

INSIDE: TIPS FOR HIKING AT NIGHT

VOL. 61, NO.2, SPRING 2024

Bruce Trail

C O N S E R V A N C Y

MAGAZINE

The Skies
Above Us



Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon
of wilderness, for
everyone, forever.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

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SPRING 2024

Photo: Tatiana Svidskaja



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Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine is available digitally.

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- 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

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Photo: Ken Yan

Cover photo: Dark skies above the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula by Esme Batten

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Printed on Anthem Plus Satin
FSC® Certified paper



Chief Executive Officer's Message



As nature lovers, we cherish the beauty of the forests, meadows, wetlands, and shorelines we

encounter as we hike along our iconic and beloved Bruce Trail.

In this issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*, we are going to help expand your mind and focus on a different dimension of our conservation corridor – the skies above us.

From the beauty and magic of the night skies above our ribbon of wilderness (as captured in our incredible cover photo by Esme Batten) to the “super birds” that, by their nature, do so much to protect the biodiversity of the Niagara Escarpment, this issue will inspire you to look up.

In the following pages you will meet one of the many in our community who frequently does look to the skies, binoculars in hand. In her essay, avid birder Shontal Cargill shares her connection to the Trail and her experience birding from a diversity perspective.

You will also read about the total solar eclipse happening on April 8, when the southern portion of our Bruce Trail will be cast into darkness for nearly two minutes as the moon blocks the light of the sun. We are excited to include an interview with Dr. Robert Cockcroft, Director of the W. J. McCallion Planetarium at McMaster University, who shares all the details about how to prepare and what to expect from this once in a lifetime experience!

This issue will help open your eyes to a new world that will stay with you the next time you get out to explore one of

our new nature reserves, or a spot that is familiar to you - maybe even in the dark.

Speaking of newly protected areas, there are many additions to our conservation corridor to celebrate! As one of Canada's leading conservation organizations, I truly believe that with all of our recent stewardship initiatives and the overwhelming support of our community, the sky is the limit to what we can achieve together. •

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Red-tailed Hawk

Photo: Michael McDonald

NIAGARA

niagarabruceclub.org

Fort-to-Fort Hike – April 20-21, 2024

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

Visit Club websites for more news, events and hikes.

Niagara End-to-End – May 18-20, 2024

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

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

Laura Secord Hike – June 22, 2024

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 \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members; kids \$25 and \$30. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch and a badge.

Content deadline for Blazes for the summer 2024 issue is May 1, 2024.

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

TORONTO

torontobruceclub.org

Toronto End-to-End – September 7-8, 2024

On our annual self-led End-to-End you complete the 50 km distance over two days (approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday). You will traverse the varied terrain from just south of Hilton Falls to the south entrance of the Cheltenham Badlands. Checkpoint stations will be approximately every 10 km offering snacks, water refill, and assistance.



This event is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. The fee covers bus transportation from the meeting point to the hike starting point, refreshments, parking and permit costs, and the official End-to-End badge.

Registration opens June 3, 2024 at 8:30 am for Bruce Trail Conservancy members at hikes.bruceclub.org listed under Saturday, September 7, 2024. If any spots are still available on June 17, 2024 at 8:30 am, registration will then open for non-members.

Details will be emailed to participants in early August. These long hikes are not suitable for beginning hikers. Hikers are expected to maintain an average pace of 4 km/hr (or more). Space is limited, hikes go rain or shine, and no dogs are permitted on this event. For questions, please contact Jacquie Van Dyke at vdyke0946@gmail.com

CALEDON HILLS

caledonbruceclub.org

Prediction Hike – May 11, 2024

Plan to attend our fourth and final organized Prediction Hike Challenge.

Choose one of two predetermined hikes - 4.5 km or 15.0 km - at the Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamlin Nature Reserve at Riverside Woods. Provide a personal to-the-second prediction of how long it will take you to complete the distance on event day.

Everyone will receive a spectacular collectible badge. The hikers in each distance category with the closest prediction to their actual time will be awarded a fabulous prize. Registration fees are \$30 for adults and \$10 for children and students. Light refreshments and beverages will be served at mid location checkpoints and as part of a celebration at the end. Proceeds from the event will go towards our 60th Anniversary Accessible Trail Project. Registration opens March 30 on hikes.bruceclub.org.

Fall Colours End-to-Ends (2-Day and 3-Day) – October 12-14, 2024

Plan to enjoy the spectacular fall colours, as you hike the 72.4 km of main Trail through our famous Caledon Hills on Thanksgiving Weekend. You can complete the distance over all three days of the weekend or the same distance on Saturday and Sunday only. The cost of the three-day event is \$60 and the two-day event is \$40. This fee includes daily bus shuttles and a finisher badge. Light refreshments will be served at checkpoints along the trail.

Registration opens June 30 at 6:00 am on hikes.bruceclub.org. Participation is limited to one bus of hikers for each of the events.

For further details and event updates, visit caledonbruceclub.org and follow the club on Facebook and Instagram. Contact Sandy Green, E2E Coordinator at info@caledonbruceclub.org with any additional questions or concerns.



These 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.bruceclub.org.



DUFFERIN HI-LAND

dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

Dufferin Hi-Land 2-Day End-to-End – May 11-12, 2024

Planning is underway for this popular end-to-end event. Details to follow on hikes.brucetrail.org.

BLUE MOUNTAINS

bmbtc.org

Blue Mountains End-to-End – May 25-27, 2024

Join us this spring for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club 2-Day or 3-Day End-to-End hike event. The 2-Day hike is for those looking for a big challenge and the 3-Day hike is for those who want to spread the challenge across three days. Both hikes will wind their way through the beautiful and varied terrain of the Blue Mountains Club trails. Enjoy the early signs of nature awakening, the beautiful vistas and the rugged escarpment.



Whether you choose the 2-Day or 3-Day option, both hikes will cover the 69 km distance of our section which runs from Lavender to Swiss Meadows. Checkpoint stations will be offered approximately every 10 km offering snacks, water refill and assistance along the way. The 2-Day hike fee for members is \$70 and \$80 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the start point each day, refreshments, a Saturday end of hike BBQ, on-line registration fees and the E2E badge. The price for the 3-Day hike is \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members, and includes all of the same benefits of the 2-Day, and the added cost of busing the extra day.

Registration opens on March 1, 2024.

Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. Note, these are longer distances and generally not suitable for beginning hikers. For more information, please contact btclubevents@gmail.com

BEAVER VALLEY

beavervalleybrucetrail.org

Beaver Valley Annual Falling Water Event – June 1, 2024

Come and test your mettle! This is an approximately 30 km hike that traverses the beautiful, rugged upper Beaver Valley. It's a challenging hike during which you'll experience all that spring has to offer, including cascading creeks and waterfalls. Registrants should have experience with hiking long distances over strenuous terrain. The \$40 registration fee covers the cost of the online registration, refreshments and the badge, and is non-refundable.



Registration opens March 1, 2024, 8:30 a.m. at hikes.brucetrail.org, so mark your calendar to secure your spot.

Details of the event will be emailed to participants once registration is received. For more information contact beavervalleytrailactivities@gmail.com

Beaver Valley Annual End-to-End Event – August 23, 24, 30, 31 & Sept. 1, 2024

Hike the 117.3 km Beaver Valley section over five challenging days and experience the beauty the valley has to offer.

Registrants should have experience with hiking long distances over strenuous terrain. The \$120 registration fee includes the online registration, bus shuttle transportation, refreshments and the End-to-End badge, and is non-refundable. **Registration opens March 1, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** at hikes.brucetrail.org, so mark your calendar to secure your spot. Registration is limited to 50 hikers. When registration is full, there will be an option offered to be added to a wait list. Details of the event will be emailed to participants once registration is received. For more information contact beavervalleytrailactivities@gmail.com



PENINSULA

pbtc.ca

2024 Peninsula Hiking Festival – October 4-5, 2024

Save the date for this fall festival on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula hosted by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. This year's theme is "Listen to the Land". Festival events will be based at Camp Celtic in Lion's Head. Watch for details at pbtc.ca •



Photo: Mike Chan

SAVE THE DATE

Bruce Trail Day - October 6, 2024

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

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

Free on-Trail events and virtual activities will encourage people to explore the Bruce Trail and learn more about the amazing variety of life along the Niagara Escarpment. Each of the

nine Bruce Trail Clubs will host a family-friendly event unique to their section.

Interested in joining the Bruce Trail Day team?

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

Watch for details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-day-2024



For Our Members

ROM Discount for BTC Members

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto is offering a special 15% discount to Bruce Trail Conservancy Members on ROM admission throughout 2024.

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

This promo code can be used on multiple visits to the ROM throughout 2024 - so you'll have a chance to enjoy ROM galleries and special exhibitions all year round.

If you haven't yet caught the amazing *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2023* feature exhibition, or want to see it again with a friend, now is the perfect time. This exhibit closes May 26, 2024.

Imagine your photo on display at the ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum also invites all BTC supporters to participate in the ROM Wildlife Photographer of the Year Contest (closes Mar. 25, 2024). Enter for a chance to win a Canon camera kit courtesy of Henry's and have your

photograph on display in the Museum. Share your best wildlife image on Instagram and include @ROMtoronto &

#ROMwpyON (or #ROMwpyJR for ages 13-17). Find out more at www.rom.on.ca



For Our Members

Solar Eclipse Webinar

We are excited to offer a free live webinar about the upcoming once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse, available only to Bruce Trail Conservancy members.

Eclipses! and the total solar eclipse of April 8, 2024

with guest presenter Blake Ledger, Planetarium Manager,
McMaster University

Thursday March 28, 2024, at 7 pm



Join us for a webinar that will help you prepare for the total solar eclipse, describe why this incredibly rare event is so exciting, and explain how to view the eclipse safely.

Register by visiting brucetrail.org/eclipses-mar-28-2024/



Pick up your eclipse glasses at the BTC head office!



If you're planning to view the eclipse on April 8, it's important to be prepared with special eclipse glasses, as looking directly at the sun can cause serious eye damage. Eclipse glasses are available for pick-up at the BTC office located at 55 Head Street in Dundas. Stop by on weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm to grab your complimentary pair, generously provided by McMaster University.



Birds: Superheroes of the Niagara Escarpment

By Brooke Henry



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

Photo: Tatiana Svidskaia

Not all heroes wear capes. Some have feathers.

Along the Bruce Trail, birds enhance the ecosystems of the Niagara Escarpment with their natural gifts and instinctive habits, their beauty and diversity. Whether our feathered friends are aware or not, their many “superpowers” help maintain the ecological balance within our conservation corridor. Join us as we meet some of the 350 bird species found along the Bruce Trail, and learn about the special characteristics they have and roles they play in our ribbon of wilderness.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Superpower: Clean Machine

Gliding through the sky on updrafts from Escarpment cliffs, the Turkey Vulture is a common yet majestic sight for hikers along the Trail. Often misunderstood due to their off-putting appearance, these creatures serve an important role in our forest ecosystems. With their supercharged, acidic stomachs, they feed almost exclusively on carrion (decaying animals) and so recycle nutrients while reducing the spread of disease.



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Photo: Brian Popellier



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Photo: Brian Popellier

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Superpower: Seed Spreader

The striking Cedar Waxwing can be spotted year-round along the Bruce Trail in woodlands near rivers and ponds. This superhero relies on fruit trees including dogwood, serviceberry, juniper, hawthorn, and winterberry for sustenance. By consuming fruits and dispersing seeds through their droppings, this seed-sowing bird introduces native plants to new areas.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

Superpower: Rodent Reducer

Under the cover of darkness, Northern Saw-whet Owls emerge from their nests in the cavities of coniferous trees and use their keen eyesight to hunt for mice and rodents on the forest floor. This bird of prey plays an important role in controlling rodent populations and maintaining the balance of the food chain. If you're hiking the Trail at dusk or in the evening, you may hear their high-pitched too-too-too-ing calls as they prepare for a night of hunting.



Improve your bird knowledge

Have you ever heard or seen a bird on the Trail and wondered, "Who is that?" Merlin Bird ID is an app that you can use to improve your bird knowledge and identify birds you encounter. Simply record a bird's calls or songs and the app will use your location and information from the eBird database to identify the species of bird you are likely hearing. Or if you got a good look, you can answer a series of five simple questions for a list of possible matches. Merlin Bird ID even has a "Photo ID" feature which can help you identify that wonderful bird in your photo.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Superpower: Bug Buster

Even if you haven't spotted a Red-eyed Vireo, if you've spent time on the Bruce Trail, you've likely heard its song. With repeated phrases that end with an upswing or a downswing, it's as if they're asking a question, then answering it,

over and over. These migratory birds depend on the deciduous and mixed forests of the Niagara Escarpment during nesting season. While here, Vireos feed on a variety of insects, sustaining the delicate balance in our forest ecosystems before flying thousands of kilometres back to South America.



Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

Superpower: Wetland Wonder

With their stunning colours and unique markings, the Wood Duck serves as a symbol of health for our wetlands. Unlike most other waterfowl, this duck nests in tree cavities rather than on the ground, essentially connecting wetlands to nearby wooded areas. To support these nesting habits, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has installed Wood Duck boxes on BTC nature reserves with suitable ponds and wetlands, encouraging Wood Ducks and other species to breed and improving biodiversity.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Superpower: Marvelous Migrator

Amidst the meadows and grasslands of the Escarpment, the iconic Bobolink can be found singing its bubbling song. This species at risk undertakes an impressive 20,000 km round-trip migration every year, possibly using the earth's magnetic field and the night sky for navigation. Bobolinks are important indicators of a healthy tallgrass ecosystem. With less than 3% of the original extent of tallgrass ecosystems in Ontario remaining intact, restoring these habitats is crucial for the Bobolink and for biodiversity in general.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)



Photo: iNaturalist user alyssa, CC BY-NC

Red-headed Woodpecker
(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Superpower: Avian Architect

Listed as Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) list, the Red-headed Woodpecker has been spotted on BTC Nature Reserves in the Iroquoia and Peninsula sections. With their powerful beaks, Woodpeckers like these create cavities in dead trees, carving homes for themselves and other species such as squirrels, raccoons, and other birds like the Wood Duck.



Red-headed Woodpecker
(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
(*Archilochus colubris*)

Superpower: Petite Pollinator

Though they may be tiny, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds travel thousands of kilometres to nest along the Niagara Escarpment each summer.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

Using their famously rapid wingbeats, these birds hover at bright flowers, feeding on nectar and inadvertently aiding the pollination process as they flit from bloom to bloom. Because they are almost constantly foraging they are integral pollinators in many different habitats, and are known to pollinate at least 30 plant species in North America.

Keeping These Heroes Healthy While You Hike

Whether you are heading to the Bruce Trail specifically to see our avian allies overhead, or just encountering them as you travel, keep these tips in mind:

- Do not feed birds on the Trail. Feeding can lead to dependence on humans, aggressive behaviour and improper nutrition. Birds living along the Trail have enough natural food sources to sustain themselves.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Garbage left behind can be mistaken for food, and even discarded biodegradable items can be harmful to birds as they are not part of their native environment.
- Maintain a safe distance from birds to avoid causing stress and disturbing nests. Consider carrying binoculars or a zoom lens for your camera to better view birds.

While you explore the Bruce Trail, keep an eye out for these superheroes and consider their contributions to the ecosystems of the Niagara Escarpment. By hiking responsibly, you can enjoy these marvels while minimizing your impact and supporting the well-being of our mighty feathered friends. •



Little Brown Bat
(*Myotis lucifugus*)

Bats:

More than Birds' Nocturnal Sidekicks

Superpower: Echo Locator

Not to be underestimated, the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is just as much of an aerial superhero as its avian counterparts. Like all eight bat species that live in Ontario, it uses echolocation - emitting high-frequency (ultrasonic) calls and listening to the echoes - to navigate and hunt in the dark. Little Brown Bats can catch an insect every two seconds and are able to increase their body mass by 25 percent in just 30 minutes. Unfortunately this hero is Endangered provincially and nationally, its populations decimated by a fungus that causes the deadly White-nose Syndrome.

The Transcendence of Birds

By Shontal Cargill

All photos by Shontal Cargill



My journey into birding and nature exploration has many connections to the incredible Bruce Trail.

Over the years, I have been able to explore different parts of the main and side trails while documenting the many species of birds, mushrooms, and other wildlife that contribute to the Trail's magic. This journey has fostered a love for the flora and fauna that call the Bruce Trail home and offered unique insights into the intersectionality of my identity as a Black birder.

Like many during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to remain active and overcome feelings of confinement safely and healthily. I encountered the Bruce Trail through a joyful accident, when I came across a white rectangle painted on a tree trunk and decided to follow it. After that hike, I researched the origin of the rectangles and was delighted to learn that the small section of trail I had hiked was part of something vaster than I had imagined.

That initial blaze began a thrilling adventure that saw me through the most



challenging days of quarantine and ultimately led to my completion of the Toronto section of the Trail. Binoculars and camera in hand, I documented the wildlife I encountered along the way and began posting photos on my Instagram page.

One of the most remarkable aspects of

birding on the Bruce Trail is the incredible diversity of birds and other wildlife one can experience. I have a vivid memory of the first time I heard the powerful drum of the Pileated Woodpecker along the Trail in Terra Cotta Conservation Area. More recently, I caught a glimpse of a vibrant Black-throated Blue Warbler migrating through Silver Creek. I have also been lucky enough to encounter a variety of unique mushrooms, which I find just as exciting as birds. Each hike renews my curiosity and love for birding and the outdoors. The diversity of the Trail's ecosystems provides many unique habitats for a vast

"With their deliberate patterns of migration and behaviour, birds have become a lens through which I perceive the interconnectedness of all living beings and the natural environment."



array of bird species, making each section unique and exciting to explore.

As a Black birder navigating nature, my journey builds on a profound connection to the land we call home, and a sense of wonder and discovery. With their deliberate patterns of migration and behaviour, birds have become a lens through which I perceive the interconnectedness of all living beings and the natural environment. Through this perspective, I have come to understand and appreciate how birds transcend the many arbitrary boundaries imposed by society. And yet, back at ground level, my personal experience as a Black birder has many times revealed the disparities that persist in the world of nature exploration. The stereotype of the typical birder has, for too long, been associated with a specific demographic, often excluding people of color.

Occasionally, while birding, I find myself the subject of curious glances or questions, and among the broader community, I know I am unlikely to

encounter another birder on the trails who looks like me. While these experiences are sobering reminders that the birding community still has strides to make in terms of inclusion, I know many people are doing the challenging yet valuable work to ensure inclusive outdoor spaces exist.

understand that fostering a sense of belonging for everyone in nature requires deliberate efforts to break down barriers. It involves the difficult work of challenging biases and dismantling the stereotypes that persist within the birding community. I hope that birders from all walks of life continue



Despite these challenges, I've embraced my identity as a Black birder as an opportunity to contribute to the broader conversation about representation in nature, birding, and leisure as a whole. I've connected with fellow Black birders through social media platforms and campaigns (specifically the annual #BlackBirdersWeek at the end of May), where we share our experiences, challenges, and triumphs. We've created a movement that celebrates diversity within the birding community and advocates for greater inclusion.

Through my experiences, I've come to


embracing diversity and creating inclusion for the next generation of birders. Only by doing so can we ensure everyone can experience the magic of outdoor spaces like the Bruce Trail.

My connection to birding on the Bruce Trail and beyond has been a transformative journey that has deepened my appreciation for the natural world and the complexities of

"I've embraced my identity as a Black birder as an opportunity to contribute to the broader conversation about representation in nature, birding, and leisure as a whole."

my identity as a Black birder. As I continue to explore the wonders of nature, I am committed to fostering a more diverse and equitable birding community, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, can find inspiration and a sense of belonging in the great outdoors. •





The Bruce Trail Under Totality

By Ali Schofield

Photo: Ken Yan

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cast the Niagara and Iroquoia sections of the Bruce Trail into momentary darkness.

To learn more about this once in a lifetime celestial event, we sat down with Dr. Robert Cockcroft, Director of the W.J. McCallion Planetarium and assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at McMaster University.

Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine (BTCM): Eclipses happen regularly, but this one is special. What is the significance of this eclipse?

Dr. Robert Cockcroft (RC): There are two main types of eclipses and they both involve the sun, moon and earth. The first is a lunar eclipse, when the moon falls in the shadow of the earth and that happens with relative frequency. The



Rob Cockcroft

other type is a solar eclipse where the moon's shadow falls on the earth. The moon's shadow is so small that only a very tiny region on the earth gets to experience the solar eclipse.

BTCM: On April 8th, parts of southern Ontario will experience a total solar eclipse. What is happening in the sky to create this spectacle?

RC: Even though the sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, by happy coincidence, it is also 400 times further away than the moon is, which makes the moon and the sun appear approximately the same size in the sky. During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely blocks the sun. As the moon is orbiting around the earth, the moon's shadow sweeps across, completely covering the sun. This is called the path of totality. If you are willing to travel anywhere around the globe to see it, you could probably experience a total solar eclipse once every 18 months or so.

BTCM: What is the significance of being in the path of totality?

RC: This year, the path of totality comes right through Mexico, across the United States, into our corner of Ontario and

then carries on east. Any folks who are along that very specific line will get to see the total solar eclipse. Anyone who is just outside that area will get a partial eclipse. If you're able, it is worth traveling into the path of totality because a total eclipse is a completely different experience. The line is so specific that Niagara, Hamilton, Burlington, and Oakville will be in the path of totality but Toronto will not be.

To have a total solar eclipse come to you is a once in a lifetime event. The last time this happened for this region was about 100 years ago and the next time will be in another 120 years.

BTCM: Have you seen a total solar eclipse before? What was your experience?

RC: I've seen two total solar eclipses. The first was in 1999 in the United Kingdom and it was cloudy. Not the same experience – you don't get to see the atmosphere around the sun – but it still goes dark in the middle of the day. Although it was a cloudy day, you

actually got to see the moon's shadow racing across the cloud tops as totality approached and then whizzing away again after. The second total eclipse I witnessed was in August 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee. It was a hot day, so it was very interesting to experience that it became noticeably cooler as we got closer to totality. We were in a park and it was a very beautiful setting, there were enough people to create this amazing atmosphere.

BTM: Fingers crossed that we have a clear day! What can viewers in the path of totality expect to experience?

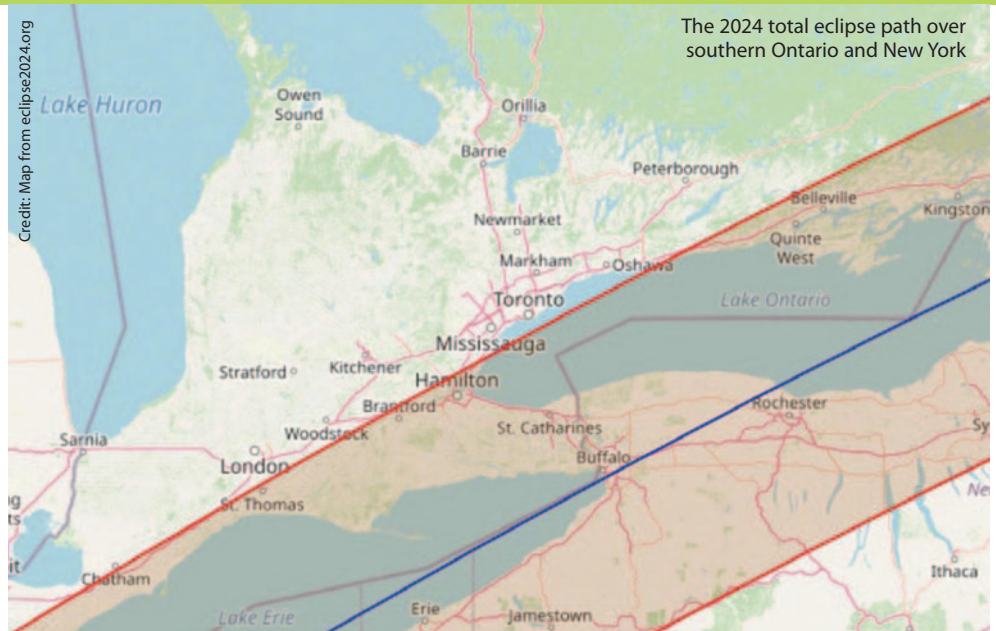
RC: Just before you notice the drop in temperature, you also notice that the light looks very strange; everything starts looking hazy and you see weird shadows happening on the floor, it's quite cool. It is a natural buildup to the spectacle of the total eclipse. It felt like there should be this thunderous movie soundtrack as totality approached, but in real life the



soundtrack was everyone screaming and yelling with excitement. Then it happens and you only have a minute and 50 seconds to watch the spectacle up in the sky. It is so moving to see.

BTM: How can people prepare to view the eclipse? What should they take into consideration leading up to April 8th?

RC: Safety measures are important. You can safely view the sun through eclipse glasses and then, when you get to



totality and you can no longer see the sun through your eclipse glasses, that's when it's safe to take them off. It's important to have your glasses in advance so everyone is prepared to safely view the eclipse. If you have kids, the best thing to do is practice in the days leading up so they know what to do.

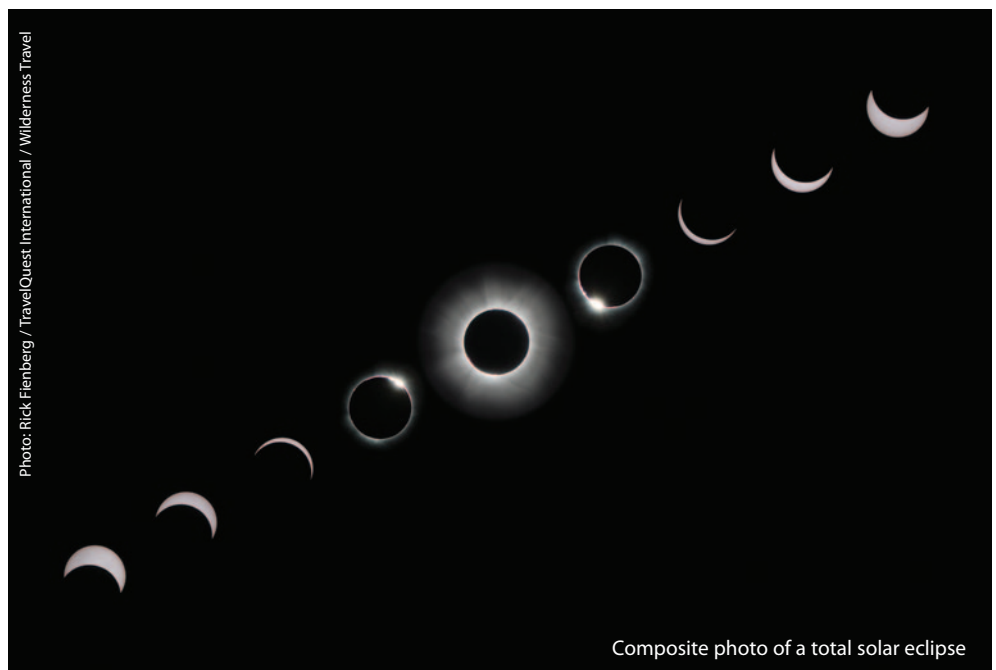
It's also important to plan ahead. Try not to travel on the day itself. If you live in the path of totality, you will be able to see the eclipse from wherever you are and don't need to get mixed up in the traffic. When the eclipse is over, everyone will try to leave at the same time. During the 2017 eclipse you could actually track the path of totality by looking at the traffic on Google Maps.

BTM: It sounds like this will be an incredible experience. Any parting thoughts?

RC: I can't understate the fact that you don't get to see this everyday - it's a once in a lifetime event. For me, it brings home the reality that we were just a small piece in the puzzle that is our solar system. It will be an amazing spectacle that I think will be very moving for everyone who sees it. •

Eclipse Resources

- W.J. McCallion Planetarium, McMaster University (<https://planetarium.physics.mcmaster.ca/2024-eclipse/>)
- Eclipse2024.org
- TimeandDate.com
- BTC Webinar, March 28, 2024 (see page 9)



Composite photo of a total solar eclipse



Photo: Esme Batten

Dark Skies Over the Niagara Escarpment

By Laura Tuohy

Shimmering aurora. Shooting stars. The vastness of the Milky Way. Witnessing these celestial events can be awe-inspiring, yet seeing a star-filled night sky is an increasingly rare experience.

A recent study has found that more than 80 percent of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies. Another revealed artificial lighting has made the night sky 7 to 10 percent brighter each year since 2011. In our urbanized world, the night sky has all but vanished. More and more, light pollution is having negative effects on wildlife, plants, human health, and our environment.

On the Niagara Escarpment, however, there are opportunities for humans and wildlife to benefit from truly dark and magnificent skies, thanks to the work of thoughtful communities endeavoring to reduce light pollution and introduce people to the wonders of nature at night.

Capturing the Night Sky

Conservation biologist Esme Batten has been exploring the dark skies near her home on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula and capturing what she sees through photography. Her luminous night sky

photographs are providing a new perspective on familiar landscapes while drawing attention to the importance of preserving dark skies.

Esme has captured aurora over Lion's Head, glittering constellations over White Bluff, and the galactic core of the Milky Way from the shores of Lake Huron. These are all visible because the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula is a Dark-Sky site. Communities here have made a special commitment to protect the darkness of the night sky by reducing or eliminating light pollution.

Not only do Esme's photos reveal a world not many get to see, they have provided Esme herself with the opportunity to see the world in a different way. She admits that before getting into astrophotography, she looked at nature more "analytically, scientifically, from the lens of conservation." Her astrophotography brought her a "more meditative, connected relationship with nature."

"Often as a scientist you focus on individual parts of an ecosystem, like a rare species or habitat," Esme says. "Astrophotography has really helped me to think about things as more of a broad landscape and gain a bit of an understanding as to how small things within a larger picture can have a big impact."

The Effects of Light Pollution

Esme's astrophotography experiences have also heightened her awareness of the impacts of light pollution on wildlife. She explains, "When you're hiking at night, every single light you come across will seem much more intense or visible. It'll alter your ability to see. It'll disrupt what you're trying to do." She said she can't help but think "how just a single light must cause quite a bit of disturbance to a bird as it's trying to navigate its way through the night, or to a bat that's foraging for insects or roosting."

It's an important reminder that light

pollution not only affects our ability to see the stars, it impacts the health of ecosystems which rely on the natural rhythms of day and night to thrive. Plants and animals need these circadian rhythms to govern life-sustaining processes and behaviours such as growth, reproduction, sleep, migration and predation. Artificial light can disorient birds that migrate or hunt at night, causing them to veer off course or have collisions with structures. Mammals may change their hunting or feeding habits in confusion. Amphibians may be drawn to insects gathering under street lamps and be further at risk of predators or vehicles. Light pollution can even affect the ability of plants to sense and react to natural light, alter their seasonal rhythms, and affect their fragile relationship with pollinators.

Humans are not immune to the effects of artificial light. We too depend on natural light-dark cycles to regulate biological processes. By interfering with sleep rhythms and affecting our melatonin levels, light pollution can cause serious long-term health issues.

By lighting up the night sky we also waste energy and money, and in many cases produce unnecessary carbon emissions that ultimately contribute to climate change.



Photo: Esme Batten

Dark-Sky Preserves & Dark-Sky Communities

Fortunately light pollution is reversible, unlike many other forms of anthropogenic pollution. Several Niagara Escarpment communities are finding ways to reduce or eliminate the impact of outdoor lighting by changing lighting systems that are misdirected, excessive, inefficient or unnecessary.

In 2004, the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula declared itself a “Dark Sky community” and committed to a process of retrofitting all of its street lighting to dark sky friendly fixtures. In 2009, Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park were jointly designated as a Dark-Sky Preserve by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), in recognition of their efforts to control light pollution within the parks and provide outreach and public education about dark skies. Similarly Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre near Oliphant received Dark-Sky Preserve status in 2012.

Canada currently has 22 Dark-Sky Preserves, which account for over a third of all the current preserves recognized worldwide, making these areas near the Bruce Trail particularly precious places to experience truly dark skies. More municipalities along the Niagara Escarpment are exploring ways to reduce excessive and inappropriate artificial light at night, for conservation and cost-saving reasons, so we may see more designations in the future.

“A lot of people don’t have the opportunity to experience truly dark skies in their lifetime, or very rarely” Esme shares, “so having these formal designations can help raise awareness of the importance of dark skies both to people and the natural world, and get people asking questions about why they should care.

“I think it also creates a sense of ownership. If your community is a dark-sky preserve you’re hopefully going to feel proud of that and motivated to initiate programming or share resources within the community on how to maintain it.”

Esme sees similarities between the Dark-Sky designations and the Bruce Trail. “Neither precludes people,” she says. “Both are good ways of acknowledging that we aren’t separate from nature, that we can take action to make sure that we are leaving it in the best shape for future generations, and that we are being thoughtful about how we interact with the natural world.”



Photo: Esme Batten

Living under dark skies can quite literally help us see things in a different light: not only does it challenge our perspective as humans and remind us of the responsibility we have to support the wildlife around us, but it brings us closer to nature, the cosmos and understanding our place in the universe. By working together, we can restore the wondrous, star-filled sky. In the darkness, things are looking bright. •

Explore Esme Batten’s photography on Instagram @esme_batten

Bayside Astronomy

Not far from the Bruce Trail on the Saugeen Peninsula, free guided stargazing programs are offered by volunteers of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association. Programs run five nights a week at sunset from Canada Day to Labour Day: Fridays and Saturdays at Lions Head Marina, Sundays at Singing Sands, Mondays at Miller Family Camp, and Wednesdays at Summer House Park. Visit www.bpba.ca/bayside-astronomy for details.



Photo: Bayside Astronomy



Photo: Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

Tips for Hiking at Night

While most hikers choose to explore the Bruce Trail by day to take in the colourful sights and vast vistas, venturing out after dark also has its benefits.

Hiking at night allows you to tap into other senses and explore nature in a whole new way. From stargazing to nocturnal animal sightings, there is a lot to see and hear when exploring the Bruce Trail after sunset.

No matter your motivation for heading out for a nighttime hike, certain precautions should be taken to ensure that your time on the Trail is safe and enjoyable.

BEFORE YOU GO

Plan your route and choose somewhere familiar.

It's easy to get turned around in the darkness. Planning your route and hiking it in daylight first will help you know what to expect. If you've never tried hiking at night, start with a shorter hike somewhere familiar to you. Always stay on the Trail to avoid getting lost.

Bring a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries.

The Trail can be quite rugged with uneven surfaces, rocks, and roots. A headlamp or flashlight is essential for preventing trips and falls – and both are brighter and last longer than your

phone's built-in light. A light source with different settings, including a red light, is ideal as bright lights can be hard on your eyes over time.

Bring a fully charged cell phone.

You should always bring your phone with you when hitting the trails in case you need to call for help. Most phones have a flashlight function that can act as a backup to your headlamp. You can also use your phone's GPS with apps like the Bruce Trail App and what3words for navigational and safety purposes.

Wear reflective clothing and bring a whistle.

A reflective piece of clothing can help other hikers or drivers see you in the darkness. A whistle can help others hear you in case of an emergency, even if they can't see you.

Plan to do your first hike under a full moon and a clear sky.

A full moon can provide a surprising amount of light. Planning your first night hike during a full

moon and clear sky can be a great way to acclimate yourself to hiking after dark.

Don't go solo and tell someone where you are going.

Always share your route with someone before heading out in case of an emergency. Bring a friend to explore the Trail together, or join one of the moonlit hikes offered by some Bruce Trail Clubs.

Bring layers.

The temperature can drop quickly in the woods at night. Bring layers to stay warm and comfortable.

WHILE HIKING

Slow down and be aware of hazards.

Don't expect to hike at the same pace you would in daylight. Darkness can make the terrain more challenging. Slow down, pay attention to your surroundings, and stay away from cliff edges to prevent injuries.

Be prepared for wildlife.

Many animals such as coyotes, owls, bats, salamanders, foxes, opossums, and skunks are active at night. Sightings can enhance your nighttime hiking experience but be careful not to get too close. Keep your ears open to the sounds around you to avoid unwanted interactions.

While more preparations may be needed for a hike after dusk, for many, once they find themselves in the cool of the night gazing up at the constellations or watching an owl swoop through the darkness, the effort is well worth it. •



Photo: Brooke Henry

Volunteer Corner

Seeking Nominations for Volunteer Awards

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

Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award

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

Honorary Membership

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

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

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



Photo: Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Calypso Orchid Environmental Award

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Call for Nominations for the 2024 Calypso Orchid Award

Help us recognize the heroes of the Niagara Escarpment. We want to honour those individuals or groups who have made a difference for the future of the Niagara Escarpment through restoration initiatives, preservation work, and/or education.

The Calypso Orchid Environmental Award is awarded to an individual, volunteer group, institution or company that has demonstrated significant contribution to the restoration and preservation of the Bruce Trail and/or

the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, or significantly enhanced the education of users or potential users of the Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere.

The recipient does not need to be a member or volunteer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

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



Photo: Brooke Henry

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has permanently secured seven new protected natural areas in recent months thanks to the passion and commitment of over 1,750 donors.

These newly conserved areas include a showcase of three spectacular Sydenham properties, a generous donation of land, a key connector in the Iroquoia section, an Escarpment forest at Rush Cove, and one of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's largest acquisitions in recent years.

Together they represent 767 acres of Niagara Escarpment habitats and 6.7 km of Bruce Trail protected forever.

Mossy Gorge Nature Reserve – Sydenham section

*Walter's Creek, near Map 29**

50 acres | 408 m of Bruce Trail

One of three picturesque natural sanctuaries in the Sydenham section recently added to the Bruce Trail's conservation corridor, Mossy Gorge Nature Reserve is almost entirely forested. The property features significant interior hardwood forest and a re-naturalizing pine plantation. Within the forest sits a large ravine with beautiful moss-covered rocks, a remnant of an old valley stream.

This large forested area near Walter's Falls is a local wildlife refuge, providing habitat for a variety of species. Species of special concern identified on the property include: Woodthrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, American Hart's-tongue Fern, and Butternut.

Cattail Marsh Nature Reserve – Sydenham section

Bayview Nature Reserve, Map 30

153 acres | 820 m of Bruce Trail

This large nature reserve is adjacent to the BTC's Bayview Bluff, Bayview Forest, and Overton nature reserves. It contains 14 acres of wetlands consisting of a large Cattail swamp and meadowmarsh, and a sizable (105 acre) Sugar Maple and Cedar forest.

The property lies within the Bayview Escarpment provincially significant Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) creating a vast 35 km woodland corridor extending from Chatsworth to Cape Rich, and forming a natural area of more than 100 square kilometres on the Spey, Sydenham and Bighead River watersheds.

Woodford Karst Nature Reserve – Sydenham section

Bayview Nature Reserve, Map 30

40 acres | 696 m of Bruce Trail

The Woodford Karst Nature Reserve lies adjacent to the BTC's Crevice Springs property and showcases a mix of vital and valuable ecosystems including a large Sugar Maple forest, three acres of coniferous forest, deciduous forest, Maple swamp, White Cedar swamp and meadowmarsh.



Photo: Brian Poppeier

Mossy Gorge Nature Reserve – Sydenham section



Cattail Marsh Nature Reserve – Sydenham section

Photo: Bess Nakashima

The nature reserve also features an impressive Escarpment crevice system as well as iconic talus and rocky outcrops. These provide important habitat for many species including bats and snakes.

Along with neighbouring protected natural lands, the property creates a 14 km woodland, Escarpment and wetland corridor within the Bognor Marsh and Escarpment Life Science ANSI.

The Bill & Cecilie Moses Family Property - Sydenham section

Owen Sound East, Map 31

35 acres | 945 m of Bruce Trail

Bill and Cecilie Moses have recently deepened their longtime support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) with a remarkable donation of land near Owen Sound. The Moses' have been BTC members for 17 years, and Bill has volunteered as a land steward with the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club for most of that time. Bill also lends his naturalist talents as a volunteer with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, and Inglis Falls Arboretum.

In 1987, the couple opened their antique-furnished, beautiful home as the B & C Moses' Sunset Country B & B and hosted Bruce Trail hikers and other Escarpment explorers for years. This year, they made the decision to generously donate 35 acres surrounding that home to the Bruce Trail Conservancy to support the future of the Trail and the long term conservation of the Niagara Escarpment. Bill explains "We're interested in nature, so gave the money to purchase the land that was guaranteed to be preserved... We are fortunate enough to be in a position where we are not going to run out of money in our retirement. We feel that everybody has a responsibility to lend a hand when and where they can."

We look forward to sharing more of the Moses' story in a future issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*.



Woodford Karst Nature Reserve – Sydenham section

Photo: Brian Popelier



Cecilie and Bill Moses

Photo: Ron Savage

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas *(continued)*

Kilbride Pass – Iroquoia section

Mount Nemo, Map 10

1.5 acres | 319 m of Bruce Trail

In the picturesque community of Kilbride, this newly protected corridor provides a natural connection between Kilbride and Conservation Halton's Yaremko-Ridley Park. This will enable the Iroquoia Club to reroute roughly 2 km of the main Bruce Trail off nearby busy roads to a more natural setting, through wooded areas adjacent to the Kilbride Park.

Lichen Grove Nature Reserve – Peninsula section

Hope Bay, Map 37

24 acres | 1,053 m of Bruce Trail

Lichen Grove Nature Reserve sits just west of the BTC's Chris Walker Nature Reserve at Rush Cove, and takes a significant amount of Trail off the adjacent road. The east side of the property features invaluable wetland habitat as well as forests of Trembling Aspen and White Cedar. This transitions to a mature Sugar Maple forest with views of Georgian Bay on the west side. The west side also has a forested slope with significant Escarpment outcrops. Many of the downed trees on the slope are covered in fascinating lichens and mosses, which give the nature reserve its name.



Blue Jay at Kilbride Pass – Iroquoia section

Photo: Brian Popelier



Lichen Grove Nature Reserve – Peninsula section

Photo: Brian Popelier



MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay – Peninsula section

Hope Bay, Map 37

463 acres | 2,475 m of Bruce Trail

Thanks to the generosity of donors and the cooperation of a landowner who has hosted the Bruce Trail for close to 60 years, the remarkable MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay has been created and will be protected forever as part of our growing conservation corridor.

This expansive nature reserve is located 2 km east of Hope Bay, adjacent to Neyaashiinigiimig (Cape Croker Reserve) on the majestic Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. With a large intact Sugar Maple deciduous forest, the MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay is a haven for a wide range of birds, including area-sensitive species such as American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler and Ovenbird. This dense, untouched woodland is equally important to mammals, such as the elusive Fisher and Black bear, who require large areas of interior forest (an increasingly rare habitat in Ontario) for their long-term survival. The natural Escarpment features within this nature reserve also provide habitat for several rare and at-risk species including Butternut, Eastern Wood Pewee, Woodthrush, and American Hart’s-tongue Fern.

The entire property is underlain by karst, a topography that has been formed from the chemical weathering of dolostone, which plays an important role in the purification of water. These karst areas also host a wide variety of unique ecological niches, and act as natural sinks for carbon dioxide, a valuable feature that supports climate change mitigation.

The securement of MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay will preserve a local wildlife corridor that connects several protected lands owned by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry,

Neyaashiinigiimig (Cape Croker Reserve) and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This property fills an important gap in an otherwise fragmented landscape containing several Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs), and creates a naturally vegetated forest corridor stretching 49 km from Barrow Bay to Wiarton.

Securing large, undisturbed tracts of land on the Niagara Escarpment like this one at Hope Bay is an increasingly challenging yet crucial undertaking in the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s efforts to protect sensitive habitats and biodiversity, address the effects of climate change, and create a permanent home for the iconic Bruce Trail. •

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is grateful to MapleCross for their fundamental investment in the creation of this nature reserve at Hope Bay, and for their ongoing support for our mission.



Ovenbird

Mossy Gorge Nature Reserve, Cattail Marsh Nature Reserve, Woodford Karst Nature Reserve and MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay were made possible with the financial support of:



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.



MapleCross Nature Reserve at Hope Bay – Peninsula section

Photo: Brian Popelier

BRUCE TRAIL – END-TO-END LIST

2023

Congratulations to our members who have completed an End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail – an extraordinary physical and personal journey. The following are members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2023.

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES
4336	Stayzer, Barry	2nd Time	4388	Ball, Eric		4441	Dobson, Lynn		4493	Corner, Margaret	18th Time
4337	Stayzer, Nancy	2nd Time	4389	Rettie, Kristina	2nd Time	4442	Cheeseman, Marla		4494	Sherlock, Elizabeth	
4338	Feryn, Susan		4390	Duggan, Margaret		4443	Lecours, Gregory		4495	Ball, Gretchen	
4339	Corner, Margaret	15th Time	4391	Duggan, Brian		4444	Morassut, Alex		4496	Twidle, Jane	
4340	Mountain, Nick		4392	Keeley-Watt, Barbara		4445	Vanderschaaf, Amy		4497	Simmons, Sandy	
4341	Oshagan, Arpi		4393	Carroll, Heather		4446	van der Sluis, Jane		4498	Van Dyke, Jacquie	11th Time
4342	Fleming, Stewart	4th Time	4394	Chisholm, Moira		4447	van der Sluis, Henry		4499	Sheahan, Jo'Ann & Michael	
4343	Fleming, Stewart	5th Time	4395	Price, Jeff		4448	Kuebler, Birgit		4500	Levine, Paul	
4344	Hornsveld, Esther		4396	Price, Leslie		4449	Murch, Heather	5th Time	4501	White, Steven	6th Time
4345	Hornsveld, Ernest		4397	Price, Jeff	2nd Time	4450	Salisbury, Rob		4502	White, Steven	7th Time
4346	Hornsveld, Sophie		4398	Price, Leslie	2nd Time	4451	Grieve, Carol		4503	Conquer, Julie	
4347	Chackeris, Pamela		4399	Westhouse, Barry	4th Time	4452	Stimson, Bill		4504	Swidinsky, Patricia	
4348	De Brabandere-Garrett, Fran	5th Time	4400	Clairmont, Colleen		4453	Clark, Kim		4505	Khazae, Afsoon	
4349	Correia, Grace		4401	Patterson, Robert		4454	Giles, Stephanie		4506	Fasihy, Ali	
4350	Kornstein, Gary		4402	Patterson, Maryann		4455	Godkin, Ann		4507	Nouriany, Nazanin	
4351	Dragun, Judy		4403	McLay, Robert		4456	Blackmore, Shelley		4508	Kakaee, Farideh	
4352	Salt, Dave		4404	Kernaghan, Marion		4457	Haasnoot, Patti		4509	Vaezzadeh, Hadi	
4353	Wigle, Grant		4405	Harding, Mary		4458	Stashans, Sabrina		4510	Yousefi, Tooraj	
4354	Wigle, Marianne	2nd Time	4406	Rutherford, Jock		4459	Collins, Janice		4511	O'Dell, Margaret	12th Time
4355	Chua, Sylvie		4407	Zaporzan, Steve		4460	Laidlaw, Nicola		4512	Perocho, Ricardo	
4356	Smith, Art	7th Time	4408	Charlton, David		4461	McDowell, Dianne		4513	Perocho, Maria Arlita	
4357	Butler, Janet		4409	DeRaaf, Kevin		4462	Furgal, John		4514	Jimenez, Rey Dario	
4358	Garrett, Robin		4410	DeRaaf, Jacquie		4463	Carruther, Karen		4515	Jimenez, Helen	
4359	Moergeli, Di		4411	Danyluk, Mark		4464	Salisbury, Mike		4516	Douglas, Debra	
4360	Garceau, Dominique		4412	Snarr, Kymberley	2nd Time	4465	Brown, Caledonia		4517	Johnson, Donna Vivian	
4361	Green, Sandra	8th Time	4413	Green, Sandra	9th Time	4466	Niton, Danuta		4518	Saville, Elaine	
4362	Chamberlain, Dennis	9th Time	4414	Green, Sandra	10th Time	4467	Cropp, Diane	8th Time	4519	Rothenburg, Hellaina	
4363	Corner, Margaret	16th Time	4415	Buttars, John		4468	Loghin, Susan		4520	Heathcote, Robert	
4364	Corner, Margaret	17th Time	4416	Arbuckle, David		4469	Mackay, Ann		4521	Ross, Mary	
4365	Logel, Kathy		4417	O'Dell, Margaret	11th Time	4470	Racz, Julie		4522	Simmons, John	
4366	Lailey, Christopher	7th Time	4418	Leeney, Peter	5th Time	4471	De Brabandere-Garrett, Fran	6th Time	4523	Simmons, Sandy	
4367	Lailey, Christopher	8th Time	4419	Dixon, Kimbra		4472	Peel, Bev		4524	Johnson, Dave	
4368	Daugavietis, Ed		4420	Pant, Vinod		4473	MacDonald Carey, Karen		4525	Wilson, Tom & Mitchell, Judy	
4369	Hanes, Luanne		4421	Junkin, Smadar	19th Time	4474	Carey, William		4526	Kozak, Stan & Johns, Leanne	
4370	Webber, Bernie		4422	McKenna, Caroline		4475	Macdonald, Ian		4527	St. Pierre, Ingrid	
4371	Webber, Janet		4423	O'Brien, Heather		4476	Macdonald, Shelley		4528	Shaw, Bob	
4372	Scott, Matthew		4424	Bondy, Jeff		4477	Lawson, Michael		4529	Young, Don	13th Time
4373	Scott, Darlene		4425	Sooley, Karen		4478	Kitson, Michael		4530	Young, Don	14th Time
4374	Kim, Jung Nim		4426	McKirgan, Douglas		4479	Reeve, Shawna		4531	Leeder, JoAnn	
4375	Emmett, Naomi		4427	Wolf, Brent		4480	Ang, Gina	2nd Time	4532	Fry, Robert	2nd Time
4376	Davenport, Lynda		4428	Wolf, Amy		4481	Petley, Jeff	9th Time	4533	Seppala, David	
4377	Murch, Heather	4th Time	4429	Chamberlain, Dennis	10th Time	4482	Zettel, Robert		4534	Seppala, David	2nd Time
4378	Jakus, Wilma		4430	Wiebenga, Bernie & Winnie		4483	Zettel, Monica		4535	VandenBerg, Homer	
4379	Tkalec, Elizabeth		4431	Kloet, Valerie & Doug		4484	Canas, Fabian		4536	Stevens, Anne	
4380	Hogg, Robin		4432	Moraal, Josh		4485	Staples, Michael		4537	Deering, Paula	
4381	Zehr, Rosemary	9th Time	4433	Baranowski, Memphis		4486	Cooper, Cathy		4538	Enk, Gabrielle	
4382	Zehr, Rosemary	10th Time	4434	Hudecki, Christine		4487	Forbes, Stuart		4539	Johnston, Don	
4383	Raval, Nisha		4435	Feng, Zhijuan		4488	Junkin, Smadar	20th Time	4540	Atchison, Derek	
4384	Adams, Barbara		4436	Poole, Anne		4489	Van Hooydonk, Anton & Adriana		4541	Atchison, Josh	
4385	Junkin, Smadar	18th Time	4437	Pittao, Terry		4490	Mackenzie, June		4542	Sibley, Sue	
4386	Johnston, Rob		4438	Mather-Dyer, Lola		4491	Chrisp, Mark		4543	Buttigieg, Randy	
4387	Lee, Sunja		4439	Mather-Dyer, Geneva		4492	Nettagog, Debra		4544	Rumble, Corinna	
			4440	Andringa, Brenda					4545	Gwynne, Sara	

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES
4546	Barclay, Lynne		4568	Dindigal, Roopa		4590	Parsons, Carol		4612	Wells, Deb	
4547	Zvonar, Vince	3rd Time	4569	Ferreira, Manuel		4591	Parsons, Terry		4613	Hoover, Cheryl	
4548	Arsenault, Jamie-Lynn		4570	Keon, Robyn & Mora, Mirella		4592	Stacey, Jeff		4614	Beckett, Joyanne	
4549	Smith, Jordan		4571	Racovali, John		4593	Stacey, Jean		4615	Brouwer, Grant	
4550	Madill, Larry	2nd Time	4572	Hubble, Dale		4594	Gammon, Vic		4616	Naar, Ryan	
4551	Pettit, Terri		4573	Rabey, Velma		4595	Boilard, Jacques	2nd Time	4617	Green, Tammy	
4552	Houston, Brandon & Walker, Jenn		4574	Hobbes, Jennifer		4596	Stassen, Koosje	2nd Time	4618	Murch, Heather	6th Time
4553	Arena, Hannah		4575	Filice, Sonia		4597	Cole, Mary-Ellen	4th Time	4619	Chamberlain, Dennis	11th Time
4554	Arena, Nathaniel		4576	Pocobene, Maria		4598	Cole, Mary-Ellen	5th Time	4620	McRae, Gillian	
4555	Teney, Susannah		4577	White, Fiona		4599	Maissan, Jeff	4th Time	4621	White, Steven	8th Time
4556	Pavlik, Lynn		4578	Hall, Pati		4600	Russell, Nancy		4622	Mitchell, Cheryl	9th Time
4557	Couch, Karen	2nd Time	4579	Ventola, Barbara		4601	Lachance, Rita		4623	Mah-Gin, Sharon	
4558	Bonner Beaudin, Jennifer		4580	Stewart, Maggie		4602	Hogan, Jane		4624	Sequeira, Karen	
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4561	Hill, Charlene		4583	Fritsch, Rachael		4605	Melanson, Brent	3rd Time	4627	Ritchie, Beverlee	
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4565	Arbon, Patti		4587	Oldfield, Ted		4609	Lopata, Dan		4631	Bruggers, Annie	4th Time
4566	Arbon, Craig		4588	Bentz, Greg		4610	Anonymous		4632	Bruggers, Annie	5th Time
4567	Buschert, Karen		4589	Bentz, Carrie		4611	Anonymous				



Photos: Sydenham Bruce Trail Club

Trail Changes & Notices

DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024, 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

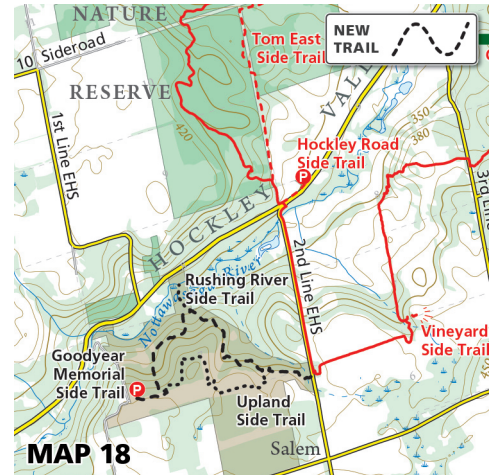
Visit brucetrail.org/trail_changes for the latest changes, searchable by Map Number, Club Section, and even by text in the description.

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

Reservations Required

Be prepared to make parking reservations at some parks and conservation areas along the Bruce Trail, including:

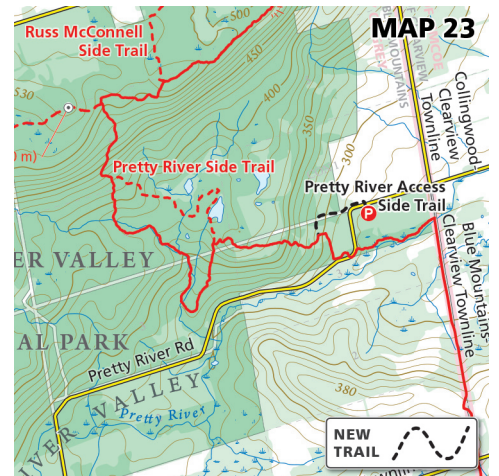
- Conservation Halton (conservationhalton.ca): Mount Nemo, Rattlesnake Point, Crawford Lake, Hilton Falls CAs
- Ontario Parks (reservations.ontarioparks.com): Forks of the Credit, Mono Cliffs
- Hamilton Conservation Authority (conservationhamilton.ca): Spencer Gorge CA (Webster Falls, Tew Falls, Dundas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



BLUE MOUNTAINS

Map 23 – Pretty River Access Side Trail

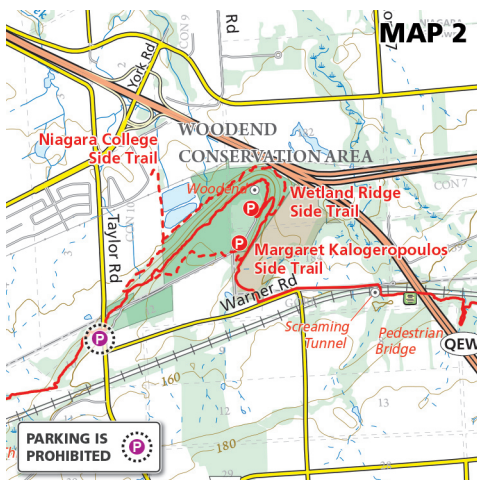
A new 510 metre side trail has been established linking the parking area on Pretty River Road to the main Bruce Trail within Pretty River Valley Provincial Park. Be aware, this access trail intersects with a snowmobile trail. Use caution crossing this intersection during the winter months. •



NIAGARA

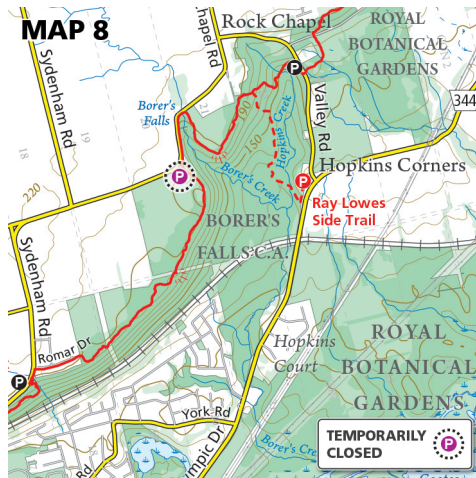
Map 2 – Woodend Conservation Area, Roadside parking prohibited

Roadside parking on Taylor Road is not permitted and this location is no longer considered a Bruce Trail recommended parking area.



Map 8 – Rock Chapel parking, annual closure

The Rock Chapel parking area in Royal Botanical Gardens is closed for the winter season as of December 21 and will reopen in the spring (date unknown).



Map 18 – Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamilton Nature Reserves at Riverside Woods, new trails and parking

An exciting new trail system has been blazed at the BTC's Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamlin Nature Reserve at Riverside Woods, comprising three side trails and a large parking area off 1st Line EHS. There is also roadside parking on the west side of 2nd Line EHS with a capacity of 6 cars.

Goodyear Memorial Side Trail = 2.2 km

Upland Side Trail = 1.2 km

Rushing River Side Trail = 210 metres

Parking Area Coordinates:

1st Line EHS – N 43.959916, W 80.070494

2nd Line EHS – N 43.960903, W 80.055816



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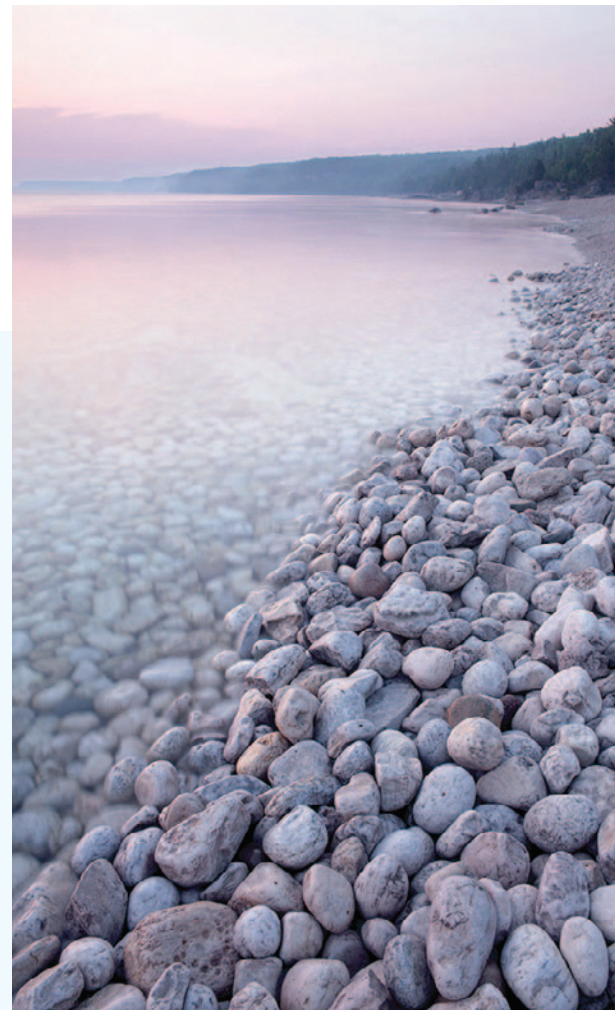
Tax season is a perfect time to review your philanthropic goals for the year. A conversation with an advisor can help you determine the most tax efficient ways to support your favourite charities.

“My partner and I have been members of the Bruce Trail Conservancy for years and recently started to make it our charity of choice because the Trail gives us so much enjoyment. Our financial planner introduced us to the idea of making charitable donations through securities. When she laid out the tax advantages of gifting securities with capital gains, and also showed us that we could give even more as a result, we both looked at each other and said, ‘BTC all the way!’

“What I found appealing about this way to give is that the funds are ‘out of sight’ so to speak; they are in my portfolio churning away and so making a gift of securities didn’t feel like I was ‘out of pocket.’ It was a tax efficient way to off-load securities, and made us feel good at the same time. I will definitely continue to give through securities in the future.”

– Ruth L.

For more information, visit our website at <https://brucetrail.org/ways-to-give/#Gifts-of-Securities> or contact Gloria Vidovich at gvidovich@brucetrail.org



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We are grateful to all 2,678 donors who chose to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a gift between October 1 and December 31, 2023.

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

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TRIBUTE GIFTS OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

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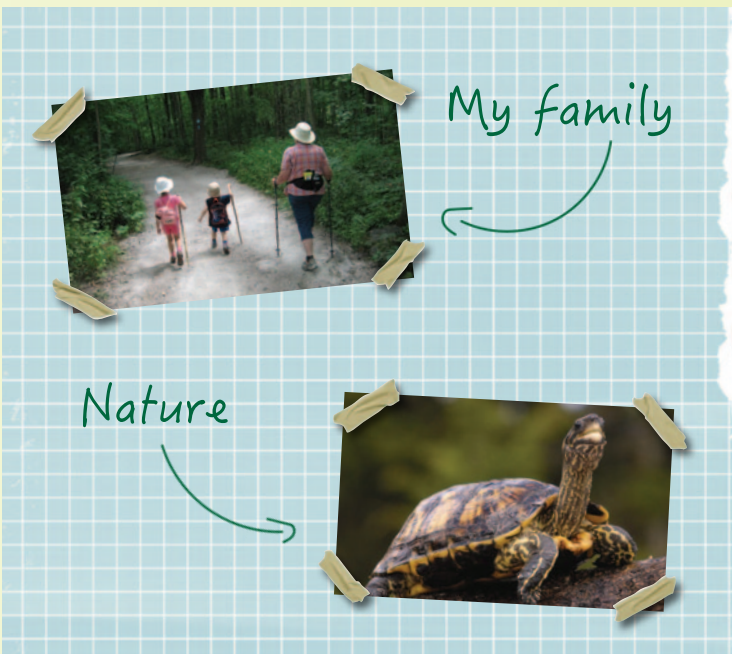
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Bowles Hill Falls, Beaver Valley



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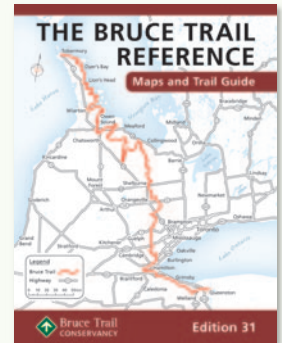
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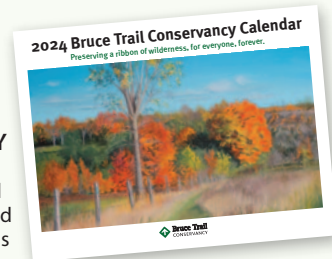


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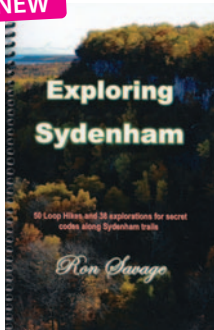
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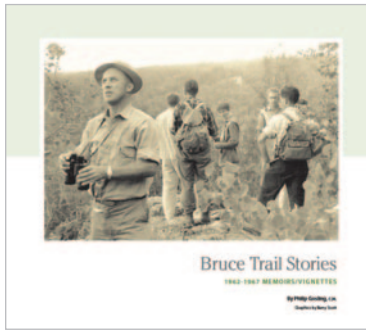
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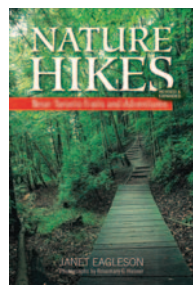
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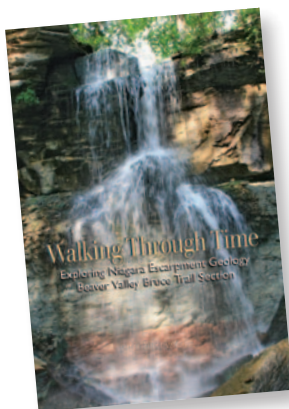
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\$90.00 *Not available online.*



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

Total Solar Eclipse

April 8, 2024 – Don't miss this rare celestial event.

Parts of the Bruce Trail will experience a total solar eclipse on April 8, when the moon will pass in front of the sun and momentarily plunge the daytime world into darkness.

Learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime experience and how you can enjoy it safely on pages 9 and 16 inside.



Photo: Ken Yan



Bruce Trail
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