

INSIDE: VOLUNTEER AND TRAIL AWARDS 2022

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Bruce Trail

C O N S E R V A N C Y

MAGAZINE



Natural
Connections



Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon
of wilderness, for
everyone, forever.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY



Photo: Brian Popeller

FEATURES

- 8 Seeking Art for 2024 Calendar
- 9 Matching Grant Opportunity
- 12 Ecological Connectivity: Pathways for Nature
- 14 Connecting People to Place: Hike Leaders on the Bruce Trail
- 18 Volunteer Awards 2022

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 CEO's Message
- 6 Blazes
- 7 For Our Members
- 11 Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas
- 20 Your Bruce Trail Story
- 21 Kids Corner
- 22 Trail Changes
- 27 Our Donors
- 30 General Store

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To receive your magazine by email:

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



Photo: Michael MacDonagh

Cover photo: Tree hug by Elizabeth Harrington

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Chief Executive Officer's Message



The Bruce Trail has always been a connector.

As a continuous footpath winding along the Niagara Escarpment, it weaves together forests and shorelines, parks and protected areas, communities and cities. For nearly 60 years it has brought people together in the enjoyment and protection of nature. The Trail connects people, connects places, and connects us to the natural world.

Through my involvement with the Bruce Trail Conservancy I have felt this first hand. I have witnessed the joyful excitement of a young hiker seeing a salamander for the first time on a Bruce Trail hike. I've watched Bobolinks return to a meadow corridor we've restored on a BTC nature reserve. And I have had the pleasure of getting to know so many wonderful people because of the Bruce Trail - people who are connected by our shared mission: preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

In this issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine we explore a few of the natural connections made

possible by the Bruce Trail. You'll meet some of the many dedicated hike leaders who help connect people to nature in unique ways. At a time when we're increasingly disconnected from nature, our hike program is one of the many ways the Trail helps us renew and restore these important links.

You'll also read about the critical importance of ecological connectivity in the conservation of biodiversity, and the role that the Bruce Trail Conservancy plays. Connecting protected habitats at a landscape scale helps create resilient and adaptable ecosystems and communities in the face of climate change. I see the Bruce Trail Conservancy as uniquely positioned to enhance ecological connectivity as we strive to establish a continuous conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

We are living in a time when the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy is so crucial. Natural spaces in southern Ontario are being fragmented at an accelerated pace, and plans to protect nature are losing strength and oversight. And as people are increasingly separated from nature, they are losing the important life-sustaining benefits it provides.

Fortunately, this is also a time of tremendous opportunity. The Bruce Trail Conservancy has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million matching grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada to support our urgent Niagara Escarpment land securement and conservation goals. This represents the largest government investment ever in our work and endorses our expertise as one of Canada's leading environmental charities. See pages 9-10 for more on this story and how you can help make the most of this historic matching opportunity.

As world leaders are meeting to discuss global actions to reverse biodiversity loss and address climate change, I know that our work is making a difference on many levels. The communities and the many species that live along the Niagara Escarpment are counting on us to do more. And we can. Because of the connections we are strengthening through the Bruce Trail, we are a powerful, positive force for conservation. •

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



DUFFERIN HI-LAND

dufferinbruceclub.org

Winter End-to-End - January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, 2023

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club will again be offering the four winter hikes required to earn our Winter End-to-End badge. Hikes include both leisurely and moderate pace options in some of Dufferin's most beautiful areas. Our popular moonlight hikes will be held on January 7 and February 4, 2023. Daytime hikes are scheduled for January 21 and February 18. Snowshoes or icers are strongly recommended for all hikes. Full details are posted at hikes.brucetrail.org, where you can also register for each hike.



BEAVER VALLEY

beavervalleybruceclub.org

Beaver Valley Snowshoe Adventure – February 4 & 18, 2023

Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club invites you to join us this winter in our beautiful Beaver Valley for the Snowshoe Adventure Badge excursions. Enjoy a sparkling winter afternoon in the snow. If you haven't experienced the trail on a moonlit evening, now's your chance! We will be leading a moonlight snowshoe hike on February 4 and a daytime snowshoe hike on February 18. Participants completing both hikes will receive the Beaver Valley Snowshoe Adventure Badge - affectionately known as the "berserk beaver". Please bring \$5 for the badge to the second outing. **Registration opens December 15, 2022** at hikes.brucetrail.org.



BLUE MOUNTAINS

bmbtc.org

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

Join us this spring for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club all-new End-to-End hike event. This year we are offering two distinct hiking options - a 2-Day Hike for those looking for a big challenge and a 3-Day hike for those who want a little less challenge. 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, online 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, 2023. 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 Rob Johnston at btblueevents@gmail.com •

Visit Club websites for more news, events and hikes.



Photo: Brooke Henry

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.brucetrail.org.

For Our Members

Winter Webinar Series

While the temperature dips outside, we invite Bruce Trail Conservancy members to pull up a virtual chair and join us for our winter webinar series.

Bruce Trail Conservancy staff, volunteers and partners share expertise and experience on a range of topics, and answer questions in these free, live Zoom webinars for BTC members.



Photo: Brian Popelier

Identifying Birds & Birdsong on the Bruce Trail by Brian Popelier

January 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

With more than 300 species of birds calling the Niagara Escarpment home, it can be a bit daunting to identify the birds you see during a hike. Join BTC ecologist Brian Popelier for an introduction to our fine feathered friends. We'll look at tips and tricks to bird ID and get familiar with the identifying features of common species observed while hiking the Bruce Trail.



Photo: Adam Brylowski

Wildlife Tracking by David Beamer

February 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Mammals leave tracks and other signs on the landscape that give clues about who shares Niagara Escarpment forests with us. Join tracking expert David Beamer to learn some common tracks and signs and discover what they can teach us about the animals that left them. David has been studying and working in the field of mammal biology and ecology for over 20 years.

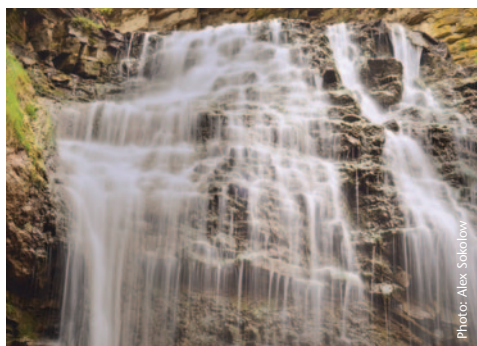


Photo: Alex Sokolow

Geotrails along the Bruce Trail by Dr. Carolyn Eyles, P.Geo. and Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo.

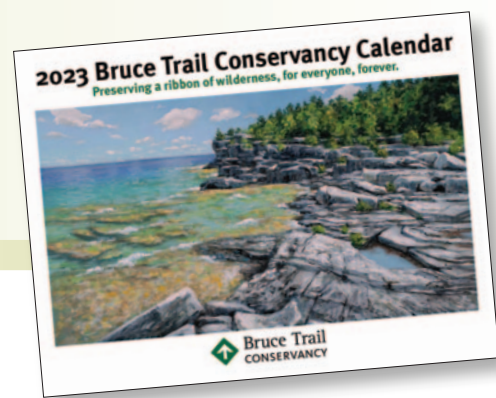
March 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Geotrails are an exciting new way to explore the fascinating geological and environmental history of the Niagara Escarpment. Created by the APGO Education Foundation, in collaboration with McMaster University and the Bruce Trail Conservancy, each Geotrail is a virtual field trip and StoryMap of a geologically significant area along the Bruce Trail. In this webinar you'll explore a few Geotrails, see how they are made, and learn about the plans for creating Geotrails along the Bruce Trail over the next three years.

Register online and watch past webinars at: brucetrail.org/events/#webinars



Seeking Art for 2024 BTC Calendar



Calling all artists: Help us show off the beauty of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment and raise funds in support of our mission.

We're seeking original paintings, drawings and textiles for the 2024 Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar featuring nature, landscapes, heritage and people along the Bruce Trail.

All profits from calendar sales go toward the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy: *Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

A panel of judges will choose 13 pieces for inclusion in the calendar. All artwork remains the property of the artist and will be returned as soon as possible. Each artist who enters will receive a complimentary copy of the 2024 calendar.

Subject matter: Must depict or be related to the Bruce Trail or Niagara Escarpment – scenery, flora, fauna, historic sites, etc. Artwork is chosen for each month to reflect the appropriate season.

Size: HORIZONTAL FORMAT, no smaller than 7½" x 10½" (the finished size of the calendar).

Medium: Original paintings, drawings or textiles. For consistency and style, photographs are not included in the calendar.

Submitting your artwork: Mail or deliver your artwork to the Bruce Trail Conservancy office, or email a high-resolution, high-quality photo of your piece (addresses below). If a digital copy is sent and your piece is chosen, arrangements will be made to ensure quality reproduction.

You may submit as many pieces as you like, but only one piece per artist will be chosen. We may receive more submissions for some seasons than others, making them more competitive. If you choose to send in multiple pieces, we suggest including those that showcase different seasons for a greater chance of being selected.

Information required to be printed or attached clearly on the back:

- your name, address & phone number
- medium used
- title of the piece of work
- location along the Bruce Trail

If dating work on the front, please omit the month.

Deadline Friday, March 17, 2023

All artwork is to be received at the Bruce Trail Conservancy office by 4:30 pm to be considered.

Physical/courier address: 55 Head St, Suite 101, Dundas, ON L9H 3H8

Canada Post address: PO Box 857, Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9

For more information or to submit digitally, contact Brooke Henry at

bhenry@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 244



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN BTC Matching Grant Opportunity



Photo: Nate Cunningham

Environment and Climate Change Canada has awarded the Bruce Trail Conservancy a prestigious five-year, \$5 million matching grant through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund to help advance our urgent Niagara Escarpment land securement and conservation goals.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is one of 40 conservation partners across Canada that will share up to \$109 million in funding over the next five years through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

This federal grant represents the largest government investment ever in our work. It recognizes the importance of protecting the Niagara Escarpment's vulnerable and valuable lands and endorses our expertise as one of Canada's leading environmental charities. It will also ensure that we have the resources needed to care for and restore these precious places so that they remain healthy and protected for generations to come.

Only the lands with the greatest potential to mitigate climate change are eligible for this matching grant. Our experience in securing 18,889 acres of Escarpment land has given us the skill to add more carbon-rich habitat into our conservation corridor and implement nature-based solutions to fight climate change that will make a measurable impact.

As a matching gift, this federal grant is dependent on support from generous donors like you.

Turn the page to learn more >



Vital, Carbon-rich Forest

Help protect and grow our conservation corridor and your gift will be matched!

As one of the most diverse ecoregions in Canada, the Niagara Escarpment is home to nearly one-quarter of the country's threatened and endangered species. And yet, it runs through some of the most highly populated and developed areas of the province.

The lands that we love are under threat like never before.

While this can feel discouraging at times, know that, together, there are steps that we can take to safeguard precious natural spaces. Our collective passion, dedication, and generosity is a powerful and effective force for conservation.

Today, your support can begin to unlock \$5 million in matching funds from the federal government!



Wetland Habitat for Species at Risk - Painted Turtles

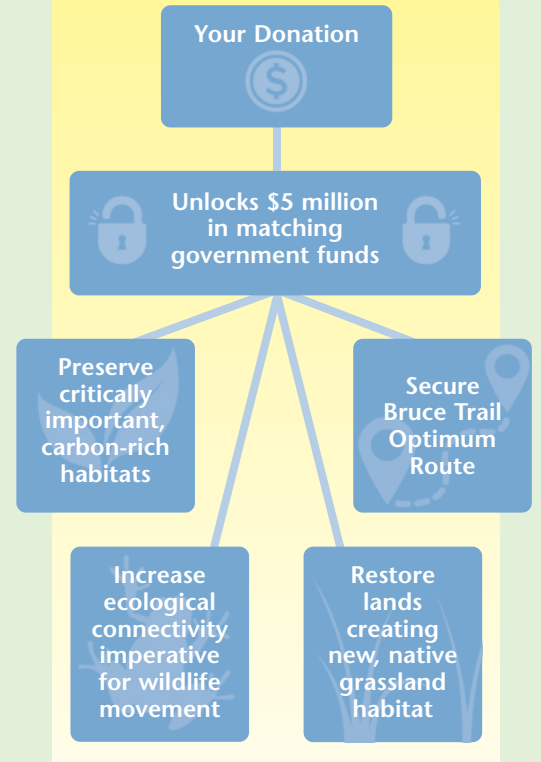
The Bruce Trail Conservancy has been awarded a matching grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada through its Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

Your gift, entrusted to the Bruce Trail Conservancy right now, ensures we can act quickly to permanently protect irreplaceable lands through this grant program. Lands that:

- contain vital habitats and species at risk
- store and capture carbon, mitigating the impacts of climate change
- connect our ecological corridor and connect us to nature
- are filled with natural wonders.

Please take advantage of this historic matching opportunity so that future generations can benefit from a healthy, connected, and vibrant Niagara Escarpment.

Every dollar of your donation will be matched by Environment and Climate Change Canada, doubling your impact for conservation.



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 Niagara Escarpment natural lands and have my gift matched.

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 exceed the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund match, your donation will be used to secure and steward other lands within the Bruce Trail's conservation corridor.

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

The latest protected natural area to be added to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's conservation corridor expands an existing BTC nature reserve and is providing crucial connectivity for Niagara Escarpment habitats and for the Bruce Trail.

MapleCross Ridge Nature Reserve (expansion) – Sydenham section

*Kemble, Map 34**

25 acres | 1,115 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

MapleCross Ridge Nature Reserve has grown by 25 acres, increasing our conservation impact in the Kemble area, north of Owen Sound.

Since 2017 the Bruce Trail Conservancy has protected 439 acres in the Kemble area, establishing Kemble Wetland Nature Reserve (138 acres in 2018), Kemble Rock Nature Reserve (201 acres in 2017), and MapleCross Ridge Nature

Reserve (100 acres in 2019). This latest acquisition makes the final connection between these BTC protected natural areas and the adjacent Kemble Mountain Management Area (owned by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority).

With this piece in place, a continuous corridor of protected land roughly 11.5 kilometres long has been established - creating a permanent home for the Bruce Trail and keeping Escarpment forests intact. •

** All map numbers and kilometre references from The Bruce Trail Reference, Maps and Trail Guide, Edition 30.*



MapleCross Ridge Nature Reserve (expansion)

Photo: Brian Popeljer

Ecological Connectivity: Pathways for Nature



An aerial view of the Niagara Escarpment near Hamilton and Burlington shows a patchwork of land use (Image from Google Earth)

In the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change, connectivity is key. Protected natural areas that are intact and connected are stronger and more resilient than isolated patches.

The Niagara Escarpment is a dynamic mosaic of protected lands, open space, and urban development. While protected areas like Bruce Trail Conservancy nature reserves, conservation areas, and parks are conserving vital habitat for many species, these are becoming isolated in a sea of human activity. Human development is slicing natural spaces into ever smaller parcels.

As the Niagara Escarpment faces further fragmentation, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is working to protect and restore ecological connectivity and give nature, and us, an opportunity to flourish.

What is ecological connectivity?

Ecological connectivity is the degree to which a landscape allows animals and plants to move freely, and as naturally as possible. When a landscape is ecologically connected, plants can disperse, wildlife can move in search of food, water, shelter and mates, and ecological functions like pollination and nutrient cycling can proceed unimpeded.

Large core protected areas, which are crucial in fulfilling many species' habitat requirements, cannot function in isolation. Corridors between them can create vital natural paths through which plants and animals can disperse and natural processes can flow.

While the idea is not new, the need to maintain, enhance or restore ecological connectivity has become increasingly important.



Why is ecological connectivity important?

Ecological connectivity can strengthen biodiversity, support the recovery of species at risk, and maintain the natural processes that support clean air, rich soil, and freshwater on which we all rely.

Connectivity enhances:

- **Wildlife movement:** Connectivity allows wider-ranging or migratory animals to find suitable habitat. Corridors allow wildlife to safely travel through their home ranges and prevent species from being isolated from the things they need to survive.
- **Genetic diversity** When living things can move freely,

populations can intermix, helping maintain genetic diversity and healthy populations - an important consideration in adapting to rapid climate changes.

- **Adaptation to climate change** As changing climate forces species to adapt to new conditions, connected natural areas give some species the option to shift their ranges in order to survive.
- **Flow of natural processes** Well-connected ecosystems support a diversity of ecological functions such as migration, hydrology, nutrient cycling, pollination, seed dispersal, food security, climate resilience and disease resistance.



Habitat fragmentation by roads can make it difficult and dangerous for wildlife like these Snapping Turtles to move through their home ranges.

Photo: Brian Popelier

What is the BTC doing?

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is working at small and large scales, and with our neighboring landowners and partners, to create protected corridors and connect habitats along the Niagara Escarpment.

With more people and greater biodiversity in southern Ontario than almost anywhere else in the country, the need for connected and protected natural spaces is ever more important, particularly amidst the growing pressures of development and climate change. The Bruce Trail Conservancy's work to establish a continuous conservation corridor is a highly effective nature-based solution for the people and wildlife living along the Niagara Escarpment. •

Escarpment Case Study: Peninsula Black Bears

Black Bears on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula represent a genetically isolated population from bears in the rest of Ontario, due to the fragmented geography of the area. They have been physically cut off from other populations for decades. Research led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry indicates Peninsula Black Bears are at substantially higher risk than other Ontario bear populations "due to [their] isolation and a high rate of human-caused mortality."

Black Bears are a wide-ranging species that, like many large mammals, need a large area to survive. Their home ranges can be from 15 to 25 km² for females, and up to 10 times as much for males. That usually takes them well beyond the boundaries of core protected areas like parks.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is working to protect large swaths of intact forest and maintain protected corridors between core habitats which are critical for the survival of this unique Black Bear population.



Photo: Bill Caulfield-Browne

Preserving land to connect habitats

At the very heart of the Bruce Trail Conservancy mission is the preservation of a continuous, intact and healthy ribbon of wilderness. Through our ongoing land securement efforts we are protecting core habitats and corridors that knit together fragmented landscapes. We are creating intact refuges and safe passageways between habitats in a continuous conservation corridor.



Restoring habitat corridors

With large natural spaces becoming increasingly rare, restoration of connections can be just as important as habitat protection. Through our land stewardship planning process we look for opportunities to restore corridors or create habitat stepping stones between existing protected areas. For example we may reforest an area or restore old agricultural fields into native wildflower meadows.

Collaborating on a regional scale

Wildlife and plants don't recognize boundaries of protected areas, so conservation is most successful when neighboring land holders can work together. For example, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a partner in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, a collaborative effort between nine land-owning organizations to protect, connect and restore natural habitat in the Hamilton area. Partners are looking at conservation beyond their 'boundaries' to strategically address conservation together.



Working with landowners

Private landowners play a key role as caretakers of forests, waterways and fields between 'islands of conservation'. Through our BTC Landowner Stewardship Program, we are providing assistance to participating landowners along the Trail to enhance the

wildlife habitat on their properties, minimize fragmentation, and contribute to the ecological health of the Niagara Escarpment.

Escarpment Case Study: Jefferson Salamanders

The Jefferson Salamander is an Endangered species in Ontario, and one which is dependent on the Niagara Escarpment. Only once a year do these ambitious amphibians emerge from their deep, rocky homes below the frostline, after the



Photo: Elina Puluska

first rainfall of spring, in order to mate. Like most wildlife, Jefferson Salamanders find themselves in a completely different landscape than they would have

150 years ago. What was once continuous Escarpment forest is now a patchwork of woodlots, buildings and roads, standing between them and their ancestral ponds. Given that they return to these ponds throughout their lives, they must spend a considerable amount of time navigating this human-built world to get where they need to. Unfortunately this perilous trek puts them in a path of considerable harm, which is the main factor in their Endangered status.

Connecting People to Place: Hike Leaders on the Bruce Trail



Janice, Caley and Alicia love the Bruce Trail, and they really enjoy sharing it with others. As Bruce Trail Club hike leaders, they share their enthusiasm and knowledge to help us have enjoyable, enriching experiences that deepen our connections with the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment.

If you have been on an organized hike on the Bruce Trail, you know what an important role the hike leader plays. They set the tone for the experience and the pace of the hike. They help hikers stay safe, manage risks, and are mindful of each hiker's needs. But more than just guiding us from point A to point B, good hike leaders help us learn more about the places we are exploring, encourage us to see and think about things in new ways, and inspire us to care about the places as much as they do.

For nearly 60 years, volunteers with the Bruce Trail Conservancy have been connecting people to the Niagara Escarpment through guided hikes on the Bruce Trail. Through this long tradition, they have been inspiring generations to explore and care for this ribbon of wilderness.

Over 350 people volunteer their time with the hiking program and each leader brings something unique to the experience. In the next few pages, we'd

like to introduce you to three of these remarkable volunteers: Janice, Caley and Alicia.

Join us for a hike!

Bruce Trail Clubs run an extensive program of organized hikes throughout the year. From end-to-end challenges to forest bathing strolls, there are hikes of varying lengths and styles. Browse the hike schedule at hikes.brucetrail.org.

Interested in being a hike leader?

If you'd like to share your passion for the Trail with others, we'd love to have you become a hike leader. Training is provided and may include apprenticing with an experienced leader, Hike Ontario certification and first aid training. Start by expressing your interest at brucetrail.org/apply-online-to-volunteer.

Janice McClelland

Hello, I'm Janice McClelland, a hike leader with the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

When did you begin leading hikes? How and why did you get started?

I started leading hikes several years ago in order to offer hikers and their families a bit of an “added value” experience. For example, I've led hikes at Limehouse highlighting early Ontario industrial history – where the forest stands today was once the scene of lime kilns that burned 24/7. On Bruce Trail Day I've introduced hikers at Forks of the Credit and Glen Haffy to the diversity of trees and wildflowers, and investigated fossils along an old stone fence.

Why is it important to connect people to nature, especially along the Niagara Escarpment?

Eight million people live within an hour's drive of the Bruce Trail. I think it's important to provide an opportunity for people, who have busy lives, to drink in

the oxygen of the forest air and unwind as they hike along the Bruce Trail, pausing for a moment, absorbing the views of the Niagara Escarpment. It's both invigorating and relaxing.

What approaches do you like to take on your hikes to connect people to place?

The approach I use depends on the hike and the season. In the winter, we may test ourselves as we hike through the snow. In other seasons, we might peer into deep crevices or reflect on the history of the trail and the local area through historical anecdotes. In all seasons, I cannot resist drawing attention to the scenic beauty – whether it be the very visible form of trees on a winter day or deep green moss etching its way along on a rock.

I have also started leading Forest Bathing Walks. In Forest Bathing, we are quiet – letting the music of creeks fill our hearts, touching the rough bark of trees or the cushion of moss. We observe the colours and shapes of fungi and flowers, stand amongst the conifers as the sun warms them, wrapped in nature's



aromatherapy, taste the edible berries – in essence use all our senses to peacefully connect with our surroundings.

Who or what has inspired you in your approach to hike leading?

I have been inspired by many – hike leaders such as Barry Westhouse who has a wealth of local, historical knowledge and Gary Hall, who helped us to use apps to identify birds, trees and plants. And of course, Dr. Qing Li, the Chair of the Japanese Society of Forest Medicine, who encourages people to quietly walk in the forest, letting our minds be captured effortlessly by nature around us, otherwise known as forest bathing (shinrin-yoku in Japanese).

What is one thing you hope that people take away from one of your hikes?

Pure enjoyment. That they feel “light in mind and body”.

What do you wish people knew or felt or understood about the Bruce Trail?

I wish that more people understood that the Bruce Trail Conservancy preserves land and that we can all be part of that very rewarding process, so necessary in these days of rapid development and climate change.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about becoming a volunteer hike leader with the Bruce Trail Conservancy?

I would tell them that it is a bit of a calling – something that you are attracted to do, that you find meaningful. You never know what you are going to learn from this endeavour. You may learn about lime kilns, or the age of trees, or the role of fungi - one never knows. And all volunteer involvement with the Bruce Trail brings you into this great Bruce Trail family of friends.



Caley Patrick Nadjiwon Doran

*Aanii boozhoo, Caley N'dishnikaaz,
Ajijaak Doodem, Zaagiing
Neyaashiingmiing N'donjibaa.*

Hello, my name is Caley Patrick Nadjiwon Doran. My clan is crane clan. My sound is from and I come from the mouth of a river, surrounded by ever flowing love on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, a beautiful point of land that looks almost like an island but is surrounded by water on three sides.

I am a proud Anishinaabe from Neyaashiingmiing, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation also known as Cape Croker Indian Reserve #27. We are part of the Anishinaabek Nation or Three Fires Confederacy, a confederacy in existence longer than the Dominion of Canada. Our people are the Ojibway also known as Chippewa, Odawa and Pottawatomi. Our language is Anishinaabemowin. Our history tells us that we have inhabited the peninsula and our traditional territory since time immemorial.

I volunteer with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club as a Trail Captain of the section running through Cape Croker Park where I also work as an Anishinaabe Interpretive Guide.

When did you begin leading hikes? How and why did you get started?

I have been hiking the Bruce Trail since I was 5 years old. I began leading hikes with friends and family in my spare time whenever I could find time away from work. Last year I left my job and career in hospitality as General Manager of a very busy restaurant. I am now following my heart with my ancestors' support and I am travelling a new path in their footsteps.

I am passionate about nature, ecology, sustainability and conservation of our beautiful territory.

I come from a long line of Indigenous storytellers and I feel led to seek the knowledge, history, stories, legends and old way of life throughout our territory.

Why is it important to connect people to nature, especially along the Niagara Escarpment?

When you lose nature, you lose yourself. There is nothing better for you health-wise than fresh air, vitamin D, exercise and connecting with nature. Along the Niagara Escarpment there is a

flow of energy, the spirit of the animals, plants and water that flows through all living things. All energy is only borrowed and one day you have to give it back. We have a duty to protect our green spaces and to be stewards of the land.

What approaches do you like to take on your hikes to connect people to place?

I prepare an offering of semaa (tobacco), one of the four Sacred Medicines along with cedar, sage and sweetgrass. With our left hand as that is closest to our heart, we put the semaa down, setting an intent and as an offering and thanks to Mother Earth and Creator.

At some point along our hike we stop and take time to breathe, acknowledging the trees that also inhale and exhale, cleaning our air so that we have life. This is also a good time to show appreciation and hug a tree.

Whenever hiking near water we take time to have a water ceremony and show appreciation as water is life.

Who or what has inspired you in your approach to hike leading?

Mino bimaadiziwin, living a good life. Like a magnet on my heart I have been inspired to follow the path of my ancestors. I hike in Saugeen Ojibway

Nation territory, from Tobermory to the Nottawasaga River watershed to the Maitland River watershed which is over 2 million acres of land through which half of the Bruce Trail runs. I am learning from the land everyday. I want to inspire the next generation to find their love of Mother Earth with land-based learning in order to protect it.

What is one thing you hope that people take away from one of your hikes?

I send hikers home with homework to think of how they impact nature and the Earth in their daily lives. What are they doing to promote and live a life of sustainability, conservation and respecting the Earth?

I also hope hikers are able to leave their worries behind.

What do you wish people knew or felt or understood about the Bruce Trail?

I wish hikers knew and acknowledged the traditional territory they walk on. For half of the Bruce Trail, they are hiking in Saugeen Ojibway Nation traditional territory. Also, I wish more hikers knew hiking etiquette but that's where sharing my knowledge comes in!

What would you tell someone who is thinking about becoming a volunteer hike leader with the Bruce Trail Conservancy?

Becoming a volunteer hike leader is an incredible opportunity to give back to the Bruce Trail you love and to share your passion with a new trail family!



Alicia Aitchison

Hi, I'm Alicia Aitchison. I've been a volunteer with the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 2015.

Over the years I have been a Trail Captain and Hike Leader. I originally joined the Niagara Club Board of Directors as a Hike Coordinator and then became Vice President and am currently serving as President. I also founded and chair the Niagara Bruce Trail Club Biodiversity Committee.



Alicia Aitchison

When did you begin leading hikes? How and why did you get started?

I joined the Niagara Club Board of Directors in 2017 as Hike Coordinator and quickly realized it would be advantageous to complete the Hike Leader training so I could fill in for last minute cancellations. Once I started leading hikes I really enjoyed it.

Why is it important to connect people to nature, especially along the Niagara Escarpment?

I love the Bruce Trail Conservancy mission: Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. Connecting people to nature has been proven to improve their quality of life - physically and mentally. In turn, this has a positive impact on each person they come in contact with, creating a ripple effect. Preserving the ribbon of wilderness along the Niagara Escarpment will ensure that this connection to nature remains available to everyone for generations to come.

What approaches do you like to take on your hikes to connect people to place?

I've worked to increase my knowledge of conservation and biodiversity including completing the Master Naturalist Program at Lakehead University. I like to share some of what I have learned so



Photo: Brian Popelier

that it may spark a connection to nature, or feed an existing one. I like to lead nature hikes, citizen science hikes, invasive species identification and removal hikes, and in recent years, bluebird monitoring hikes. This gives people the opportunity to not only enjoy a lovely hike, but also to actively contribute to the protection of the environment in a fun way.

Who or what has inspired you in your approach to hike leading?

I really want to make group hiking accessible to more people so I led some leisurely-paced hikes and worked with a committee to add youth and family hikes to our hiking program including a set of youth badges that can be earned. By offering a variety of nature hikes, this appeals to a wider variety of people who may not come out for regular hikes.

What is one thing you hope that people take away from one of your hikes?

An appreciation for the amazing nature

we are so fortunate to have in our backyard and a desire to protect it!

What do you wish people knew or felt or understood about the Bruce Trail?

I wish everybody understood that so much of the Bruce Trail is accessible to us only through the generosity of private landowners who amazingly allow us to walk on their private lands and the importance of being respectful of their generosity and respectful of the land.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about becoming a volunteer hike leader with the Bruce Trail Conservancy?

If you are considering it, you should probably do it! If you are unsure, spend some time with an experienced hike leader and see if it's a good fit for you. The power of volunteerism at the Bruce Trail continues to amaze me. It is truly remarkable what volunteers are accomplishing and it's wonderfully rewarding to be involved. •

Volunteer Awards 2022

PRESENTED AT THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Each year at our Annual Meeting, we recognize a selection of volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). Before the meeting this year, we visited volunteers up and down the trail to present their awards and created a video to share their accomplishments.

Watch the video and meet our volunteer and trail award winners at brucetrail.org/annual-meeting-2022

Thank you to all our volunteers for giving your time and talents in support of our mission to *preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

Volunteer Years of Service Awards

In recognition of years of volunteer service in Bruce Trail Conservancy roles including head office support, events, committees and the BTC Board.



Louise Carberry (10 years)



Stella Parr (10 years)



Carl Tafel (10 years)



Vince Zvonar (10 years)

These dedicated members have also contributed many years of volunteering to their Bruce Trail Clubs.

Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award: Brian Cornfield

For extraordinary contributions to the Bruce Trail Conservancy within a single year.



Brian Cornfield

Brian Cornfield's volunteer contributions in 2022 highlight the determination, hard work and good humour he has exemplified since he began volunteering over 6 years ago. As Land Stewardship Director for the Dufferin Hi-Land Club, Brian has been actively involved in many projects including planting 500 trees on the BTC's Russell property; helping with land-use agreements; and installing and monitoring 16 bird boxes on 2 BTC properties. He has also become the Club's resident expert on constructing parking lots.

In 2021-22 Brian contributed significant time and effort to protecting and rehabilitating the BTC's Pine River Nature Reserve. This 190-acre property was severely damaged by off-road vehicle use and abundant litter. Brian planned and coordinated work parties and worked hundreds of hours to clear many truck loads of garbage, construct barricades to prevent further ATV use, install signage and more. As Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club board director Carl Alexander shares "Brian deserves recognition for his exceptional efforts in making this transformation happen, and in creating a gem that hikers, naturalists and the community now enjoy regularly."

Susan Oleskevich Award: Dick Edwards

For outstanding long-term commitment to the construction and maintenance of the Bruce Trail.

For over 30 years, Dick Edwards has been a dedicated volunteer whose efforts have brought many people together in building and caring for the Bruce Trail. His exceptional commitment, construction prowess, enthusiasm, and love of nature have greatly benefited the Bruce Trail Conservancy, the lands we care for, and the hikers who explore the Trail in the Blue Mountains section.

In 2021, Dick, with Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club trail director Linda

Finley, spearheaded the construction of a new bridge over the Noisy River - a project which also won this year's Philip and Jean Gosling Award (see below). In early 2022, he coordinated work crews for a major trail reroute on Balsam Wetlands Nature Reserve, removing several kilometres of trail from the road. These recent projects are just two of many that Dick has organized over the years. They highlighted Dick's skills in preparing project specifications, procuring materials, negotiating approvals, organizing volunteer work crews, and supervising on-site work. Dick also generously offers his shed to store trail maintenance tools, signs and material.



Dick Edwards accepting the Susan Oleskevich Award.

Trail Development & Maintenance Awards 2022

Tom East Award: Niagara Club

For the year's most significant trail project which places the Bruce Trail on the Optimum Route, or adds a worthwhile new side trail.

The Niagara Bruce Trail Club receives this year's Tom East Award for both a major reroute of the main Bruce Trail in Grimsby, and for two new side trails at Louth Conservation Area.

In working closely with landowners in a Grimsby neighbourhood and achieving new handshake agreements, the Niagara Club was able to relocate 700 m of main Bruce Trail from busy Ridge Road to the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route on the Escarpment brow. This not only represents a wonderful improvement of the hiking experience, it demonstrates the important role that landowner relations continue to play in the continuity of the Trail and in connecting people to nature along Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Club also created two new scenic side trails within Louth Conservation Area, in cooperation with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Midway Side Trail and Lower Falls Side Trail add to the options for exploration in the area and bring hikers on a lovely wooded loop past a set of falls.

Philip and Jean Gosling Award: Blue Mountains Club

For the year's most significant trail project which improves or protects the environment.

The Blue Mountains Club receives the Philip and Jean Gosling Award for 2022 in recognition of its work on a major bridge replacement over the Noisy River. The former bridge, built in the 1980s, carried many hikers through the popular Provincial Nature Reserve via the Bruce Trail. Despite ongoing repair efforts over the years, the bridge was deemed unsafe and was closed in December 2020.

After eight months of planning, approvals, material preparation and construction by teams of volunteers, a new bridge was in place and the Trail reopened. The final product was a demonstration of resourcefulness on many levels. To span the wide river, two 45-foot long telephone poles were brought in to serve as the main stringers and placed on newly built footings. Club volunteers also repurposed the old bridge, using its materials to create



New bridge over Noisy River

boardwalk approaches at either end of the new bridge.

Trail captain Dave Shepherd shares "Our new bridge is more than a reopening of a chokepoint; it stands as a tribute to the individuals whose leadership and teamwork reflect the volunteer spirit flourishing in the Blue Mountains Club." •



Niagara Club volunteers accept the Tom East Award 2022. From left: Vince Zvonar, Klari Kalkman, Rick Waters and Alicia Aitchison



BTC Trail Director Dave Moule presents the Philip and Jean Gosling Award 2022 to Blue Mountains Club volunteers Linda Finley and Dick Edwards.

Following in Grandma's footsteps

by Tineke Keesmaat

Patricia Keesmaat, a proud Bruce Trail end-to-ender, has been inspiring a love of the Trail in her grandchildren.

On Christmas Eve last year, she and her grandson Finnegan Keesmaat Dastoor, age 5, completed the Iroquoia Junior Hiker Badge program.

The pair started the 4-part hiking series in March 2021, as a way to safely and enjoyably spend time together through COVID-19.

The hikes created quite the connection. There were countless FaceTime planning calls to find the right dates and weather to adventure out in. And, excited calls whenever a new badge arrived!

The highlight was hiking the trail - following the blazes, singing songs, and just being in nature. The fact that Grandma's backpack was always full of cookies and fruit, certainly provided a little extra incentive to Finnegan!

Patricia will be doing lots of hiking as she is determined that her other five grandchildren Alexa, Kylie, Arie, Rylie, and Luke also complete the challenge.

Submit your Bruce Trail Story

Our Bruce Trail community abounds with stories. *We want to hear yours.* Submit your story to us at any time online or by email and you may see it featured in an upcoming issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine. Essay, poem, lyrics, journal, blog - your story can take any of these forms. Details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-story-call-for-content or contact communications@brucetrail.org



Photo: Tineke Keesmaat

YOUTH HIKING BADGES

Patricia and Finnegan completed the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club's **Junior Hiker Badge** program, an opportunity for kids to connect with nature and earn a unique badge for each season that they complete a hike. Learn more at: iroquoia.on.ca > Badges

Several Bruce Trail Clubs have designed special badges for junior hikers and explorers. Find them all at: brucetrail.org/badges/#badges-just-for-kids

Kids Corner

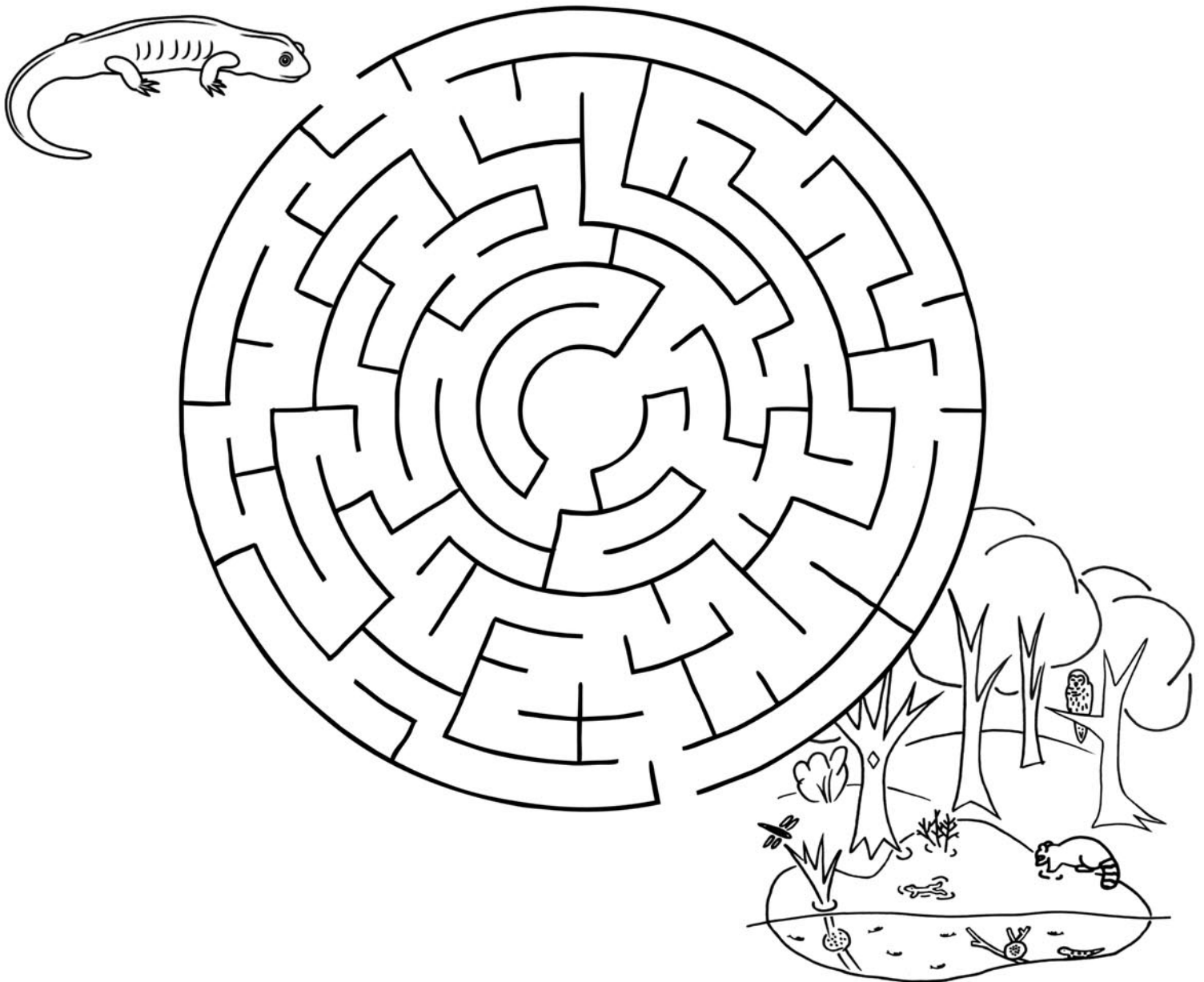
Salamander Connections

Jefferson Salamanders need two special kinds of habitats: leafy forest floors where they can spend the winter, and temporary ponds where they can lay their eggs in spring. Every year they travel from one to the other and they need a safe route, free of roads or other unnatural barriers.

Help this salamander find its way from its winter home in the forest to the pond where it lays its eggs.

KIDS' CORNER SUBMISSIONS

Kids, do you have a drawing, poem, story, photo, hike review, or other creation inspired by the Bruce Trail? We'd love to share it in an upcoming Kids' Corner. Send your creations to communications@brucetrail.org. Don't forget to include your name, age, description of your entry, and permission from your guardian.



Trail Changes & Notices

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2022, POST EDITION 30

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

Trail Changes & Notices Online

Did you know? Our Trail changes online are up-to-date and searchable. You can search by Map Number, Club Section, Edition of Guide Affected, and even by text in the description. Visit brucetrail.org/trail_changes

Bruce Trail App Has All Latest Trail Changes

Our Bruce Trail App for iOS and Android devices lets you have the most up-to-date trail data on your phone. Trail reroutes, temporary closures, parking details, and BTC protected areas are updated regularly and are ready when you open your app. Visit brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-app

Reservations Required

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

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

IROQUOIA

Map 6 – Devil's Punchbowl Lookout, Temporary Closure lifted

The scenic lookout at Devil's Punchbowl is no longer closed.

Map 8 – Tiffany Falls area

The Tiffany Falls Side Trail and parking lot have reopened. Roadwork in the area is complete. The main Bruce Trail at Tiffany Falls has been slightly rerouted to take advantage of a new pedestrian crossing that has been installed on Wilson Street leading to the Tiffany Falls Side Trail.

Tiffany Falls Side Trail = 360 metres



Map 9 – Eric Best Side Trail

The side trail on the BTC's Smokey Hollow Nature Reserve has been renamed the Eric Best Side Trail. This 1.1 km trail honours Eric, who passed away in July 2022, for his long-time support in a multitude of volunteer roles in trail maintenance, trail development and Bruce Trail auditing.



TORONTO

Map 12 – Limehouse Conservation Area, Winter Closure

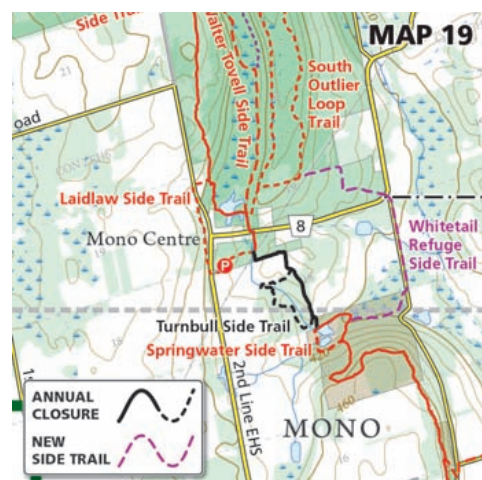
A portion of the main Bruce Trail within Limehouse Conservation Areas is closed by Credit Valley Conservation throughout the winter months due to potential icy conditions.



CALEDON HILLS

Map 19 – Turnbull Side Trail, Annual Closure

A landowner has requested temporary closure of the Turnbull Side Trail, and a portion of the main Bruce Trail, to accommodate hunting season on their property (Oct. 1 - Dec. 31). Please respect the landowner's wishes. The new Whitetail Refuge Side Trail (1.9 km) can be used as an alternative thoroughfare while the closure is in place.



DUFFERIN HI-LAND

Map 21 – Black Edge Side Trail

The Bruce Trail has been rerouted and a new side trail has been created on two BTC protected natural areas (Black Edge and Reginald Brett properties).

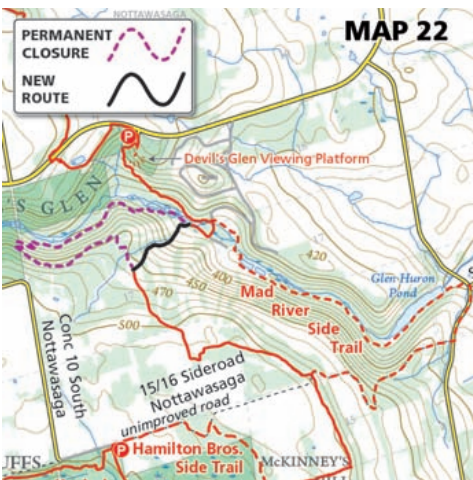
New Trail Length: Bruce Trail = 750 metres
Black Edge Side Trail = 620 metres. Creates a 1.4 km loop with the main Bruce Trail.



BLUE MOUNTAINS

Map 22 – Devil’s Glen, Reroute

At the request of the landowner, a 2.7 km portion of the main Bruce Trail at Devil’s Glen Country Club has been permanently closed while a new 530-metre route has been established.



Map 22 – Devil’s Glen, Annual Closure

At the request of the landowner, a portion of the main Bruce Trail will be closed annually from November 30 to May 1.



The alternative thoroughfare for thru-hiking during these months is the Mad River Side Trail.

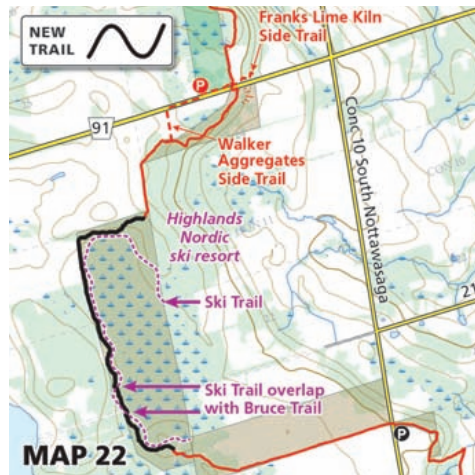
Map 22 – Balsam Wetlands

The Bruce Trail through the BTC’s Balsam Wetlands Nature Reserve has been slightly realigned to accommodate the neighbouring Highlands Nordic cross-country ski trail coming onto the BTC property from the east (see map for reference).

Winter users, please:

- Follow the Bruce Trail blazes (trail markers) at all times.
- Use caution in the two locations where the Bruce Trail crosses the ski trail and give skiers the right of way.
- Do not walk or snowshoe on the groomed ski trail, under any circumstances.

Note: The use of the groomed trails for skiing requires a pass from Highlands Nordic (<https://highlandsnordic.ca/>)



Map 23 – Petun Side Trail, Annual Closure

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



Map 24 – Scenic Caves area, Annual Closure

The main Bruce Trail between 12th Sideroad and 15th Sideroad, is closed annually November 1- May 1, at the request of the landowners. Two temporary closures are also in place in the area:

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





Trail Changes & Notices

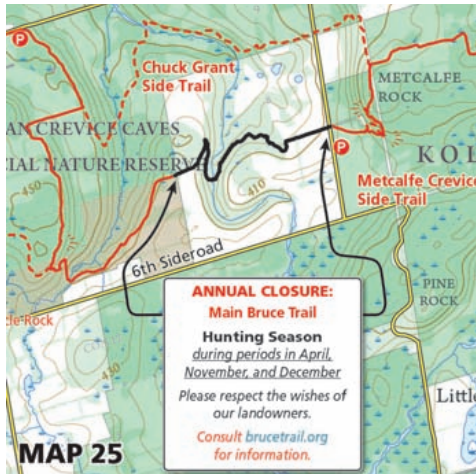
JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2022, POST EDITION 30

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BEAVER VALLEY

Map 25 – Kolapore area, Annual Closure

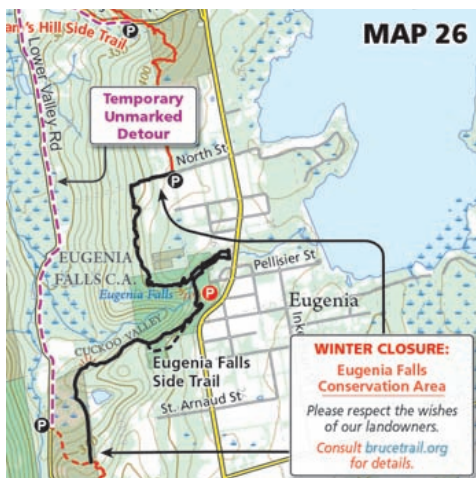
By request of the landowner, the area denoted on the map is closed annually to accommodate hunting season. During this time, the Chuck Grant Side Trail can be used as a thoroughfare for through hiking. Closure dates: Nov. 1-12, 2022, and Apr. 24-29, 2023. Trail closure notices will be posted at trail access points.



Map 26 – Eugenia Falls, Winter Closure

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

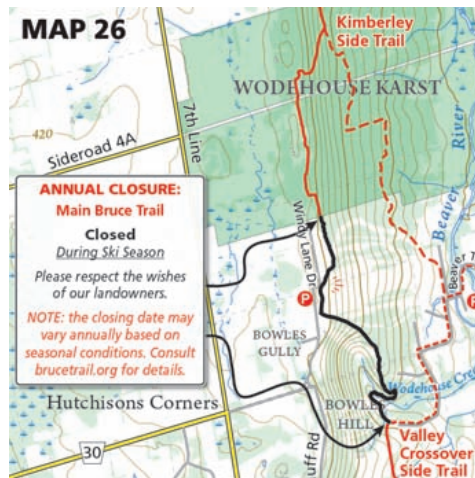
Temporary unmarked detour = 3.8 km



Map 26 – Beaver Valley Ski Club, Annual Closure

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

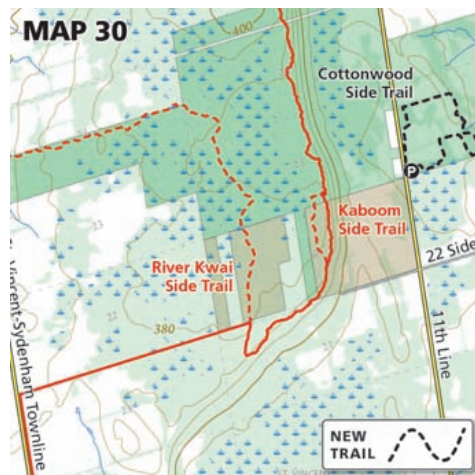
Kimberly Side Trail = 2.5 km



SYDENHAM

Map 30 – Cottonwood Side Trail and new parking

The new Cottonwood Side Trail is a stand-alone 2.1 km loop which brings hikers by a magnificent cottonwood tree and scenic viewpoint. Nearby, roadside parking on the east side of 11th Line offers space for 10 cars. N 44.623915°, W 80.694997°



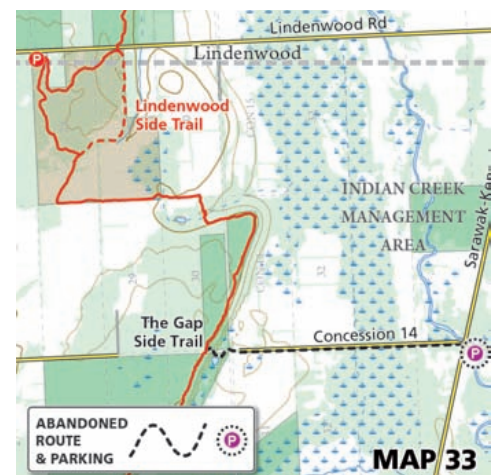
Map 31 – KOA Side Trail and Campground, Annual Closure

The Owen Sound KOA Campground, the KOA Side Trail, and a portion of the Bruce Trail through the property is annually closed from October 1 to May 9 at the request of the landowner. Please respect the landowner's wishes.



Map 33 – Gap Side Trail and parking discontinued

The Gap Side Trail and associated roadside parking area have been abandoned and are no longer maintained by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.





OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We are grateful to all 985 donors who chose to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a gift between July 1 and September 30, 2022.

Thank you to those who gave \$250 – \$9,999

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Special Thanks

The following donors reached \$10,000 in cumulative giving to the Bruce Trail Conservancy in 2021-22. A special pollinator planting has been made at Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve in their honour.

Heidi Bischof
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 Ok-Soon Chung, Member of Toronto Sansamo
 Fernanda Cieri & Family
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 David & Susan Johnson
 Sebastian Kozlowski
 Heather Latto
 Martha Taylor & Ed Fowler
 The Taylor Family Foundation
 Annette Dillon Urlocker

JULY 1 2022 – SEPTEMBER 30 2022

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Gifts were received in commemoration and honour of:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Birthday | In Honour | Peter Maclaren |
| Norm Hohban | Cicely Arthur | Duncan Neil McFadgen |
| | Nicholas L. Bako | Tyler Miller & Caroline |
| | Betsy Bascom | Murdoch-Miller |
| Retirement | Jody Bruner (Ken & Sugar) | Jenn Patterson |
| Linda Paul | Margo Bulmer | Wesley Persad |
| With Thanks | Sarah Ceci | Dennis Phillipson |
| Beaver Valley Trail | Laurence Christie | Lyle Resnick |
| Angels | Bonnie Clark | Peter Rostern |
| Dufferin Hi-Land Trail | Andy Fevez | Chris Shaw & Family |
| Angels | Claire & Mitch Hanes | Dimitri Skandalis |
| Peninsula Bruce Trail | Al & Linda Hills | Saabir Sohrab |
| Club | Brian Hutchinson | David Starkey |
| Toronto Bruce Trail Club | Pamela Jacobs | Philip Tabak |
| Hiking Program - | Ian Kelland | Matthew & Abbey |
| Bus Hikes | Diana Laubitz | Wensink |

Gifts were received in memory of:

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Bruce Trail Conservancy General Store

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



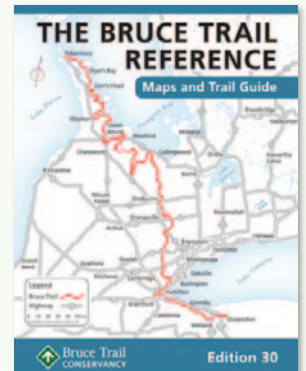
Bruce Trail Poster Map

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

Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide

Edition 30 – 42 maps & trail descriptions in a sturdy 6-ring binder. Features trail changes over past 3 years. New section on Indigenous culture and revised introduction. Laminated flora, fauna & fossil field guide included.

Members \$34.95, Non-Members \$39.95.



Bruce Trail Reference Guide Insert

Edition 30 – All the same great content as the Bruce Trail Reference but without the binder or vinyl sleeve. Best suited for those who have binder from a previous edition. **Members \$24.95, Non-Members \$29.95.**

Bruce Trail App

For iOS & Android devices. Plan, track and log your hikes on the Bruce Trail with the most up-to-date route information in the official Bruce Trail App. Download on the App Store or Google Play with a **FREE 7-day trial**.

Details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-app
\$2.99/mth or \$28.99/yr subscription

Downloadable Bruce Trail Reference Maps

Edition 30 – Individual Maps \$3.00. Full set of 42 maps in single download package.
Members \$24.95, Non-Members \$29.95.

VINTAGE LOGO BTC HAT

Featuring the original Bruce Trail logo from 1963. 100% Cotton. Velcro strap. Khaki green with a weathered look. **Members: \$20, Non-Members: \$25**



NEW

2023 Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar

Featuring original Bruce Trail inspired artwork by various artists.

Members \$15.00, Non-Members \$18.00



NEW

BTC WINTER TOQUE

Light grey knit toque with vintage Bruce Trail logo in white. One size fits most. 100% Acrylic. **\$15.00**

BRUCE TRAIL CAMP SOCKS

30% wool, 60% acrylic, 10% polyamide. One size.
Members \$16.00, Non-Members \$18.00

NEW

BTC DIAMOND TRAIL MARKER PIN

Enamel pin replica of our diamond trail marker for the Main Trail (white), or Side Trails (blue). 1 inch x 1 inch. **\$5.00**



NEW

QUARTER-ZIP FLEECE

Navy blue with white logo on left front. 100% polyester fleece.
Members \$45.00, Non-Members \$50.00



NEW

BLAZE T-SHIRT - LIGHT BLUE

Cotton feel with sweat-wicking technology. 100% polyester, Ladies and Unisex cuts. Sizes XS to XXL
Members \$20.00, Non-Members \$22.00



NEW

CONTEST DESIGN T-SHIRT

Features design by Hannah Lebedyk, winner of the BTC Youth Council's t-shirt design contest. 100% polyester, Ladies and Unisex cuts. Sizes XS to XXL
Members \$20.00, Non-Members \$22.00

BTC DOG LEASH

For our canine Bruce Trail fans. 6 ft woven leash. **\$19.95**

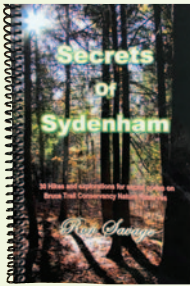


HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES:

DEC. 1 (INTERNATIONAL), DEC. 9 (USA), DEC. 11 (REST OF CANADA), DEC. 15 (ONTARIO). IN-STORE PICKUP AVAILABLE UNTIL DEC. 21.

BTC BOOKSHELF

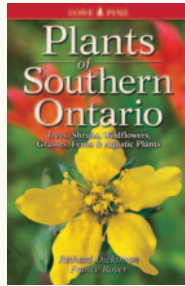
To order from our extensive collection of books please call 905-529-6821 or visit brucetrail.org



SECRETS OF SYDENHAM
\$20.00



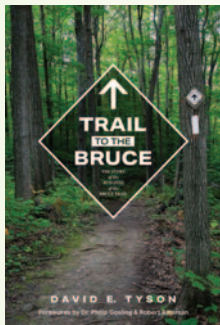
WATERFALLS OF ONTARIO, 3RD ED
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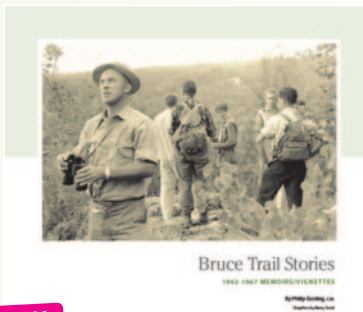
BUTTERFLIES OF ONTARIO & EASTERN CANADA
\$28.95



TRAIL TO THE BRUCE
\$49.00



BIRDS OF ONTARIO
\$28.95



NEW

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

NEW

2023 NOTE CARDS
Set of 13 blank notecards featuring original artwork from the 2023 BTC Calendar. Envelopes included. \$20.00



END-TO-END Badge Package

10 badges. 1 purchase.

End-to-Enders can now receive their Bruce Trail End-to-End badge and certificate PLUS each of the 9 Club End-to-End badges in one package. Submit your hike logs to the BTC once you've completed the entire Trail and request this package. Those wishing to collect badges as they complete sections will still need to reach out to individual Clubs. The BTC does not sell the Club badges individually. But, if you can wait until the end, you can get all 10 badges at once. Please note: the set includes only the "Hike on Your Own" badges.

\$90.00 *Not available online.*



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



Thank You

Volunteers, members, donors and landowners, your ongoing support makes the Bruce Trail possible and is ensuring a protected Niagara Escarpment for future generations.

In a time when nature is under threat like never before, your individual actions, together, are making a difference. Your collective passion, dedication, and generosity is a powerful and effective force for conservation.

Thanks to you, each year the Bruce Trail Conservancy is preserving and caring for more vulnerable Niagara Escarpment habitats and species, and ensuring that people can continue to connect with nature along our beloved Bruce Trail.

2X THE IMPACT

A special donation from you this winter can have **DOUBLE** the impact thanks to a generous matching grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

See page 9 for more on how to make the most of this opportunity.

Photo: Camille Jenkins



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY