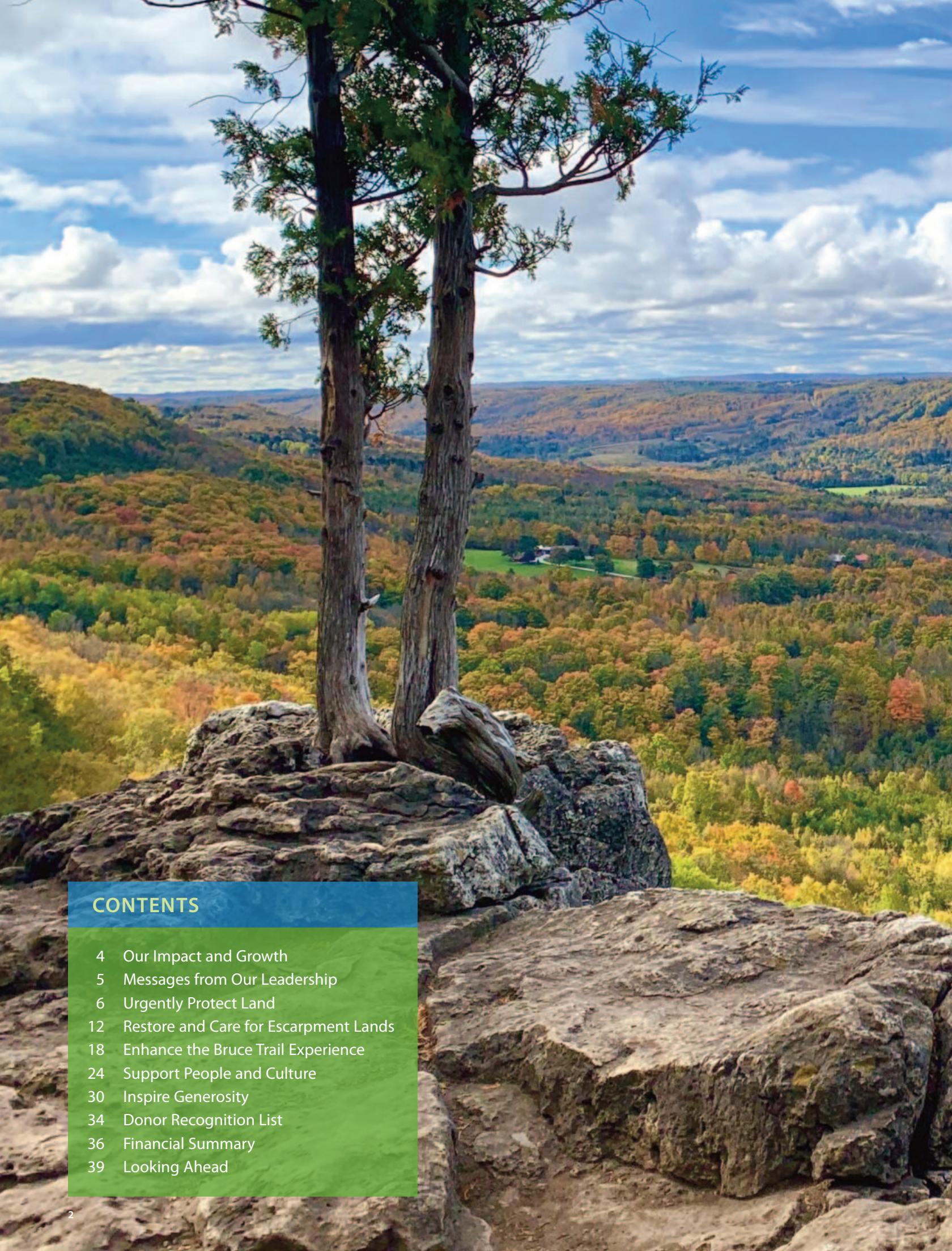


2025-2026

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

A Community for Conservation

Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY



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BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is one of Ontario's largest land trusts and the steward of Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath.

We actively preserve and care for land within the UNESCO-designated Niagara Escarpment Biosphere to protect its ecosystems for the benefit of all. We responsibly connect people to nature through the Bruce Trail and our protected natural areas.

We are a member-driven, volunteer-based, charitable organization, governed by a 19-member Board of Directors. Working with each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs, we are committed to caring for the Bruce Trail and to preserving land along its route.

MISSION

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

VISION

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

The Bruce Trail Conservancy wishes to acknowledge and honour the lands of the Niagara Escarpment as the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabek, Huron-Wendat, Tionontati, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia.

Recognition of the contributions of Indigenous peoples is consistent with our commitment to making the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and play here and thank all those who have served and continue to serve as caretakers of this special place.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our allies and relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing upon the strength of our mutual history through peace and friendship, to create a legacy of conservation for generations to come.

Photo: Allan Avis

OUR IMPACT

72.1% of the Bruce Trail is on permanently protected land

6.8 km of the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route was secured this year, and 26.1 km of Trail was created or rerouted.

1,404 km of Trail maintained and ready to be explored

Each year, the Bruce Trail offers more opportunities to explore the Niagara Escarpment while supporting its care.

21 Signed agreements to protect land within the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor

We secured more of the Bruce Trail this year and the vulnerable lands it traverses, bringing properties of all sizes under our permanent protection.

81 Species of Conservation Concern recorded on BTC-managed land

BTC ecologists made 57 observations of 26 rare and at-risk species.

OUR GROWTH

1,238 New Canadians became BTC Members with the Canoo app

The Bruce Trail Conservancy continued its partnership with Canoo to introduce newcomers to Canada to its oldest and longest marked footpath.

1,938 Hikes led by BTC Clubs across our trail system

Organized hikes from our talented Bruce Trail Hike Leaders helped thousands of people connect with nature and each other.

12,103 Members across our nine Bruce Trail Clubs

Our community for conservation supported our efforts to maintain the Trail, restore ecosystems and improve the Bruce Trail Experience.

63 Restoration projects initiated

Caring for the Bruce Trail means thoughtful restoration initiatives that require the helping hands of volunteers, Conservation Ambassadors, and BTC staff.

51 Legacy gifts confirmed

Every thoughtful gift left to the BTC this year contributes to our shared legacy of conservation through community.

Photo: Jen Walsh

Messages from Our Leadership

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Our community is our strength.

Since the Bruce Trail was founded over 60 years ago, the determination of our volunteers, landowning partners, advocates, and donors has set us apart.

Together across generations, those drawn to the Bruce Trail have worked to preserve nature while making it accessible to the public. Our long-established history of community engagement in service of our mission is, at its core, symbiotic: we invite people into nature and many of those people join us in our efforts to protect it, just as the founders of the Bruce Trail had hoped.

Our 2025-2026 Annual Impact Report tells the story of another remarkable year for the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) thanks to this ever-growing community. We delivered large-scale conservation successes and commissioned research that is helping us anticipate the ways climate change may impact our ribbon of wilderness. The BTC became Rainbow Registered, along with each of our nine Bruce Trail Clubs, and furthered inclusivity by identifying the first low-barrier trail areas on BTC-owned land. We were also proud to receive the Conservation Excellence Certification, a Lieutenant Governor's Award for our seed orchard program, and to be named one of Canada's top 100 charities by Charity Intelligence for the eighth year in a row.

Through it all, our skills-based Board of Directors has helped us rise to the challenge. It has been a great privilege to work with each of our Board members this year, whose expertise has improved our ability to assess risk and navigate a changing conservation landscape. The BTC's talented staff, led by Chief Executive Officer, Michael McDonald, have been drivers of this success, supported by the critical efforts of Club volunteers in communities across the Escarpment, the generosity of our donors and landowners, and the countless champions who make our work possible.

The Trail calls us to nature and the world we discover there inspires us to preserve it. This dual role – one of offering recreation through a free public asset while protecting the land the Trail travels – is what makes the Bruce Trail Conservancy a leader in both the trail and conservation sectors. Whether someone is motivated to protect our natural heritage or to help us find permanence for Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath, their support is integral to the continuity of the Bruce Trail and the lands we protect.

Jaclyn Moody
BOARD CHAIR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



Conservation is often a race against time.

Land becomes available unexpectedly, development pressures intensify, and decisive action must be taken to preserve a landscape. This was the case in late 2025 when we protected 134 acres of the former Talisman Mountain Resort 'middle lands' with the creation of Talisman Forest Nature Reserve.

This once-in-a-generation acquisition is the boldest in our 60-year history and will be one of Southern Ontario's largest and most ambitious rewilding projects. It feels like we have been building towards this moment: after decades of work, we have the capacity, vision, and ambition to preserve and restore a scarred landscape and give it new life.

While our securement of Talisman may have been the leading headline this year, there is so much more for us to be proud of. A total of 21 properties were added to the permanent protection of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor, securing 609 acres and 6.8 km of our iconic Bruce Trail. New trails were blazed, outreach programs launched, and research conducted.

More people chose to invest in our work, giving us greater capacity to preserve vulnerable lands and respond when important conservation opportunities arose. The ability to act can determine whether sensitive habitats or threatened species are protected or lost forever, and this community helped ensure we were well resourced to answer that call. It cannot be overstated just how grateful we are to our donors, partners, and volunteers for their support, trust, and generosity.

While we gained so much, we also experienced a significant loss with the passing of our last living founder, Dr. Philip Gosling. Our memory of him and the impact he had on conservation across Ontario will continue to motivate us to do big things for future generations. We move forward knowing that Philip's legacy – and that of countless others – is safe in the hands of this community.

You can't have an outstanding year without outstanding people. I am sincerely grateful to the BTC Board and our Chair, Jaclyn Moody, for their tireless support of our work and for their commitment to our mission. I also want to thank our BTC staff, each expert in their fields, who approach their work with passion, care, and creativity. To our 1,400 dedicated volunteers across our nine Bruce Trail Clubs, gracious landowners, generous donors, members, and supporters, I say thank you. Everything we do, we do with and for this incredible community for conservation and the natural world we all cherish.

Michael McDonald
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Urgently Protect Land

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is one of Ontario's most active land trusts, bringing more vulnerable Niagara Escarpment lands under the permanent protection of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor each year. As we face mounting development pressures and a shifting real estate landscape, more sensitive lands are being preserved in perpetuity thanks to the standout work of Club landowner relations and securement volunteers, staff whose expertise and determination drive our success, and donors and partners who invest in our mission. Together, we continue to take bolder steps to protect nature, which this year included the securement of the former Talisman Mountain Resort 'middle lands' in the Beaver Valley. In doing so, our community is creating safe, connected ecosystems that support migratory species and improve the experience of Bruce Trail hikers. This is a gift we can cherish today and one we can offer to generations to come.

Last October, BTC Chief Executive Officer Michael McDonald and Manager of Communications Ali Schofield attended Nature on the Hill in Ottawa. This annual summit gathers environmental charities and conservationists from across the country to advocate for nature preservation. The BTC met with Members of Parliament, including Secretary of State for Sport Adam van Koeverden, to share research on the economic benefits of conservation, its connection to the Canadian identity, and to urge the fulfillment of the federal government's target to protect 30% of Canada's land and waters by 2030.



Photo: Jay Gallant



Photo: Amanda DeYoung

This May, the BTC hosted an evening reception at Queen's Park sponsored by Hon. Neil Lumsden, Ontario Minister of Sport, bringing together Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) from across the Niagara Escarpment in support of the Bruce Trail. The event welcomed five Ministers and 28 MPPs, in addition to BTC Board members, Club Presidents, donors, allied organizations, and staff. Members from each of the four political parties spoke about the benefits of the Bruce Trail to people of Ontario, including the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

CONSERVATION CORRIDOR GROWTH	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Acres of Niagara Escarpment preserved in the year	609.7 acres	615.3 acres	942.2 acres
Number of new protected natural areas established	21	11	17
Total acres stewarded by the Bruce Trail Conservancy	16,461 acres	15,547 acres	15,211 acres
Total acres the Bruce Trail Conservancy has been involved in preserving	21,795 acres	21,170 acres	20,459 acres
Length of Bruce Trail's Optimum Route secured in the year	6.8 km	4.2 km	10.5 km
Percentage of Bruce Trail's Optimum Route on permanently protected land	72.1% *	72.1%	71.9%

** Due to reroutes, the Trail became longer this year, which impacted the percentage of Optimum Route secured.*

Photo: Nikki Price

URGENTLY PROTECT LAND

Our Newly Protected Natural Areas 2025-2026



WHIPPOORWILL STAND
10.25 acres | 206.0 m of trail



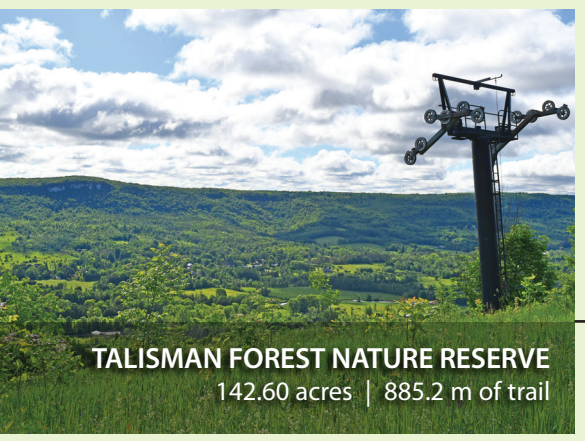
LIONS HAVEN & WANDERING PAWS NATURE RESERVE
200.00 acres | 0.0 m of trail



FLYBY TIMBERS
37.30 acres | 689.6 m of trail



ROCKVIEW BLUFFS NATURE RESERVE
5.29 acres | 203.7 m of trail



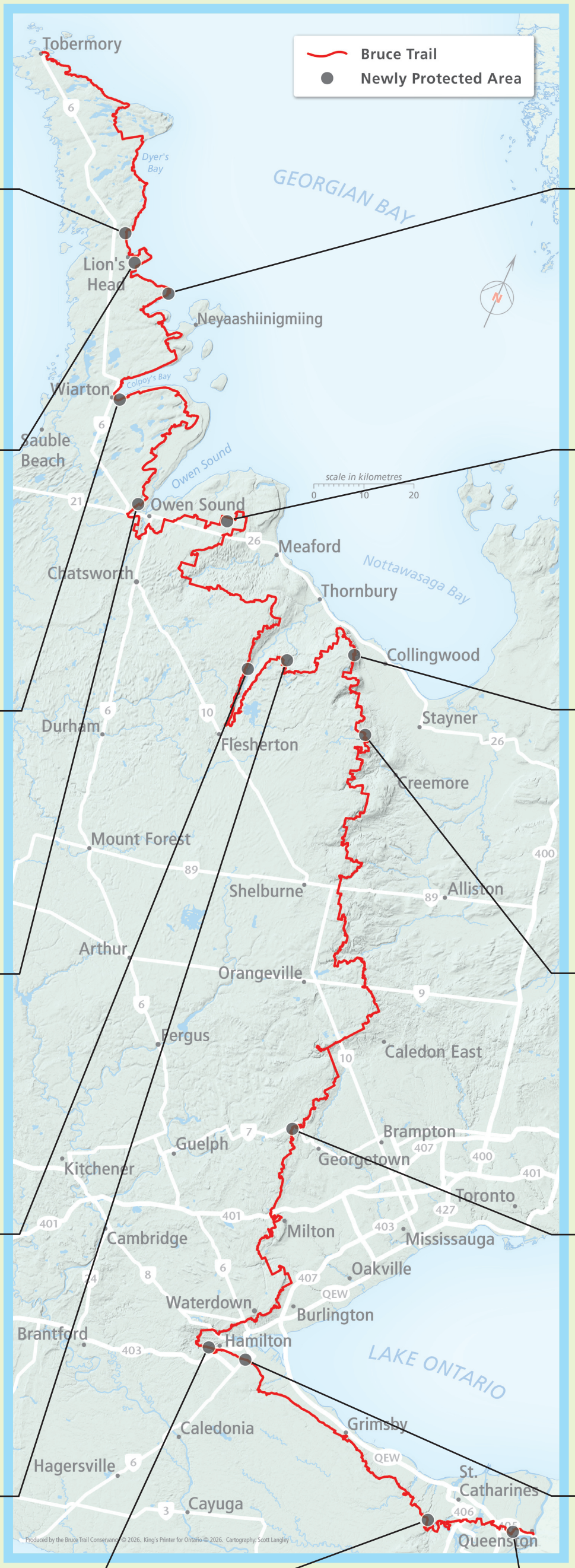
TALISMAN FOREST NATURE RESERVE
142.60 acres | 885.2 m of trail

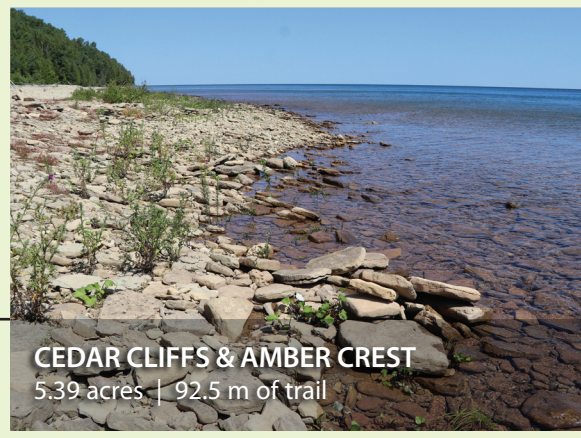


FOX RIDGE FIELDS NATURE RESERVE
98.00 acres | 1,300.0 m of trail



FALLS PASSAGE
1.53 acres | 126.8 m of trail





CEDAR CLIFFS & AMBER CREST
5.39 acres | 92.5 m of trail



FIELDVIEW CONNECTION
25.53 acres | 325.0 m of trail



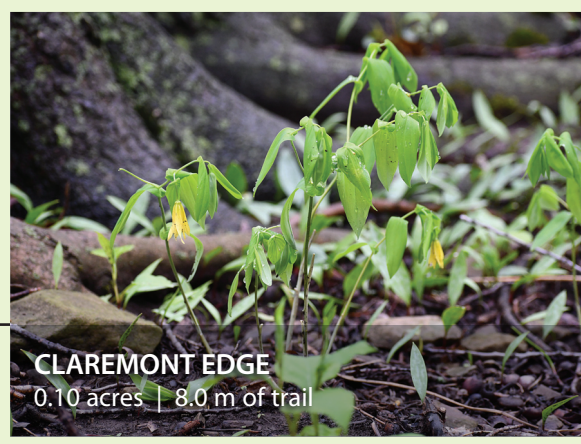
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PROPERTY
0.64 acres | 117.0 m of trail



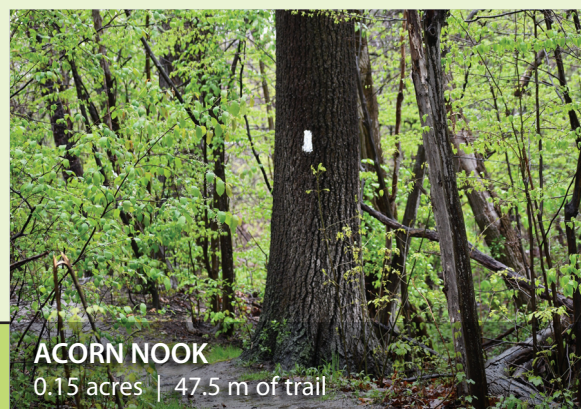
GREENRISE RUN
22.67 acres | 603.9 m of trail



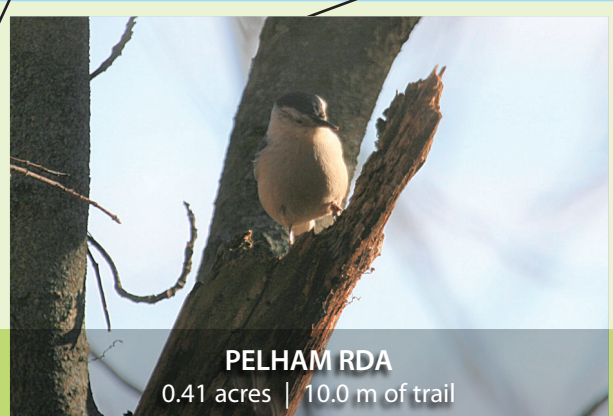
SILVER CREEK (EXPANSION) & STILLWATER NATURE RESERVE
59.88 acres | 2,182.0 m of trail



CLAREMONT EDGE
0.10 acres | 8.0 m of trail



ACORN NOOK
0.15 acres | 47.5 m of trail



PELHAM RDA
0.41 acres | 10.0 m of trail

URGENTLY PROTECT LAND

Establishing New Protected Areas



AREAS PROTECTED BY THE BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY IN 2025-2026

PROTECTED NATURAL AREA	CLUB SECTION	AREA PRESERVED *(Acres)*	OPTIMUM ROUTE SECURED *(Metres)*	FUNDING *(See Legend)*
Acorn Nook	Niagara	0.1	47.5	1
Pelham RDA	Niagara	0.4	10.0	2
Claremont Edge	Iroquoia	0.1	8.0	1
Falls Passage	Iroquoia	1.5	126.8	1
Stillwater Nature Reserve	Toronto	37.5	1232.0	1, 4
Silver Creek (expansion)	Toronto	22.3	950.0	1
Greenrise Run	Blue Mountains	22.6	603.9	1
Town of The Blue Mountains property	Blue Mountains	0.6	117.0	2
Fox Ridge Fields Nature Reserve	Beaver Valley	98.0	1300.0	1
Talisman Forest Nature Reserve	Beaver Valley	142.6	885.2	1,3,4
Fieldview Connection	Sydenham	25.5	325.0	1
Rockview Bluffs Nature Reserve	Sydenham	5.2	203.7	1
Flyby Timbers	Sydenham	21.5	283.5	1
Flyby Timbers	Sydenham	15.8	406.1	1, 4
Amber Crest	Peninsula	0.6	27.4	1, 4
Amber Crest	Peninsula	3.4	3.3	1, 4
Amber Crest	Peninsula	0.6	32.4	1, 4
Cedar Cliffs	Peninsula	0.6	29.4	1
Wandering Paws Nature Reserve	Peninsula	100.0	0.0	2, 4
Lions Haven	Peninsula	100.0	0.0	1,4
Whippoorwill Stand	Peninsula	10.2	206.0	1
TOTAL 21 Protected Natural Areas		**609.7 acres**	**6,797.3 m**	

LEGEND FOR FUNDING

1-BTC donors **2**-Donation of Land **3**-Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Government of Ontario **4**-Environment and Climate Change Canada

Property Highlight: Talisman Forest Nature Reserve

Bringing new life to a beloved Beaver Valley landscape.

As we looked toward the end of 2025, a securement opportunity appeared on the horizon: the former Talisman Mountain Resort "middle lands" in the Beaver Valley.

Eight hundred and eighty-five metres of Main Trail have traversed the Talisman lands since the Bruce Trail opened in 1967. In addition to trail securement, the property offered a unique chance to restore a developed landscape and create a series of thriving natural ecosystems. It was an opportunity the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) had been waiting for.

The securement of this property is significant, not just as a decades-long target for protection, but as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rewild lands deeply impacted by human use and protect them from further development forever. From the removal of the deteriorating resort and ski infrastructure to the thousands of native trees that will be planted along the former ski slopes, this is a challenge we are ready to take on with the incredible support of our community of donors, volunteers, advocates and champions.


Photo: Brooke Henry


Photo: Brooke Henry

BTC ecologist Brian Popelier has been conducting a three-season ecological inventory, observing the flora and fauna on the property to determine restoration and stewardship plans that incorporate healthy habitats for those species. Current plans include the creation of meadows and grasslands to support the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark seen on the property and the reforestation of 84 acres with native tree species to close the gaps in the canopy. Staff are also assessing how to use existing infrastructure such as ski-lift posts as nesting habitats for birds of prey.


Photo: Brooke Henry

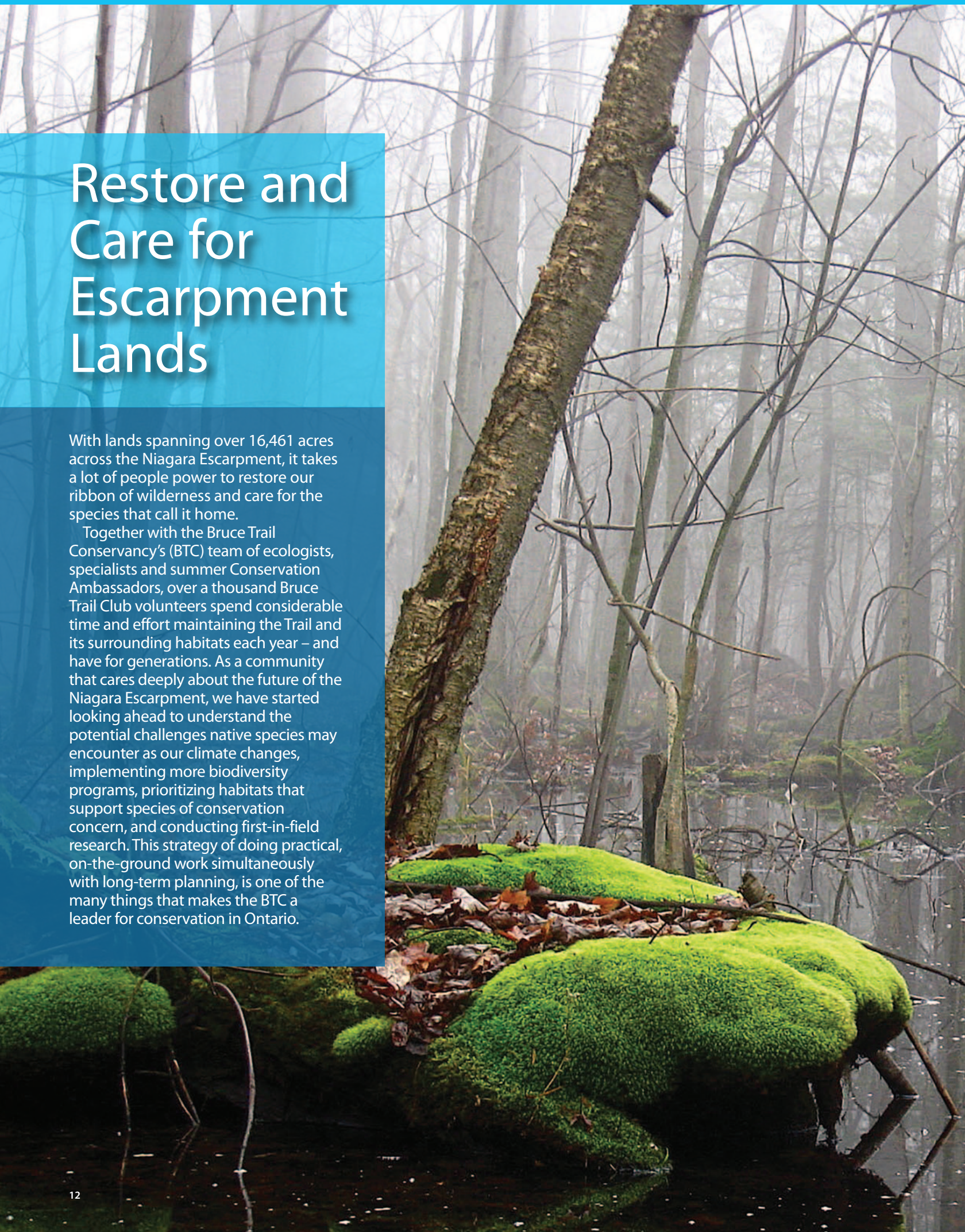
Now the Main Trail runs along the crest of the Niagara Escarpment, offering stunning views of the Beaver Valley, including Old Baldy and the BTC's Eagle's Summit Nature Reserve. From this vantage point, the former use of the Escarpment slope as a ski hill is evident, but so is the fact that nature is trying to come back.

Until it's closure in 2011, Talisman Mountain Resort was a much-loved destination for skiing and snowboarding in the Beaver Valley and is the site of many cherished memories for locals and visitors alike. This land has a history of bringing friends, families, and strangers together to spend time in nature; it's a legacy we are proud to protect and carry forward as we bring new life to the land.

Restore and Care for Escarpment Lands

With lands spanning over 16,461 acres across the Niagara Escarpment, it takes a lot of people power to restore our ribbon of wilderness and care for the species that call it home.

Together with the Bruce Trail Conservancy's (BTC) team of ecologists, specialists and summer Conservation Ambassadors, over a thousand Bruce Trail Club volunteers spend considerable time and effort maintaining the Trail and its surrounding habitats each year – and have for generations. As a community that cares deeply about the future of the Niagara Escarpment, we have started looking ahead to understand the potential challenges native species may encounter as our climate changes, implementing more biodiversity programs, prioritizing habitats that support species of conservation concern, and conducting first-in-field research. This strategy of doing practical, on-the-ground work simultaneously with long-term planning, is one of the many things that makes the BTC a leader for conservation in Ontario.



The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) was proud to receive the Conservation Excellence Certification from the Centre for Land Conservation. This designation follows a peer review process that examines an organization's board governance, land stewardship and securement, financial accountability, and organizational management, and is awarded to Canadian land trusts that demonstrate a strong adherence to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices.



Photo: Rhiannon Carruthers



Photo: Julia Perna

In celebration of Earth Day, our partners at Baffin once again invited the BTC to their offices in Stoney Creek to build infrastructure that supports biodiversity along the Bruce Trail. Together, BTC and Baffin staff built 17 turtle basking platforms and nest protection structures to support the eight native turtle species in Ontario which are all currently at risk. This project builds on a now completed three-year collaboration to create boot brush stations, which are found at access points throughout the Bruce Trail system. Thank you to our partners at Baffin for their continued support of our mission.

TRAIL WORK BY THE NUMBERS

	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Trail maintained	1,404 km	1,395 km	1,379 km
Trail created or rerouted	26 km	44 km	32 km
Trail removed from roads	8.7 km	-6.3 km	1.1 km

Photo: Jim Lang

Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award

Recognizing the Bruce Trail Conservancy's seed orchard program.


Photo: Dahlia Katz

On Friday, April 17, 2026, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) was proud to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award in Conservation presented in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award in Conservation acknowledges the dedicated achievements of volunteers, professionals and organizations who conserve and celebrate the stories and natural heritage of Ontario communities for future generations. The award recognized the BTC's Seed Orchard program which supports sustainable efforts to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor within the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere.


Photo: Brooke Henry

The BTC's seed orchard project is a series of planned gardens with sun-loving and forest understory species intended specifically for seed collection. This program enables the BTC to grow native plants with seeds that support restoration work across the Bruce Trail, resulting in sustainable access to native species that enhance biodiversity and support critical ecosystems for species at risk.

The award was presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont, in a ceremony at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and was accepted on behalf of the organization by BTC Restoration Project Coordinator and seed orchard program leader Lyndsey Wilkerson.

What made this recognition even more meaningful was being nominated by our Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

"We nominated the Seed Orchard Project to show our appreciation for the Bruce Trail Conservancy's leadership and vision, and to spread the word about the amazing work that Lyndsey and others from the Conservancy are doing to restore and care for Niagara Escarpment lands," said Sandra Green, President of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club. "Our Club members and volunteers are excited to be part of this vital nature-based conservation effort that sustainably increases the supply of native seeds to enhance biodiversity."

The first seed orchard was created in 2022, following supply-chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, there are six seed orchards in operation in as many Club sections with another three planned in the coming years. These orchards are already making a remarkable difference in our restoration efforts: in 2025, millions of seeds were collected, with more expected as the plants in existing orchards continue to grow and mature. The BTC's Conservation and Trail team leads this effort with the vital regular support of Bruce Trail Club biodiversity volunteers who thoughtfully tend the orchards throughout the year.

The BTC is sincerely grateful, not just for this honour, but for our dedicated volunteers and project funding partners whose support has brought this program to fruition, in turn bringing new life to areas throughout the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor.


Photo: Lyndsey Wilkerson

Stewardship for Species of Conservation Concern


Photo: Brian Popelier

A Species Conservation Program grant supports our work to protect sensitive habitats.

When a new property is added to the permanent protection of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) begins planning to create thriving ecosystems for the species that rely on the land.

As a first step, our Conservation and Trail team conducts a three-season ecological inventory of the property to observe the flora and fauna there, including signs of rare and threatened species. Taking this time to look, listen, and understand the land helps determine what kind of stewardship the property needs and the best restoration opportunities to support the species found there. These actions – which include surveys, assessments, and maintenance – are imperative to creating a healthy ecological corridor and a refuge for vulnerable species.


Photo: Brian Popelier

This year, the Bruce Trail Conservancy was grateful to receive a Species Conservation Program grant from the Province of Ontario towards a wide range of regular and annual environmental stewardship activities that support species of conservation concern. These actions range from breeding bird surveys for Least Bittern and Red-headed Woodpecker to the implementation of basking platforms for turtles to the removal of invasive species and planting of native ones to enhance habitat for species at risk such as Cerulean Warbler, Eastern Whippoorwill, Eastern Ribbonsnake, Massasauga Rattlesnake, and Eastern Flowering Dogwood.

An important part of what the Conservation and Trail team does is balance offering of a world-class footpath with care of important habitats. The Species Conservation Program supports assessments of the Trail's proximity to sensitive species, like Butternut, American Ginseng, and Black Ash and, where identified, the team incorporates signage or reroutes to protect them. Surveys of species at risk like American Chestnut, Bobolink, and Jefferson Salamanders, and stewardship of healthy habitats and nesting locations for Barn Swallows, Eastern Meadowlark, and Grasshopper Sparrow on BTC grasslands are also included across the BTC's properties.

The steps we take to care for the species within our ribbon of wilderness and the habitats they need to thrive are never done. As we bring more lands under our protection, the work begins anew and the stewardship of these areas continues in perpetuity. We are grateful for the support of the Species Conservation Program as we undertake these efforts to provide healthy habitats along the Niagara Escarpment.


Photo: Mare McHaffie

A Living Laboratory

A study with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre is helping us anticipate changes along the Bruce Trail.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and our nine Clubs work hard to protect sensitive ecosystems along the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere. We care for one of the most biodiverse regions in Canada and need to make thoughtful decisions about what and where to plant to support local species. While we spend thousands of hours stewarding these lands, we also encourage the public to connect with nature via our world class footpath.

While we plan and perform restoration projects each year, we have started thinking about the health of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor well into the future. In particular, we want to do the best we can to anticipate how our ribbon of wilderness will be impacted by our changing climate.

To help us better understand what might be ahead, we engaged Vineland Research and Innovation Centre with funding from the Greenbelt Foundation to conduct a multi-phase research project about the potential impact climate change will have on the species along the Niagara Escarpment.

In the first phase, the Vineland Research team set out to understand how the ecological foundation of plant species on BTC-managed lands will change with the climate. Their analysis revealed that current conditions will become variable over time: the Carolinian forest zone is projected to expand northward along the Escarpment, increasing the population of southern species. This will change the gradient of the ecology within the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor, meaning the restoration projects the BTC and its Clubs undertake today will influence the landscapes of tomorrow.

The second phase of the project looked at the landscape itself and the critical importance of a connected corridor to enable species to migrate into other safe and ecologically healthy spaces. Habitat loss and fragmentation amid growing populations in Southern Ontario will cause stress for some species, which



Photo: Bruce Trial Conservancy

underscores the ways that our land securement efforts are critical to bolstering the species that rely on the lands we protect and care for. While we bring more vulnerable Escarpment lands under the permanent protection of our conservation corridor, there are specific areas where we can intervene to foster healthy ecosystems in anticipation of climate change. These recommendations include strengthening forest edges, restoring fallow fields, and connecting patches of habitats with similar plant species.

The third phase of this project is implementation. The Vineland Research team indicated that the BTC's practices are already well aligned with their recommendations, especially when it comes to making thoughtful decisions for site-specific restoration. The best


Photo: Bruce Trail Conservancy

thing we can do moving forward is to begin ecosystem support and repair as soon as possible. Early success in this area will establish the native species that will mature to support those forced to migrate due to the changing climate. This recommendation highlights two other strengths the BTC has to draw on: the sustainable collection of native seeds from our seed orchard initiative and the incredible on-the-ground support of Bruce Trail Club volunteers.

This research showed us where ecological intervention is going to be most effective and brought into stark relief the fact that the climate is changing. As this was the first study of its kind in Southern Ontario, it will be important to share these findings with other conservation partners along the Niagara Escarpment. Two interactive webinars

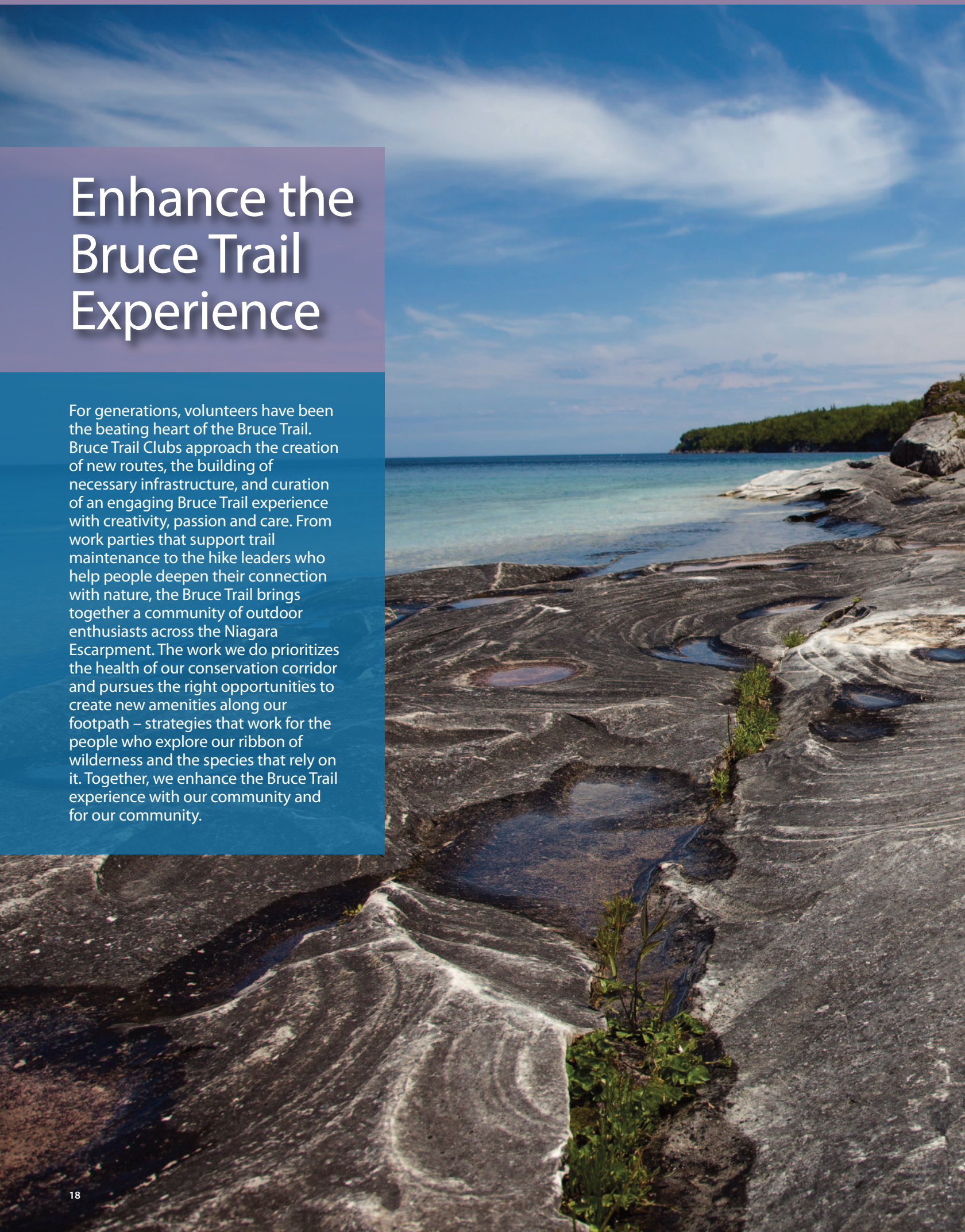

Photo: Bruce Trail Conservancy

are currently in the works, one for allied organizations and another for the Bruce Trail community. We are all responsible for the care of our natural environment, which makes the opportunity to look ahead and implement practical changes all the more important. We can achieve better outcomes if we all take action together.

There is no way to tell for certain what the future holds, but we can do our best today to anticipate what challenges we might face tomorrow. The Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor is a refuge for native species along the Niagara Escarpment, and we will do everything we can to keep it that way.

Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience

For generations, volunteers have been the beating heart of the Bruce Trail. Bruce Trail Clubs approach the creation of new routes, the building of necessary infrastructure, and curation of an engaging Bruce Trail experience with creativity, passion and care. From work parties that support trail maintenance to the hike leaders who help people deepen their connection with nature, the Bruce Trail brings together a community of outdoor enthusiasts across the Niagara Escarpment. The work we do prioritizes the health of our conservation corridor and pursues the right opportunities to create new amenities along our footpath – strategies that work for the people who explore our ribbon of wilderness and the species that rely on it. Together, we enhance the Bruce Trail experience with our community and for our community.



Ensuring Continuity: Landowners and Partners

The continuity of the Bruce Trail is possible because of generous landowning partners across the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere. These gracious hosts help us foster healthy habitats for wildlife and a more immersive natural experience for explorers of our footpath. We are sincerely grateful to these agencies, allied organizations, and hundreds of landowners for their support of our mission and their willingness to share their piece of wilderness with the public.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is honoured to work in the territories of the Anishinaabek, Huron-Wendat, Tionontati, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, and Métis, and on land held and cared for by:

- 23 municipalities
- Seven Conservation Authorities (representing 46 conservation areas along the Bruce Trail)
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Mississaugas of the Credit
- Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
- Saugeen Ojibway Nation
- Parks Canada
- Ontario Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ontario Ministry of Northern Development
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Private landowners of over 600 properties



Photo: Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club

On June 6, 2026, the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club held a hike at the Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamlin Nature Reserve at Riverside Woods to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Philip Gosling, the last living founder of the Bruce Trail who passed away at the end of 2025. Attendees learned about Philip's life and how the Niagara Escarpment inspired his love of the natural world and passion for preserving biodiversity. The Club also unveiled the Founders' Footpath interpretive sign, a new permanent installation that explains the efforts of the Bruce Trail founders and early community of volunteers to create Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath.



Photo: Bruce Trail Conservancy

Across the Bruce Trail network 18 new wildlife cameras have been installed to support the work of the Conservation and Trail team. These off-Trail cameras provide insights into the health of various ecosystems and have recorded many species, including bear, deer, fisher, raccoon, owl, and others, particularly as they move though the land under the cover of night. Seeing these animals in quiet moments on BTC-protected land is a powerful reminder that the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor is truly a refuge for wildlife in Southern Ontario.

Photo: Shirley A. Dennis

Conservation First

Making careful choices to establish new amenities.

Each year, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and our nine Clubs look for practical ways to improve the Bruce Trail experience by creating safe parking options for hikers, offering amenities such as portable toilets, and building infrastructure to access the unique and stunning features nature offers us along the Niagara Escarpment. While these experiential advancements are a high priority for us, sometimes nature has other plans.

Last year, we secured a 44-acre property in the Beaver Valley section with the intention of adding a small parking lot. However, through the course of our three-season ecological inventory which is conducted on every new property secured by the BTC, our ecologists made a startling discovery: Western Chorus Frogs, a federally recognized species at risk.

The property – appropriately called "Croaks Hollow" – is north of the BTC-owned Swiss Meadows and contains 600 metres of Bruce Trail. It features small but productive wetlands and wooded areas that are natural sanctuaries for amphibians, birds, and mammal species.

Trail enhancements such as new parking lots make it easier to plan a hike, but protecting sensitive species and the ecosystems they rely on remains at the heart of our mission. We take a similar approach to trail routing, such as at our Stillwater property, where our Conservation and Trail team flagged Black Ash trees, a species endangered due to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer, so volunteers knew how to route the path around them.

On the recommendation of BTC staff ecologists, the Board of Directors made the important decision to cancel plans for the parking lot at Croaks Hollow in favour of protecting the habitat of this threatened species.

"Part of enhancing the Bruce Trail experience is ensuring that visitors have safe places to park and access the Trail," said Jaclyn Moody, Chair of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Board of Directors. "However, we cannot do that at the expense of the sensitive habitats under our care."

While there was no gravel laid at Croak's Hollow, plans for parking lots and additional amenities did move ahead elsewhere along the Trail. A lot for 20 cars was created at the Pine River Nature Reserve in the Dufferin Hi-Land section, and approximately twenty portable toilets were installed at trailheads this spring, including accessible units at low-barrier areas on the Trail.

As we look to the coming year, we are planning to finish new parking areas at our Moses property in Sydenham, the Lindsay property in the Toronto section, and Hollow Oak Nature Reserve in Iroquoia. Moving forward, the BTC will continue making responsible choices that create a safer, more enjoyable hiking experience while caring for the species it is our mission to protect.



Photo: Brian Popelier

New Horizons

Identifying low-barrier trail areas within our ribbon of wilderness.

Incredible biodiversity and immersion in nature. Physical challenges and scenic views. Togetherness and serenity. These are some of the many things that people of all abilities look to the Bruce Trail for.

This year, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) made meaningful progress in developing our new low-barrier trail initiative, which aims to identify existing areas along the Bruce Trail that could be suitable for people who use mobility devices to confidently explore. Preliminary criteria for these spaces include safe and roomy access to parking, a wide entrance at the trailhead free of obstructions, and ideally a loop with mostly flat, even terrain and few hazards.

We asked our nine Clubs to help us identify any potential low-barrier trail areas at BTC-owned nature reserves where the Trail and surrounding land is permanently protected. Two encouraging options came forward: the Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamlin Nature Reserve at Riverside Woods in the Caledon Hills Section and the driveway at the MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula.

The next and most important step was to invite people who use mobility devices to provide feedback on their experience. Fortunately, the BTC connected with the accessibility experts at AccessNow at the World Trails Conference in 2024, an organization that engages individuals who use mobility devices to 'map' accessibility in public spaces. Their app, AccessNow, offers user-generated descriptions and photographs of mobility hazards and helpers in public spaces to assist users in making informed decisions about the places they want to visit.

We asked AccessNow to map Riverside Woods and Cape Chin for the nature-oriented version of their app, AccessOutdoors. During the mobility mapping outing at each property, consultants from AccessNow documented the terrain, identified potential hazards along the route, noted points of interest, and suggested other amenities. The result is an interactive map of the trail route with detailed information that helps users choose their excursion based on their mobility, equipment, and energy levels.



Photo: Ali Schofield

This spring, BTC Manager of Communication Ali Schofield hosted a BTC Member webinar on this pilot low-barrier trail project with AccessNow, available on brucetrail.org. Over the next year, we will begin consolidating AccessNow's Bruce Trail data with accessibility information provided by conservation authorities and other Bruce Trail hosts, where there are already low-barrier conditions. This comprehensive list of low-barrier areas along the Trail will be developed into trail user resources and integrated into the next guidebook, which will be published in 2028.

As we secure more land, we will consider potential low-barrier areas from the start, so people of all abilities can take in the beauty of the Bruce Trail and derive the physical and mental benefits of spending time in nature. While the Bruce Trail is classified as a wilderness trail, these thoughtful considerations about routes and amenities will be important to the inclusion of more people in our community for conservation, providing an immersive, natural experience for all trail users.

Asking the Experts

Developing a thru-hiking plan for Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath.

Since its inception, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has been connecting people to the Niagara Escarpment and bringing them closer to nature. The founders' original vision for our footpath included the opportunity for long-distance hiking from Queenston Heights in the Niagara section to Tobermory on the Peninsula with spaces for responsible overnight camping. This goal to enable thru-hiking – a continuous multi-day trek along the Trail – is one we are still diligently working towards today.

Currently, there are six overnight rest areas (ORA) along the Bruce Trail. ORAs are designated clearings big enough for two tents with a rudimentary toilet called a "thunder box". Aside from the current handful of ORAs along the Trail, those wishing to tackle whole sections in one trip need to make arrangements with local campgrounds, bed and breakfasts, or other accommodations off the Trail.

Long distance trails around the world have developed their own identities and cultures around thru-hiking, and the Bruce Trail is excited to do the same for Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath. In moving towards this exciting goal, the Bruce Trail has connected with the international trail community to learn about their experiences and best practices in facilitating thru-hiking, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), Continental Divide Trail (CDT) in the United States, and the Bibbulmun Track in Australia.


Photo: Adam Brylowski



Photo: Adam Brylowski

This May, BTC Director of Conservation and Trail Adam Brylowski, Membership and Hike Experience Coordinator Ryan Mickeloff, and Conservation and Trail Assistant Luke Burrows spent a few days on the ground in New Hampshire and Vermont learning from staff at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), an organization with a well-established and well-traveled thru-hiking program. Hawk Metheny, VP of Trail Management for the ATC, guided their trek and offered insights into hiker management and logistical processes for ATC ORAs and backcountry amenities.

In addition to what we have gleaned through these consultations, there are considerations we have to make to ensure a balance between a great thru-hiking experience and the protection of the sensitive ecosystems we are working to preserve. There are also guidelines we will have to follow, such as distances from major roads and other ORAs.

Our vision is to provide hikers with the infrastructure necessary to experience the entirety of the Bruce Trail in a single outing and we are aiming to deliver on this plan by the year 2030. As we develop and begin to implement our thru-hiking strategy in the coming years, we will work closely with each of the Bruce Trail Clubs and local communities across the Trail to determine appropriate locations for potential ORAs and suitable accommodations. In addition to work on the ground, this will also require online resources to make thru-hike planning easier and consultations with hikers and partners along the Bruce Trail, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks, and Parks Canada.



Photo: Adam Brylowski

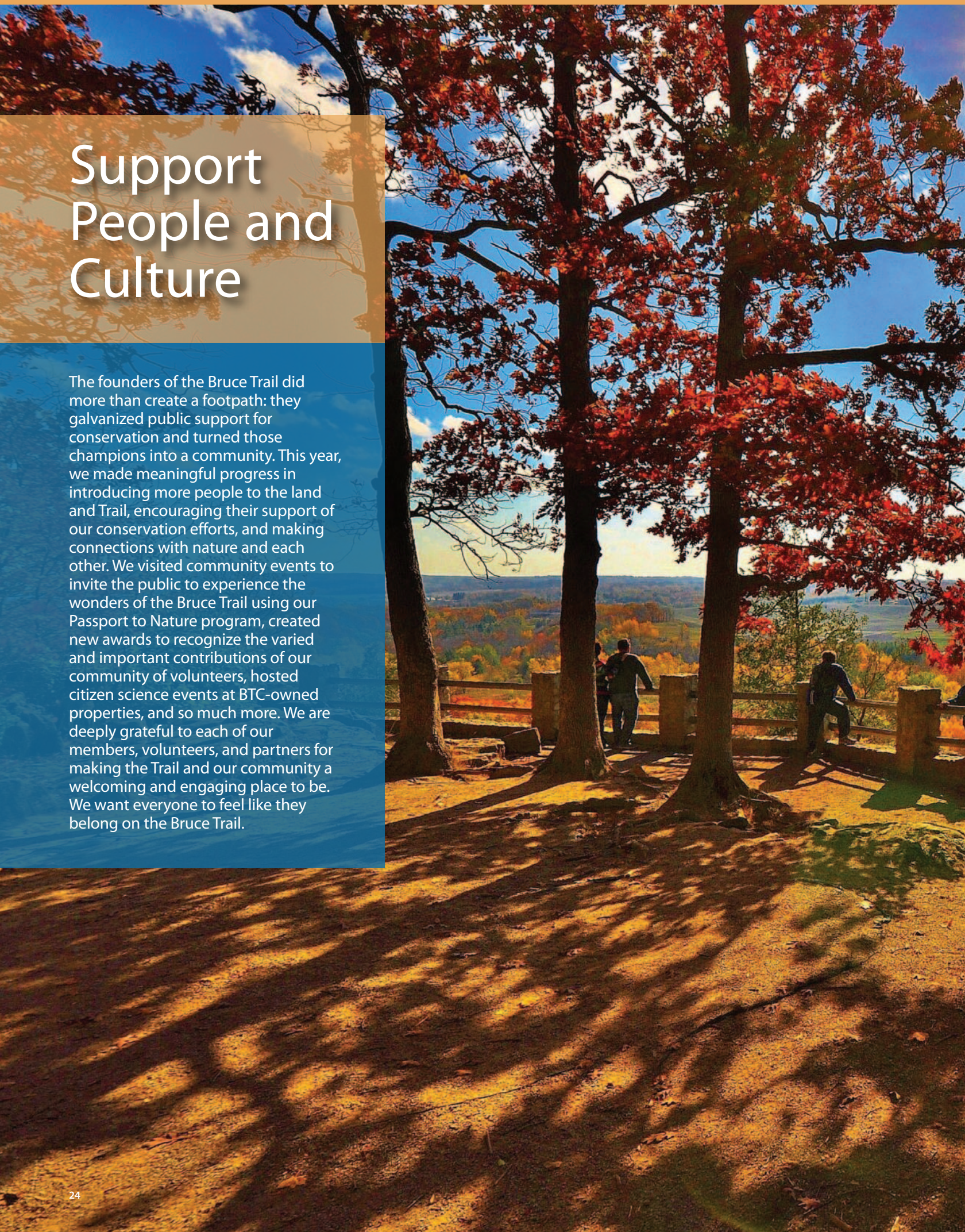


Photo: Adam Brylowski

We know that the ability to easily thru-hike the Bruce Trail is something that our community has been looking forward to for a long time. Great strides are being made to develop the systems that will enable a safe, enjoyable, and sustainable thru-hiking experience for Brue Trail users. We look forward to providing updates over the coming years as we develop a plan that will ensure the Bruce Trail meets world class sustainable trail design and maintenance standards, and realize this goal of the Bruce Trail founders.

Support People and Culture

The founders of the Bruce Trail did more than create a footpath: they galvanized public support for conservation and turned those champions into a community. This year, we made meaningful progress in introducing more people to the land and Trail, encouraging their support of our conservation efforts, and making connections with nature and each other. We visited community events to invite the public to experience the wonders of the Bruce Trail using our Passport to Nature program, created new awards to recognize the varied and important contributions of our community of volunteers, hosted citizen science events at BTC-owned properties, and so much more. We are deeply grateful to each of our members, volunteers, and partners for making the Trail and our community a welcoming and engaging place to be. We want everyone to feel like they belong on the Bruce Trail.



The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs became Rainbow Registered this spring, an accreditation program developed by Canada's Queer Chamber of Commerce (CQCC) and Tourism HR Canada with the aid of the federal government. The designation recognizes organizations that make dedicated and consistent efforts to foster the inclusion of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in their work with those values reflected in foundational policies and practices. We truly believe that everyone deserves to feel welcome along the Bruce Trail and hope that this designation encourages more people to join our community for conservation.



Photo: Lynskie Mitchell



Photo: Shayne Ward

On May 9, the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club hosted the first event in its new Bruce Trail Talks series, Indigenous Trails: Forerunners of Today. The panel included respected Indigenous leaders Rick Hill Sr. of the Niagara Academy for Indigenous Relations and BTC Board Member and project director of the Woodland Cultural Centre's Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School exhibit, Tim Johnson, along with Martin S. Cooper, Senior Archaeologist at ASI Toronto. In a discussion moderated by BTC Chief Executive Officer Michael McDonald, the group discussed how paths along the Niagara Escarpment used for millennia converge with our use of the Bruce Trail today.

Photo: Buddy Myles

New Volunteer Awards



Photo:



Photo:



Photo:

A community-centered approach to volunteer recognition.

Supporting complex land securement initiatives. Creating more accessible and inclusive hike opportunities. Offering a helping hand in a difficult moment. Each of these efforts represent some of the many ways that Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) volunteers support our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. To formally honour those incredible gifts of time, skill, and passion, the annual Bruce Trail Conservancy Volunteer Awards were established, ensuring that essential work across all nine sections of the Trail does not go unrecognized.

In 2025, we introduced three new award categories to highlight a broader range of volunteer contributions. Each new category was informed by community feedback and reflects a meaningful aspect of the Bruce Trail experience that would not be possible without our volunteers.

Jack Morgan Award for Excellence in Land Securement

In honour of long-serving BTC volunteer and member Jack Morgan, this award celebrates significant contributions to the BTC's land securement efforts. It was developed in consultation with Jack Morgan's family to recognize a volunteer with a demonstrated commitment to securing a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment containing the Bruce Trail.

Inaugural Recipient: Carl Alexander



Photo: Bruce Trail Conservancy

Leaders in Hiking Award

Bruce Trail Hike Leaders, Directors and other volunteers within the guided hike program are some of the organization's most public-facing roles and contribute significant time and skills to bring people into closer connection with nature along the Niagara Escarpment. This new award acknowledges the outstanding volunteers who coordinate and lead hikes throughout the year.

Inaugural Recipients: Sandra Green, Saabir Sohrab, Doug O'Neill

Random Acts of Kindness Award

This award celebrates the large and small ways that people show consideration and compassion for others while volunteering for the Bruce Trail. It offers an opportunity to amplify acts of kindness to the broader Bruce Trail community that may otherwise go unnoticed.

Inaugural Recipients: Karen Bergmann, Mary-Ellen Cole, Daryl Keays

These awards now take their place among the 35 existing honours presented annually to volunteers by the Bruce Trail Conservancy and by individual Bruce Trail Clubs. While no single award can fully capture the thousands of hours that volunteers contribute to the Bruce Trail each year, this expansion of categories creates new space to recognize and celebrate them. Whether you took time to submit one of the 50 nominations that came in last year, shared ways to enhance volunteer recognition, or are one of the volunteers that make the Bruce Trail possible: thank you.

Passport to Nature

Inviting the public to explore our ribbon of wilderness.

This June, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) launched our new Passport to Nature program, which aims to engage both avid Bruce Trail users and those less familiar with our ribbon of wilderness to explore our conservation corridor.

Volunteers from each of our nine Bruce Trail Clubs have planned an array of special free or low-cost events and hikes open to all ages and experience levels, from walks to observe ferns or fungi, to on-Trail yoga and book clubs, to geo hikes and jaunts beneath the full moon. The program runs throughout the year offering the opportunity to discover the natural wonders along the Bruce Trail and connect with our community in every season. At each event, participants can collect stickers to add to their passport, which can then be submitted for badges and prizes. All are welcome.

Supported as part of a three-year $5.5 million grant from the Weston Family Foundation, the Passport to Nature program encourages exploration across the Trail.

"Connecting people with nature is an important part of inspiring long-term conservation," said Christian Bauta, Chair of the Weston Family Foundation. "Passport to Nature will give people of all ages and abilities new ways to explore the Bruce Trail, learn about the Niagara Escarpment, and appreciate the importance of this extraordinary landscape."

We are sincerely grateful for the Weston Family Foundation's support of this new outreach program and to each of our Bruce Trail Clubs for the innovative ways they are connecting the public to our conservation corridor.


Photo: Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club


Photo: Brooke Henry


Photo: Elim Sly-Hooton

Connection through Conservation

At bioblitz events this spring, participants connected with nature and each other.

As the Niagara Escarpment came to life this spring, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) hosted community bioblitzes at two properties that were added to the permanent protection of the Bruce Trail Conservation Corridor in 2025, Meltwater Moraine in the Caledon Hills section and Eagle's Summit in the Beaver Valley Section.

Bioblitzes are citizen science events that bring together nature enthusiasts to document the flora and fauna present on a property at a certain time. Members, volunteers, iNaturalist ambassadors, and newcomers signed up to help identify species along the Bruce Trail, helping us build an observation map of the area that will support future conservation work.

At each bioblitz, participants gathered in small groups with BTC ecologists and volunteers. Together they looked around the property taking pictures, listened for the species they could hear, and recorded their observations in the Bruce Trail Conservancy Project on iNaturalist – a smartphone app that identifies and logs species, enabling participation in the event with no experience necessary.

In May at Meltwater Moraine, 15 participants documented 142 species through 310 observations. Their findings focused heavily on plants like Chokecherry and Butternut, insects such as Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moths and Six-spotted Fishing Spiders, fungi like Puffballs and a variety of lichens. The property is a great spot for birdwatching, and many avian species were also noted, including Nashville Warblers, Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Meadowlarks.

Meltwater Moraine Bioblitz Stats

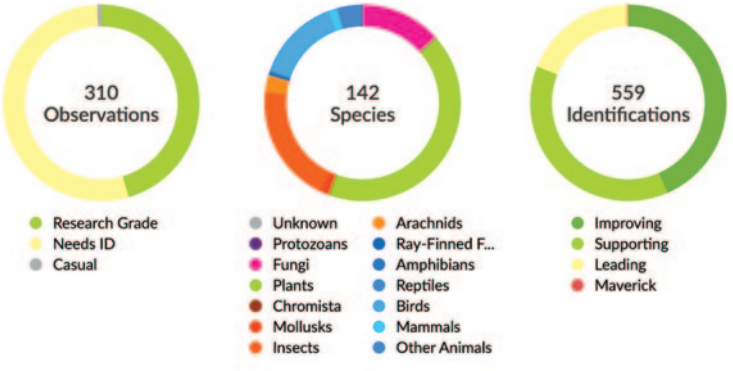



Photo: Shimeem Al-Ayash


Photo: Shimeem Al-Ayash

The bioblitz at Eagle's Summit the following month was an equally successful day. Twenty-three participants made 1,336 observations of 288 species as they traversed the property on the eastern side of the Beaver Valley. Their diverse findings include Green Frogs, Jack in the Pulpit, Common Hawthorn, Pixie Cup and Reindeer Lichens, Turkey Vultures, Orb Weavers, and Eastern Redback Salamanders.



Photo: Brian Popelier

In addition to understanding what native species are currently on the property, both bioblitzes also enabled staff and volunteers to take stock of invasive species such as Garlic Mustard that needed to be addressed during the coming months by BTC volunteers and summer Conservation Ambassadors.

Bringing a community of nature enthusiasts together to learn about the land and contribute important biodiversity data helps us support the species that rely on it and track the impact of our stewardship efforts. Bioblitzes aren't just a great way to gather information, they're a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, contribute to its protection, and engage with our community. By involving the public in our conservation efforts, we encourage curiosity, a shared sense of responsibility in the stewardship of our natural heritage, and foster a community for conservation for generations to come.

Eagle Summit Bioblitz Stats

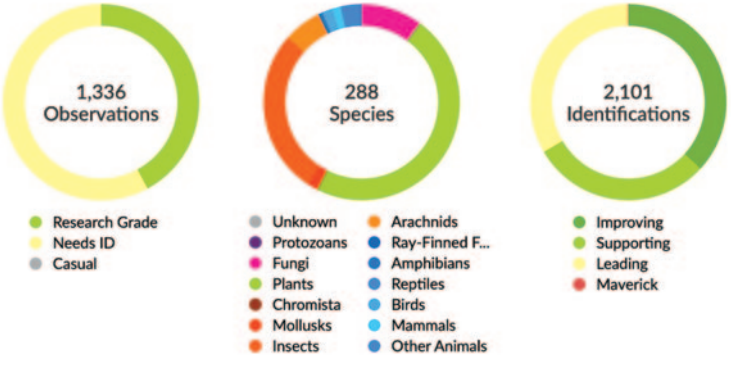




Photo: Julia Marko-Dunn

Inspire Generosity

For the last several years, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has been proud to report that we've had our most successful year of fundraising to date, and this year is no different. Year over year, we are astounded by the support of donors and partners who invest in the future of our conservation corridor and the trail that connects us to it. This year was special for another reason too: the BTC launched the Talisman Forever $7.5 million fundraising campaign – the largest in the history of the BTC – to support the protection, restoration and stewardship of Talisman Forest Nature Reserve. The incredible achievements of this year would not be possible without every meaningful gift from our generous donors, and foundation and government partners whose enthusiasm for our work and commitment to our mission enable us to be an ambitious leader for conservation in Canada.



In May, our community laced up their boots for the Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon in support of our Trail Development and Maintenance Fund 1182 & 1183, which funds the future needs of the Trail including infrastructure like boardwalks and stiles that keep the Bruce Trail safe and enjoyable to explore. Together, 86 participants raised over $55,000, which was then matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor. Thank you to everyone who donated, cheered, and participated in this annual fundraiser and made it our most successful Hike-a-thon yet.



Photo: Brooke Henry

Thanks to our Bruce Trail champions across Ontario, we are nearing the completion of our $60 Million Challenge, which leverages public, foundation and government gifts towards land securement with milestone funding from two lifetime members. With $51 million raised and committed to date, this amazing community effort is setting the BTC up to fulfill our overarching vision: the entire Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.



Photo: Julia Perna

ESTATE GIFTS (RECEIVED IN 2025-2026)

Richard C.L. Armstrong	Mercia & Paul Naray
Hazel Broker	Kazuko Ohgi
John T. J. Brouwers	Akira Omatsu
Bill & Barb Cannon	Gordon C. Preston
Denis M. Conway	Bruce Richardson
Winnifred Curry	Ronald Ritchie
Mary Evelyn Henderson	William Saint
William Klein	Carol Snelling
Irene M. Lamson	Dr. Elsie Taylor
John Matson	Gordon A. Wilson
Margaret E. McFadyen	Susan Yandreski

DONATIONS

	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Number of unique donations*	12,913	12,079	11,459
Total donated**	$30.75 M	$30.52 M	$18.58 M

*Includes corporate matching gifts **Includes donations of land

Photo: Olivia Brown

Talisman Forever

The largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

When the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) purchased the former Talisman Mountain Resort 'middle lands', we knew we were embarking on one of the most ambitious restoration projects in the history of our organization: reforestation of the former ski slopes, the removal of infrastructure to create healthy habitats, and new paths for the Beaver Valley community and visitors alike to experience the land.

Such a bold vision to rewild a developed place required a fundraising goal to match. Our fundraising efforts began in December 2025 and accelerated in April 2026 when we launched Talisman Forever: $7.5 million to protect, restore, and steward the new Talisman Forest Nature Reserve, the largest single campaign in the history of the BTC. This initiative has reached new audiences with over 1,100 gifts made from the public, our community of donors, foundations, grantors and partners, including funds from Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Ontario Land Trust Alliance that matched $1.5 million in donations.





Photo: Julia Perna

In the coming years, we will rewild 134 acres, including the reforestation of 84 acres of the former ski slopes with native tree species, closing in the gaps in the canopy. We are sincerely grateful for each meaningful investment made towards the future of this landmark project and the confidence our community has in our vision. Together, we will bring new life to this cherished landscape.


Photo: Brooke Henry

Grant Spotlight: Weston Family Foundation

Supporting the spectrum of the BTC's work.

This year, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) received an outstanding $5.5 million commitment from the Weston Family Foundation. The grant, which will be awarded over the next three years, will support three core areas of the BTC's work.

Land Securement – Funds will invest in the protection of 14 km of the iconic Bruce Trail and the permanent protection of over 1,235 acres (500 hectares) of ecologically significant land that supports carbon sequestration, habitats for species of conservation concern, and lands under threat of development.

Land Stewardship – The grant also funds the next part of the process: development of stewardship plans to care for the land secured, including three-season ecological inventories and the necessary restoration projects that will support the species that rely on the land.

Bruce Trail In Your Community – Resources will be dedicated to encourage exploration of the Bruce Trail, including on-Trail events, relationship-building initiatives with landowning partners, and the promotion of the Bruce Trail to the public through programs like our new Passport to Nature.

This generous pledge builds on the Foundation's previous support of the BTC's tallgrass prairie revitalization efforts and meadow restorations in the Blue Mountains, Beaver Valley, and Dufferin Hi-Land sections. We are deeply grateful for the Weston Family Foundation's continued support of our mission to *preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*



Photo: Brian Popelier

DONOR LIST

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Bruce Trail Conservancy Donors

The generous support of our community enables us to take bold steps to protect and care for the irreplaceable landscapes and vulnerable habitats along the Niagara Escarpment. On behalf of the nature and people who benefit from our ribbon of wilderness, thank you to each and every one of our donors for investing in our collective vision of a permanently protected natural corridor containing the iconic Bruce Trail.

We are sincerely grateful to the following donors who made gifts between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

$5 M – $9.99 M
2 Anonymous Donors

$1 M – $4.99 M
Arrell Family Foundation
1 Anonymous Donor

$500,000 – $999,999
2 Anonymous Donors

$100,000 – $499,999
Ted & Karin Bossence
Pat & Peter Elliot
Chris Hoffmann & Joan Eakin
Caroline Mach & Ken Mikoliew
The MapleCross Fund
Patrick J. McNally Charitable Foundation
Tony Paine & Susan Collacott
Wendy Thompson
The Tremayne Family
Kerry Wood & Andrew Brenton
3 Anonymous Donors

$50,000 – $99,000
Estate of Richard C.L. Armstrong
Joe Coneybeare & Lynn Clark
Estate of Hazel Broker
Fleming Foundation
Estate of Mary Evelyn Henderson
McCammon Family Foundation
Barbara Anne & Richard Ottewell
Joel G. Parkes
Power Corporation of Canada
Estate of Bruce Richardson
Paula Sheppard & Family
Estate of Carol Snelling
2 Anonymous Donors

$25,000–$49,999
Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club
Bradstreet Family Foundation
Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club
Estate of Denis M. Conway
Robert & Melanie Gilbert
Dr. Yasodhara Kancherla Medicine Professional Corporation
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Rosemary Petrie
Loretta Rogers Foundation
Malcolm & Joelle Sanderson
The Taylor Family Foundation
Toronto Bruce Trail Club
2 Anonymous Donors

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Michael Andrassy & Ann Guthrie
David Auger
Chong Bang
Zita & Mark Bernstein Family Foundation
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Blue Sky Foundation
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Marcelline & Buster Brown
Dale Brubacher-Cressman
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Griggs Family Foundation c/o Toronto Foundation
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The Alix & Robert Jickling Foundation
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MFS Investment Management Canada Limited
Benjamin & Stephanie Minett
Wallace M. Mitchell
Leah Myers
Niagara Bruce Trail Club
Gordon Nicholls
Estate of Akira Omatsu
Orbis Investments, Buchanan Programme & Jacob Von Der Heide
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Wayne Reeves
Michael Robbins
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Bruce Smith & Linda Amos
Smith's Funeral Homes
Bill & Audrey Snel
Wendy Southall
Glen & Debra Swire
Sydenham Bruce Trail Club
Martha Taylor & Ed Fowler
The McLean Foundation
Joseph Votto
Benjamin M. Winger
4 Anonymous Donors

$5,000–$9,999
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Baffin Inc.
Annette Balgord
Judy Barr
James & Tony Bowland
John Butt
Stephen & Donna Carpenter
Cavelti Family Foundation c/o Toronto Foundation
Michelle Clarke
R. & C. Cooper Family
John (Jack) & Maria Cumming
Estate of Winnifred Curry
Richard & Elizabeth Davey
The Dawes Family
Jan DeGrijs
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Hubber Family
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Lidia & Mike Finlayson
Christine Foote
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Ron & Sheila Gatis
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Louise Gilroy
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Harrison McCain Foundation
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Abby Hoffman
Mary Jackson & Claus Rinnie
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KEEN Canada Outdoors Inc
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Stefan Lavoie
Ken & Kathy Lawday & Family
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Duncan Marks & Nadia Dubyk
Sarah Mills & Dan Coholan & Family
Christopher H. Mooney Foundation
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Mercia & Paul Naray
Estate of Kazuko Ohgi
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Maureen & Steve Peacock & Family
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Deborah & Barry Randall
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Holly Richardson
Estate of Ronald Ritchie
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The Stibbard Family
Rodney Taylor
Sylvia Thomas
Edward & Rosa Tsang
Annette Urlocker
Anne Wadge
George Wark & Family
Dorothy & Gerd Wengler
Laura Williams
Estate of Gordon A. Wilson
Wood Roberts Family Fund
Janice Wright
Estate of Susan Yandreski
Wayne Yeechong
The York Club
Laura Young
Dave & Lynn Zwart
5 Anonymous Donors

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Ravi Aggarwal
Nancy Allan
Alpema Foundation
Mike & Catherine Ambler
Claire Angus
C. Archer
Anne & Phill Armstrong
Audrey Armstrong & Willy Waterton
Tyler Atkinson
Avis-Haley Family
Azura Associates International Inc.
Nathan Bain
Dennis & Patricia Baker
Ball Eadie Family Foundation
Allan Barnes & Shirley Coleman
Barbara Bartle & Richard Smythe
Tony & Joan Barton
Susan Batten
Jim Beamish & Family
Gary & Pat Beaudoin
James Beecroft & Family
Julie Bennett & Family
Donna Bennink & George Kadoke
Patricia Bentley & John Dales
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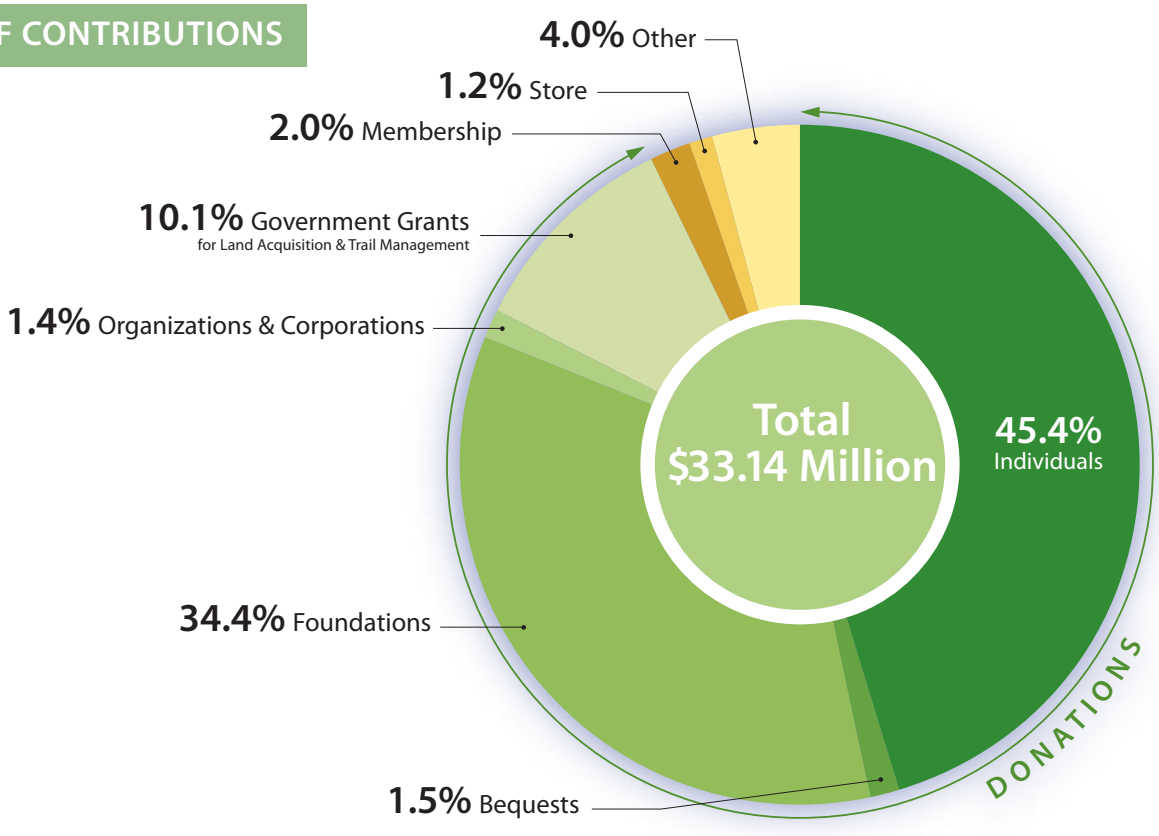
DONATIONS OF LAND

We'd like to thank the following individuals for outright donations of land.

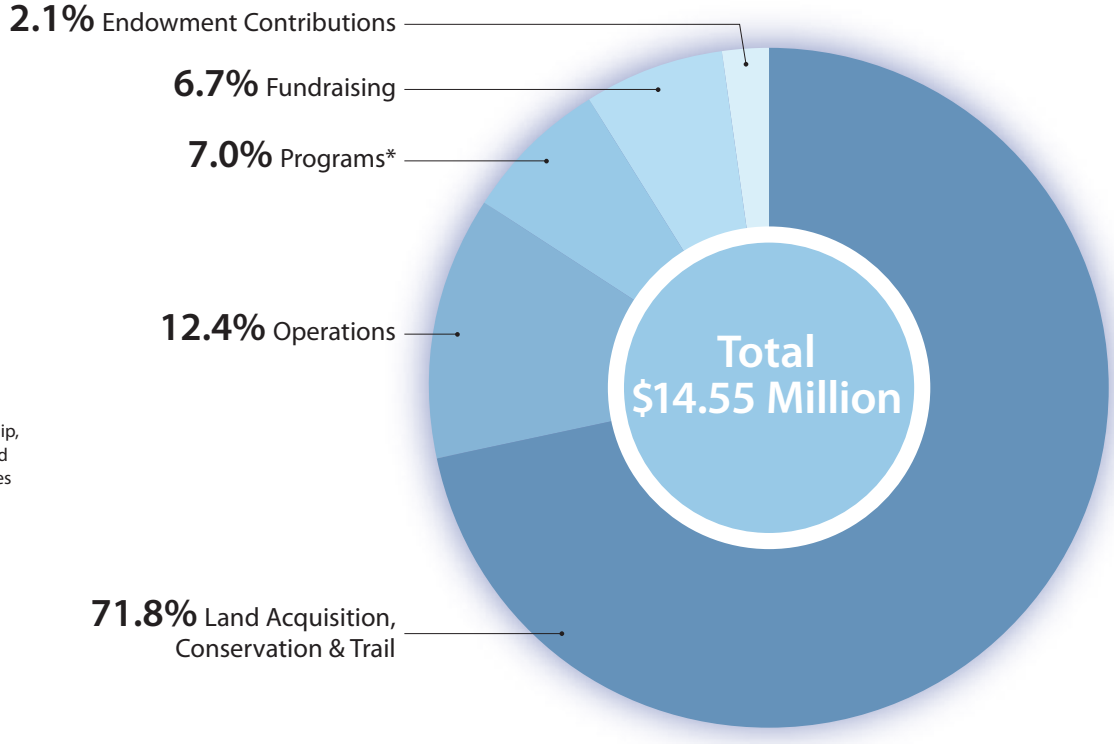
Town of The Blue Mountains
Town of Pelham
John & Gena Van Dorp

Financial Summary 2025-2026

SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS



USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS



* Includes: Membership, Communications and Bruce Trail Enterprises

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our members, donors and other supporters, the Bruce Trail Conservancy ended Fiscal Year 2026 in a financially healthy position.

CONNECTING TO OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Here's how to find information from our Annual Report Financial Summary in our audited financial statements:

SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Comprised of:	Found in Statement of:	$ in millions
Total Revenue	Operations	10.22
Interest/investment income in reserves	Operations	-0.69
Restricted Donations	Changes in Fund Balances	22.90
Net Change in working capital	Cash Flows	
Deferred membership revenue		0.00
Deferred contribution		0.32
Endowment contribution and grants		0.32
Accounts Receivable*		0.00
Proceeds on Sale of Land Assets		0.07
TOTAL		**33.14**

** Excluding Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) grant received August 2026.*

DONATIONS

Comprised of:	Found in Statement of:	$ in millions
Donations of Cash and Securities	Operations	7.29
Donations and Grants Restricted for Land Purchase	Changes in Fund Balances	22.63
Donations of Land (in-kind)	Changes in Fund Balances	0.27
Donations Contributed to Endowment	Cash Flows	0.32
Grants and Sponsorships	Operations	0.24
TOTAL		**30.75**

OTHER SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Comprised of:	Found in Statement of:	$ in millions
Membership Dues – Conservancy	Operations	0.56
Membership Dues – Club	Operations	0.11
Deferred Membership Revenue	Cash Flows	0.00
Bruce Trail Enterprises (Store)	Operations	0.39
Interest and Realized Investment Income	Operations	1.44
Interest and Realized Investment Income (Reserves)	Operations	-0.69
Rental Income	Operations	0.10
Gain on Sale of Land (capital assets)	Cash Flows	0.07
Accounts Receivable (excludes ECCC Grant)	Cash Flows	0.00
Recognition of Deferred Contributions	Cash Flows	0.00
Deferred Contributions and Grants	Cash Flows	0.32
Misc Income	Cash Flows	0.09
TOTAL		**2.39**

USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Comprised of:	Found in Statement of:	$ in millions
Total Expenses	Operations	6.44
Less: Amortization		-0.13
Insurance premiums		-0.01
Purchase of land and easements	Cash Flows	11.45
Less: Proceeds on sale of land assets	Cash Flows	-4.32
Add: Donation of land	Changes in Fund Balances	0.27
Interfund Transfer: Internal restriction to Land Stewardship	Changes in Fund Balances	0.07
Interfund Transfer: Internal restriction to other reserves	Changes in Fund Balances	0.23
Endowment contributions	Cash Flows	0.32
Net Change in working capital		
Gain on sale of capital assets (land)	Operations	0.07
Accounts Receivable	Cash Flows	0.27
Purchase of other capital assets	Cash Flows	0.07
Merchandise Inventory	Cash Flows	-0.02
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	Cash Flows	-0.02
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	Cash Flows	-0.14
TOTAL		**14.55**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2026

Opening Cash Position:	$23.63 M
Contributions Received:	$33.14 M
Contributions Used:	$14.55 M
Closing Cash Position:	$42.22 M

The Bruce Trail Conservancy audited financial statements are available online at brucetrail.org
(About Us > Financial Statements)

Board of Directors 2025-2026

Jaclyn Moody
Chair



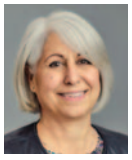
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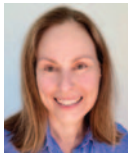
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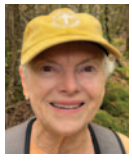
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Together with one representative from each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs.

For more about our Board of Directors visit brucetrail.org (About Us > Board of Directors).



Looking Ahead

Our eyes are always on the horizon, but this year we also look back.



Photo: BTC Archive

At the end of 2025, we lost the last living founder of the Bruce Trail, Dr. Philip Gosling. Philip was a leader in conservation and passionate advocate for the preservation of biodiversity. The original trailblazer, Philip went door to door along the Escarpment, asking landowners to lend their support to the creation of the Trail. It is because of the dedication of early Bruce Trail champions like Philip that the public has been able to follow a footpath along the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston to Tobermory for nearly six decades.

Next year the Bruce Trail Conservancy celebrates 60 years since the Trail officially opened. Its presence along the Niagara Escarpment today is thanks to the hard work, investment, and determination of people in its surrounding communities. Their efforts catalyzed the conservation of thousands of acres and have helped millions of people derive the benefits of spending time in nature. The Bruce Trail exists because of people like them. It flourishes today because of people like you.

As we move forward, we bring Philip's tenacity with us. We are excited to celebrate 60 years of the Bruce Trail with you and to continue our work together *preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

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Dr. Philip R. Gosling

Bruce Trail Founders
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Dr. Norman Pearson, Dr. Robert McLaren

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Our community for conservation is made up of dedicated volunteers and members, generous donors and landowners, and supportive partners and allied organizations. The Bruce Trail as we know it today would not be possible without these people and their belief in our mission.
To the entire Bruce Trail community: *thank you.*



Photo: Laurie Menard

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905-529-6821 or 1-800-665-4453
brucetrail.org info@brucetrail.org
TheBruceTrailConservancy @BruceTrail_BTC

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 857, Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9

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