



Caledon Comment

Winter 2023 – 2024

Vol 59, No 4

Upcoming Events

WINTER SOCIAL
Sunday, December 3rd—See Page 19

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES AND MORE AT HOCKLEYCREST
beginning Saturday, November 25th—
See Page 7

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE
Sunday, January 1st—See Page 9



2024 MARKS OUR CLUB'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

On February 13, 1964 the first club meeting was held.
Philip Gosling became the first club president.

During the intervening 60 years, hundreds of volunteers
have devoted their time, energy and expertise to the
creation of the Bruce Trail through the Caledon Hills
that we all enjoy today. If you haven't volunteered yet,
or haven't come out to a club hike or event, our 60th
Anniversary Year could be the perfect time to do it. Join
fellow club members and friends for dinner and

THEATRE ORANGEVILLE NIGHT
Wednesday, April 24th—Details to Follow.

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT
Sandra Green
sgreenhikes@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Vacant

SECRETARY
Sally Cohen
salydave445@gmail.com

TREASURER
Andree Zeritsch
andree_zeritsch@rogers.com

BTC CLUB DIRECTOR
Heidi Bischof
heidibischof777@gmail.com

HIKING DIRECTOR
Rob Martin
rojmart5@gmail.com

TRAIL DIRECTOR
Heather Murch
heather.murch@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR
Lynn Dobson
Chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com

LANDOWNER RELATIONS DIRECTOR
Louise Carberry
louise.carberry@rogers.com

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR
Linda Vezina
vezina.linda@gmail.com

LAND STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR
Gary Hall
garyhall@rogers.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
Vacant

EVENTS COORDINATOR
Nellie Leal
chbtcevents@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT
Marilyn Ross
marilyn76@rogers.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
Bob Ferguson
bobeferguson@gmail.com

Janice McClelland
janicedon86@gmail.com

Diane McKenzie
dimckenzie@bell.net

Support Volunteers

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR
Louise Porter
louise.porter@sympatico.ca

ARCHIVIST
Helen Billing
helen.billing.ca@gmail.com

BADGE COORDINATOR
Colleen Darrell
badges@caledonbruce trail.org

CAL E-NEWS EDITOR
Marilyn Ross
marilyn76@rogers.com

CALEDON COMMENT EDITOR
Jean Kerins
jeankerins@yahoo.ca

END-TO-END COORDINATOR
Sandy Green
sgreenhikes@gmail.com

LANDOWNER RELATIONS ASST.
Elizabeth Staite
staite@rogers.com

MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR
Colleen Darrell
Colleen.darrell@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATORS
Colleen Darrell
Colleen.darrell@gmail.com

Sandy Green
sgreenhikes@gmail.com

STUDENT HIKE COORDINATOR
Vacant

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT COORD.
Dave Moule
salydave445@gmail.com

WEB DESIGNER
Dave Guzda
web@caledonbruce trail.org

Opinions expressed in the Caledon Comment are not necessarily the views of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club unless stated as such. Advertisements do not necessarily imply endorsement by the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club or The Bruce Trail Conservancy. Send address changes to the BTC, PO Box 857 Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9



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Cal E-News
is our club email newsletter that
keeps members up to date on club
issues and activities between edi-
tions of the Caledon Comment.
Subscribe at:
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Visit our website, www.caledonbruce trail.ca for
lots more information about the club.

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Group at [Biodiversity Team - Caledon Hills
Bruce Trail Club | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Biodiversity-Team-Caledon-Hills-Bruce-Trail-Club/)



DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING EDITION:

January 15, 2024

Email your submissions to:
jeankerins@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING

SIZE	RATE
Business Card (3.5 x 2.0)	\$30
Quarter Page (3.75 x 5.0)	\$60
Column (3.0 x 10.0)	\$70
Half Page (7.5 x 5.0)	\$85
Full Page (7.5 x 10)	\$145

HST must be added
Terms: Cheque or e-transfer with order
Cheque should be made payable to:
"The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club"



Greetings

Sandra Green, Club President
friendsofchbtc@gmail.com

Friends of CHBTC Group Hikes

Get to know others and enjoy some fun outdoor time.

Nature Seekers - leisurely 5ish km

Saturday, December 9, 1:00 - 3:30
Thursday, December 14, 9:30 - 12:00

Just For Fun - medium 10ish km

Sunday, December 17, 9:00 - 12:30

For registration information, meeting locations, and hike descriptions, scan the QR Code.



Check the BTC Hike Schedule for Nature Walks, Tuesday Group Hikes, Frosty Five Hikes, 2024 60th Anniversary Badge Hikes, and more.

Nature Quest

Come out to a Friends of CHBTC Group Hike for a chance to win a Bruce Trail Conservancy Grey Vintage Logo Toque. A lucky draw for a winner will occur on each hike.



Dear Members,

So much has happened since our last Caledon Comment edition.

Thank you to the many volunteers for their countless hours spent maintaining and caring for our section of trail. To those who took the lead on building projects and special events and to all who assisted, thank you for your dedication and team approach! Hike leaders, you continue to inspire us to spend more time outdoors, exercise, and enjoy the company of others.

Something new for our Club came about through our partnership with local Scout groups. Families were invited to explore the Bruce Trail on guided hikes. The children's uninhibited enthusiasm and natural wonder of nature was contagious. We look forward to more collaboration.

Some of our longstanding volunteers, Alan Billing, Helen Billing, Laurence Christie, Rob Martin, Louise Porter, and Andree Zeritsch were honoured at the Ontario Volunteer Service Award Ceremony for their commitment to our Club. Together, this highly dedicated group has volunteered for over 100 years.

Our vision for Riverside Woods Nature Reserve as a special gathering place and hub of activity is being realized. The hard, but rewarding work of trail building continues, with two side trails and almost 1.5 kilometres of future Main Trail complete. A Seed Orchard of native species was planted by volunteers, under the direction of Lindsey Wilkerson, BTC Land Stewardship Coordinator. The property provided a perfect location for all of the exciting activities of Bruce Trail Day. Visitors marvelled at this extraordinary piece of land that has been placed in our care.

As a Bruce Trail End-to-End myself, one of my favourite events is our Fall Colours E2E. I enjoy supporting and cheering on the hikers, as they strive to reach their goal. This year, over 100 hikers finished and were awarded our new three-day badge.

2024 is a milestone year for our Club. We will be celebrating 60 years of "connecting people to nature". Stay in touch through social media and our Cal E-News for special events to mark this momentous occasion.

Sandy

P.S. As you begin to make plans for the holidays, add joining our New Year's Day Family and Friends Hike to your schedule.

Dave Moule Wins 2023 Bruce Trail Conservancy Susan Oleskevich Award

Article and pictures by Heather Murch

The Susan Oleskevich Award is presented annually to an outstanding trail worker. For more than a decade Susan Oleskevich was a loyal trail maintenance volunteer. During this time, she was Trail Director for the Conservancy, and for the Caledon Hills and Toronto Bruce Trail Clubs. When Susan died suddenly in the summer of 1995, a group of her friends wanted to donate a lasting symbol of her contribution to the Trail. From these discussions came the Susan Oleskevich Award. The contributions of Susan Oleskevich deserve to be remembered. With the annual presentation of this award, her memory will remain strong and provide a source of motivation for all of us as we continue our volunteer commitment. The criteria for selection are that the winner shall:

- *Have been actively involved in the physical work of trail maintenance and development*
- *Have a long-standing commitment to trail work*
- *Be an outstanding trail worker*



And here he is, Dave Moule, with a big grin, riding his lawnmower in June on the newly acquired Riverside Woods property in advance of a Donor Event.

This one snapshot demonstrates much about Dave. He seems happiest when he is building a trail or hosting a trail event. Dave's wife, Sally Cohen, says "Dave never sits still".

Dave is indeed a hard worker who willingly gives his time, experience and equipment to the Trail. Since the late-80's, he has been a Trail Captain of over 5km of trails in Caledon Hills and in 2009 took on additional duties as a Quadrant Leader in The Caledon Hills Club. His experience as an Engineer with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation set a solid foundation for his trail work. He is a long serving BTC Trail Development and Maintenance Director; a skilled Sawyer and an all 'round great resource.

Dave is friendly and willingly shares his extensive knowledge of all things Bruce Trail. Several BTC Staff members have described Dave's significant influence on their careers. Maintenance volunteers speak highly of him. He is a proudly fastidious trail blazer – you won't find blazes better than Dave's along the whole length of the Bruce Trail!

Here he is during a quiet moment helping with the Caledon Hills Prediction Hikes in May.



In September, Dave is seen on the new trail section on the Riverside Woods property; working with a team including fellow long time volunteers, John Maxwell and Laurence Christie.

Dave Moule is a Bruce Trail legend. He's been heavily involved in the Bruce Trail since the mid-80's when he became a Trail Captain for the Peninsula Club. As a starting point in what seems to be one of Dave's favourite activities, he scouted, documented and built the rugged and beautiful trail at McKay's Harbour near Lion's Head. More recently, Dave also located and spearheaded the building of trails in the Caledon Hills section: on the Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve, Riverside Woods and north of Highway 9 (to get the trail off of the very busy highway).

This photo shows Dave teaching us how to document the precise location of the new Springwater Side Trail.



In a very big nutshell, Dave is ...

- a Trail Captain, Quadrant Leader, Bruce Trail Development and Maintenance Director
- a Mentor, Land Donor, Land Steward, Trail Angel
- the Dave behind “Dave’s Pinnacle” near 5th Line
- a Project Manager & damn hard worker
- a Space donor for all of the Club’s maintenance equipment
- a Christmas tree grower and donator
- a Builder and groomer of cross-country ski trails

Article about Dave & Sally’s home:

<https://www.inthehills.ca/2021/11/the-path-taken/>

Caledon Comment article about Dave:

<https://www.inthehills.ca/2017/11/dave-moule/>

Growing Christmas Trees as a fundraiser for the Trail:

<https://neviews.ca/Samples/37%20hockleycrest.pdf>

Stay current with Dave’s blog on cross-country skiing at Hockleycrest:

<http://hockleycrest.blogspot.com/?fbclid=IwAR3HmzNjsRicMu2I68C7F8S8-CjP9YFkIZ4RcGWfq2oqstCqsHOI4igUhTo>

For a cross-country skiing map and additional information visit the club website at:

<http://caledonbrucetrail.ca/cross-country-skiing/>

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TO SWITCH, CONTACT THE EDITOR AT
jeankerins@yahoo.ca

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10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The supply is limited. First come first served.

Come and warm your hands by the bonfire while you sip on warm apple cider and nibble on a cookie.

For further information, call Dave 647-973-6150 or email salydave445@gmail.com.

**Thank you for supporting the
Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.**



Fall Colours End-to-End A Weekend of Thanksgiving

This year, our Club welcomed a record number of participants to our Fall Colours End-to-End. Over 100 hikers were joined by around 30 cadets and support staff of the 557 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps from Brampton. They were an eager group ranging in age from 12 to 83. Everyone was full of anticipation and determination to conquer the legendary hills of Caledon over three days. Lots of laughter could be heard ringing out in the hills. There was some groaning from aching muscles and tender feet and maybe a little cursing too. One thing was for sure, those hiking the trail always had words of thanks and smiles for our 30 kind, supportive and generous volunteers.

Nature didn't fail to amaze. Brilliant displays of colour were evident everywhere. The hikers found the chillier temperatures and fresh breeze invigorating. For the volunteers, it was time to pull out their heavier jackets, toques and gloves. Everyone was grateful for the sun and thankful that any forecasted rain never materialized.

Up and down, up up and down down, up up up and down down down is the way of our trail. The hikers pushed through, confident of their direction from the expert blazing and taking one step at a time on the well-maintained pathway. Over 100 people were awarded end-to-end badges - cause for some tears, loud cheering, and energetic fist pumping!

In the days after the event, messages of appreciation poured in through email and social media. Everyone agreed that their time spent together on the trail had been special and that memories and trail stories would be lasting.

In closing, I would like to offer thanks from the bottom of my heart to our amazing Fall Colours Team. WE DID IT!

Co-rovers: Dwayne Green, Peter Bailey, and Dave Moule

Sweeps: Ruth Moffatt, Peter Leeney, Ren Bissola, and Mohammad Shafiq

Checkpoint Cheerleaders and Refreshment Providers: Simon Arndt, Rebecca Petre, Mary-Ellen Cole, Christine Hesch, Fabian Canas, Mike Fich, Jackie Foster Riggs, Tony Riggs, Colleen Darrell, Bill Murray, Heidi Bischof, Robert Moogk, Barbara Forster, Jean Trask, Carol Maxwell, John Maxwell, David Lloyd, Sally Cohen, Dave Moule, Lynn Dobson, Rosemary McArthur, and Carol-Lynn Fobert

Sandra Green, Event Coordinator





Start 2024 on the right foot by joining our

New Year's Day Hike

January 1, 2024

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Meet at the Bruce Trail Parking Lot on Mono 5 Sideroad.
Google GPS Coordinates: 43.974055, -79.984988

Directions: From Airport Road turn east onto 5 Sideroad and drive for 600 metres. The parking lot is on the left hand side.

There is no better way to start the year than to spend time in nature with family and friends. Join Club President, Sandy Green and co-hike leaders for a leisurely hike. There is a distance for everyone's enjoyment, 1.5 km, 3.5 km, or 5.5 km.

Registration will open December 1st on the BTC Hike Schedule.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Please bring your own cup.

Hope to see you there!



Interested in Trail Maintenance?

Do you want to be notified when there are trail maintenance work party dates announced? Trail maintenance activities may include – clearing the trail; invasive species removal; building boardwalks or other aspects of maintaining the trails. All work party notifications are sent out to the email address volunteers have provided – along with advising us that you are interested in doing trail maintenance.

If you want to be added to the trail maintenance notification list, please email chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com

It takes a village to maintain all the main and side trails and we welcome you to join the trail maintenance team.

Lynn Dobson
Caledon Hills BTC Membership & Volunteer Director



YOUTH PROGRAM

Teachers and Youth Leaders, connect your young people to nature by partnering with the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

CONTACT: info@caledonbrucetrail.org



Experienced and Hike Ontario certified hike leaders will:

- help you meet school curriculum or club goals
- work with you to tailor a hiking experience or presentation to meet the needs of your group

Typically two or more hike leaders support groups. Some funding may be available through the Caledon Hills Club (e.g., park entry fees, nature badges for students).

Photo 1: Scout Family Hike Photo 2: Extracurricular Club Photo 3: Class Hike

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SNEAK PEEK FOR 2024:

P.E.I. Hiking

7 Days: July 20, 2024

Newfoundland Coast-to-Coast

11 Days: August 1, 2024

French Alps

11 Days: August 15, 2024

Gaspé Hiking

9 Days: September 3, 2024

*Be sure to join our e-newsletter
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A Perfect Pairing—by Lynn Dobson and Sandy Green

There are some organizations that are meant to collaborate. They go together like apple pie and ice cream or peanut butter and jam. The Bruce Trail Conservancy and Scouts Canada is one of these perfect pairings.

These organizations truly complement each other. Both value nature, believe in educational opportunities for all, enjoy learning by doing, and value teamwork in a supportive and equitable environment. They also love to recognize members' achievements with badges.

Over the past few months, volunteers from our Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club have had the pleasure of working with Scouts Canada volunteers to plan partner events.

Recently a number of our hike leaders welcomed scouts and their families to the Hockleycrest and Hockley Valley areas for three nature hikes. The participants had great fun exploring. Their curiosity and wonder were refreshing. Over sixty different species were observed and lots of thoughtful questions asked.



On September 16th, Club volunteers attended Scoutcon. They enjoyed lively and positive interaction with seventy-seven Scout leaders and Scouts Canada representatives. It was the first Scout conference Caledon Hills Bruce Trail volunteers attended – but we hope it is not the last! The day consisted of an information booth, a powerpoint presentation, and chatting with scout leaders about how we can support one another.



Bruce Trail Day saw a number of scouts in attendance. A great time was had by all through nature discoveries on group hikes, crafts, games, bird box building, and reminiscing about past experiences on the old Goodyear Memorial Scout Camp, now known as the Riverside Woods Nature Reserve. (See Page 16 for more about Bruce Trail Day.)

We have enjoyed an exciting start to what we hope is a long and happy friendship. Our volunteers are eager to share their training and knowledge on guided hikes and be able to work hand in hand with scouts on trail maintenance and restoration projects.

In the future, scout troops will have opportunities to use an unserviced campsite on the Riverside Woods Nature Reserve.



For the Caledon Hills Club to be a part of introducing Scout groups - the next generation - to the longest footpath in Ontario and to the wealth of opportunities to volunteer and support conservation efforts, is exciting. We consider it a new chapter in our development within the community and look forward to growing this partnership.



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Ontario Volunteer Service Awards – Recognizing 6 CHBTC Volunteers By Lynn Dobson

On September 26th six volunteers from the Caledon Hills Club were recognized for their service by the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariate. Each year the Club is able to nominate six adults and three youth (24 years old and under) for this provincial government recognition. The nominee must have been active beyond simple membership in an organization; not have received any compensation; reside in Ontario; and not have performed the services as part of their regular business or professional duties.

Sandy Green, CHBTC President and Lynn Dobson, Volunteer and Membership Director were pleased to attend the reception with our award recipients. There were many organizations from the Peel and Dufferin area present and we are delighted to say loud applause was given in recognition of the service our volunteers have given and continue to give.

The recipients for 2023 are:

Alan Billing – 35 years volunteering

Alan has been a Trail Captain with the Club for over 35 years and maintained and updated the trail geography for many years as the Club Cartographer. Alan has also been active throughout the years in trail maintenance work parties.

Helen Billing – 20 years volunteering

As a Support Volunteer holding the position of Archivist, Helen is responsible for ensuring the history of the Club is captured and available to share. Helen maintains documents and photographs to record the history of the Club. Helen has also been a Trail Captain for many years and has participated in trail maintenance work parties.



Laurence Christie – 35 years volunteering

Laurence has made significant contributions to preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Bruce Trail Conservancy managed lands in the Caledon section, as a Land Steward Director and Land Steward. He has decades of experience leading trail maintenance work parties and continues to be an active participant in trail maintenance.



Rob Martin – 10 years volunteering

Rob is the Hike Director on the Board and enjoys welcoming new hike leaders; planning exciting hikes with the leaders and participating in ensuring the Ribbon of Wilderness is explored by all as much as possible. Rob is a key person in providing a variety of hikes to all.



Louise Porter – 10 years volunteering

Louise is a behind the scenes volunteer. She is responsible for securing advertisers for the Caledon Comment and is a Support Volunteer on the Board of Directors. Louise has also been a Land Steward and Trail Captain.



Andree Zeritsch – 10 years volunteering

As Treasurer for the Club, Andree keeps a close eye on fundraising events and expenses making sure the maximum available funds are sent to the Bruce Trail Conservancy from our Club. Andree can be found at most events supporting the Club, meeting members and non-members. To date the Caledon Club has donated in excess of \$200,000 to the Conservancy.



The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club is very proud of all our volunteers and we look forward to celebrating all volunteers once again in the spring at the Volunteer Appreciation Event.



2023 Bruce Trail Day October 1st

The plan for Bruce Trail Day came together beautifully! Thank you to our planning team for all of your efforts in the months, weeks and days before. On the day of our celebration, we were blessed with wonderful weather which assisted us in our plans to provide a welcoming, educational and fun event.

The event was a great orientation for the community on what the Bruce Trail has to offer, specifically our new property, The Akela and Scouters Heather and Ross Hamlin Nature Reserve at Riverside Woods. Participants came from Amaranth, Aurora, Erin, Bolton, Caledon, Georgetown, Guelph, Markham, Milton, Mississauga, Mono, Orangeville, Newmarket, and Toronto. Our guests included families (young and old), groups of friends, couples and individuals, some bringing along their four legged friends to enjoy our amazing nature reserve. We enjoyed meeting scouters who were able to bring some of the history of the site to life for our club members. We had well over 50 hikers and 49 individuals completed their passports and entered into our draws.

Everyone came away having enjoyed a hike (long or short) supported by our informed hike leaders, visiting our new seed orchard along the way; receiving an education on trail maintenance – locating, clearing, blazing and boot scraping; they saw and had a chance to participate in building and clearing a bird box; received information on volunteering and membership; the young and the young at heart had a chance to be Citizen Scientists and many purchased BTC merchandise. The day was a great opportunity to create awareness about all the volunteer opportunities the Club and the Bruce Trail offers.

Michael McDonald, the CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy attended our celebration and staff from the Conservancy supported our BTC information station. Over 39 CHBTC volunteers showcased the beautiful Riverside Woods Nature Reserve and demonstrated the benefits of belonging to a Club whose goal is preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

This quote from one of our volunteers says it all: “The weather was perfect but that of course, is something we’ll never be able to control. I particularly liked seeing the great spirit of volunteerism over all the various parts and activities of the day. There was lots of help and the fun everyone was having was contagious”.

We have achieved our goal!

Elizabeth Staite
Event Coordinator



**BRUCE TRAIL
DAY 2023**

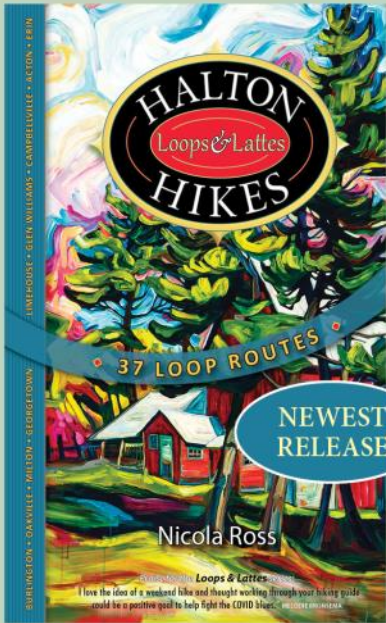




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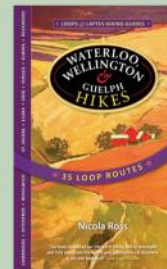
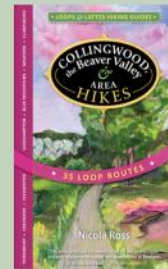
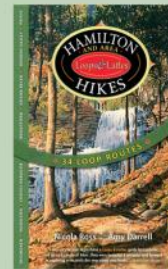
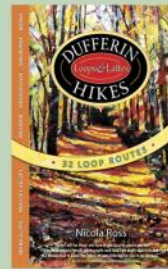
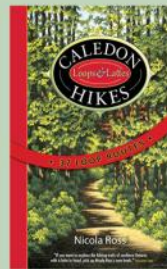
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***Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club
invites you and your friends to our***

WINTER SOCIAL

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Caledon East Community Complex (Hall A)
6215 Old Church Road, Caledon East



10 am to 12 pm Hike (leisurely 5.7 km loop)

Meet in the parking lot. The group will explore Caledon East and surrounding countryside.

12 pm to 3 pm Lunch & Launch Club's 60th Anniversary

Hot catered lunch will be served for \$15. **Email your lunch reservation to chbtcevents@gmail.com by Nov 23.** Please include any dietary restrictions. **Payment can be made by e-Transfer to treasurer@caledonbrucetrail.org.** In the message box indicate that the payment is for the Winter Social Lunch. If you are unable to pay by transfer, payment can be made at the door as long as you have emailed your reservation in advance.

Special musical performance by *Hikers in Treble!*

Raffle prizes and Bruce Trail merchandise available.

For more information contact Nellie and Sandy at
info@caledonbrucetrail.org



Guelph Film Showing of “An Elder in the Making” A Huge Success

As one of our patrons said, the film “really spoke to me”. We were all embraced by the power of sharing the difficult but hopeful relationships between First Nations, settlers and newcomers. The movie provided a thought provoking look at our own relationship with the lands we enjoy along the Bruce Trail. We can all make the choice to respect our land and its cultural heritage. *The Editor*



RESPECT OF THE LAND

1. Hike only along the blazed routes. Do not take short cuts. Use the stiles and do not climb fences.
2. Obey all signage.
3. Always respect the privacy of people living along the Trail. Many landowners graciously allow the Bruce Trail on their property for pedestrian use. Trespassing or misuse of the Trail could lead to a request to remove the Trail from private property.
4. Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out the litter.
5. Leave flowers, plants and trees for others to enjoy.
6. Where dogs are permitted, keep them on a leash and under control at all times.
7. Do not disturb wildlife and farm animals.
8. Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.
9. Everyone’s experience in nature is unique and personal. Help encourage an inclusive community.

The Niagara Escarpment/Gchi-Bimadina/Kastenhraktátye is the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabek, HuronWendat, Tionontati, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia. Together may we care for this land and each other, drawing upon the strength of our mutual history through peace and friendship, to create a lasting legacy of conservation for generations to come



The Bruce Trail Conservancy Mission:

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

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