

INSIDE: NEW PHOTO CONTEST LAUNCHES

VOL. 61, NO.3, SUMMER 2024

Bruce Trail

C O N S E R V A N C Y

MAGAZINE



Natural
Inspiration

Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon
of wilderness, for
everyone, forever.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2024



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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



Cover photo: *Nature's cathedral (Bruce's Caves Conservation Area)* by Andrea Phair

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Design and Production: Rossi Piedimonte Design Inc.

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Chief Executive Officer's Message



I am fortunate that I am able to find inspiration and joy every single day at the Bruce Trail

Conservancy, both in our conservation corridor itself and the community of people who care for it.

I am inspired by the beauty and magnificence of the Niagara Escarpment, and our iconic Bruce Trail that connects us to its wonder.

I am inspired by the 16,000 acres of vulnerable ecosystems and incredible biodiversity under our protection.

I am inspired by our dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time, talents, and passion to help maintain our Trail and the precious lands around it.

I am inspired by our hike leaders who help people fall in love with nature as they explore our 1,400 km trail network.

I am inspired by the hundreds of private landowners who kindly allow the Bruce Trail to cross their property, enabling the continuity of Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath.

I am inspired by our members and donors who give generously to support the preservation of Niagara Escarpment lands that the public can access for generations to come.

I am inspired by our ambitious conservation and restoration projects that are helping species at risk hold on a little longer.

Lastly, I am inspired by our expert staff who pour their hearts and souls into our work every day.

The Bruce Trail inspires you too – and that is what this issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine* is all about. Many in our community create beautiful works of art, music, poetry, and photography

that show us their deep connection to the Trail. Others are inspired by the Trail to do what they can to take care of it and the diverse species that call it home. This issue will introduce you to some of the many creative members of our community, who may just end up inspiring you to join a plein air hike, volunteer with a Club biodiversity committee, or try something entirely new. We are also looking forward to seeing how you are inspired by the Bruce Trail with the launch of our new photo contest, The Bruce Trail Up Close. Inspiration awaits on your next adventure through our ribbon of wilderness! •

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Photo: Michael McDonald

Michael with artists of the Bruce Trail Inspired 2 art show and fundraiser (l to r): Anne More, Cathy Lorraway, Michael McDonald, Janet Jardine, and Victoria Pearce.

BLAZES

News and Events from the Bruce Trail Clubs

NIAGARA

niagarabruceclub.org

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.



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.ca



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.ca and follow the club on Facebook and Instagram. Contact Sandy Green, E2E Coordinator at info@caledonbruceclub.org with any additional questions or concerns.

Merritthon – November 9, 2024

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

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

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

Visit Club websites for more news, events and hikes.



Photo: Niagara Bruce Trail Club

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.



PENINSULA
pbtc.ca



2024 Peninsula Hiking Festival – October 4-5, 2024

You are invited to “Listen to the Land” at this year's Peninsula Hiking Festival, with programs and activities focused on exploring our connection with the land and building relationships with others in the Northern Saugeen (Bruce)

Peninsula and Niagara Escarpment Biosphere. The festival will be held at Camp Celtic, near Stokes Bay, just a short drive from Lion's Head.

The program begins on Friday October 4, with full day geology hike or shorter afternoon hikes, followed by an evening social, wood-fired pizza and beverages, and musical entertainment. Saturday's programs include both morning and afternoon hike and non-hike program options followed by an evening of din-

ing (for an extra fee), complete with an engaging speaker and a silent auction.

Extend your stay after the festival and take in Bruce Trail Day, Sunday October 6, where activities and hikes are being planned at Cape Croker Park, in Neyaashiinigiing.

Festival tickets go live in June. See details and register at www.pbtc.ca.

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 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

STICKER DESIGN CONTEST

Calling all artists, designers and Bruce Trail lovers: You're invited to submit a creative sticker design that symbolizes the Bruce Trail and this year's Bruce Trail Day theme of belonging.

The winning design will be printed and distributed as free stickers at all

Bruce Trail Day 2024 events, and the designer will receive a sticker package and a \$100 gift card for the Bruce Trail Conservancy store.

Submissions due: July 15, 2024
Visit brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-day-2024 for details.



Photo: Brooke Henry

FUNDRAISER –

Film Screening: 500 Days in the Wild

Sunday, June 23 at 2:00 pm
The Bookshelf Cinema
41 Quebec Street, Guelph

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

500 Days in the Wild is the story of one woman's epic journey traversing the entire Trans Canada Trail from coast to coast to coast - hiking, bicycling, paddling, snowshoeing and skiing. This "love letter to Canada" is highly recommended. Learn more about the film at www.500daysinthewild.com

Tickets and details

Purchase your \$30.00 minimum donation ticket through Eventbrite today. Visit caledonbruce trail.ca for a direct link.

Let generosity be your guide. Maximum allowable charitable donation receipt provided.

Proceeds go to the Bruce Trail Conservancy to urgently protect a conservation corridor of land containing the Bruce Trail.

Thank you to event sponsors:

The Stone Store, Guelph
The Bookshelf, Guelph
Loops & Lattes Hiking Guides by Nicola Ross
Wild Birds Unlimited, Guelph



FUNDRAISER –

Bruce Trail Inspired 2 Raises Funds and Awareness

Four accomplished Ontario artists, enthusiastic hikers and environmental advocates raised over \$11,200 for the Bruce Trail Conservancy and introduced countless art lovers to the beauty and variety of the Bruce Trail through their *Bruce Trail Inspired* art shows.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy extends sincere thanks to Victoria Pearce, Janet Jardine, Anne More and Cathy Lorroway for supporting the Bruce Trail Conservancy through their art. Their inaugural art show and fundraiser *Bruce Trail Inspired* launched in 2020, and their second show *Bruce Trail Inspired 2* ran this past November at The Hub Gallery in Burlington.

Through their preferred medium and unique style, each artist created pieces that captured and highlighted locations on the Bruce Trail. During the shows, the artists chatted with visitors about the Bruce Trail and their art, and did demonstrations of some of their techniques. A large banner of the Bruce Trail highlighted the locations depicted in each of the paintings, connecting each piece to the place that inspired it.

We are grateful to Victoria, Janet, Anne and Cathy for sharing their talent and inspiration in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission.

(Artwork, clockwise from top left: Victoria Pearce, Anne More, Cathy Lorroway, Janet Jardine.)



Showing our Pride



After a successful festival in 2023, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is returning to Pride Toronto for 2024.

This year, the festival will take place June 28, 29 and 30. The Bruce Trail Conservancy is proud to have a booth on site where we will be connecting with Pride attendees, answering questions about the Bruce Trail and celebrating the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. This year's theme, "Be _____", invites attendees to celebrate their right to be who they are.

With an estimated three million visitors attending Pride, the BTC has an opportunity to connect with visitors from Toronto and beyond to share information about the Trail and our conservation efforts, while forwarding our allyship with the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. We want everyone to know all are welcome on the Bruce Trail.

Introducing our new BTC Pride Sticker

Last year's BTC Pride Sticker was a huge success with festival-goers taking them home, adding them to their water bottles, or wearing them as they explored the festival. This year, we have

redesigned the sticker to reflect the Progress Pride Flag, adding the colours of the Trans flag as well as black and brown stripes to represent people of colour. Stop by the BTC booth during Pride weekend to get yours. •



Photo: Brooke Henry

BRUCE TRAIL – END-TO-END LIST

...continued

2023

Congratulations to these members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2023 but whose names were missing from or contained an error in our annual listing in the spring 2024 issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*. We apologize for the oversight.

- **Michele Kitson** (End-to-End #4478)
- **Elaine Saville** (End-to-End #4518, 2nd time)

We celebrate your End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail – an extraordinary physical and personal journey – and wish you many more great hiking adventures.



Photo: Laura Tuohy



The Bruce Trail: Natural Inspiration

By Brooke Henry

Photo: Judi Martin

While many trails can connect us to nature, ourselves, and each other, few inspire us in Southern Ontario as the Bruce Trail does.

From the vineyards of Niagara to the towering cliffs of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, the sights, sounds, and smells of the Escarpment and its biodiverse ecosystems have kept people exploring for decades. Not only has the Trail and Niagara Escarpment encouraged hikers to get outside, our beloved Trail has also sparked many creative endeavours, from art, to food and drink, to even tattoos. Allow us to introduce you to a few Bruce Trail Conservancy members whose creations have been naturally inspired by the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment.

Sarah Wiebe Nature Journaling

BTC Youth Council member Sarah Wiebe began nature journaling two years ago while working for Ontario Parks. Nature journaling is a mindfulness

practice that combines art and science to help you slow down and observe the environment around you. Nature journaling can be as simple as writing down your observations or questions in a notebook, sketching plants and animals, or tracing leaves.

Since starting the practice of nature journaling, Sarah has facilitated workshops with people across the province as an outdoor educator. She often finds that adults can be surprised to learn that it's not just for children. She notes, "As someone who strives for perfection, I can relate to those who might feel intimidated to get started. All you need is some paper and a pencil. If you are someone who enjoys colour, try adding pencil crayons or watercolour paint. I also enjoy using a wax crayon to create leaf or bark rubbings."

While nature journaling can be done anywhere, Sarah agrees that the Bruce Trail provides a particularly inspiring environment with something to offer both artists and scientists alike. Sarah's favourite experiences on the Bruce Trail? "I enjoy watching the Turkey Vultures

swoop over the Niagara Escarpment and appreciating the ancient White Cedars clinging to the edge." Sarah recommends trying nature journaling the next time you go out on the Trail. "You might just return feeling relaxed and inspired."



Christian & Barbara Von Der Hiede Food and Drink

Growing up surrounded by nature, Christian and Barbara Von Der Hiede sought a home on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula that would keep them connected to the natural environment. Ten years ago they were lucky to find what they were looking for in a 110-acre property nestled beside what is now BTC's MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin.



Christian and Barbara were so taken by the Escarpment that they built an organic hobby farm called "Tagwerk" on the property which has become a place for innovation. There they produce apple cider and maple syrup, grow produce and greens, and tend to 16 honeybee hives.

As co-founder of Paris Beer Co., Christian is no stranger to a good brew, and natural land along the Niagara Escarpment has led to him exploring this passion even further. With ingredients grown and produced on his Cape Chin farm, Christian has experimented to create award-winning beer recipes such as the Tagwerk Smoked Oat Porter.

The bounty of the Bruce Trail has also inspired Barbara, a certified yoga teacher, to convert their "sugar shack" into a studio for aerial yoga, encouraging physical well-being in equilibrium with nature and the Trail.

With both the Main Trail and a side trail crossing their farm, Christian and Barbara feel physically connected to the Trail and emotionally connected to the



Cape Chin Raw Honey from the Von Der Heides' farm

BTC's mission and its many volunteers and trail users.

As Christian states, on the farm, "nature's sounds, the fragrance, the wind, the diversity of plants and animals, and the sheer magic radiating from the Escarpment is a breeding ground for creativity and provides clarity of one's purpose."

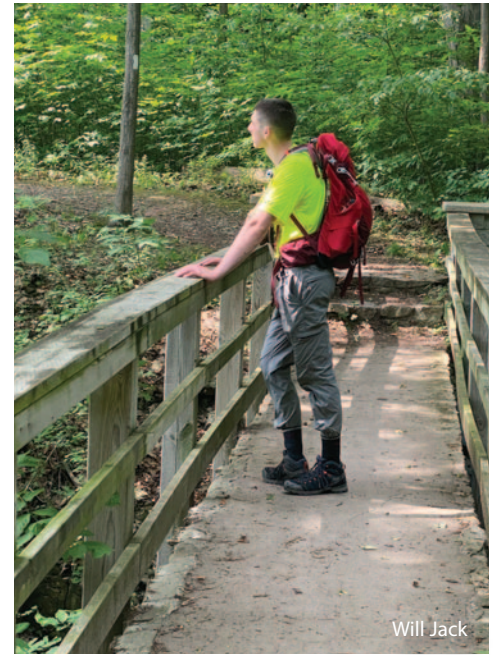
Will Jack Woodworking

BTC Trail Ambassador Will Jack became well acquainted with the Niagara Escarpment last summer as he spent his days along the Bruce Trail, and was taken with its biodiversity and beauty. While training for his role, Will was shown the new BTC Seed Orchard on the McNally Nature Reserve in Waterdown, still in its early stages. He was particularly inspired by the sustainability of the seed orchard idea - the fact that on a BTC-protected natural area, a source of healthy, native plants

could be purposefully grown to support restoration efforts in other areas along the Trail.

Drawn to contribute to the project, Will had the creative idea to use his woodworking skills to create a sign for the orchard in his spare time. While woodworking has been a passion of Will's since high school - with Will teaching himself through trial and error - he emphasizes it would not have come to fruition without the help and generosity of Dave Kipp, a shop teacher at Westdale Secondary in Hamilton.

A beautiful 'raw edge' sign, made of sustainably-harvested pine, now graces the entrance to the seed orchard at McNally Nature Reserve. It has been so well received by the BTC community that, what began as a labour of love, has now become a larger endeavour for Will who has agreed to create signs for each of the seed orchards in development along the Bruce Trail.



Will Jack



Suzanne Dyke
En Plein Air Painting

Visual artist Suzanne Dyke has been fortunate to live on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula with access to the Bruce Trail for more than 40 years, forming a relationship with the land that continues to inspire her every time she walks the Trail.



For Suzanne, the Bruce Trail is an artist's delight. She often grabs her sketchbook, ditches her cell phone, and heads to the Trail to slow down, observe nature and create "en plein air". En plein air is a French expression meaning "in the open air" and refers to painting or sketching outdoors.

The Trail is inspiring for Suzanne because, "there is a great view, and something to observe and sketch or paint around every curve. You can look up, down, anywhere, and find yourself



Plein air sketch, Suzanne Dyke

experiencing a connection to the land we are so fortunate to be able to access along any part of the Bruce Trail."

Suzanne encourages others to try en plein air art as well: "Walk along the Trail with open eyes, ears, nose, and heart, and become one with the beauty that surrounds you. Take the time to observe and sketch your own journey and connection to this amazing place."

Shawna Reeve
Bruce Trail Tattoo

Many hikers will know that, once you embark on a Bruce Trail end-to-end, it often becomes a big part of your life, requiring a significant amount of time and planning. End-to-ender Shawna Reeve knows this all too well. Shawna's end-to-end journey took a little over three and a half years and was constantly top of mind as she planned and completed hikes along the entire Trail. Though her journey was complicated by the pandemic and ulcerative colitis flares, she persevered and these challenges made the final hike that much more rewarding. In hiking the Trail, Shawna has connected with many incredible people in the online hiking community and made many lifelong friends.

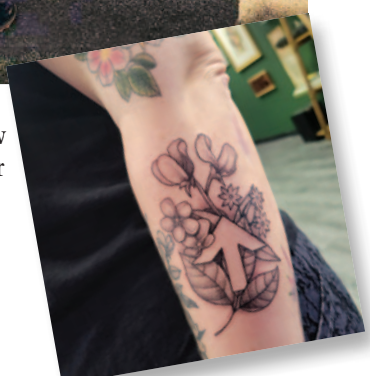
Shawna was so moved by her experiences that she decided to celebrate the journey by getting a Bruce Trail-inspired tattoo. For the tattoo, Shawna explains, "I wanted it to reflect the Trail, so I chose to surround the arrow from the BTC logo with wildflowers found along the way. I also had a run-in with some poison ivy, and even though it wasn't a great experience, it was a significant one, so I needed to include that!" Shawna credits Marcus from Oak and Acorn Tattoo for bringing her vision to life. Now, she will remember her monumental journey forever.

Though her end-to-end journey is complete, Shawna still hikes regularly.



Shawna Reeve

You can follow along with her adventures on Instagram: [@shawna.go](https://www.instagram.com/shawna.go)



Bruce Trail
Inspires in Life

While these individuals found inspiration to create tangible things, it's important to recognize that the Bruce Trail can inspire beyond physical creation. In preparation for this article, we reached out to our Instagram followers and discovered a wealth of stories illustrating how the Trail has had a profound impact on their lives. For many, spending time on the Trail has compelled them to live differently and foster a deeper connection with nature. A majority of those who responded noted that the Bruce Trail encouraged them to slow down, to reflect, and to prioritize mental and physical well-being. In a world often fixated on productivity, the Trail reminds us of the importance of simply living and finding meaning and fulfillment in the present moment. These diverse answers illustrate the invaluable role trails like the Bruce Trail play in enriching our lives. In its ability to inspire such varied experiences, the Bruce Trail is truly worth protecting. •

Inspiration Taking Root

By Ali Schofield

As biodiversity committees are established across Bruce Trail Clubs, passion projects are helping people and nature thrive together.

Over the last few years, Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) volunteers have been inspired to contribute more fully to the conservation aspect of our mission through the formation of biodiversity committees. Together, these volunteers are working to address common concerns, like the spread of invasive species, in addition to the various environmental needs and interests unique to their Trail sections. The latter can require some creative problem-solving and a great deal of initiative.

Gary Hall, Land Stewardship Director for the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club, believes that one of the best ways to get these important projects off the ground is to encourage volunteers to lean into their passions. “Find what someone is really enthusiastic about and let them go with it.” Read on to learn about two of the many special projects that are supporting species along the Niagara Escarpment and helping people develop a deeper connection to our ribbon of wilderness.

Niagara Club Biodiversity Committee welcomes Bluebirds

Alicia Aitchison first became interested in nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds when she was managing the bluebird trail in Short Hills Provincial Park. After some time she wondered, “where, on our own Bruce Trail Conservancy property, we could establish a bluebird trail?”

After some consideration it was decided that the BTC’s Woodend Meadow property was the perfect place. There, the Niagara Club Biodiversity Committee has installed 10 Eastern Bluebird boxes, which require weekly monitoring by biodiversity committee volunteers. Their efforts here were rewarded: in early April 2024, volunteers spotted Bluebirds checking out the boxes. By the end of the month, they found their first nest.

To help the Bluebirds thrive, a work party was held at Woodend Meadow in

May to plant 250 native plants. These included Mountain Mint and Bergamot, which act as natural repellents and help deter ants from infesting the nesting boxes, and other plant native species that will attract pollinators and food for the Bluebirds.

Alicia agrees that following one’s inspiration can even be capacity-building. “When people lead from their interests, we can keep doing more.”



Eastern Bluebird chicks and egg

Photo: C. Cuervo

Caledon Hills Club Biodiversity Committee invites you for a Nature Walk

When we slow down to observe life on the Trail, we develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world around us. This is the goal of the Caledon Hills Club Biodiversity Committee’s Nature Walks: hike leaders

are accompanied by a volunteer with a specific area of interest who shares their knowledge with attendees on an easy-going walk along the Trail. Depending on the theme, attendees can learn more about specific taxa like birds, wildflowers, or mushrooms, or practice particular skills, like using iNaturalist to record and identify species.

“We learn from each other,” shares Gary Hall. By drawing on the interests of their volunteers, they share a contagious passion that can strengthen the connection people feel with the Trail and help them develop a deeper appreciation for the abundant biodiversity that exists only along the Niagara Escarpment.

Following your interests can make a real difference

Caring for one of the most biodiverse regions in North America can be a big task, which makes us extremely fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers to do hands-on work while inspiring and educating others.

Are you inspired by our ribbon of wilderness to do something to protect a certain species or to share your knowledge with others? Connect with your Club, or visit brucetrail.org/apply-online-to-volunteer to fill out a volunteer application form and get involved. •



Caledon Hills Club Biodiversity Committee event

Photo: Gary Hall



Retrospective: The artistic evolution of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar

By Ali Schofield

Laura Masterson 2014

Let's go for a Hike (acrylic) by Laura Masterson, 2015 calendar

For more than 50 years the Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar has shown us what captures an artist's imagination, and has in turn fired our own.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar is more than a way to track the days and months, it is an annual tradition that showcases the works of some of the many artists in our community who are inspired by our ribbon of wilderness. Each month greets us with a new scene that reflects the time of year, from the flora and fauna that herald the spring, to Escarpment landscapes warmed by autumn colours, to the Trail between stands of snow-covered trees. With the flip of each page, these artists remind us that no matter the season, beauty, wonder and inspiration can be found in every step along the Bruce Trail.

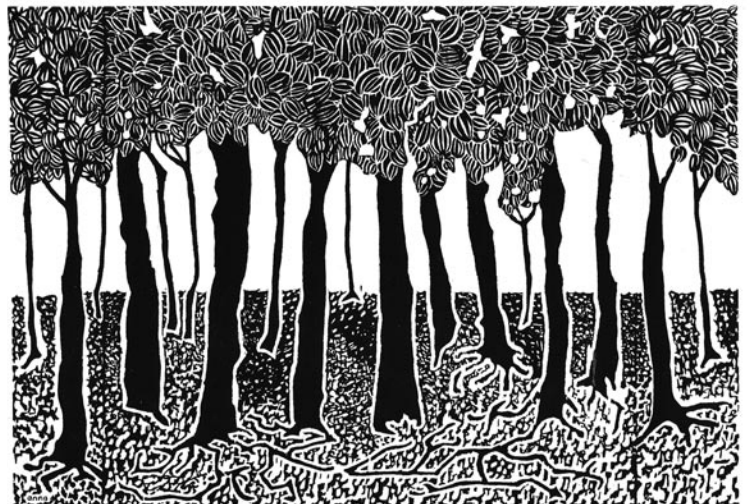
The early years

The first calendar was published in 1969 on the initiative of the Bruce Trail Guide Book Committee. The call for submissions asked specifically for sketches, as the cost of printing colour photographs was prohibitive at the time. This practical decision to focus on drawings became an annual invitation to the artists in our community to share their creative works. Looking at the selections for the early calendars, it is easy to imagine that many were drawn en plein air.

As the years passed, submissions featured more diverse media, including acrylics and watercolours, though the calendars were still printed in black and white.

A colourful future

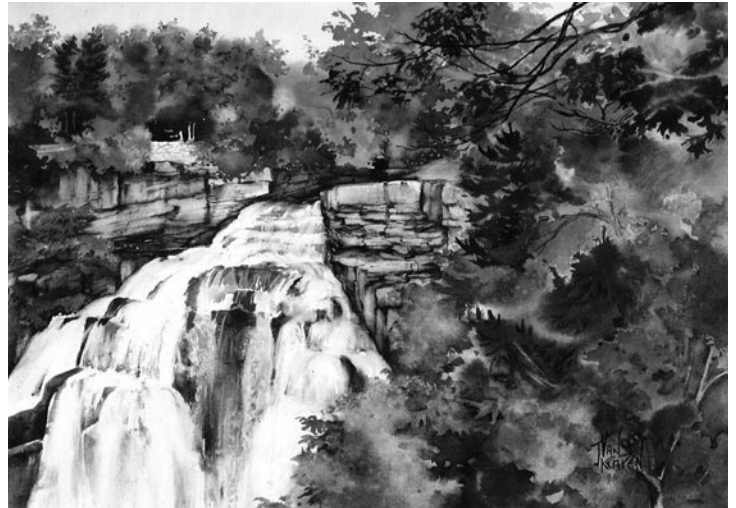
The calendar was produced in colour for the first time in



Roots Entwined - Blue Mountains (woodcut) by Anna, 1975 calendar



White Tailed Deer (pen and ink) by Jan Tufford, 1985 calendar



Inglis Falls (watercolour) by Johanna Van Kempen, 1995 calendar

2010, giving more depth and texture to the works. The switch to colour not only made the calendar more vibrant, but enabled us to better appreciate the increasing variety of materials used by artists, from the traditional paint, pastels and charcoal to stained glass, epoxy and fabric.

Bringing the outdoors in

The 1969 calendar was so popular among members that the initial run of 1,000 copies sold out in just three weeks. Ever since, the calendar has been eagerly anticipated each year. In addition to gracing the walls of countless homes and businesses, for many years the calendar has been given as a token of gratitude to landowners who generously allow the Trail to cross their property.



Beamer Falls (pencil) by Melinda Coker, 2005 calendar



Escarpment Scriptures #3 (textile) by Lorraine Roy, coming in 2025 calendar

Supporting the source of inspiration

We are so grateful that generations of artists in our community have been willing to share their work in support of the BTC. Funds raised from sales of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar support the BTC's mission, preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

The 2025 Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar will be available to order online or buy in-store at the BTC this fall. We look forward to sharing it with you! •

(The Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar art featured on these pages is drawn from across the decades as only a representative sample of the hundreds of artworks and talented artists featured over 56 years.)

Poetry of the Bruce Trail

Devil's Monument

By Lenore Keeshig

This ancient one came into being during the last great flood – its rocky connection to the scarp weakened. Time over time rock flakes – rock chunks tumble and roll down, dust onto dust, leaving Akandoowinini – the old sentinel in isolated attention to watch over the mysterious green blue Sweetwater Sea, and to tell of times gone by.



Lenore Keeshig is a member of Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, and award-winning author, poet, storyteller and naturalist, living at Neyaashiinigmiing on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula.

Chi Miigwetch, many thanks to both Lenore and Genevieve for sharing their poems with the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Poets Considering Moss

By Genevieve Chornenki

rocks...threatened from underneath by moss in lovely hell-green flames
—Elizabeth Bishop, “Brazil, January 1, 1502”

afterwards I always felt mean...as if I had committed, against the whole scheme of life, a desecration
—Theodore Roethke, “Moss-Gathering”

August rains. Forest mosses beckon us exactly as they must have beckoned you, every square inch of woodland floor gone green—frog green, hunter green, pickle green, olive, kale and shamrock, occasional mustards, golds and bronzes, miniscule capsules borne on blood-red stalks. Impossible mantle blanketing rot and rock and soil under spindly spruce and aspen trees that took hold once the loggers had their way, lining ditches where orchids bloom in June for those who know, hosting the cedar’s seedlings, the stolons of the wild strawberry.

After rain, pure cobalt tops the trees, poplars pulse with water, woodpeckers tapping time—sounds that are no sounds. We walk, we see how green hangs like a tablecloth from crags or caps a cedar stump, shins up a living trunk with anchor hairs concealed in matted sponge.

Still, in the foreground blue jays squawk and scold, insist on what is theirs, lay claims like the bright orange ribbons marking off the land for sale, the luscious lot that slopes up from the shore with moss so green it swallows up the honeyed sun, so deep it gleams all afternoon—mustard, copper, bronze—miniscule capsules borne on jet-black stocks. Unbroken mantle. Impossible.

Genevieve Chornenki is an author, editor, poet, dispute resolution consultant, and long-standing member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This poem was inspired by daily walks on the Bruce Trail in the summer of 2022. She lives, writes and botanizes in Toronto.



PHOTO CONTEST: THE BRUCE TRAIL IS READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP!

We are excited to announce the launch of our next Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine Photo Contest.

It has been said that life is in the details, and we want to get to the heart of life on the Bruce Trail. What aspects of Escarpment ecosystems look ordinary from a distance, but extraordinary up close? Show us the tiny towers of lichens, the delicate patterns found in feathers, or the smallest species you notice on the forest floor. Or take a closer look at the people, gear or tools of the trail to reveal a different perspective on these familiar sights.

Show us the Bruce Trail close-up.

What you need to know:

- To be eligible, photos must be taken from the Bruce Trail, so stay on the marked path and abide by the Trail Users' Code.
- While we encourage your creativity, please do not disrupt the delicate ecosystems in our ribbon of wilderness to get the perfect shot. Give all wildlife plenty of space - use your camera's zoom or telephoto functions to get close, not your feet. Do not bait or feed wildlife.
- Photos do not need to be taken recently; images from past seasons and adventures are encouraged.
- Be sure to include a caption that states where on the Trail you took your picture and any other details you would like to share.
- Minor digital enhancement is permitted, but photos that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified.
- The contest deadline is 11:59 p.m. on July 15, 2024.

Entries will be narrowed down to ten finalists based on photographic quality and visual impact; originality; and how well they express the theme. All finalists will be featured in the fall 2024 issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*. The Grand Prize Winner and two Runners Up will each receive a one-year membership to the BTC and one of three prizes.



Grand Prize

\$250 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership

Runners Up (2)

\$100 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership

For full contest details, rules and regulations, and to submit your photo, visit brucetrail.org/photocontest.

Contest Launch: June 1, 2024

Contest deadline: July 15, 2024 @ 11:59 pm

Tips for Close-Up Photography on the Bruce Trail

By Brooke Henry



Photo: Kathleen Hart

The Bruce Trail is ready for its close-up – are you ready to take the shot?

With the announcement of our latest photo contest, we wanted to provide some useful tips and tricks for photographing flora, fauna, geology, and more along the Bruce Trail. Whether you're using the camera on your phone or a DSLR, these basic tips will help you get the most out of your photos.

Lighting

Light is one of the most important factors in photography. Before taking a photograph, consider where the sun is in



Photo: Krista Mikloska

relation to your subject. Are there shadows across the subject? Will there be a lens flare caused by a bright light source in the photo? If the lighting isn't what you're looking for, try moving to get a different angle. Use a flashlight or a small portable reflector to improve the lighting on your subject. Remember to be aware of your own shadow as well.

Composition

When preparing to take a photo, consider the composition or position of your subjects. One recommendation is to follow the rule of thirds. To do this, imagine two horizontal lines and two vertical lines evenly spaced going across your photo creating a three-by-three grid. Are your subjects and points of interest aligned with these lines and their intersections? To help with this, cameras often have the option to see this grid on your screen or in your viewfinder.

For close-ups, don't be afraid to get on your subject's level. Crouch down to get



Photo: Kathleen Hart

a shot of hiking boots on the trail, or reach your arms high to snap a pic of a cherry blossom. You may feel silly but the photo will have more payoff.

Focus

To get a clear picture, especially when close up, always be aware of where the camera is focusing. When using a phone, you can usually tap the screen where you would like the camera to focus. For DSLRs and other cameras, there is often an auto-focus function that can be adjusted with a light push on the shutter button. While auto-focus can be useful, manual focus can give you more control.



Photo: Sean Tilden

Explore your camera settings before heading out to learn how to switch between the two. If you are having trouble focusing, try adjusting your distance to the subject and trying again. When using auto focus, if you bring your phone or camera in slowly towards the subject, a good depth of field should be achieved.

Camera shake can be an issue, especially in close up shots. To minimize movement consider using a tripod or monopod. And take advantage of the timer setting on your phone or DSLR to avoid having to touch the shutter. In phone photography, you can even use your headphones with volume control as a remote trigger; just press the 'volume down' button to take a photo without touching the screen.

Zoom

To get closer to your subject, especially one that is off trail or high in a tree, your camera's zoom function can be your best bet. On your phone, you can use two fingers on the screen and pinch out to zoom in. Once you are zoomed in, be sure the camera focuses again properly before taking the photo. For DSLR cameras, you can purchase a number of different lenses with varying zoom abilities.

Zooming in can cause loss of quality and pick up on tiny movements, so for close ups that you can reach from the



Photo: Sean Tilden

trail, getting close is better than zooming in. If you have a close-up/macro lens or setting on your phone, then switch to it rather than zooming. For super close up or macro photography with a phone, you can use a macro clip-on lens, or even a hand lens/loupe attached with an elastic. It's a handy and lightweight combination when you don't have a DSLR with special lenses.

Editing

Did you take a photo that didn't quite turn out as planned? Not to worry, the magic of editing is here to help.



Photo: Heather Little

Cropping a photo can help perfect the composition. Photo editing programs like Photos on iPhone or Lightroom have tools that can adjust light exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, saturation, warmth, and more. But be careful, over-editing can lead to the photo losing its visual impact.

Respecting your surroundings

While taking photographs along the Bruce Trail, always tread lightly. Stay on the marked trail to protect the delicate Niagara Escarpment ecosystems and for your own safety. Consider investing in a zoom lens or binoculars to capture images of plants and animals off trail.



Photo: Graham Hill

Experiment, Practice and Enjoy!

Taking photos along the Bruce Trail can be a great way to slow down and connect with your surroundings as you explore. Like any skill, the best way to become a better photographer is to practice. Following these tips can help you get started but remember that a good photo, like any art form, can be subjective. So get out there and explore! We can't wait to see what parts of the Trail you capture close-up. •



Photo: Sean Tilden

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

Four new protected natural areas have entered the Bruce Trail Conservancy's care in recent months. Together they encompass over 45 acres of preserved Niagara Escarpment habitat, and each of them sets the stage for an improved Trail experience.

Elderberry Ridge – Iroquoia section

Grimsby, Map 5

1.4 acres | 78 m of Bruce Trail

Located in the Town of Grimsby near Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, Elderberry Ridge is nestled in the beautiful benchlands of the Niagara Escarpment. This newly protected area boasts a wooded talus slope dominated by Sugar Maple with an understory of Red Elderberry.

Elderberry Ridge secures 78 m of the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route, but no trail is currently on the property and no public access is yet permitted. Before trail is routed onto the property, the Bruce Trail Conservancy will need to acquire or be granted access to up to 28 adjacent properties along the ridge. The creation of this protected natural area represents an important step in removing the Bruce Trail from nearly 2.5 km of Ridge Road West and Woolverton Road.



Elderberry Ridge – Iroquoia section

Birdie's Path – Iroquoia section

Dundas Valley, Map 8

2.3 acres | 832 m of Bruce Trail

After crossing the land of Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club (DVGCC) for many years, the Bruce Trail is now secured on an easement dubbed Birdie's Path. This purchase is a critical link for the Trail through Dundas Valley. It completes a 7 km stretch of secured Optimum Route from Sherman Falls to the DVGCC and ensures a safe hiking experience through the picturesque valley. With the addition of Birdie's Path to our conservation corridor, we have avoided having the Bruce Trail follow over 3 km of road.



Birdie's Path – Iroquoia section

Photo: Brian Popelier

Coldwater Ravine Nature Reserve – Caledon Hills section

Hockley Valley, Map 18

25 acres | 196 m of Bruce Trail

Tucked between two parts of the Hockley Valley Provincial Nature Reserve and lying east of the BTC's MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cannings Falls in Mono, are the verdant forests of Coldwater Ravine Nature Reserve. The nature reserve is bisected by a tributary of the Nottawasaga River, a coldwater stream which acts as a biodiversity hub and water regulator within the region. Many species which are restricted to coldwater streams, like Brook Trout, are now protected here.



Coldwater Ravine Nature Reserve – Caledon Hills section

Photo: Maria McHaffie

There is no trail access yet to this new nature reserve, however, its acquisition brings us closer to routing the trail through the property and eventually providing safe and controlled footpath access to Cannings Falls to the west.

Sumac Landing – Sydenham section

Inglis Falls, Map 32

16.5 acres | 398 m of Bruce Trail

Named for the abundant Sumac on the edge of the property, Sumac Landing is located in the Municipality of Meaford on the outskirts of Owen Sound, northeast of the iconic Inglis Falls. Though there is no trail currently on the property, Sumac Landing will enable a reroute that will remove Trail from Superior Street and Highway 6/10, improving Trail safety and the overall hiking experience. •

Sumac Landing – Sydenham section



Photo: Mugsy

Land Donors: Bill and Cecilie Moses

By Ron Savage

We introduced readers to Bill and Cecilie Moses in the spring issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine. In this issue, we continue our conversation with Bill and Cecilie and learn more about what inspired them to make a gift of land to the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC).

I met with Bill and Cecilie on one of our few frigid days this past February. As we sat around their pleasant kitchen with its cozy wood stove, we settled in for a relaxed conversation.

We started with what drew them both to their home on the Niagara Escarpment east of Owen Sound. Fifty years ago, Bill and Cecilie were living in Balaclava but were looking for a home closer to Georgian College, where Bill was then teaching. (He retired in 1995.) Cecilie remembers coming upon a for sale sign on a 40-acre property which was “within hiking distance of the college”. The property contained an unfinished bungalow (e.g. no drywall), a dilapidated barn, abandoned agricultural fields, and relatively few trees anywhere on the whole acreage. However, they both saw potential in what their future home could become. Over the years, with help, they finished the house and stabilized the barn to extend its life. Due to Bill and Cecilie’s keen interest in nature, they had a pond dug near the barn at the outlet of a marshy area in order to provide a home for more species on the property. Bill also planted many hundreds of trees to reforest various sections of the property. Later Bill’s passion was propagating woody plants native to Grey and Bruce Counties.

I asked them why they chose to donate a portion of their property to the BTC. They reflected on their desire to make a difference for both the ecology of the area and for the Bruce Trail experience. Bill replied, “The BTC will protect the land forever, and it can also one day use the property to take hikers off the road. I have always wanted to help eliminate the road walking that hikers face in front of our place.” Cecilie added she thought there was an

excellent place to construct a simple parking lot for hikers on the land they were donating. One of Sydenham’s hot spots, Boyd’s Crevices, is directly across the road, and they and their neighbours have worried for years about the many cars that park along the busy road. The idea of providing a safe parking area gave the Moses’ added incentive in their decision to donate their land.

Bill and Cecilie 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. Over the last thirty years, the Moses’ have also become staunch supporters of many other local nature organizations. When asked why they became such prolific volunteers, Cecilie answered, “I think volunteering is the best form of giving and a good way to connect with the community.”

Moses’ decision to deepen their longtime support of the BTC with a

donation of land was a family one. They had a discussion with their two sons (John and Paul), along with their grandson Alex and daughter-in-law Patti, about ways to preserve the ecology of their beautiful property while making it possible for future generations to enjoy what they and nature had created. After a fruitful conversation, the entire family agreed whole-heartedly to sever 35 acres of the land and donate it to the BTC for the creation of a nature reserve. This way, they would ensure a safe haven for the myriad insects, turtles, frogs, snakes, birds and other wildlife that have called the Moses property home, and would be providing an opportunity for hikers to connect with nature in this special area for years to come. As well, they are looking forward to spending many more years on the remaining 5 acres.

We thank the Moses family for their generous donation of this important property. •



Cecilie and Bill Moses

Photo: Don Sankey

Donating land to the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a gracious decision that creates a lasting natural legacy. Gifts of land become part of our growing conservation corridor, remain in charitable trust and are protected forever.

For more details visit brucetrail.org/ways-to-donate-land



Pond on The Bill & Cecilie Moses Family Property

Photo: Ron Savage

Conservation Opportunity: Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve



Photo: Michael McDonald

TRILLIUMS

Donate to protect the longest remaining section of Bruce Trail along the Georgian Bay shoreline and your gift will be matched!

You can help secure a spectacular natural sanctuary along the clear waters of Georgian Bay between Barrow Bay and Rush Cove. Featuring a variety of habitats including interior forest, Escarpment cliffs, and rocky shores, this is a tremendous opportunity for our conservation corridor.

Your donation today will protect 64 acres of vulnerable Niagara Escarpment lands and over 600 metres of Bruce Trail in this stunning section.

This unique property features:

- Beautiful shoreline covered in rocks brushed by clear turquoise waters
- Stunning views of distant Escarpment bluffs
- Mature Sugar Maple forest
- Wildflowers and ferns that thrive in pockets of Escarpment soil
- Ancient Eastern White Cedars that cling to 100-foot dolostone cliffs
- A transition zone from aquatic to terrestrial habitats, important for shoreline birds and reptiles

Your donation to Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve will help us secure these lands and complete a 560-acre connected corridor of protected natural areas that will provide refuge to increasingly isolated wildlife such as Black Bears and Fishers.

Escarpment Cliff Habitat

The Escarpment cliffs found on Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve provide unique habitat for a variety of species including the majestic Bald Eagle which nests high in the cliffside treetops, overlooking their feeding grounds in the bay. The cliffs also feature cool dark crevices for shade-seeking plants such as ferns, and caves that provide a home to various bat species.



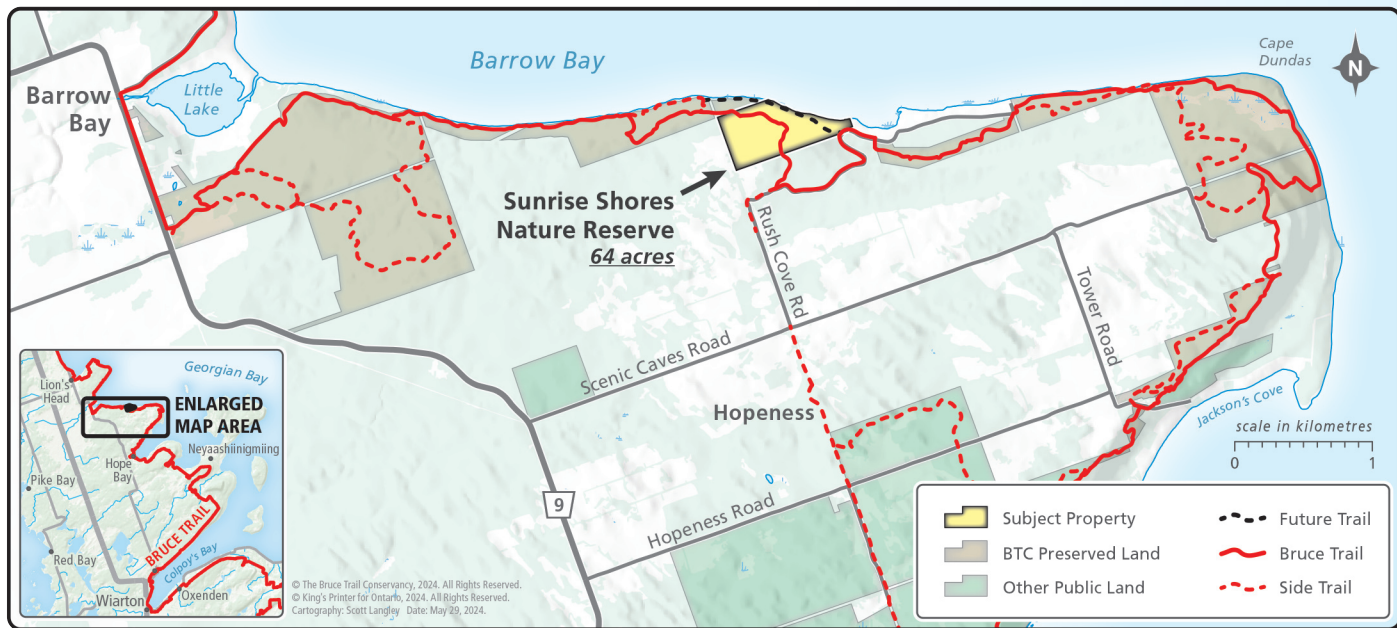
BALD EAGLE

Together with you, we can forever preserve this land, protecting essential habitat for countless plant and animal species and providing a safe route for the Bruce Trail. If not secured, the Trail could be re-routed onto the road, posing a safety risk to Bruce Trail users. With your help, we can establish this new nature reserve and complete a 5.5-kilometre stretch of scenic Bruce Trail in this section.

The combined cost to protect and steward Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve is \$1.7 million. Thanks to the generosity of a lead donor, we have \$1.5 million left to raise.

Right now, the next \$200,000 raised will be matched by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

Act now to add this longest remaining piece of Georgian Bay shoreline to our ribbon of wilderness for generations to enjoy.



Donate today at brucetrail.org

Or by phone at 1-800-665-4453 or by mailing the form below to Bruce Trail Conservancy, PO Box 857, Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9

Yes, I want to protect Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve!

Enclosed is my: Monthly Gift: \$ _____ / month
 Single Gift: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____ other

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

Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Member# _____ Email: _____

Your email is confidential and will not be shared with 3rd parties.

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

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

Childhood memories inspire a future gift

By Gloria Vidovich

On a beautiful spring day in April, long-time Caledon Hills Club volunteer Andrée Zeritsch retired as Treasurer at their Annual General Meeting. Standing in front of a packed room of fellow volunteers and members, Andrée's 12 years of service was recognized and celebrated. While her tenure as Club Treasurer ended, her passion for the Bruce Trail remains. In fact, Andrée's participation with the Bruce Trail Conservancy started long before her time on the committee began, and because of her decision to include the BTC in her will, her impact will be felt well into the future.

As a child growing up in the Ottawa Gatineau area, Andrée has fond memories of venturing outdoors with her dad on Saturdays to fish for Brook Trout and take walks along the stream on the Quebec side. "Even though I was a city girl, I loved being out in the country. We often collected butternuts, and brought them home where I would crack them open, and my dad would make butternut fudge. These are fond childhood memories that often come to mind as I hike along the Bruce Trail. I still look for butternuts."

Once married, Andrée enjoyed life in the country, living on a hobby farm south of Ottawa with her husband for 25 years. When he passed away, new opportunities brought her to the Toronto area, and city life once again. Her job with a global charity kept her busy, and the Bruce Trail became a refuge when life became stressful. "A friend of mine, who happened to be a member of the Caledon Hills Club, introduced me to hiking on the



Photo: Brian Popelar

Bruce Trail with the "Tuesday Hikes" group. I didn't even know the Bruce Trail existed, and yet I soon learned I could hop in my car and be on the Trail at the Forks of the Credit in 30 minutes. During some of my busier days, the peace of the river and birds were welcome sounds that kept me grounded. This was a gift of nature in my life."

Like many members, Andrée was inspired to make her first donation to the BTC in response to an appeal for a new property, and has remained committed to the mission throughout the years. "I would love to see the entire Bruce Trail secured in my lifetime. So much about life today seems motivated by profit. By preserving the ribbon of wilderness,





When it came time to do her will, Andrée wanted her money to go towards causes she was passionate about, and whose work she felt confident in. “At that point, I had been involved as a supporter and volunteer with the Bruce Trail Conservancy for many years. There were a few reasons that led to my decision to include a gift in my will to the BTC. I have a lot of respect for the organization, and pride in how it’s run. I’ve worked all my life to get to where I am today, and wanted to make sure my money goes where I want it to. And finally, I thought of the children I so often see out hiking with their families. My own love of nature was inspired early in life by my father. He gave me the gift

of exploring nature and spending time outdoors, and it stayed with me forever. It is my hope that my gift will help inspire the same for future generations.” •



and ensuring it can’t be paved over, we are investing in our health and access to nature. This goal is not about profit. It’s about the opportunity to donate for the good of everyone – people and nature.”



You, too, can help to ensure that future generations will experience the joy of discovery and adventure on the Bruce Trail.

Would you consider including a gift in your will to the Bruce Trail Conservancy?

Visit brucetrail.org/planned-giving for details or feel free to connect with Gloria Vidovich, Planned Giving & Donor Relations Officer at (905) 529-6821, ext. 248 or gvidovich@brucetrail.org.

Trail Changes & Notices

MARCH - MAY 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. Visit brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-app for details.

Reservations Required

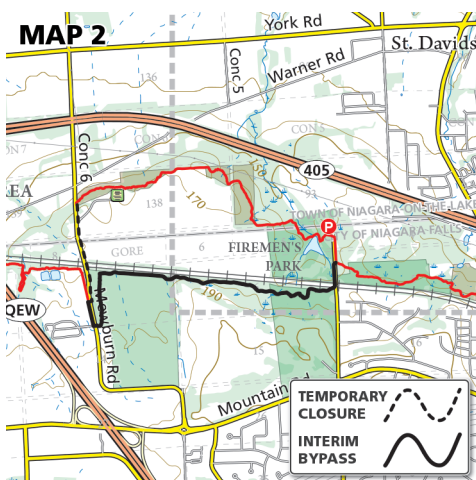
Be prepared to make parking reservations at some parks and conservation areas along the Bruce Trail. Parking reservations are currently required or recommended for:

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

NIAGARA

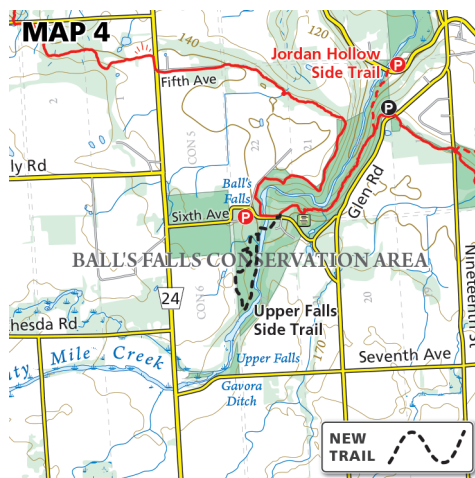
Map 2 – Concession 6 Road Closure

Concession 6 Road (from the Niagara-on-the-Lake/Niagara Falls boundary to north of Warner Road) is temporarily closed for construction beginning on April 29, 2024. This closure is expected to be in effect for 7 weeks (to the week of June 17). During the closure, the interim bypass illustrated on the map will serve as the temporary thoroughfare for Bruce Trail users. See public notice about the road closure here at www.notl.com.



Map 4 - Ball's Falls Conservation Area, New Side Trail

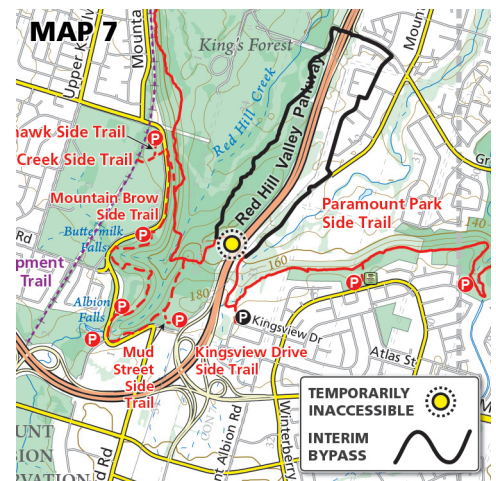
A new looping trail - Upper Falls Side Trail - has been blazed in Ball's Falls Conservation Area. This side trail passes through Ball's Falls pioneer village and follows Twenty Mile Creek to reach a viewing area at the Upper Falls before looping back through a picturesque forest. **Upper Falls Side Trail: 1.7 km return**



IROQUOIA

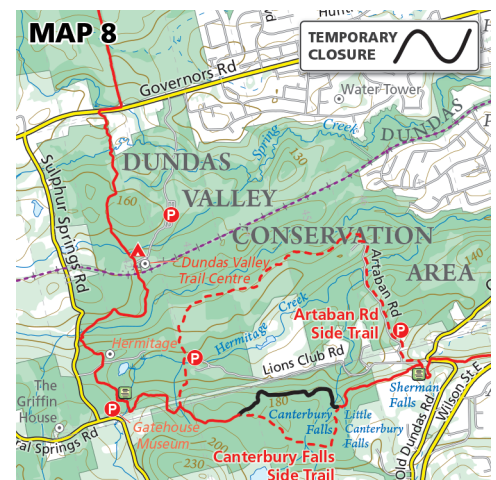
Map 7 – Red Hill Valley Parkway underpass, temporary closure

The Bruce Trail corridor through the Red Hill Valley Parkway underpass is inaccessible beginning May 14, 2024 for four to eight weeks while the City of Hamilton works on stormwater facility maintenance. A 3.9 km interim bypass route has been blazed (as shown on the map).



Map 8 – Bridge at Canterbury Falls, temporary closure

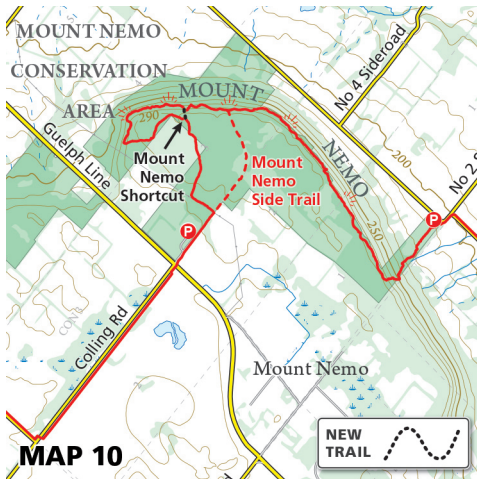
A portion of the Bruce Trail is closed near Canterbury Falls in Dundas Valley Conservation Area to allow for repair to a bridge. Hikers can use the Canterbury Falls Side Trail to get around the closure. The closure began March 21, 2024 and the expected duration is unknown.



Map 10 – Mount Nemo Shortcut, New Side Trail

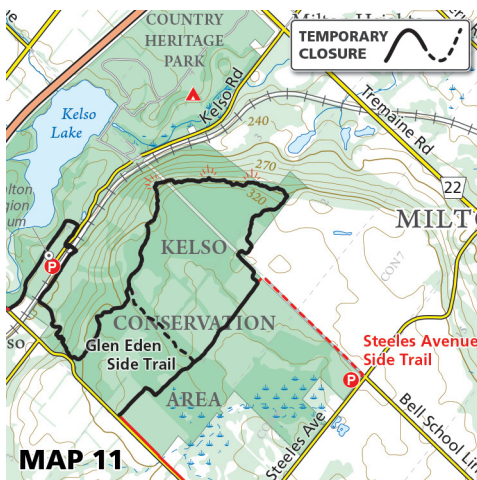
A new side trail has been formally blazed at Mount Nemo Conservation Area, creating an additional option for hikers within the current loop created by the main Bruce Trail and the Mount Nemo Side Trail.

Mount Nemo Shortcut = 60 metres



Map 11 – Kelso Trails closed Tuesday evenings

Trails at Kelso Conservation Area (including the Bruce Trail and the Glen Eden Side Trail) are closed on Tuesday evenings from May 14 to August 27, 2024 for the Kelso Mountain Bike Race Series. For details visit Conservation Halton website, Service Disruptions: www.conservationhalton.ca/service-disruptions

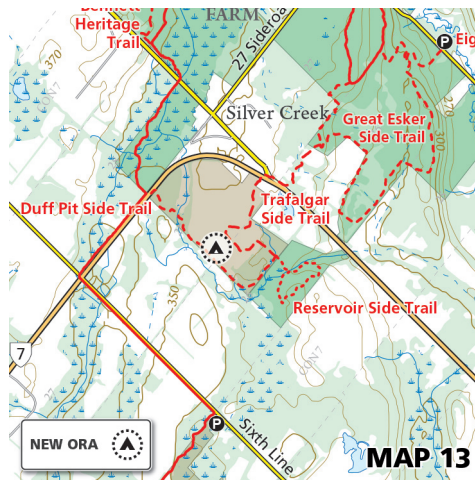


TORONTO

Map 13 - Silver Creek, New Overnight Rest Area

A new Overnight Rest Area (ORA) has been designated on the Bruce Trail Conservancy's Silver Creek protected natural area. Located 50 metres east of the Duff Pit Side Trail via an unmarked path, this overnight rest area provides space for one or two tents. Backcountry latrine is provided. No water available. Leave no trace of your visit.

For more information about camping along the Bruce Trail, visit: <https://bruce-trail.org/explore-the-trail/#Camping-On-The-Trail>



CALEDON HILLS

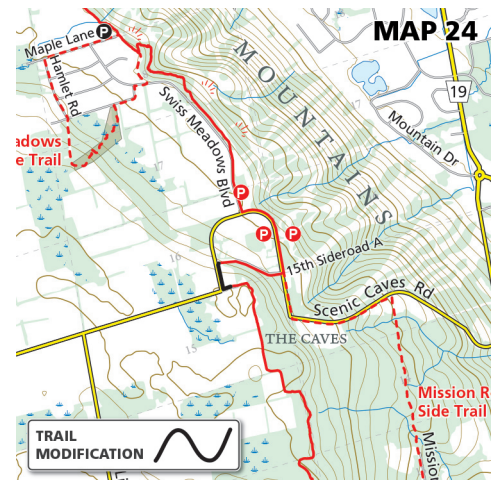
Map 14 – Cheltenham Badlands, new reservation system

The Ontario Heritage Trust assumed operations of the Cheltenham Badlands in 2024 and re-opened the site, with a new parking reservation system, in mid-May. For details visit: www.heritagetrust.on.ca/properties/cheltenham-badlands or parkbadlands.ca

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Map 24 – Scenic Caves Road, reroute

A portion of the Bruce Trail has been rerouted onto Scenic Caves Road, for a 180 m stretch, to avoid long-term construction happening on the property where the Trail had been.



Toronto Bruce Trail Club volunteers Peter Pritchard (l) and Paul Vanhanen after installing a "thunderbox" outdoor toilet at the new Silver Creek Overnight Rest Area.



Between Halfway Log Dump and Crane Lake

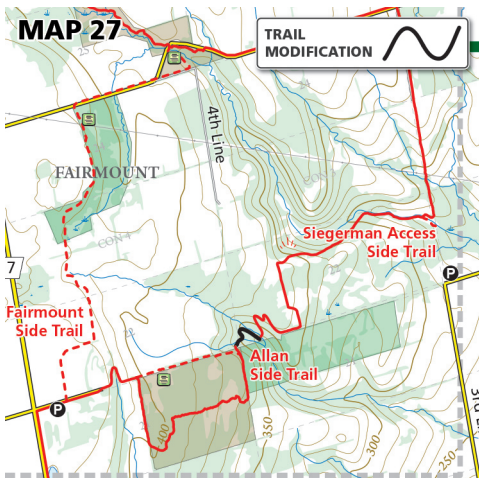
Trail Changes & Notices

BEAVER VALLEY

Map 27 – Fairmount area, reroute

The Bruce Trail has been removed from a road allowance and routed on to private land near the BTC's Allan property. This reroute was the third and final part of a year-long trail relocation project through this area.

The current length of the Bruce Trail from the roadside parking at the southern junction of the Fairmount Side Trail eastbound through to the Siegerman Access Side Trail is 4.9 km.



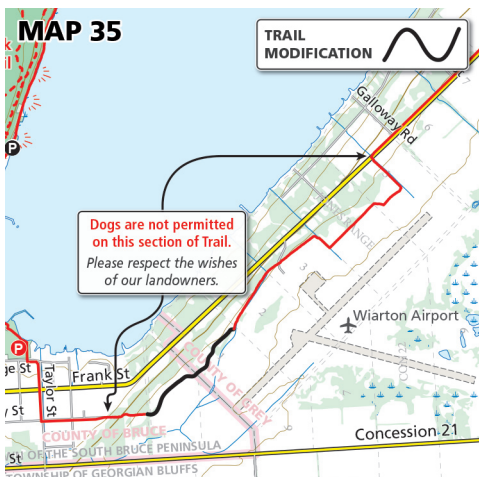
SYDENHAM

Map 35 – Warton Airport area, reroute

An improved route has been established for the Main Trail near the Warton Airport. A portion of Trail was removed from the Warton Airport lands and rerouted on to neighbouring private land through a mature conifer plantation.

New Route: 900 m

Abandoned Route: 1.1 km

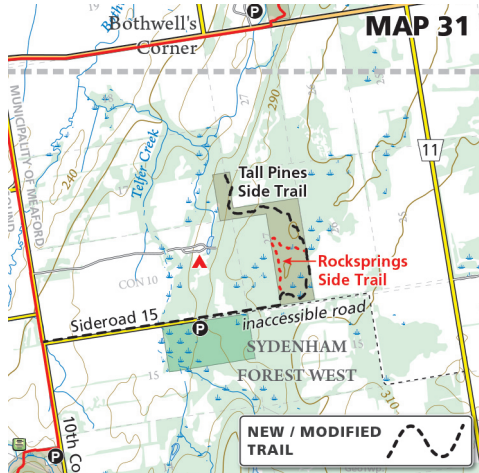


Map 31 – Tall Pines & Rocksprings Side Trails and reroute

The main Bruce Trail and KOA Side Trail have been removed from a landowner's property due to trespassing and misuse by trail users. Two side trails remain in the area and on the BTC's Rock Springs property, as displayed on the map.

- 1) Tall Pines Side Trail (new): 3.1 km (one-way)
- 2) Rock Springs Side Trail (reconfigured): 670 m

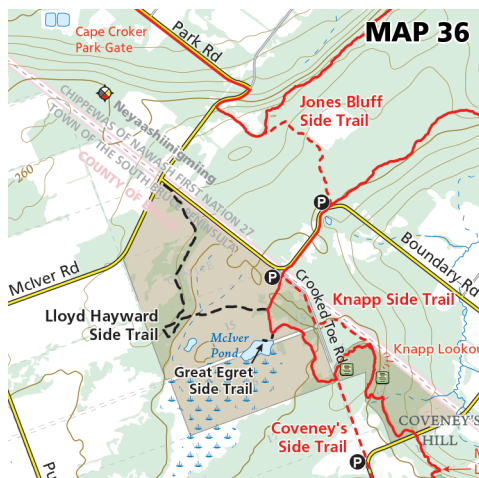
Please respect landowners and all private and public land along the Bruce Trail: stay on the marked Bruce Trail at all times, and follow the Trail Users' Code.



PENINSULA

Map 36 – Lloyd Hayward Side Trail and Great Egret Side Trail

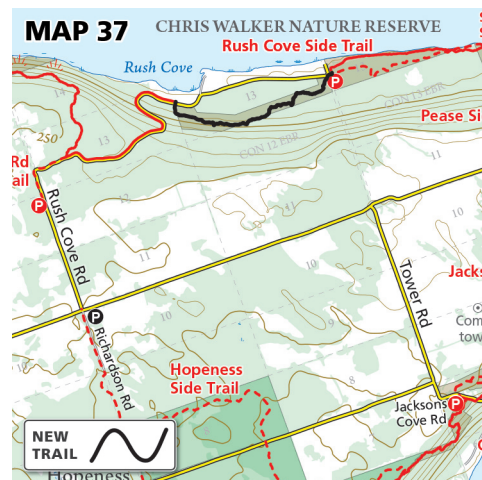
Two side trails on the BTC's Glassford Wetland protected natural area have new names: Lloyd Hayward Side Trail (2 km), and Great Egret Side Trail (100 m). These trails were formerly known as the McIver Side Trail and the McIver Pond Side Trail. The Lloyd Hayward Side Trail has been



named in honor of a dedicated, long-serving trail captain, trail worker and Board member of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

Map 37 – Lichen Grove Nature Reserve, reroute

Thanks to the BTC's recent securement of Lichen Grove Nature Reserve at Rush Cove (spring 2024), the main Bruce Trail has been removed from 1.1 km of road and rerouted onto the property. The Bruce Trail now meanders through the beautiful forests of this 24-acre nature reserve for 1.4 km. •



Lloyd Hayward

Photo: Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

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Bruce Trail in Mono Cliffs Provincial Park

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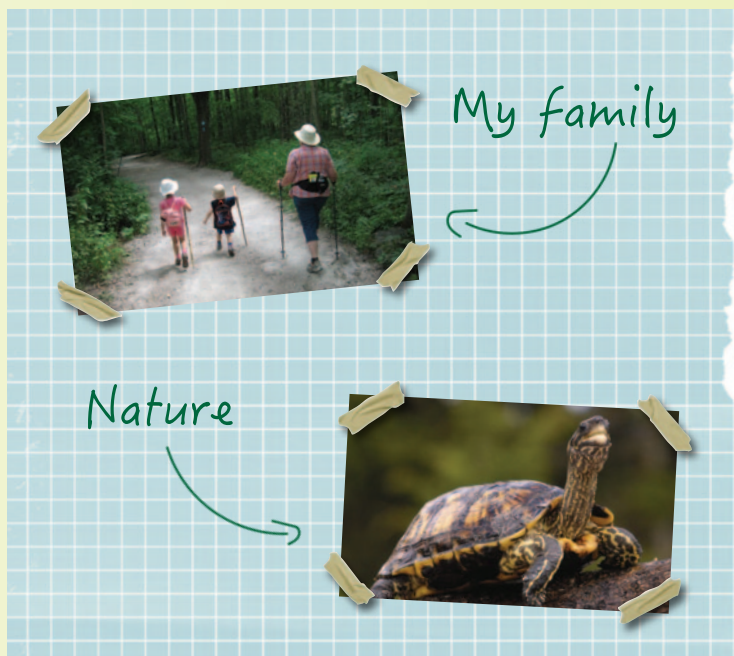
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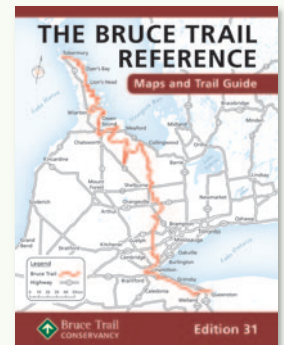


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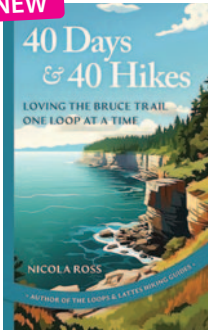
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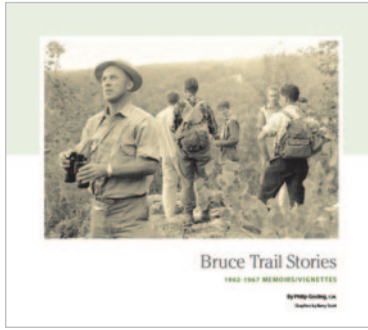
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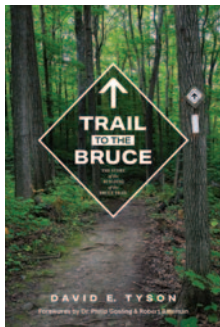
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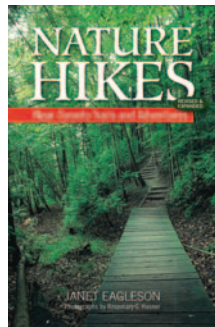
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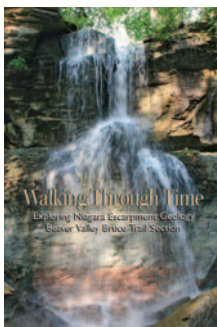
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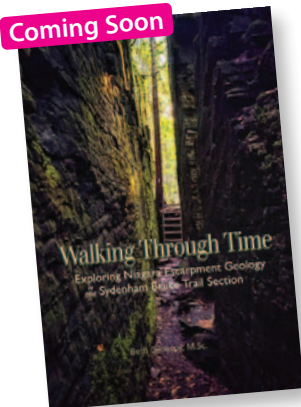
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Learn more about Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve and this matching opportunity inside on page 22.



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