooke Henry
Gloria Vidovich
Allison Wright

Land Securement

Antoin Diamond (Vice President)
Esme Batten
Jackson Hudecki
Joel Swagerman

Conservation and Trail

Adam Brylowski (Director)
Luke Burrows
Scott Langley
Mara McHaffie
Brian Popelier
Lyndsey Wilkerson

Finance

Katharine Albrecht (Director)
Donna Miljic (Manager)
Amanda Baatz

Operations

Jackie Randle (Vice President)

Communications

Ali Schofield (Manager)
Mischa Milne
Julia Perna

Community Engagement

Laura Tuohy (Manager)
Shimeem Al-Ayash
Rhiannon Carruthers
Ryan Mickeloff

Design and Production: Rossi Piedimonte Design Inc.

Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine is published quarterly by the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). Non-BTC related materials may not be the opinion of the BTC. Advertising herein does not imply the endorsement of the BTC. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written consent of the BTC. Canadian Publications Mail Agreement #40034698. © The Bruce Trail Conservancy 2026

Printed on ProPrint Text Silk
PEFC certified



SUMMER 2026



Features

- 8 Fundraiser Film Screening: The Art of Adventure
- 9 Thru-Hiker Survey
- 9 Two New Membership Options
- 10 From The Archives: Bruce Trail Poetry
- 12 What's in a Name? Revitalizing Anishinaabemowin Names for Plants and Birds
- 15 Passport to Nature
- 16 What is an Endangered Species? Understanding the Language of Risk
- 18 Bruce Trail Hiking Lingo
- 20 Adapting to Change Along the Escarpment
- 22 Protect, Restore and Preserve an Icon: Talisman Forest Nature Reserve
- 26 Magical moments inspire a future gift

Departments

- 5 CEO's Message
- 6 Blazes
- 24 Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas
- 28 What's in Your Pack?
- 30 Explore Like a Local
- 32 Trail Changes
- 34 Our Donors
- 38 General Store

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: Common Raven, Agaag'igeshiinh. Photo by Grayson (iNaturalist).
Illustration by Emily Kewageshig.

Chief Executive Officer's Message

When we are out hiking along our iconic Bruce Trail, there are lots of ways that language shapes each of our unique experiences.

I would argue though, that the Bruce Trail experience starts with the guiding language in our mission, *preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

Every word in that statement is intentional. For over 60 years we have been working to conserve and care for land by way of the Bruce Trail, a free public resource where everyone is welcome to explore. The word 'forever' is a promise – when we bring a new natural area into the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor, that land will remain protected in perpetuity.

Words matter on trail, too: maps help us navigate our route, signs share

necessary information, and, most importantly, the conversations we have with other explorers help us connect to each other. We share stories, make new hikers feel welcome, and deepen our education of the natural world.

It can also be said that the nature we are called to protect has its own language. The more time we spend in nature, the better we get at understanding its dialect. Rocks, roots, trees and rivers all speak to us as we follow the blazes along more than 1,400 km of trails.

Language is also a powerful connection to those who have walked before us. Before it was called the Niagara Escarpment, this geological formation was known by many other names such as Gchi-Bimadinaa ("The Great Cliff That Runs Along" in Anishinaabe) and Kastenhraktátýe ("Along The Cliffs" in Mohawk).

In this issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine, our friends at Creator's Garden explore Indigenous language revival in a feature about Anishinaabemowin bird and plant names. You will also find articles on species at risk terminology, wayfinding lingo, a climate change study along the Bruce Trail by our partners at Vineland Research, poetry from our archives, and much more.

In a world that often seems divided by words, I believe that nature speaks a language that we can all understand. It's a language that unites us, that transcends time and cultures. It only requires that we listen.

Happy Hiking,

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Photo: Michael McDonald

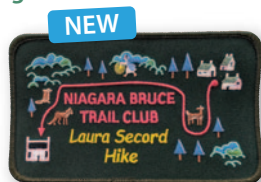
NIAGARA

niagara.bruce-trail.org

Laura Secord Hike – June 13, 2026

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 \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members; kids \$25 and \$30. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch and a (new for 2026) badge.



Merritthon – November 7, 2026

The Merritthon is a trek of approximately 45 km along the first historic canal route of the Welland Canal, created by William Hamilton Merritt. The hike begins at Port Colborne, follows the Welland Canal and moves onto the Merritt Trail in St Catharines to finish in Port Dalhousie. You can expect to keep pace with giant laker ships, see industrial remnants, murals and enjoy woods and streets along the way.

Registration is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members. Fee includes bus transfers, snacks, water check points and a badge.

IROQUOIA

iroquoia.on.ca

Full Moon Night Hikes Shine Bright in Iroquoia

When the moon rises over the Niagara Escarpment, so do our hikers! The Iroquoia Club's new Full Moon Night Hike series has quickly become one of the most popular outings on our calendar. Since the program began this January, we've hosted six full moon hikes across

different parts of the Iroquoia section – ranging from weeknight urban routes to quiet weekend trails under the stars. Hikes are scheduled on, or as close to, the full moon as possible based on the availability of the Hike Leader. To learn more or start earning your own badge, visit the Full Moon Night Hike page:

<https://iroquoia.on.ca/hiking/badges/full-moon-night-hike>

Iroquoia End-to-End – September 19-20, 26-27, 2026

Often referred to as one of the toughest End-to-Ends on the Bruce Trail with 122 km in 4 hikes, the Iroquoia End-to-End proves to be an amazing challenge for hikers. Are you ready to take on Iroquoia? Join us. Registration is \$95 for members and \$110 for non-members and includes bus transportation from the meeting point to the hike starting point, refreshments, parking, permit costs, and the official End-to-End badge.

Steeltown Stomp – October 3, 2026

After another terrific turnout last fall, the Steeltown Stomp is back for 2026 – and we're ready to make it our best hike yet! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 3, and get ready to hit the stairs, conquer the climbs, and enjoy some of the most spectacular views Hamilton has to offer.

Our 2025 event drew nearly 200 hikers who tackled 23 kilometres and 2,000 escarpment steps, exploring waterfalls, city lookouts, and forested trails – while raising more than \$6,200 in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Whether you're aiming for a personal challenge or simply want to take in the sights with fellow hikers, the Steeltown Stomp is a fantastic way to celebrate autumn on the Niagara Escarpment.

Registration for the 2026 Stomp opens soon – see you on the steps!

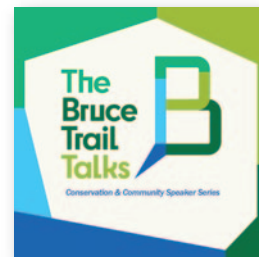
Content deadline for Blazes for the fall 2026 issue is August 1, 2026.

Send content to: Laura Tuohy, BTC Manager of Community Engagement, at ltuohy@bruce-trail.org

Bruce Trail Talks Session 2: On the Trail of Wellness – October 18, 2026

As the pace of modern life accelerates, the need to reconnect with the natural world has never been more urgent. This October, join world-renowned environmental neuroscientist Dr. Marc Berman and leading brain health researcher Dr. Jennifer Heisz for an engaging afternoon that brings science to the trail. Together, they'll reveal how time spent on the Bruce Trail can sharpen our minds, strengthen our bodies, and restore our sense of balance.

Explore the profound link between nature and well-being, from cognitive clarity to emotional resilience, the evidence is clear: nature heals. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or simply curious about the power of green space, this session offers a compelling reminder that sometimes the best thing we can do for our health is step outside. Sunday, October 18, 2–4 PM at The Westdale Theatre. Tickets available at <https://iroquoia.on.ca/bruce-trail-talks>



TORONTO

torontobruce-trailclub.org

Toronto End-to-End – September 12-13, 2026

Please join us for our annual self-led End-to-End. You will complete the 50 km distance over two days (approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday). Both days will traverse the varied terrain of the Toronto section from just south of Hilton Falls to the south entrance of the Cheltenham Badlands. Checkpoint stations will be

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.bruce-trail.org.



approximately every 10 km offering refreshments, water refill, and assistance.

The 2-Day hike fee is \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. This fee covers bus transportation from the meeting point to the hike starting point each day, refreshments, parking and permit costs, online registration fees, and the official NEW E2E badge.

Registration opens Wednesday, June 24 at 9:00 am or Bruce Trail Conservancy members. If any spots are still available at 9:00 am, July 8, 2026, registration will also be opened then for non-members. Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received.

Hike Registration:
visit hikes.brucetrail.org to register for any hike listed here (unless otherwise noted).

CALEDON HILLS caledonbrucetrail.ca

Caledon Hills Fall Colours End-to-End: October 10-12, 2026

Plan to enjoy the spectacular fall colours as you hike 72.4 kilometres of main Trail through the famous Caledon Hills. The distance can be completed on Saturday and Sunday only (two-day option) or over the long weekend (three-day option). A new 2-day badge is in the works!

Registration opens June 30 and is limited to 100 hikers.

DUFFERIN HI-LAND dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

Full Moon Family Star Gazing Hike – August 28, 2026

This is your chance to turn an ordinary evening into an adventure and stargaze from one of the Bruce Trail's most scenic lookouts - Murphy's Pinnacle.

Throughout the walk our guide will teach us about phases of the moon and key constellations, drawing our attention to exciting features of the summer night sky. This is a short, easy hike suitable for all adults and children over 6 years old. The hike will start at 9:00 pm. Don't forget to bring a flashlight or a headlamp. Registration is required. •

Bruce Trail End-to-End 2025 List... *continued*

Congratulations to Colleen Zouhar –

(End-to-End #5174) who completed her second End-to-End in 2025! We apologize for missing this important detail in our annual listing in the spring 2026 issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*.



Bruce Trail Day - October 4, 2026

Together on the Trail

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 family-friendly event unique to their section.

Each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs is hosting a family-friendly event unique to their section. Free on-Trail hikes and activities encourage people to explore the Bruce Trail and learn more about the amazing variety of life along the Niagara Escarpment.

Bring your friends and family - let's come Together on the Trail.

Visit brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-day-2026 for details.



Photo © G. Péninsule Bruce Trail Club

FUNDRAISER

Film Screening: The Art of Adventure

Film Screening:

The Art of Adventure

Sunday June 14 at 2:00 pm

The Bookshelf Cinema

41 Quebec Street, Guelph

Join members and friends of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club for a film screening in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

"In 1957, world renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman and spirited biologist Bristol Foster embarked on a global expedition in a Land Rover they called 'The Grizzly Torque' – a journey that ignited a deep love of our planet and set in motion a powerful story of environmental activism through art and science. The Art of Adventure invites us to listen, to learn and to embrace life with curiosity, courage and heart."

EXTRA: At the end of the film, Bruce Trail Conservancy CEO Michael McDonald will facilitate a brief question and answer period with the film's dynamic writer/director, Alison Reid, who also wrote and directed The Woman Who Loves Giraffes.

Tickets and Details

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club requests a minimum donation of \$34 per person, which will give attendees a charitable income tax receipt for \$20. Let generosity be your guide. All proceeds go to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy Trail Development & Maintenance Endowment Fund and will be matched!

Seats are limited. Please email your requests for seat reservations to chbtcevents@gmail.com. A response will indicate seat availability, allowing you to send your seat(s) donations by e-transfer to treasurer@caledonbrucetrail.org.

Optional Guided Hike

Join us for a leisurely guided hike in the Guelph area on the morning of June 14, in conjunction with the film event. Check hikes.brucetrail.org for hike details and to register for the hike. (Hike and film registration are separate.)



For more information visit brucetrail.org/film-fundraiser-2026



Thru-Hiker Survey

Thru-hiking is challenging way to attempt an end-to-end of the entire Bruce Trail: a continuous, uninterrupted, day-after-day-until-done approach.

It's a popular goal for many Bruce Trail hikers, but it has significant logistic challenges in addition to the physical ones.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is gathering information from current and past thru-hikers to inform a new strategy aimed at improving the thru-hiking experience.

Are you planning a thru-hike of the entire Bruce Trail in 2026 or 2027? Or have you completed one in past?

Please complete this very short survey for thru-hikers. We would love to hear from you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/btc-thru-hiking-2026>



Two New Membership Options

Young adults and long-time supporters now have new options for membership.

1-Year Youth (18-29) Membership - \$30

For young adults 18-29 years old*, this is your invitation to get involved and support the Bruce Trail Conservancy in a budget-friendly way. Know a young person who loves the Bruce Trail? Consider buying them a Membership Gift Card to get them started.

10-Year Membership - \$650

For those looking for something between our 3-year and Lifetime Membership options, this is a great choice. You'll save \$100, weather any increases in

membership fees, and have the convenience of a membership that doesn't need renewing for ten years.

Members Matter

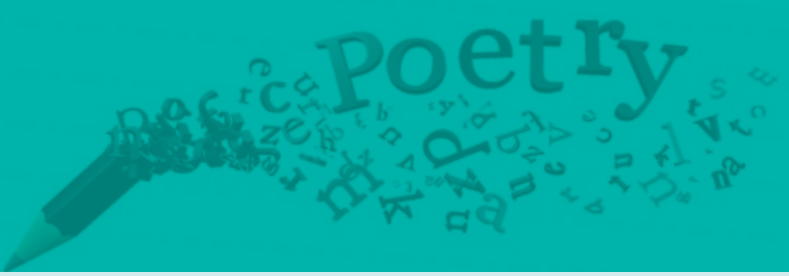
Both of these memberships provide essential support to the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its Clubs in our trail and conservation work. We look forward to growing our membership community with these two new options.

Visit brucetrail.org/become-a-member/#membership-options to learn more.

**Note: If we already have your birth date on file, and you are not 18-29 years old, you will not see this membership option online.*



Bruce Trail Poetry



For over 60 years, the Bruce Trail has been inspiring poets, nature lovers and intrepid explorers to put their experience into words. Here are a few from our archives.

Impressions of the Bruce Trail

Come walk with us the pleasant paths,
Leave care and tensions of the day,
Slow the feverish pace.
Follow the blaze which marks our course
Along the trail.

Take time to pause, exploring nature's charms
As they unfold along our way.
The grandeur of the silent hills,
The music of the hidden valley stream,
Springing from some secret source.

The beauty of the wayside flowers,
Growing in profusion at our feet.
A bright-eyed squirrel, seeking food,
Loudly scolding us the while.

To walk quietly through a shady wood,
With dappled sunlight filtering through
To paint the forest floor, like artist's brush,
With Nature's glorious hues.

Look to the peaceful valley below,
To quiet farms, to fields of shimmering grain,
The pastures where the lowing cattle graze,
Watching us with gentle, curious gaze.

Above us wide-spread branches of a lofty tree,
Safe shelter for happy, swift-winged birds,
Awakening the morning with their joyous song.
To walk, in winter, untrodden trails,
Save for prints of tiny feet, in fresh-fallen snow,
Of many small forest creatures
That have walked before us.

The challenge of the rugged northern shores
Exploring caves and spanning crevice deep,
Scaling the mighty ramparts steep,
Ageless sentinels over time and space.

And when the way is long, the shadows tall,
To rest one's weariness
Beside a tumbling waterfall.
Travel with good companions this wondrous trail,
Finding peace and contentment
And Life's enduring values,
In the all-embracing beauty of this world.

– Edith A. Sainsbury
(from *Bruce Trail News*, 1970 Vol. 7 No.1)



Photo: Greg Coman

Oh, Those Blazes!

Oh, those blazes!

Telling us where to go
Straight ahead though not actually straight
Turn to the left or go to the right
Laboriously ascending, carefully descending
Following the Main Trail marked in white

Oh, those blazes!

Never ending
So on we go
Through the forests and the valleys
The fields and the marshes
Over rocks and along cliff edges
Tramping on through leaves, water, muck and more

Oh, those blazes!

Leading us on through the rain, snow and sunshine
In the sweltering heat or the frigid cold
And every Celsius degree between
We keep trudging on

Oh, those blazes!

Taking us through the seasons
The red, orange and yellow colours of fall
Following the green leaves of summer
Lead into winter's white bareness
Springs hidden slippery mud is many a hiker's bane
As we slip and slide after the rain

Oh, those blazes!

On the trees, on stakes, on rocks and more
Painted on fence posts and hydro poles
Along the trail and highways and roads
Yea, those roads - gotta walk them too!

Oh, those blazes!

Up and down the ladders and stairways
Climbing over fences on wooden stiles
Crossing foot bridges and long boardwalks
Holding tight to ropes at steep inclines
All volunteer-built with our safety in mind

Oh, those blazes!

Out to scenic lookouts offering magnificent views
Across valleys, along shorelines, over forests and sloughs
Letting us look back to where we've been
Or ahead to where we've yet to go
Past moss-covered rocks, huge boulders, layered limestone
Exploring caves, peering into crevasses or up towering cliffs

Oh, those blazes!

Crossing creeks, streams and rivers
Passing dry or trickling waterfalls
Discovering cascades big and small
Pausing to listen by the babbling brooks
Finding water everywhere, even seemingly out of rocks



Oh, those blazes!

Sharing the path with creatures big and small
Following the tracks of turkey and deer
Glimpsing a fox or porcupine, maybe a bear
Startling as grouse escape nearby
All while birds sing and swoop in the clear sky

Oh, those blazes!

Passing through Mother Nature's garden
Full of pretty flowers, ferns and colourful fungi
Home to the blackflies, dragonflies, butterflies, mosquitoes
Spiders, caterpillars and those ever busy bees
Sheltering snakes (Did it rattle?), squirrels, chipmunks and toads
The list just goes on and on

Oh, those blazes!

Greeting fellow hikers from near and far
Trail Angels shuttling us to drop offs by car
Family and friends along for a hike or two
Creating memories to keep forever
Stored in our minds, phones, digital cards
and those photographic prints from film

Oh, those blazes!

End to End
North to south, south to north
At random - here or there
There's no particular way to go ...
Cairn to Cairn
An amazing BLAZE-ing journey!

Oh, those blazes!

hmm ... now those *Blue* blazes.
Where do they go?
A new adventure is waiting!

– **Dan Thomas, with edits by sister Jane Hogan.**
Dan and Jane completed the Bruce Trail together in 2023

What's in a Name?

Revitalizing Anishinaabemowin Names for Plants and Birds

By the Binesiinyik team at Creator's Garden



Joseph Pitawanakwat has been working with and teaching about Anishinaabe plant medicines for over 16 years.

His knowledge in this field was originally cultivated through his grandmother and her vast experience as a healer and midwife in her community of Wiikwemkoong First Nation on Manidoo Minis (Manitoulin Island). He has since learned from hundreds of traditional knowledge holders and uniquely blends this knowledge and reinforces it with an array of western sciences.

A powerful aspect of Joseph's approach is how he educates not only on the uses of plants, but the knowledge contained within the Anishinaabemowin names for plants, which hold teachings about their relation to the human body and broader ecology. Unlike English, which focuses on a noun-based description of the world around us, Anishinaabemowin is a verb-based language. This means that all names are describing actions and, depending on the perspective of the speaker, the actions described can be myriad.

Let's take *Equisetum hyemale*, commonly known as scouring rush, named Giziibinashk [gih-ZEE-bih-nashk] in Anishinaabemowin. The English common name gives you some sense of the properties of the plant. It is a rush, not a grass or sedge, and the "scouring" part describes its utility as a scrubbing tool due to its ridged outsides. Giziibinashk also describes this utility as something that can be used to clean, Giziibiignige is the verb used to describe she/he scrubs. Giziiwize is a flavour descriptor showcasing that Giziibinashk tea has a sweet and sour taste that makes one's mouth salivate.

Ziibiing is a verb describing "by the river", showcasing the habitat that this plant grows best in. Ziiniwe is a description of a shrill sound, something that Giziibinashk can make once dried out and rubbed together due to the immense concentration of silica crystals within the plant. This layering of meaning within a single name is central to the idea of



Giziibinashk [gih-ZEE-bih-nashk] or *Equisetum hyemale*

Anishinaabemowin being a polysynthetic language, meaning that though each individual sound means the same thing no matter where it is found in the language, the context in which it is used changes the meaning of the whole verb.

This type of embedded knowledge extends to all aspects of the natural world, including birds, another of Joseph's passions. Anytime he had the opportunity to be in community teaching about medicines, he would ask to speak with community members who had any form of bird knowledge in Anishinaabemowin. Through his travels and conversations in countless visits, he has managed to collect roughly 170 bird names from across Anishinaabe territory.

Agaag'igeshiinh [a-GAA-gih-geh-sheenh]
or Common Raven

Illustration: Emily Kewageshig



Take the Common Raven, Agaag'igeshiinh [a-GAA-gih-geh-sheenh] in Anishinaabemowin. Raven intelligence is continually being explored by scientists and the Anishinaabek have long been aware of this bird's intellect: part of its name (gaag'ige) means "forever", referring to how their intelligence transcends time and generations. One example is how Agaag'igeshiinh has learned to communicate with Anishinaabek people by making a specific 'tik tik' sound. Following that sound, Agaag'igeshiinh would lead people right to the closest animal to hunt. As gratitude for this help, parts of the hunted animal would be left behind to feed Agaag'igeshiinh.

Another example is the Black-capped Chickadee or Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh [a-JEE-da-JIG-AAN-eh-sheenh]. Before the constant presence of bird feeders in backyards and conservation areas, Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh had to discover other ways of procuring food. Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh is extremely food motivated, which often means it shows less fear of humans and other beings around it, as it focuses its efforts on food collection. One such way Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh has

interacted with the Anishinaabek is when a hide is being stretched. All fat must be carefully scraped off to avoid spoilage. Never one to let food go to waste, Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh patiently removes each tiny morsel (ad'ajiid'iji) off the bone (gane), feeding itself and helping the Anishinaabek.

Joseph's interest in Anishinaabemowin bird names grew and the potential for sharing this knowledge became a reality with the help of two friends, Andrés Jiménez Monge and Junaid Shahzad Khan. Through a shared passion for birding, ecology, and language revitalization, they officially started collaborating on these concepts back in 2019. They now call themselves the Bineshiinyik [bin-EH-sheen-yick] team, which means "Birds" in Anishinaabemowin. Andrés is a Costa Rican-Canadian herpetologist, and Junaid is a Pakistani-Canadian ecologist. Junaid began learning Anishinaabemowin in 2018, and Andrés in 2024. Often when Joseph receives a name, it is not in the field while looking at the bird being spoken about. At best he receives some habitat or biological traits. Through their combined experiences in biology, ecology, and language, the three friends utilize eco-linguistic techniques to match bird names Joseph has collected in communities to their real-world counterparts.

Ad'ajiid'iji'aganeshiinh [a-JEE-da-JIG-AAN-eh-sheenh]
or Black-capped Chickadee

Illustration: Emily Kewageshig



All of their arguments for the identities of birds are vetted through a council of Anishinaabemowin speakers. If a name does not match the case the team has made for it based on the speaker's understanding of the language, it is back to the drawing board to re-assess the name. The team does not see their work as providing the absolute truth on Anishinaabemowin bird nomenclature, but the best case that they can create for a given name. The goal of this project is to enlighten people all across Anishinaabe territory to the incredible depth and beauty of knowledge held within

Amemenh [a-MEH-MEH] or
Pileated Woodpecker
Illustration: Emily Kewageshig



Anishinaabemowin, and how it can help us all create better and deeper relationships with all non-human beings around us.

So far, they have created two educational resources to share this bird knowledge: an Anishinaabe Bird Names guide focused on 15 carefully chosen species, and most recently, an Anishinaabe Bird Names guide about winter birds and featuring beautiful original artwork from Emily Kewageshig, an artist from Saugeen First Nation. The team also regularly gives presentations and workshops to engage birders and non-birders alike in the exploration of birds, ecology and language. To learn more, visit: www.creators garden.net or reach out to birds@creators garden.net.

More about Joseph and the Binesiinyik team:

Joseph Pitawanakwat is the Founder & Director of Creator's Garden, an Anishinaabe education business focused on plant identification, beyond-sustainable harvesting, and teaching everyone of their linguistic, historical, cultural, edible, ecological and medicinal significance through experiences. He has learned from hundreds of traditional knowledge holders and uniquely blends this knowledge with and reinforces it with an array of western sciences.

Andrés Jiménez Monge is a Costa Rican Canadian biologist who strives towards creating deeper connections between people and the planet. From leading the campaign to ban shark finning in Costa Rica, to building international funding

opportunities for Costa Ricans looking to study in the environmental field in Canada, to managing conservation programs across Canada, Andrés' journey into nature goes back over twenty years. Andrés has an infectious enthusiasm for nature, which he utilizes to help foster its stewardship.

Junaid Shahzad Khan is a Muslim-Canadian from the Indus Valley, from the region that is now Pakistan. Junaid has worked as an ecologist for over 12 years on issues of invasive species, plastic pollution, habitat revitalization, insect conservation, and bird education. Through the ongoing learning of Anishinaabemowin and working alongside community members looking to rejuvenate Anishinaabek cultural practices, he hopes to help support efforts towards Indigenous land sovereignty across Turtle Island.

Illustrator:

Emily Kewageshig is a contemporary Anishinaabe artist and visual storyteller from Saugeen First Nation who specializes in painting, illustrations, digital design, and murals. Emily provided all the illustrations for this article and for the Anishinaabe Winter Bird Names Nature Guide. www.emily-kewageshig.com

Anishinaabe Bird Names Guides from Creator's Garden are available to purchase at
<https://outdoorlearning.com/product-category/student-resources/>

Passport to Nature

Free events on and about the Bruce Trail

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is excited to introduce **Passport to Nature** – a new program to connect more people with the Bruce Trail and the work of the BTC and its Clubs.

Launching in July, the *Passport to Nature* is a curated collection of fun, free or low-cost events open to the public and hosted by each of the Bruce Trail Clubs. Through a printed booklet and a dedicated online hub, individuals and families can browse and register for events, learn more about the Bruce Trail and ways to get involved, and even collect “stamps” for participating.



Passport to Nature events are identified by this “stamp” logo, displayed in a different colour for each Bruce Trail Club. Participants can collect a sticker with this logo at each *Passport* event, with the chance to earn a badge after collecting four stamps, and a prize for collecting all nine colours.

To someone new to the Bruce Trail, its size and scope can seem overwhelming. The *Passport* is designed as an inviting starting point – a way to discover the people, places and experiences that make the Trail special, while encouraging deeper involvement over time. A wonderful menu of events offers different ways to connect with nature, learn about conservation efforts, and explore the Bruce Trail.

Events include introductory and family hikes, cleanups and invasive species pulls, plantings and restoration projects, themed hikes focused on flora, fauna, geology and history – and more!



Photo: Sandra Green

The printed *Passport to Nature* booklet features a selection of events running from July 2026 to June 2027. As more *Passport* events are confirmed, they will be added to the online *Passport to Nature* page.

We are grateful to the incredible volunteer hike and event leaders who make this program possible.

***Passport to Nature* launches this July at brucetrail.org/passport-to-nature**

[Passport to Nature booklets will be available at BTC and Club booths at community events, by request from the BTC office while supplies last, or as a download from brucetrail.org/passport-to-nature]



Photo: Photo: c/o Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club



Photo: Brian Popeliter

What is an Endangered Species?

Understanding the Language of Risk

Most of us are familiar with the term “endangered species”.

It brings to mind images of pandas and polar bears and reminds us of the impact that humans have had on the natural world. But what does it really mean for a species to be endangered. And why do the words we use to describe risk matter?

Around the world, over 48,600 species are threatened with extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Along the Niagara Escarpment, at least 70 species at risk depend on the forests, wetlands, cliffs and grasslands that make this landscape unique. If these species disappear, so do the vital ecological roles they play.

Conservationists use a specialized vocabulary to describe the health of species and the threats they face. Terms such as *endangered*, *threatened*, and *special concern* are not simply labels. They help scientists, governments, and conservation organizations determine where action is needed most urgently and what protections may be required. In conservation, language shapes decisions, and those decisions can influence whether a species recovers or declines.

Why Endangered?

Endangered species, in simplest terms, are in danger of extinction. While extinction is a natural part of evolution, today's rate of species loss is not. Scientists estimate that extinctions are occurring 1,000 to 10,000 times faster than the natural background

rate, largely because of human activities.

Wildlife faces multiple, often overlapping pressures, including habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species and pollution. As populations decline, ecosystems can lose important functions that support all life. While human activity is a major driver of biodiversity loss, human action can also help reverse these trends.

Classifying Risk

With so many species in decline and so many threats to biodiversity, it may be difficult to know where to start. This is where species at risk classification comes in.

Like patients in an emergency room, species are assessed and prioritized according to their level of risk. Because conservation resources are limited, this ecological triage helps direct efforts where they are needed most.

Assessing species conservation status provides a snapshot of nature's health and helps identify species or habitats that may require targeted recovery efforts. It can also reveal population declines before they become critical. In many cases, early action is more effective and less costly than emergency intervention after a species has become endangered.

Assessing Status and Monitoring Change

Whether a species is considered ‘at risk’ can depend on the scale at which it is

assessed: globally, nationally, regionally, or locally. As a result, several different systems exist to evaluate and describe conservation status.

Most systems assess species based on trends in population size, distribution, and the severity of threats. In Canada and Ontario, independent scientific committees evaluate species and place them into categories that reflect their level of risk.

At the federal level, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assesses species for their consideration under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). In Ontario, the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) assess species for consideration under the Species Conservation Act (SCA).

Both committees use the same five primary categories:

- **Extinct:** No longer exists anywhere in the world.
- **Extirpated:** No longer exists in the wild in Canada/Ontario, but exists elsewhere.
- **Endangered:** Facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
- **Threatened:** Likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.
- **Special Concern:** May become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Species may also be designated as **Not at Risk** if they do not meet the criteria for any of the above categories, or

as **Data Deficient** if there is insufficient information to assess its status. These committees generally meet twice a year to reassess and update classifications.

These categories are more than scientific descriptions. They help guide research, recovery planning, habitat protection, and conservation funding.

When Definitions Shape Protection

COSEWIC's rankings inform the federal Species at Risk Act – Canada's primary legislation for species and habitat protection. However, SARA only applies to migratory birds, aquatic species, and species on *federal* crown lands (which, in Ontario, represents roughly 1% of the land area). That leaves all other species at risk in Ontario relying on other sources for the same protection.

In March 2026, the *Endangered Species Act* in Ontario was repealed and replaced with the *Species Conservation Act (SCA)*.



Jefferson Salamander (Endangered Nationally and Provincially, S2)

Photo: Sarah Lamond (Naturalist CC BY-NC)

Along with the legislative changes came changes in language and definitions. The Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List was renamed the Protected Species in Ontario (PSO) List, and species classified as *special concern* are no longer included. The definition of habitat was also narrowed for animal species to focus on dwelling places, such as nests and dens, and the immediate surrounding area.

These changes illustrate why conservation language matters. Definitions determine how species are categorized, which in turn determines how and if species and their habitats are protected under law.

Another Way of Measuring Risk

Not all conservation rankings are tied directly to legislation.

Ontario's Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) maintains biodiversity records for more than 18,000 species and tracks the locations and conditions of thousands of them across the province.

To assess conservation status, NHIC uses a standardized ranking system developed

by NatureServe, a non-profit charity that acts as a network connecting science with conservation across North America. Species receive a rank from 1 to 5, with lower numbers indicating greater risk.

For Ontario species, the rankings are: **S1** Critically Imperiled; **S2** Imperiled; **S3** Vulnerable; **S4** Apparently Secure; and **S5** Secure. (The "S" indicates a "Sub-national" or provincial ranking.)

Unlike federal or provincial species-at-risk designations, NatureServe ranks do not carry legal protections.

However, they provide valuable scientific insight into biodiversity trends and help identify conservation priorities. These rankings are often considered by COSEWIC and COSSARO, even though they remain independent of legal classifications.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) frequently uses NHIC rankings in its conservation work and contributes biodiversity observations from BTC-managed lands to the provincial database each year.

Turning Words into Action

While classification systems help us understand risk, protecting species ultimately depends on action.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is working to preserve and steward a continuous conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment, providing habitat for species at risk and helping maintain ecological connectivity across the landscape.

Because habitat loss and degradation remain the greatest threats facing many species, protecting and restoring natural areas is one of the most effective ways to support their recovery.

To date, 130 Species of Conservation Concern have been documented on BTC-protected lands. This broader term, used by BTC and NHIC, includes legally listed species at risk as well as rare, declining, or



Bobolink (Special Concern Nationally, Threatened Provincially, S4)

Photo: Brian Popelier

otherwise vulnerable species that may not yet have formal legal designation.

The BTC's work focuses on improving habitat quality, reducing threats to species at risk, and filling knowledge gaps about where species occur and the challenges they face. Through land securement, ecological restoration, invasive species management, and monitoring, we are helping create conditions in which Niagara Escarpment species can persist and recover.

Why Language Matters

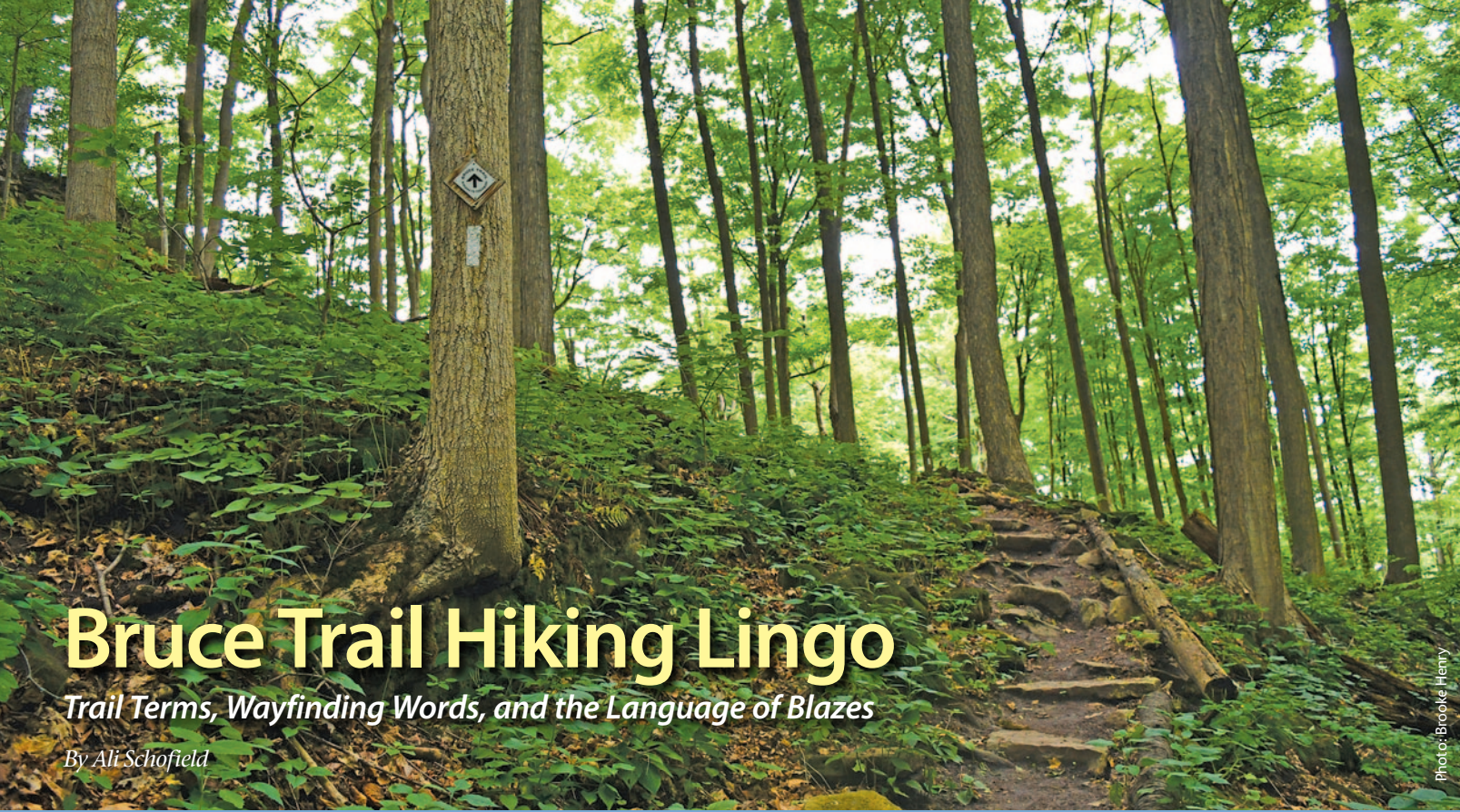
The language of species at risk can sometimes seem technical, filled with classifications, rankings, and acronyms. Yet these terms are far more than scientific jargon. They help us understand which species need our attention, where conservation efforts should be focused, and how urgently action is required.

Behind every designation is a living species and a story about the health of the ecosystems we share. The labels may change as populations recover or decline, but their purpose remains the same: to help us recognize risk before it becomes loss. By protecting habitat today, we can help ensure that more species move away from the brink, and that future generations inherit not just the language of conservation, but the biodiversity it exists to protect. •



Snapping Turtle (Special Concern Nationally and Provincially, S3)

Photo: Monica P. (Naturalist CC BY-NC)

A photograph of a forest trail. A wooden signpost with an arrow pointing up is attached to a tree trunk on the left. The trail is a dirt path with some wooden steps, surrounded by lush green foliage and trees. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Bruce Trail Hiking Lingo

Trail Terms, Wayfinding Words, and the Language of Blazes

By Ali Schofield

Photo: Brooke Henry

Like many activities with a devoted following, Bruce Trail hiking comes with its own vocabulary.

If you're new to hiking the Bruce Trail or simply an occasional explorer, learning the lingo can help you navigate, find information, and connect with fellow hikers. Here's a guide to some common words and phrases you might encounter on the Trail.

Starting Out

Every hike begins at a **trailhead**, an entrance to the trail often connected to a parking area. While the Bruce Trail stretches from Niagara to Tobermory, there are hundreds of trailheads along its length, creating plenty of opportunities for adventure. Trailheads often feature signage with important information about the trail, and some include amenities like benches, garbage receptacles and portable toilets.

Choosing Your Route

Many Bruce Trail outings are **point-to-point hikes** where you begin and end at different trailheads. To avoid retracing their steps, some hikers arrange **car shuttle (or shuffle)**: hikers travel in two cars to the trailhead at the end of the route, leave one car there, then travel to the beginning in the second car. Then at the end of the hike, they drive back to the first trailhead to retrieve the first car.

(Turned around yet?) Others opt for a **key swap** where two groups of hikers start at opposite ends of a route, meet in the middle then exchange car keys before continuing on.

For a simpler experience, and a chance to explore the Trail with others, you may like to join an **organized hike** offered by one of our nine Bruce Trail Clubs. These free or low-cost events are organized by a volunteer **hike leader** and supported by a **sweep** who follows at the back of the group to ensure that no one is left behind. If you're hiking independently, you may call upon a volunteer **Trail Angel** to help transport you to or from the trailhead.

Thinking Bigger

For many hikers, exploring the Bruce Trail becomes a long-term goal. Over 5,200 people have completed an **end-to-end (E2E)**, hiking the entire 900 kilometre Bruce Trail from Queenston to Tobermory. Some complete their E2E over many months or years in a series of **day hikes**. Others tackle larger bits, completing **section or Club end-to-ends**, either on their own or as part of an E2E series of hikes organized by a Bruce Trail Club.

For those seeking an even greater challenge, a **thru-hike** involves hiking

consecutive days to complete a section – or even the whole Trail – in a single trip. Thru-hikers might take advantage of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's few **overnight rest areas (ORAs)**, simple designated sites intended for one-night stays. Most include space for one tent and a **thunderbox**, the colourful name for a rudimentary wilderness toilet.

Gear with Unusual Names

Trail vocabulary extends to equipment as well.

For muddy or snowy conditions, **gaiters** are waterproof coverings worn over the lower legs and shoes to keep water and snow from getting into your boots. On icy trails you'll want **icers or microspikes**, removable traction devices for your boots that improve grip on slippery surfaces. And if you feel a blister developing, **moleskin** can help. This soft



adhesive padding reduces friction and protects hot spots before they become painful. No alligators, spikes or moles required!

Along the Trail

On your hike you'll encounter features built and maintained by BTC volunteers. On steep sections of the Escarpment, the Trail may follow a series of **switchbacks**, zig-zagging back and forth to make climbs and descents more manageable.

Where the Trail crosses fences, you'll often find a **stile**, which resembles two crossed ladders and allows hikers to pass over a fence without having to open and close a gate. Elsewhere, **dodgeways** provide an S-shaped opening in fence that hikers can walk through while preventing access by bikes or horses.



Stile

Photo: Laura Tuohy

agreements with landowners are altered, the Trail may be moved. These changes, known as **reroutes**, can alter distances and kilometre markers.

For that reason, and because temporary closures are always possible, it's best to check brucetrail.org/trail_changes for updates before heading out, or carry the **Bruce Trail App** on your phone, a navigational tool with all the latest trail information.

Following the Blazes

No matter where you go or what the trail entails, the most important thing to remember is to follow the **blazes**.

A **blaze** is a trail marker that provides wayfinding information. The Bruce Trail's blaze system was modeled after the one used on the Appalachian Trail, with white blazes to mark the Main Trail and blue blazes for side trails.

The system is simple but effective. A **single blaze** tells you to continue straight ahead. A **double blaze** signals a turn, with the upper rectangle offset in the direction you should travel. An **end blaze**, arranged in a "T" shape, marks the end of a side trail.

At the very ends of the Bruce Trail, hikers encounter one final marker: a **cairn**, or purpose-built stone pile, marks the terminus at Tobermory in the north and at Queenston in the south.

Whether you're setting out on your first day hike or working toward an end-to-end, these terms are more than just Trail jargon. They reflect decades of volunteer effort, shared traditions and a common language that helps connect thousands of people to the Bruce Trail.

Learn a few of these words, follow the blazes, and you'll soon be speaking the language of the Trail. •



Photo: Vilma Lamparas

You may even encounter a **boot brush station**, a fixed cleaning stand equipped with sturdy brushes to help remove seeds and soil from footwear and reduce the spread of invasive species.

Finding Your Way

One essential piece of hiking gear is a map. For Bruce Trail hikers, that means the *Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide* (a.k.a. "**the guidebook**"). Available as a binder of printed maps or downloadable PDFs, it's the definitive guide to the Trail.

The maps include **kilometre markers**, numbered reference points at trail junctions that indicate the distance relative to the beginning of that Bruce Trail Club section. They can be helpful for measuring distances or arranging meeting points (e.g. "Meet at km 80").

Interestingly, you won't find many physical kilometre markers on the Trail itself. That's because the route of the Bruce Trail is not static; as land is protected, trail conditions change or

Why 'blazes'?

The word "blaze" in the sense of a mark was first recorded in the 1630s. Likely derived from the Old Norse word "blesi", it referred to the light spot on the forehead of a horse or other animal. By the 1660s, the term morphed slightly. When early settlers in North America wanted to mark their way in a forest, they would cut into the bark of a tree to expose a strip of light wood. Resembling the white mark on the face of an animal, these way-markers became known as blazes. Nowadays any kind of mark for wayfinding could be considered a blaze, from notches carved in wood, to ribbons, to the paint we use along the Bruce Trail.

Adapting to Change Along the Escarpment

Climate-Smart Restoration on Bruce Trail Conservancy Lands



By Rhoda B. deJonge, PhD and Baharak Razaghirad, MSc

Photo: Laura Pisko

The Niagara Escarpment has long been recognized as one of Canada's most ecologically significant landscapes – a continuous corridor of forests, wetlands, and meadows supporting remarkable biodiversity.

In response, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC), in collaboration with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, undertook a multi-phase initiative to better understand these changes and translate them into practical, on-the-ground action. The result is a comprehensive effort that moves from understanding climate-driven shifts, to identifying where intervention is most needed, to defining how restoration can be adapted for a changing future.

Reading the Landscape Under Change

The first phase of the project focused on a fundamental question: how will the ecological foundation of BTC lands change under future climate conditions?

By analyzing forest types and key plant species across BTC properties, the study revealed that climate suitability is not fixed. Some species currently common along the Escarpment may face increasing stress, while others – particularly those associated with more southern regions – are likely to increase their populations throughout the region over time. These changes are not expected to occur as abrupt shifts, but rather as gradual transitions, where existing ecosystems experience increasing pressure while new ecological conditions slowly emerge.

This pattern is particularly evident in the Carolinian forest zone of southern Ontario. Rather than disappearing from its current range, the Carolinian zone is projected to expand northward, bringing with it a gradual reshaping of species composition and ecological dynamics. For BTC, this means that restoration decisions made today will influence landscapes that operate under very different conditions in the decades ahead.

Reconnecting a Fragmented Corridor

Building on these climate insights, the second phase of the project turned to the structure of the landscape itself. Even the most climate-resilient species cannot persist without pathways to move, disperse, and adapt.

Across the Escarpment, habitat fragmentation – driven by land use, infrastructure, and historical land clearing – limits these natural processes. Through spatial analysis and corridor design principles, the project identified a series of

priority areas where targeted interventions could significantly improve connectivity.

Rather than proposing a single continuous corridor, the work emphasized realistic, site-specific opportunities: restoring old fields, strengthening forest edges, and linking existing habitat patches. These interventions are designed to support seed dispersal, gene flow, and localized species movement, all of which are essential under shifting climate conditions.

The outcome is a more connected landscape – not in theory, but through practical, implementable steps that align with BTC's operational realities.



The Bruce Trail and Niagara Escarpment are key features of the Greenbelt. Bruce Trail Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the support of the Greenbelt Foundation for this project.

"The result is a comprehensive effort that moves from understanding climate-driven shifts, to identifying where intervention is most needed, to defining how restoration can be adapted for a changing future."

From Insight to Implementation

While understanding change and identifying priority areas are critical, the success of this work ultimately depends on how restoration is carried out on the ground. This was the focus of the third phase of the project.

Through a combination of literature review, internal staff interviews, and engagement with external practitioners, the project examined how restoration is currently implemented across BTC lands – and how it can be strengthened in the context of climate change.

What emerged is both encouraging and instructive. BTC's restoration practices are already strongly aligned with ecological best practices, particularly in their emphasis on site-specific decision-making, biodiversity, and integrated invasive species management. At the same time, the findings highlight that restoration outcomes are increasingly shaped by a combination of environmental pressures and practical constraints.

Across ecosystem types, one theme stood out clearly: the early establishment phase is the most critical determinant of success. Survival and growth in the first few years depend heavily on factors such as species and stock selection, site preparation, competition control, and post-planting care. When these early conditions are optimized, long-term resilience becomes far more achievable.

However, implementation at scale introduces challenges. Limited capacity for maintenance, variability in site conditions, and constraints related to funding and plant availability mean that not all best practices can be applied uniformly. As a result, the project emphasizes a strategic approach – prioritizing higher levels of intervention where risks are greatest and where the potential return is highest.

A Shift Toward Climate-Smart Restoration

One of the most important outcomes of this work is the recognition that restoration can no longer rely solely on historical conditions as a guide.

Climate-smart restoration introduces new considerations, including the use of climate-informed seed sourcing, assisted gene flow, and increased genetic and species diversity. In practice, this may involve sourcing plant material from slightly warmer regions or testing the introduction of species expected to thrive under future conditions – while still

"The Niagara Escarpment has always been a dynamic system. What is changing now is the pace of that dynamism – and the need to respond with equal adaptability."

maintaining ecological integrity and careful monitoring.

At the same time, the project reinforces that tools such as climate matching and plant hardiness mapping should be used as guidance, not prediction. Local site conditions – soil, moisture, topography, and biotic pressures – remain critical in determining success.

The result is not a prescriptive formula, but a more adaptive framework – one that combines ecological knowledge, climate projections, and practical experience.

Looking Forward Along the Bruce Trail

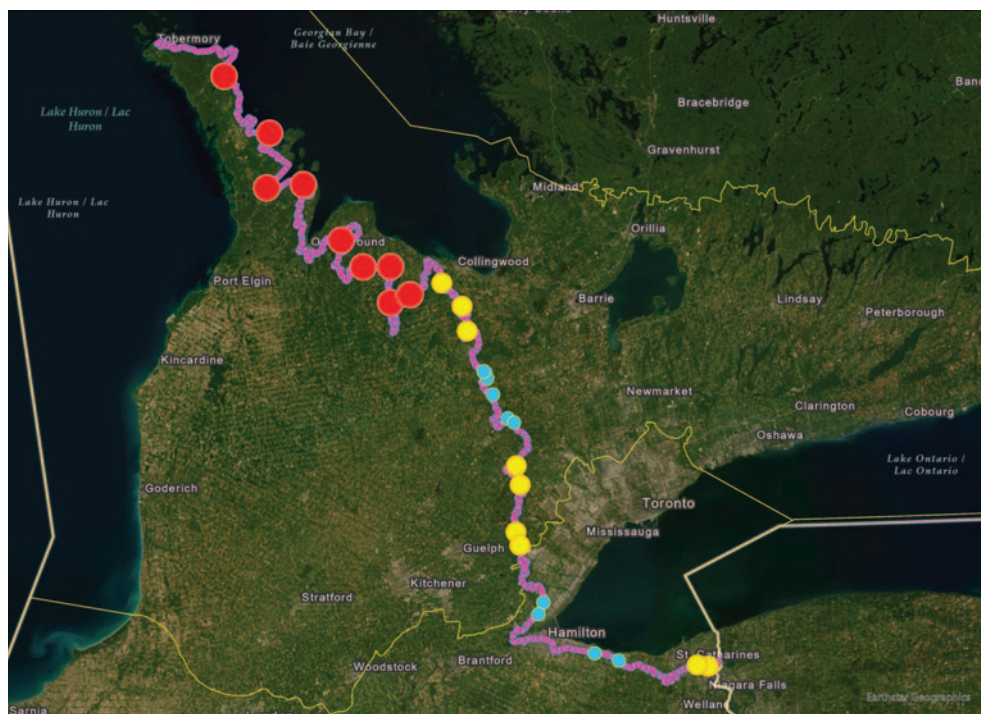
Taken together, the three phases of this project represent a shift in how restoration is approached along the Escarpment. It is no longer only about restoring what was lost, but about preparing landscapes for what lies ahead.

This means strengthening connectivity where it matters most, improving early establishment to increase long-term success, and gradually integrating climate-informed practices into everyday restoration work. It also means building a

more consistent approach to monitoring and learning from outcomes over time.

The Niagara Escarpment has always been a dynamic system. What is changing now is the pace of that dynamism – and the need to respond with equal adaptability. By grounding restoration in both science and practice, and by bridging long-term climate projections with day-to-day implementation, BTC is positioning its lands not just to withstand change, but to continue functioning as a resilient, connected ecological corridor for generations to come. •

Rhoda B. deJonge is Director, Plant Responses and the Environment, and Baharak Razaghira is Senior Research Technician, Plant Responses and the Environment, both at Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.



Climate Change Index for 27 BTC-managed properties, illustrating projected exposure to climate stress based on changes in temperature, precipitation, growing degree days, and frost-free days. Red: High climate risk, Yellow: Medium climate risk, Blue: Low climate risk, Purple: Bruce Trail. (Vineland Research & Innovation Centre)

Protect, Restore and Preserve an Icon *Talisman Forest Nature Reserve*

talisman: a charm thought to bring good fortune, protection, or healing; often a living symbol connected the natural world.

Talisman Forest Nature Reserve is a natural charm – a treasured part of the Beaver Valley featuring 134 acres of Niagara Escarpment land and 885 metres of Bruce Trail.

For decades the future of this area was uncertain. Now, with your support, these lands can be protected, restored and reimagined in one of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's most ambitious conservation projects.

Talisman Mountain Resort opened as ski hill in the 1960s and became a beloved place of outdoor recreation for decades. When the business closed in 2011, however, the future of the land became uncertain. Proposals for intensive, large-scale development of the property left many people concerned about what might come next.

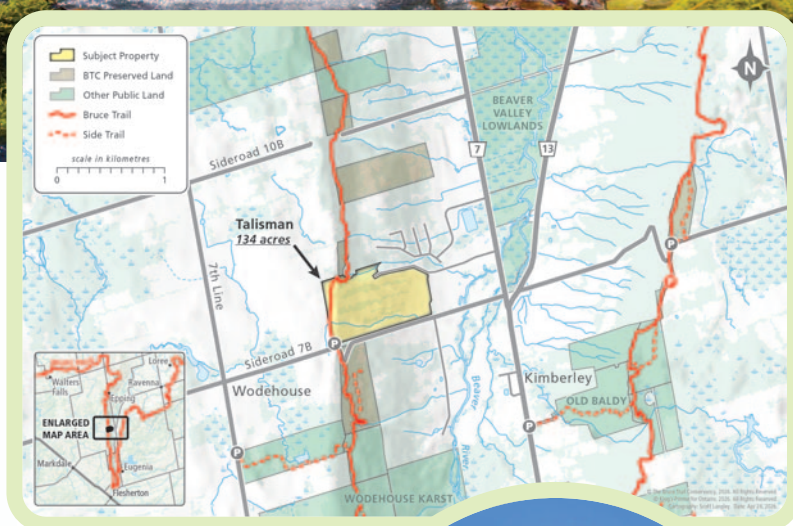
Today, we have a positive path forward.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has stepped in to secure the land at Talisman and return it to nature. This once-in-a-generation project is an opportunity to reclaim a scarred landscape and start a new chapter for nature – one of renewal and regeneration.

Plans for the newly established Talisman Forest Nature Reserve include removing deteriorating resort infrastructure, restoring damaged habitats, and permanently protecting this section of the Niagara Escarpment while maintaining access along the Bruce Trail.

But we need your support.

Your gift today will protect and restore Talisman Forest Nature Reserve. Plus, the next \$1.5 million donated will be MATCHED by Environment and Climate Change Canada, doubling your impact!



What your support makes possible

Protection from Development

Talisman Mountain Nature Reserve will remain permanently protected as part of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's conservation corridor. Its forests, flowing streams, exposed scarp and regenerating slopes are now safe from further development pressures.

Protecting this land means safeguarding species at risk, including Barn Swallow, Bobolink, and Butternut. It also provides refuge for migratory birds, pollinators and forest-dependent wildlife. Restoring its habitats will also provide lasting ecological benefits to the wider community, including cleaner air, natural water filtration, flood mitigation, and climate resilience through carbon storage.

A Secure Future for the Bruce Trail

In creating Talisman Forest Nature Reserve, we are securing 885 metres of Bruce Trail with stunning views across the Beaver Valley. This section of Trail will be protected forever, allowing generations to continue to build meaningful connections with nature here.

Responsible Removal of Old Structures

The remaining buildings and ski infrastructure at Talisman Forest Nature Reserve have fallen into significant disrepair. Making them safely usable again would require major investment. After careful consideration and extensive research



into alternate uses for the buildings, we determined the most meaningful investment we could make was in nature. Careful demolition of this infrastructure, along with responsible ecological cleanup, will allow the land to heal and recover.

Ambitious Restoration

Restoration plans include planting thousands of native trees and other plants on the former ski runs, helping reconnect one of the largest breaks in a ten-kilometre stretch of forest canopy along the Beaver Valley's western slope. There is also potential to foster grassland habitats, restore wetlands and daylight a buried stream, further improving habitat and climate resilience.

The cost to secure these lands, remove the existing structures, and launch one of the largest restoration projects in BTC history is \$7.5 million.

Right now, Environment and Climate Change Canada is MATCHING donations dollar for dollar up to \$1.5 million.
Thanks to our generous donors, we've already received just over \$600,000 in donations towards this match.
Will you help close the gap with a donation today?

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

Yes, I want to restore and protect a natural icon at Talisman!

Enclosed is my: ☐ Monthly Gift: ☐ \$_____ / month
☐ One-time Gift: ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$_____ other

Payment by: ☐ Cheque (payable to The Bruce Trail Conservancy or marked "Void" if setting up a monthly donation) ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Member# _____ Email: _____

☐ I am interested in learning more about making a gift to the Bruce Trail Conservancy in my will. ☐ I have included the Bruce Trail Conservancy in my will.

If donations to the profiled property exceeds the required funds, your donation will be used to secure and steward other lands within the Bruce Trail's conservation corridor.

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has recently added three new protected natural areas to our ribbon of wilderness along the Niagara Escarpment.

Each of these properties adds unique value to our conservation corridor, whether it be expanding existing protected areas, getting Trail off the road, or ensuring Trail connectivity between popular sites. Each was intentionally secured and will be protected forever thanks to the hard work of BTC Land Securement staff and volunteers, and the generosity of donors.

Falls Passage – Iroquoia section

Map 8, Hamilton

0.1 acres | 127 metres of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

Falls Passage is a strong example of a small property with outsized importance for Bruce Trail continuity. Located in Hamilton between the popular Tiffany Falls and Sherman Falls, this property forms part of a heavily-visited route in the “Waterfall Capital of the World”. Though modest in size, the area is scenic with wooded ravines that provide a pleasant hiking experience for the thousands who visit each year.

The forested slopes at Falls Passage – featuring thimbleberries, strawberries, and a variety of ferns in the undergrowth – offer a haven for local urban wildlife. Blue Jays, Song Sparrows, Indigo Buntings and other birds have been spotted and heard in its mature trees.

By securing Falls Passage, the BTC has ensured that visitors can continue to hike safely between these popular waterfall destinations while enjoying an uninterrupted route through picturesque near-urban greenspace.



Photo: Brooke Henry

Falls Passage – Iroquoia section



Silver Creek (expansion) – Toronto section

Photo: Brian Popelier

Silver Creek (expansion) – Toronto section

Map 13, Glen Williams

22 acres | 682 metres of Bruce Trail Alternate Route

The BTC's Silver Creek property was created in 2021 with the protection of 105 acres north of Limehouse in Halton Hills. This year, after years of planning and landowner relations work by the Toronto Bruce Trail Club, the securement of an additional 22 acres – Silver Creek (expansion) – will allow 700 metres of the Bruce Trail to be relocated off busy roads in this popular section.

Although the property is not on the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route, the challenges of securing land in the area make it valuable as an alternate route for the Trail. Subject to ecological assessments, Silver Creek (expansion) may also accommodate a future parking area for Bruce Trail users.

This expansion at Silver Creek is primarily regenerating meadow habitat. In the fall, goldenrods and asters fill the field with colour and provide an important food source for a variety of birds and pollinating insects. The eastern edge of the property includes part of the Silver Creek Wetland Complex, a Provincially Significant Wetland that provides critical amphibian habitat and a vital source of fresh water for wildlife in the area.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Fox Ridge Fields Nature Reserve – Beaver Valley section

Fox Ridge Fields Nature Reserve – Beaver Valley section

Map 25, Kolapore Uplands

100 acres | 1.2 kilometres of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

Located in the Town of The Blue Mountains and adjacent to BTC's Fox Ridge and Fox Ridge East properties (secured in 2019 and 2020), Fox Ridge Fields Nature Reserve increases the protected area by 100 acres, further strengthening our conservation corridor in the area. Featuring a section of Mill Creek, a small, forested grove, and exposed Escarpment rock, the property provides important habitat to a variety of Niagara Escarpment species. A lovely stretch of Mill Creek runs through the eastern end of the property, its waters kept cool by the surrounding forest. The land also includes significant agricultural fields, which will be leased to local farmers to remain productive while supporting long-term conservation goals.

Trail continuity was a key factor in securing this property. With over 1.2 kilometres of Bruce Trail Optimum Route on the land, Fox Ridge Fields represents a major step toward getting 1.7 kilometres of Trail off nearby roads. •



Photo: Karen Bergmann

Magical moments inspire a future gift

By Gloria Vidovich

Leslie (Les) McBeth was first introduced to the Bruce Trail when she was 12 years old.

She vividly remembers venturing out from her family cottage on the Trail between Barrow Bay and Lion's Head with her mother and two sisters.

"My mom is not an outdoorsy person, and this may have been her first-ever hike," shared Les. "Little did we know that we had embarked on a six-hour-plus journey through one of the most challenging sections of the Bruce Trail! But we had fun, and hiking the trail became a favourite annual cottage activity as well as a highlight of my childhood summers on the Peninsula."

Many years later, when Les became a new mother on the eve of the global pandemic, the Bruce Trail would once again become the backdrop for precious memories.

"My daughter was born in March 2020," said Les. "By mid-summer, I was going a little stir-crazy on maternity leave in lockdown. So, I set a goal of hiking the Toronto section end-to-end with my daughter. She saw the seasons change from hot summer days to cool fall afternoons; we hiked through the snow and ice, and watched the forest spring back to life. As we neared completion of

our goal, she had grown from a wee little babe who slept in the front carrier to an engaged toddler on my back who loved to point at the trees and find the blazes.

Often it was just the two of us on the Trail, and I remember feeling joy watching her looking around and taking in all the sights and sounds of nature. It felt magical."

Les has since returned to the workforce as an Education Consultant. Artificial Intelligence (AI), and its evolving influence on children's learning and development, is currently a key topic for educators.

"Our kids are growing up in a very different world than we did. There is a real danger that learning could be lost due to overreliance on AI. However, AI has potential benefits if you are curious and motivated to learn," shared Les.

"Nature offers one of the best ways to spark curiosity. That's why it's more important than ever to have an accessible, natural space like the Bruce Trail available for this next generation to explore."

Some time after the birth of their (now) two daughters, Les and her husband,

Odin, sat down to discuss their wills. In reviewing the option for charitable gifts, Les expressed her strong connection to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the desire to make it a part of her legacy. They agreed this was an important decision that could be arranged early in their estate planning.

Les decided to set her gift up as a percentage of her estate, recognizing that with the growth of her assets over time, her gift will also continue to grow.

"I like knowing that my gift will contribute towards the protection of land," said Les. "People may assume you need to be wealthy to put a gift in your will, but it's not about the size of the gift. It's really about the power of a small group of people working together to do amazing things. We can accomplish a lot together."

Leslie (Les) McBeth is a volunteer with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Board and a Trail Captain. Recipient of the BTC's 2024 Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award, Les was instrumental in reviving the Peninsula Hiking Festival and revamping the Peninsula Club's newsletter, The Rattler.



Les and her family on the Bruce Trail.

Photo: Les McBeth



Adventure
Canada

JOURNEYS FOR THE CURIOUS

How did the search for a northern route change what the world thought it knew?

Long before European explorers sought a route between two great oceans, Inuit knew these northern waters as home, navigating by sea ice, stars, and story. Their deep knowledge shaped every map that followed. When European expeditions arrived in search of the fabled Northwest Passage, they entered a world already charted through generations of memory and experience. Today, the Passage remains a place where traditional knowledge and adventure meet, revealing that discovery begins by listening to those who were here first.



\$500 off for The Bruce Trail Conservancy members. Visit advcan.ca/btc2 or scan the qr code to explore our available journeys. Call us at 1.800.363.7566

Northwest Passage

© Scott Forsyth

TICO Reg# 4001400

What's in Your Pack?

With Hike It! Love It! Keep It Clean! Volunteer Marg Glendon

When the pandemic hit in 2020, many people turned to the Bruce Trail to escape lockdowns and find solace in nature.

For longtime hiker and Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula local Marg Glendon, that increase in visitors came with an unfortunate consequence: growing amounts of litter in places she loved. With garbage cans removed and washrooms closed during public health restrictions, trash began accumulating along the Trail.

Inspired by the not-for-profit organization A Greener Future, Marg and other local volunteers decided to take action to protect the Peninsula's delicate

ecosystems and species. Marg took on the role of coordinator for the Hike It! Love It! Keep It Clean! Program with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

The program involves not only collecting garbage but also studying it to better understand what, how, and why people are littering. What began as individual litter collection during the height of pandemic restrictions has grown into an ongoing initiative that now includes organized clean-up events,

cigarette butt blitzes, guest speakers and community collaborations. Now in its sixth year, the program has ten events already scheduled in the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail for this season.



Volunteer Marg Glendon



Photo: Marg Glendon

As part of our ongoing What's in Your Pack? series, we asked Marg what she brings with her when heading out on the Bruce Trail to do this important work.

Tongs

Marg always brings long metal tongs with her when collecting garbage along the Trail. She purchased them from the dollar store because they're light, easy to carry, and inexpensive. Tongs make it easier to reach litter in awkward places, help avoid contact with sharp or unsafe items, and keep gloves cleaner for longer.

Washable Bag or Pail

A container to carry litter is essential. Marg often brings a reusable bag that can be washed and used again. She'll also carry a plastic bag for when recent rain or water features make litter wet. Since this litter program involves sorting items, a plastic bag can help keep soggy items away from other items. For longer clean-up days, Marg opts for a plastic pail provided by the Peninsula Club, complete with a label identifying the program.



Litter collected in one short hike.

Portable Ashtray

Cigarette butts are one of the most common types of litter found along the Trail, and they can pose a real problem for our ecosystems. Wildlife might mistake them for food, they can increase the risk of forest fires during dry seasons, and a single butt can contaminate 40 litres of water. That's why Marg always carries a portable ashtray – both to collect butts and to start conversations with smokers she meets along the way. These small, flame-retardant pouches attach easily to bags or belt loops and can be purchased online or at some smoke shops.



Washable Gloves

Marg packs multiple pairs of washable gloves when collecting litter. Extra pairs come in handy if one gets wet or dirty, or if someone unexpectedly joins her clean-up efforts. She prefers stretchy work or gardening gloves with a rubber palm.

Cell Phone and Bruce Trail App

A cell phone is another essential item in Marg's pack, both for safety and to access the Bruce Trail App. The App not only helps with navigation, it also allows her to

report sites with garbage that may be too heavy, unsafe, or extensive for one person to handle alone. Using the pin function, she can submit a Trail Issue directly to the Club, complete with GPS coordinates.

Litter Research Tools

Documenting and analyzing litter is a key part of the program. When internet service is available, Marg enters data directly into the collection forms provided by the Club using her phone. When it isn't available, she uses printable forms and a pen, transferring the information online once she's home. Over time, this data is used to identify trends and guide community education efforts.

Hand Sanitizer

One of the most important items in Marg's pack is hand sanitizer. Even with gloves and tongs, one can never be too safe, especially before drinking water or grabbing a snack to stay energized.

And finally...

When asked if there were any final items she would recommend, Marg emphasized the importance of bringing a positive attitude. Cleaning up litter can feel discouraging, but she recognizes the

impact of small actions. "We're not trying to point fingers at anyone," Marg says. "Many people want to find out who's littering, but that's not helpful. It is best to try to set an example, provide education, and know you're part of the change." •



LITTER STATS

Hike It! Love It! Keep It Clean!
(MAY – AUGUST 2025)



38 Clean-ups



91 Participants



49 Hours



4,654 Pieces of Litter

Learn more about the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's Hike It! Love It! Keep It Clean! Program at <https://peninsula.bruce-trail.org/hikeitloveitkeepitclean/>



Sorting litter

Explore Like a Local

Over the last few decades, the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula has grown in popularity as both a regional road trip and an international destination. But where do the locals go?

We've gathered recommendations from Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) volunteers to give you in the inside scoop for your next trip to the Peninsula.

The Booth Takeout

4 Tackabury St., Lion's Head

Recommended by Kathleen S., PBTC Hike Leader, Land Steward and Bruce Trail Day Co-coordinator

The Booth serves up delicious takeout eats from inside the Lion's Head and District Community Centre. The home-made butter tarts made by owner Mary are renowned by locals for being ooey-goey and delicious, and her soft and crumbly scones are packed with fresh fruit. Daily specials vary but she always serves up a generous helping of whatever she's serving. Everything is made fresh, priced well, and comes with a smile. It's the perfect spot to grab a snack before or after hiking in the area.

Coral's Caribbean Cuisine

651 Berford St., Wiarton

Recommended by Marg S., PBTC Land Steward

With a Jamaican flag painted across its façade on the main strip in Wiarton, Coral's Caribbean Cuisine can't be missed. The restaurant is known for its delicious offerings, friendly owner, and beautiful seasonal patio overlooking the bay. Marg's favourite menu items are the chicken curry dinner or roti. The restaurant does

offer vegetarian options, but Marg recommends calling 30-45 minutes ahead so that they can be prepared.

Howell's Fish

153 Division St., Wiarton

Recommended by Margaret O., PBTC Hike Leader

Whenever she's in Wiarton, Margaret heads to Howell's Fish, just off the beaten path on Division St. She never leaves town without taking home at least a pound of their wonderfully tasty, freshly smoked salmon or whitefish. The smoked salmon is Margaret's favourite, and she enjoys it on a salad or on a cracker with a bit of mayo. Howell's has recently opened a take-out window for dangerously delicious fish and chips. There's usually a line-up and they sell out their menu often.

Reader's Haven

10 Bay St., Tobermory

Recommended by Jane G., PBTC lifetime member

Reader's Haven has been a staple in Tobermory since 2006. Open daily April through October and most Saturdays in the off-season, the shop offers a selection of books, guides, stationery, games and crafts as well as take-out coffee and popcorn made in-house. Lifetime member and former volunteer Jane appreciates that these days, it's difficult to find an independent bookstore, and to have one in a small village like Tobermory

is particularly special. The store also carries many BTC products, so you can grab a hat or Reference Guide without having to pay shipping or travel to the BTC store in Dundas. Jane also appreciates that the owner, Susan Griffith, her daughter Lindsey and the summer staff can answer most questions about the Bruce Trail and are very helpful.



Lots to Discover

We hope you have a chance to enjoy these local Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula establishments, and the many others dotted along the Bruce Trail. Please note that these are recommendations based on the experiences of our volunteers, who did not receive anything in exchange for this listing. They are not official endorsements from the Bruce Trail Conservancy, nor paid advertisements from the businesses.

Think of this like printed word-of-mouth from your fellow hikers.

TIPS FOR VISITING THE PENINSULA IN THE SUMMER

The Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula is glorious – and extremely popular from May through October. Follow these tips from locals to keep your trip to the Peninsula worry-free and enjoyable while minimizing your impact on this spectacular place.

Book ahead and plan your visit

From May through October accommodations book up quickly and reservations are required for many experiences including restaurants, camping, hotels and parking. Be sure to do your research and book ahead before your trip to avoid disappointment.

Be aware of parking fees and restrictions

Parking is limited in the Northern Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, with reservations required at several locations and time restrictions in place. For example, a confirmed parking reservation is the only way to guarantee access to locations such as the Grotto and Halfway Log Dump for a day visit.

You will also find paid parking in effect for street parking in Tobermory and Lion's Head. Carpool, walk and bike as much as possible to avoid congestion.

Before you go, be sure to check the details of your desired parking area and have a backup plan, in case your first parking choice is full. If parking on a street, be sure that you are pulled well over to the side and not blocking any driveways or entrances to farm fields.

Use the Bruce Trail App or Reference Guide to find less-crowded hiking destinations

Some areas of the Bruce Trail have grown in popularity and can get easily overcrowded in the summer – including The Grotto, Little Cove, Devil's Monument, and Lion's Head Provincial Park.

We suggest expanding your horizons

The Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula is a remarkable place that can flourish while hosting seasonal visitors when we all do our part to respect and protect it. Through small, thoughtful actions, we can explore it responsibly and help preserve its natural beauty and rich biodiversity for generations to come.

and embracing all there is to see along the Bruce Trail in this picturesque section. Check out the Bruce Trail App or Bruce Trail Reference Guide for helpful information. The Bruce Trail App is especially up-to-date and can be used to plan your routes, find parking, look for Trail closures, and more.

Make your visit plastic-free: Bring your own containers

Bring your water bottle and reusable containers for your trail snacks, picnics and coffee. Pack totes for those market or grocery store stops. Don't forget a small cutlery kit.

Plastic water bottles and food wrappers are among the most littered items found by our volunteers. Not only are they destructive to the environment, they

overwhelm the waste disposal system of small Peninsula communities.

Look for water bottle refill stations in Tobermory, Lion's Head, and at the Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitors Centre. And stop into shops and businesses sporting the "Saugeen Peninsula Reduces Waste" decal in their windows. •



Helpful Links

Explore the Bruce:

<https://explorethebruce.com/plan-your-visit/peninsula-book-ahead/>

Bruce Peninsula National Park:

<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on/bruce>

Parking Reservations

Lion's Head, Little Cove, Devil's Monument and Dyers Bay:

www.northernbruceparking.ca

The Grotto and Halfway Log Dump:

<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on/bruce/activ/emplacements-locations/parking>



Photo: Brooke Henry

Trail Changes & Notices

MARCH – MAY 2026, POST EDITION 31

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

Trail Changes & Notices are online and in the Bruce Trail App

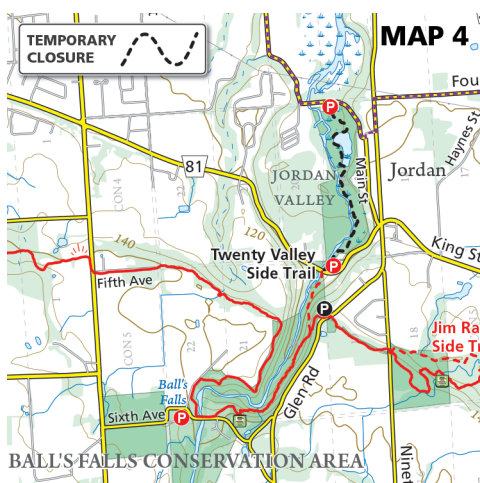
Visit brucetrail.org/trail_changes for the latest changes, searchable by Map Number, Club Section, and even by text in the description.

Download the Bruce Trail App to have the most up-to-date trail data on your mobile device.

NIAGARA

Map 4 – Twenty Valley Side Trail, temporary closure

The Twenty Valley Side Trail in Lincoln is temporarily closed due to damaged boardwalks. The length of the closure is unknown.

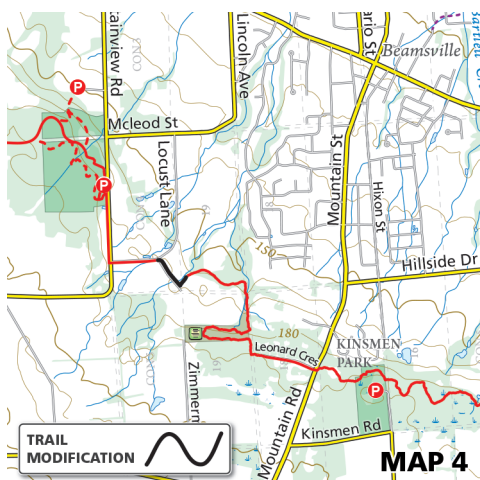


Map 4 – Zimmerman Road, reroute

At the request of the landowner, a short stretch of the main Bruce Trail in Beamsville has been rerouted onto the northernmost section of Zimmerman Road.

New Route = 305 metres

Abandoned Route = 320 metres



Map 5 – Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, reroute

Due to a damaged staircase in Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, a reroute and a few trail modifications have taken place.

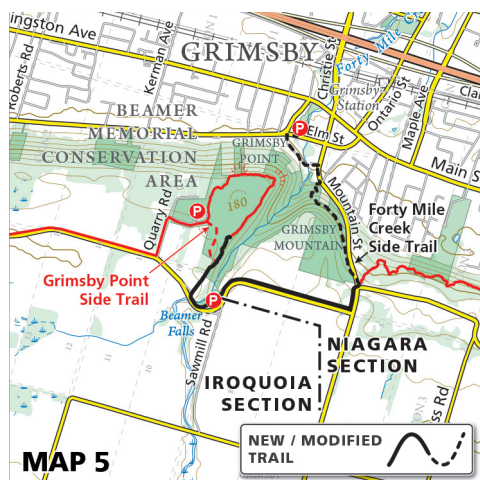
Forty Mile Creek Side Trail has been extended to the intersection of Mountain Street and Ridge Road East (following the former route of the main Bruce Trail). The main Bruce Trail has been re-routed along Mountain Street to Ridge Road West, along Ridge Road West to Beamer Memorial Conservation Area parking, then along the route of the former Beamer Falls Side Trail. The boundary between the Niagara and Iroquoia sections of the Bruce Trail has been moved to Ridge Road West, at the parking area of Beamer Memorial Conservation Area.

Forty Mile Creek Side Trail = 1.5 km

New Main Trail (solid black line shown on map) = 1.9 km

(Beamer Falls Side Trail has been converted to Main Trail).

Note: Accessible only from Gibson Street, a short stretch of the former route of the Bruce Trail remains open between Forty Mile Creek Side Trail and the damaged staircase as an in-and-out trail within the Conservation Area, but it is not currently part of the Bruce Trail network (and is not displayed on the map).



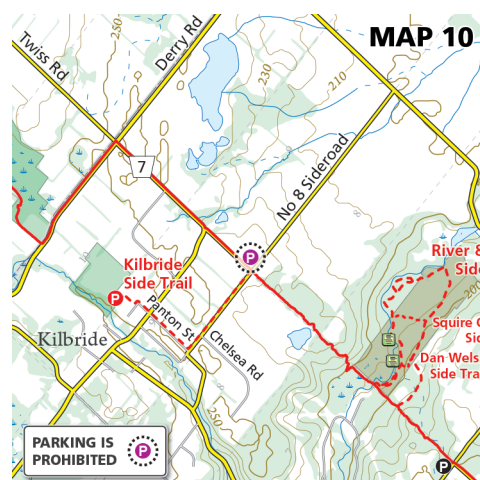
Parking Reservations Required

Seasonal paid parking and required reservations are in place at some parks and conservation areas along the Bruce Trail. For details visit brucetrail.org/explore-the-trail/#parking-and-transportation

IROQUOIA

Map 10 – Twiss Road

Roadside parking on Twiss Road at Number 8 Sideroad near Kilbride is no longer recommended by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.



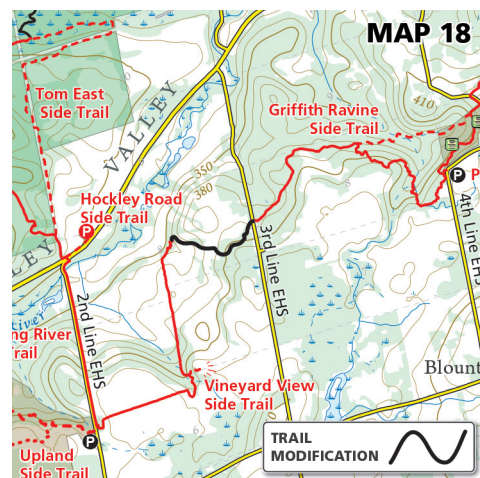
CALEDON HILLS

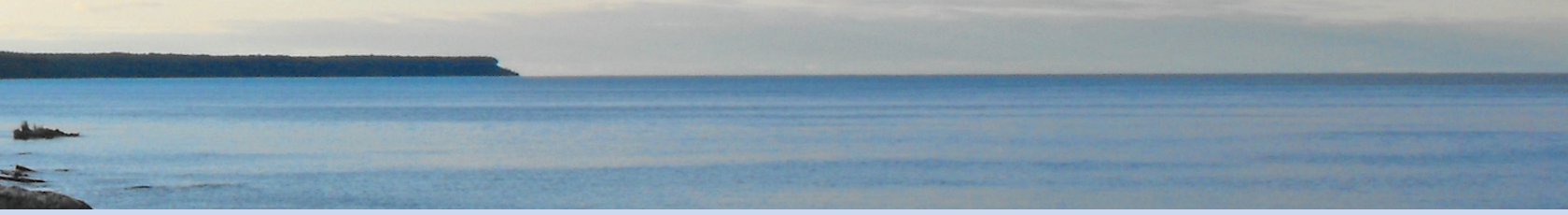
Map 18 – Hockley Valley Resort, reroute

The Bruce Trail through Hockley Valley Resort has been rerouted away from a service road and along a more undeveloped route on the property.

New route = 820 metres

Old route (not shown) = 700 metres

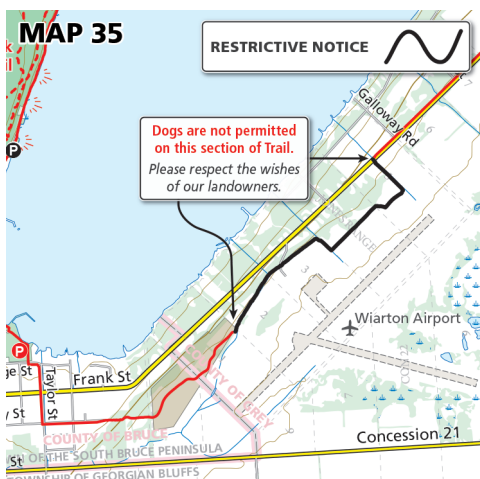




SYDENHAM

Map 35 – Sydenham – Wiarton, Dog Restriction Reinstated

Dogs are not permitted on the section of Bruce Trail along the Wiarton Airport property. The dog restriction has been reinstated and no dogs are allowed on this stretch. Visit brucetrail.org/dogs-on-the-trail for more information.



PENINSULA

Map 40 – Borchardt Road Parking Details

The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula has introduced paid parking at Borchardt Road, Miller Lake, beginning May 15, 2026. This is the closest parking to Devil's Monument.

Reservations are required between May 15 to September 15. Reservations are



available in 1-hour blocks for \$5, with a maximum daily rate of \$30.

Reserve at northernbruceparking.ca. For more details visit <https://www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/discover/parking/>

Map 41 – Upper Andrew Lake to High Dump, temporary closure

In Bruce Peninsula National Park, the Bruce Trail between Upper Andrew Lake and High Dump Side Trail is temporarily closed until further notice. Flooding and a damaged bridge have made the trail impassable. •

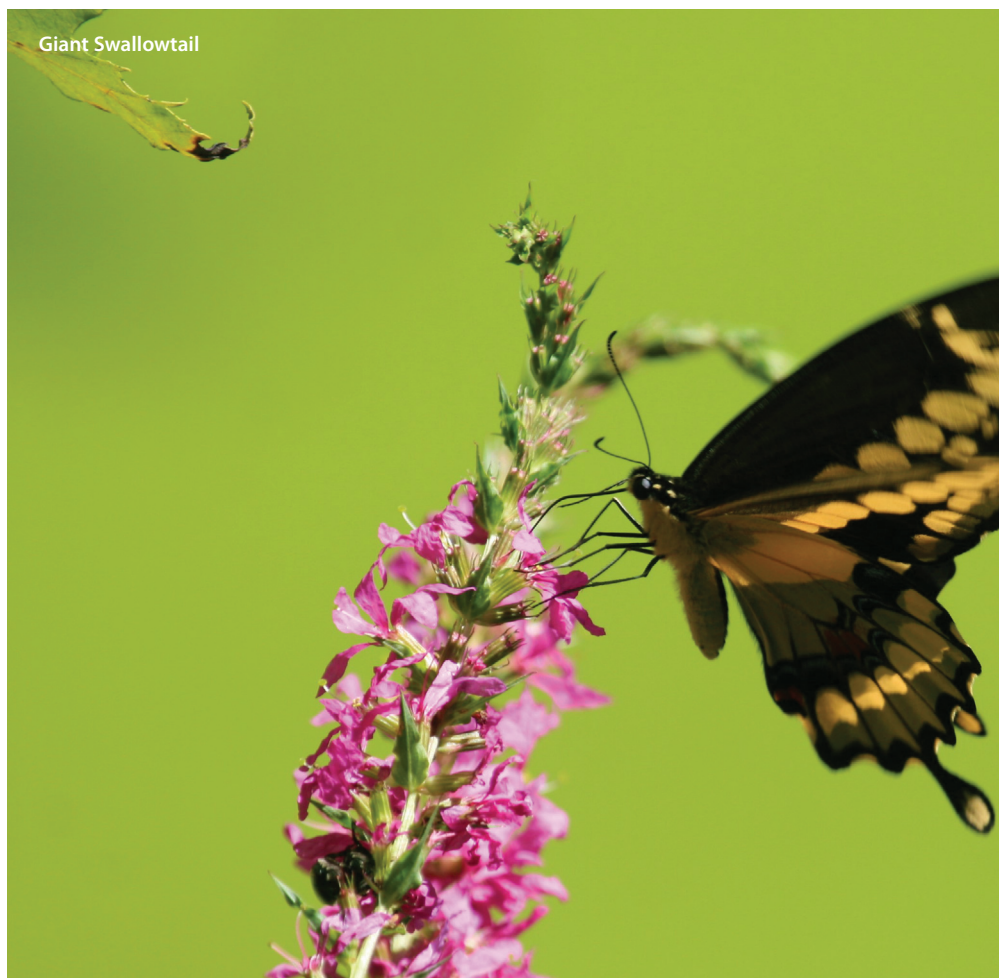
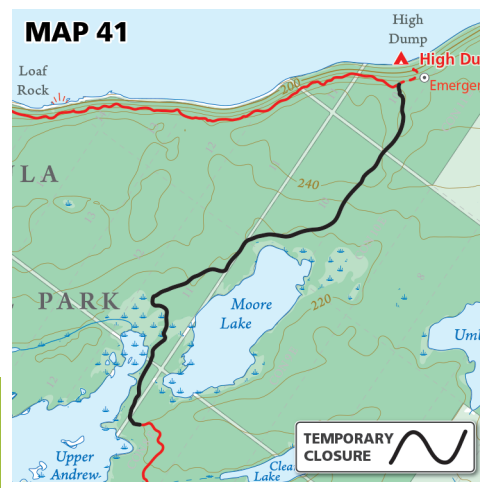


Photo: Brian Popelier

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Bruce Trail Conservancy extends deepest gratitude to all our donors whose generous support we rely on to protect, steward and connect people to the Niagara Escarpment.

While gifts of \$250 or more receive recognition in Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine, every gift, regardless of the amount, makes an impact. Together we are preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Sincere thanks to the following donors whose support was received January 1 to March 31, 2026.

\$10,000 and above

Ted & Karin Bossence

Bradstreet Family Foundation

The Dana-Zara Fund

The MapleCross Fund

Elizabeth McGill & Jim Turpel

Barbara Anne & Richard Ottewell

Power Corporation of Canada

Malcolm & Joelle Sanderson

Estate of Carol Snelling

Wendy Southall

Benjamin M. Winger

1 Anonymous Donor

Nancy & Richard Hamm

JoAnn & Michael Heale

Holm Potato Farms

Blain & Marjorie Horsley

Kanyini Foundation

Kinsman/Kanyar Giving Foundation

Paul & Vicky Kuno

Ashley Laurence

Leanne Lewis

Andrew MacKay

McLean Smits Family Foundation

Gary McNally

Marcia Moffatt

Harold Murray & Family

Nelms Family

Janis M. Nitchie

Linda & David Noble

Jean O'Grady

Paris Brewing and Malting Inc.

Rick & Gillian Russell & Family

Teri Russell-Hill

Karen Saliwonchyk

Cara Sheppard

Louis & Nellie Sieg Fund

Dr. Kevin Smith & Ms. Marian Lips Fund

Smith's Funeral Homes

Trudy Weier

3 Anonymous Donors

\$500–\$999

Daniel & Alina Balzerson & Family

Susan Batten

Raymond Best

Brian Bimm & Margaret Lynch

George Bowman

Charlene Boyd

Jeff Bunce

Ian Cheyne

Gordon Chu

Leon Cramer

Brien & Nancy Dane

Ann Daub

Dr. Rolph & Mrs. Joan Davis

Andrew Debrececi

George & Heather Dickson

Susan & Bryan Elwood

Jourdaine Finlay & David Court-Hampton & Family

John & Jane Greenhouse

Donna Hemeon & Jim Fox

Lynn Hoyles & Family

Scott & Lisa Hube Foundation

William Hunt

Kerry Johnston

Diana Laubitz

Jennifer Macnaughton & William Stensson

Cameron McKay

Brian & Brenda Miller

Frances & Keith Oussoren

Sarah Powell

Marianne Psica

Clare Reade & Craig Fallis

Justin Schutten

Rosa Skalitzky

Ingrid Smidstra

Stephen Smith

Stuart Smith

Maureen Stroud Fund

The Titgemeyer Family

Jane & Peter Vickery

Michael Weissglas

Doug Whittle

Karin Wood

4 Anonymous Donors

\$250–\$499

Barbara Adams

Heather Allan

Jay & Heidi Allen

Ann Atkinson

Anna Bandyk

Ian K. Barker

Shawn Bennett

Alice Blydorp

Kevin Braiden

Connie Byl

Ward Coulson

Kari Dehli & Harry Smaller

Caroline Duncanson

Leslie Fraser

Marien Gehrels

Norma Grittani

Sheila Havard

George & Anne Hume

J. Douglas Kellough

Michael Kitching

Josh Knight

Diane & Martin Knyf

Maria Kouznetsova

Valarie Koziol

Nancy Kumpf

\$5,000–\$9,999

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club

The Gray Family

Harrison McCain Foundation

Leah Myers

Gordon Nicholls

Maureen & Steve Peacock & Family

Rosemary Petrie

Russell Quick

Estate of Ronald Ritchie

1 Anonymous Donor

\$1,000–\$4,999

Mike & Catherine Ambler

Baffin Inc.

Pat Beaudoin

Paul & Pat Bigelow

Shelagh & David Blenkarn

The Ken & Bev Byberg & Family Foundation

Derek Cottier & Laura Tilly & Family

Crewe Morris Creative Inc.

Keller Williams Edge

Jill Eisen & Family

Christine Foote

Monica Garamszeghy

Pauline Leaven
Michael Manion
Jennifer Martin
Sheila McNair
Shuki Mo
Frank & Melissa Moens
Carolyn Perchaluk
Nathalie Pierre-Louis
Nancy Robinson & Jeff Hemming
Herman Schutten
Robert W. Sears
Seniors for Nature Canoe Club
Jennifer & Carl Spiess
Lora & J. David Stratton
Clinton Syrowitz
John Tracy
Ron & Rachel Vandenburg
Lesley Veale
Barbara & Christian Von Der Heide
Nancy Vye
George Wark & Family
Adam Watson & Katie Tregunno
Ivor Williams
Bernd & Jennifer Zabel
3 Anonymous Donors

Monthly Donors

Roger Adamiec
Jason Adams
Ian Adare & Family
Leslie Alexander & Family
Sam Anderson
Ann & Lydell Andree Wiebe & Family
John Armstrong & Rosemary Barrett & Family
Lyne Arseneau & Family
Christopher Bain & Tom McNeil
Neil Baldwin
Ryan Baldwin
Annette Balgord
Teresa Barich
Timothy Bartley
Patricia Barton
Tony & Joan Barton
Pier-Giorgio Bassi
Margaret Bates
Deborah Bauder
John Bauer
Martha Bauer
George Baxter
Steve & Jean Baxter
Victoria Baylis & Family

John Bedford
Karen Bergmann
Susan Beuerman
Susan Bigland-Witton
Heidi Bischof
Marilena Biscotti
Maarten Bloemen & Family
Bloom Depot Inc.
Peter Blythe
Laurel & Barrie Boatman
Peter & Margot Bogdon & Family
Marina Bokovay
Kim Bolton & Family
Darrah Borinaga
Barbara J. Borthwick
Pamela Boutilier & Family
Jameson Bowman
Walter & Janet Brewer
Cameron Brown
Jonathan Brubacher
Carol Budge
Bill & Marjorie Buhlman
Jeanne Bullock
Tracy Burk
John Butt
Todd Caldwell & Shaun Moore
Ewan Cameron
Emma Campbell
Louise Carberry
Fleur Careil
Mike Caron
Stephen & Donna Carpenter
Malcolm & Susan Carr
Irene & John Carroll
John Carswell
Nicole Carter
June Chambers & Family
Bernie Chan
Kit Chapman & Robert Zachary
Elliot Cheng
Gary Cherniak & Family
Fernanda Cieri & Family
Alyssa Cirtwill
F. Warner Clarke
Jeff Clarke
Andrew Clarkson & Family
Jane Clifford
Sue Clouse-Jensen
Daniel & Wendy Coleman
Julie Conquer
Soren Coulson
Matthew Cox
Doug & Nan Cressman

Andrew Crober & Marsha Hunter & Family
Mary Lou Cronan
Doug & Loreen Cumming & Family
Bernadette & Peter Curtis
Joe & Teresa Dale
Deborah Danis
Elizabeth Darling
Colleen Darrell & Gregory Huffman
Janet Davey
Victor Davis
Albert De Jong & Family
Edward Dean
Lynda Deboer
Diane Delaney & Family
Kathleen Denomy & Mark Brett
Heather Di Marco
Verity Dimock & Family
Jennifer, Jeremy & Abby Dinning
Lynn & Peter Dobson
Daphne Gaby Donaldson
Hilary Donaldson
Dan & Petra Donnelly
Anne Dragicevic
Michael Druker
Josee Duckett
Margaret Duff & James Kraemer
Scott Duggan & Maya Ahmad & Family
Duncan Family
Beth Dupuis
Paula Dupuy
Angela Eady & Michael Root
Mitchell Eckert
Gordon Edgar
Richard Edwards
Tom & Linda Edwards
David & Jody Eikelboom
Clare Elchuk
Jennifer Eliasmith
Grant Elliott
P. Gail Elliott
Rod Engeland
Mike Erison
Marlene Etherington
Barbara Euler
Gregory M. Evans
Carol Ewles
Joanne Fallowfield & Family
Mary Federau & David Hass
Elizabeth Fedorkow & David Alles

David Fenton
Mary Ferguson & Murray Wardell
Moir Ferguson & Family
Penny Finkbeiner
Gary Foote & Family
Greg & Alice Forbes
Jeffrey Forgrave
Stewart Forrest & Family
Annemarieke & Stephen Foster
Neil Foster & Alicia Jeffery
James Fox
Barbara Frey
Klaus & Rosanne Fritzsche
Douglas & Marilyn Fuller
Bill & Mary Elizabeth Fulton
Jonathan Fung
Hanne Fynbo
Robin Garrett
Marien Gehrels
Mark Gemmill & Melissa Farquhar
Alexandru & Aniko Gereb
Vicki Gerth
Sherry Giavedoni
Cecilia Gibbons & Family
Donna Gierszewski
Jake Gilbert & Family
Melissa Gillingham
Ann Godkin
Matthew Gooyers
Jan Graves & Family
Marg Greaves
Heather Grieve
Martin Griffith
Vasily Grigorovskiy
Abigail Guthro
Stephen Hardacre
David Harding
Anne & Neil Harrison
Jennifer Hau
Bruce G. Hearn
Jeff & Karen Heisz & Family
Gail Henderson Brown
Jane & Ian Hendrie
Richard M. Hendriks
Savage Herington
Richard Hessler
Ted Higginbotham
Andrew Higgins
Matthew Hoffman & Lena Mortensen
Mark Holden
Armaity Homavazir
John Horman & Cheryl Prime & Family

Guy Horne
Monica Hypher
Celeste Ireland
Barbara Jackel
Stephanie Jacklin
Cherie Jackson
William Jackson
Steven Jacobs & Katie Saunders
Jenny Jayavel
Jean & Andrew
Bert & Mary Jenkins
Caitlin Johnson
Dani Johnston
David Johnston & Gladys Chen & Family
Mark & Rochelle Johnstone & Family
Jane Jolly
Smadar Junkin
Catherine & Dan Kaloutsky
Sarah Kam & Jeffrey Ponsford
Dr. Yasodhara Kancherla Medicine Professional Corporation
Robina Kaposy
Daryl Keays & Maureen McGuigan
Patricia Keffer
Jennifer Keir
Jeanne Keldson & Errol MacKenzie
Jean Kerins
Brian Kerr & Family
Cathy M. Kidston
Dennis Kinio
Ray Kinoshita
Eddy & Gwen Kloosterboer
Patricia Knight
Alex Kraas
John Kranyics
Mary-Ann Kruse
Ernie & Moni Kuechmeister
Nicholas Kuhl
Kuhthey Family
Wai-Man Kwan
Alkarim & Madhavi Ladha & Family
Ben Lafreniere & Valerie Busch & Family
David Lamb
Brian Laube
Karen Laurence
Edward Lautsch
Gayle Laws
Kate Lazier & Jane Pyper
Mary Lee

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Monthly Donors *(continued)*

Peter & Judy Leeney	Darryl May	Elizabeth Mitchell	Gary Oksanen	Peter Prior
Theresa Leitch	Leslie McBeth & Family	Eugene Mlynczyk	Darlene Ormsby & Family	Zhuli Qiu & Family
Candice Lepage	James McCallum	Ruth Moffatt	Kim & Sheldon Ort	Dave Quehl & Val Robertson
Terri LeRoux & Family	Janice McClelland	Malcolm Moore	Mike Osborn & Ros Rossetti	Colin & Sarah Rang Darcel
Brandon Levac & Family	John & Elizabeth McCullam	Kathryn Morawetz & Ted Moriarty & Family	Jamie Osborne	Daniel Rebelo
Christine Lewis	Michael McDonald & Leigh Kirschner & Family	Susannah Morrison	Matthew Overton	Joyce & Ross Redford
Patrice & Bruce Lindsay	Terry & Laura McDonald	David Moule & Sally Cohen	Keith Oxby	Chris Reid
Louella Lobo	Mary & David McEwen	Ken & Sue Mullings	The Panko Family	Jeannine Renaud
Samuel Low-Chappell	Maureen McFarland	William & Brenda Murphy & Family	Claudette Paquin	Christine Riedel
Cristina Lupu	P. Lynn McFerran	Liz Murray	Scott Parker	Claire Rivlin & Patrick Speissegger
Maureen Lynn	Mary McGee & Andrew (Jack) Lee	Wayne Murray	Kyra Paterson & Family	Kirk Roberts & Family
Stephanie MacDonald	Bonnie McInnes & Grant Ranalli	Flora Nadafi	Rosa Pattison	Ian Robertson
Chris MacNaughton & Marilyn O'Rourke	Adam McInnis	Thomas Neal & Family	Linda Paul	Chris Robinson
James Malin	Kevin McLean	Jeff Negrave	Bo & Brian Penny	Sandi Robinson
Namrata Manjhi	Richard & Karen McLean	Bill Nestorovich	Ann Percival	Angela Rocchi
Nancy & Robert Mann	Julie McManus & Family	Kristina Nethercott	Kim & Mike Peters & Family	Paul Roney & Joanne Wright
Pat & Steve Manske	Mike McShane	Pamela & Howard Newman	Wynn Peterson	Jennifer Ross
Cathy Mark & Stephen Caissie	Ash Metzloff	Linda Ng	Rosemary Petrie	David Ruppel
Diane Martello	Gail Meyer	Ian & Linda Nielsen-Jones	Patricia Petruga	Donna Rutherford
Laurel & Philip Martin & Family	Robert & Leslie Michel	Joan Nuffield & Family	Nathalie Pierre-Louis	Mooyoul Ryu
Michael & Nicole Martin	Aaron Miedema	Nels Nyman	Doug Pole & Sharon Hay-Pole & Family	Rolande Sarabia
David Mathieson	Darryl Minard & Family	Margaret O'Dell	Diane Pope	Craig Saunders & Jennie Worden & Family
Catherine May			David Port	



Anyone can leave a legacy.

You don't have to choose between
your favourite charity and family.

You can do both.

Visit willpower.ca/bruce-trail-conservancy



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**

Leaving a gift in your Will has never been easier.

We've partnered with Epilogue Wills, Canada's only online Will platform founded by experienced estate planning lawyers.
You can complete your Will online in as little as 20 minutes and from the comfort of your own home.
BTC members receive a 50% discount.

Visit <http://epiloguewills.com/give/btc> to get started

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2026

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gifts were received to honour these special people:

Christine Coles
Mira Surenberg

Birthday

Heather Allan
Robin Anderson
Nancy A. Brubacher
Bob Coutts
Willa Humphry
Sophie Maschke
Shelagh McNulty
Moe McVey

Barbara R. Naylor
Irving Nyman
Melissa Poon
Karen Saliwonchyk
Shikhar Saxena
Rebecca Steinmann
Shirley Thacker
Timothy Wainwright

Christmas

Gary & Lucy Minter
Derek & Yun Hee Perry

Congratulations
Cyril Duport

Retirement

Valerie Hodge
Paul Totzke

Thank You

Adam Brylowski
Joan Little

Gifts were received in memory of:

Florentino Afonso
Vernon George
Allemand
Christopher Allen
Robert S. Anderson
Gary A. Beaudoin
Braden M. Bender
Richard Boehnke
Victor Boyd
Kristen M. Bugeja
Thomas Clarke
Carl Davis
Kelso De La Cocagne
Nancy Debreceni
Cecil Fleugel
Brian French
Stan Gasner
Diane Gasner
Art & Mary Gillespie
Dr. Philip R. Gosling
Carolyn B. Grady
Norm Guice

Wolfgang Hempel
James A. Henderson
Wanda Henderson
Bert Higgins
Peter Howes
Hsiao-Sung (John)
Huang
Keith Hyde
Ian Ingham
Kevin James
Karen Kawawada
Zan M. Laing
Lesley Latto
Joan Little
Rehana Lobo Colaso
James Lutz
Karen MacKay
Kristina Maus
Frances S. McArthur
Frank McEnaney
Peter McLaren
Louise Moore

Morgan La Fay, Isabella
Queen of Spain and
Murphy
Richard Morton
Edward Mullens
Elizabeth Mullens
Joan Newcombe
Fritzy Nydam
Maxwell Patterson
Margaret Perchaluk
Emerson Petri
Ronald K. Ritchie
Edward Stedman
Brian Stouck
Bryan Vallie
Georgia Volker
Lyne Waddington
Gary Ward
Karen Wetmore
Tyler Wiese
Andrew Zabel

Thomas Sawchyn
Bernardino Scala
Frank Schoenhoeffer
David Schuurman
Bob Seaton
Jason & Melissa Secord
Jacob Serilla
Elizabeth Seymour
Irina Shadricheva
Lorraine Sherred
Nancy Sherwin
Ray & Mary Shier
Glen Simpson
Janice Simpson & Richard
Andrews
Sylvia Simpson
John Sinclair
Aaron Smith & Victoria Bye
& Family
Robert Smith
Jill Smith-Brodie & David
Brodie
Robert Smythe
Kathy Snarr & Brock
MacDonald
Wendy Southall
The Staite Family
Paul & Dora Stanbury
Eileen Stark
Susan Stechly
Darlene Stericker
Miriam Stevens & Family
Jonathon Stewart
Patricia Stewart
Peter Stewart
Ann & Mike Stoten
Robert Strang & Bernadette
Hardaker & Family
Jasmine Sun
Brett Sura
Patricia Swidinsky
Patrick & Linda Taylor
Terry Taylor
William & Dalia Taylor
James Tennant
Erin Thadani
Ian Thompson
Ian Thompson
John G. Thomson
Sharon & Willard Thorne
John R. Thornton
Jill Thorp-Shepherd & Chris
Shepherd
Dave TillBrenda Tipper &
Michael Sigal

The Titgemeyer Family
Anne Todd & Family
Michael Treuman
Tom Trimble
Suzanne Truchan
Andrew & Judith Turnbull
Pamela Turnbull
Darren & Charlotte Twyford
& Family
The Uyede Family
Kimberly Vale & Family
John Van de Kamer & Lynda
James & Family
Paul Bernard Van de Kamer
Douglas & Lynne van
Zanden & Family
Gloria Vidovich
Peter Vincett
George Vnoucek & Carolyn
Welch
Joseph Votto
Katherine Vriend Dykstra
Jacqueline Wakefield & Judi
MacLeod
Freddy & Terry Wang
Karen Ward & Andre Kipin
Patty Wasylchuk
Timothy Watson
Alison Wearing
Donna & Robert Wells &
Family
Dorothy & Gerd Wengler
Evelyn Westen & Family
Mark & Cathy Whitcombe
Janet White
Colleen Winter
M.C. Hastings & Irene
Withers
Glen & Karen Wood
Karen & Al Wood
Wanda Wray
Ralf Wroblewski & Inge
Eckerich
Diane Wyman & Family
Julia Wyttsma
Kathleen Yokom
Catherine Yolles
Adrian & Janet Zenwirt
Stephanie Zidel
Suhail Zubaid-Ahmad &
Faiza Suhail
11 Anonymous Donors



Bruce Trail Conservancy General Store

See our full selection of products and shop online at brucetrail.org



Bruce Trail Poster Map

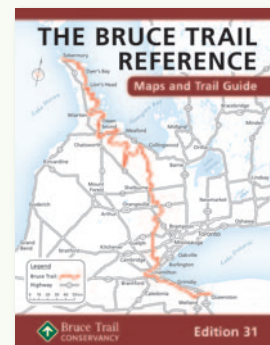
Printed on heavy stock, this beautiful poster map is perfect for hanging at home or at the cottage – maybe it will inspire your next Bruce Trail adventure! Poster Size: 23.94" x 35.94" \$8.85

Bruce Trail App

For iOS & Android devices. Plan, track and log your hikes on the Bruce Trail with the most up-to-date route information in the official Bruce Trail App. Download on the App Store or Google Play with a FREE 7-day trial. Details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-app \$2.99/mth or \$28.99/yr subscription

Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide

Edition 31 (published August 2023) – The ultimate resource for your Bruce Trail adventures. Discover 42 maps and trail descriptions in a sturdy 6-ring binder. Features trail changes over past 3 years. New sections on Escarpment Biodiversity, End-to-End Hiking and Dogs on the Trail. Laminated flora, fauna and fossil field guide included. **Members \$37.95, Non-Members \$44.95.**



Bruce Trail Reference Guide Insert

Edition 31 – All the same great content as the Bruce Trail Reference but without the binder or vinyl sleeve. Best suited for those who have a binder from a previous edition. **Members \$27.95, Non-Members \$34.95.**

Downloadable Bruce Trail Reference Maps (pdfs)

Edition 31 – Individual Maps, **Members \$3.00, Non-Members \$5.00**
Full set of 4 maps in a single download package. **Members \$27.95, Non-Members \$34.95**

NEW

RIBBON OF WILDERNESS HAT
Two-tone Khaki/Green.
Members \$25.00, Non-Members \$30.00



NEW

RAINBOW OF WILDERNESS TOTE BAG
Members \$18.00, Non-Members \$20.00



NEW

ARROW ATHLETIC SOCKS
Members \$14.00, Non-Members \$16.00



NEW

BTC BUCKET HAT
Two Sizes: M/L (57 cm) and L/XL (60 cm)
Members \$25.00, Non-Members \$30.00



NEW

NATURE'S RAINBOW TEE
with BTC logo on sleeve. 50/50 Cotton/Polyester blend. Classic fit. S-3XL.
Members \$25.00, Non-Members \$30.00



BTC DIAMOND LOGO HOODIE
100% Ringspun cotton. Unisex sizes S-4XL
Members \$52.00, Non-Members \$57.00



BTC RAINBOW OF WILDERNESS BUFF
95% Recycled Polyester, 5% Elastane. One size.
\$27.00



50% OFF

2026 BTC CALENDAR
Featuring original Bruce Trail inspired artwork by various artists.
Members \$15.00 \$7.50 Non-Members \$18.00 \$9.00



PILEATED WOODPECKER JIGSAW PUZZLE
1008 piece puzzle, 19"x27"



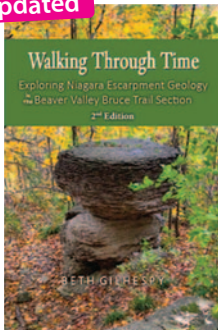
FREE SHIPPING AVAILABLE

on all orders over \$100 within Canada (over \$150 for US orders; over \$200 for international orders).

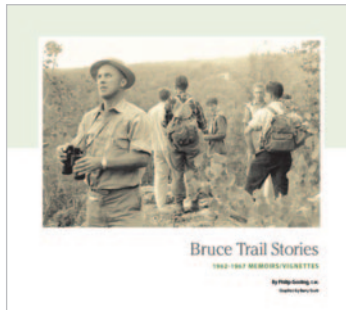
BTC BOOKSHELF

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

Updated



**WALKING THROUGH TIME:
BEAVER VALLEY, 2ND
EDITION**
Members \$32.00,
Non-Members \$35.00



**BRUCE TRAIL STORIES:
1962-1967 MEMOIRS/VIGNETTES**
by BTC Co-founder and Honorary
President, Philip R. Gosling
\$19.95



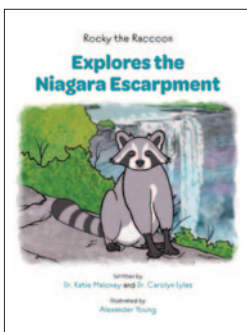
**MY FIRST ONTARIO
BIRD BOOK**
\$24.95



**PROTECTING THE
ONTARIO NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT**
\$35.00



**SOUTHERN ONTARIO
NATURE GUIDE**
\$24.95



**ROCKY THE
RACCOON EXPLORES
THE NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT**
\$14.99



**LAND BETWEEN
WATERS**
\$85.00

END-TO-END BADGES

End-to-End Badge Package

Includes all 9 of Bruce Trail Club End-to-End badges, plus the official End-to-End badge, chevron and a certificate to recognize that you have completed the entire Bruce Trail.

\$90



Learn more about
all our badges at
brucetrail.org/badges

Support nature's next chapter at Talisman Forest Nature Reserve

You can be part of one of the most ambitious conservation projects in the Bruce Trail Conservancy's 60-year history.

Together, we have an opportunity to protect 134 acres of land from development pressures, complete significant ecological restoration and remediation of disturbed areas, and ensure continued public access to the Niagara Escarpment by securing 885 metres of the iconic Bruce Trail.

Learn more about this once-in-a-generation opportunity and donate today at brucetrail.org/talisman



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY