



# THE RATTLER

The newsletter of the 

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Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY  

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PENINSULA CLUB

2023 #2

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*Tamara Wilson*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Peninsula Club mirrors a vibrant ecosystem reflecting healthy biodiversity in new and long-time members (new and old growth trees) who support and connect with each other through a network of events and communications. Peninsula Club board members have been busy working behind the scenes, like fungal networks below the earth, with Zoom and in person meetings, laying down the threads that bring members, community leaders and ally organizations together. For the remainder of the year, the Peninsula Club offers a spectrum of opportunities which we hope appeal to a wide range of abilities and interests, for both new and old growth members.

From the Yoga Fundraiser at Cape Chin to Blue Series hikes, the annual launch of the “For the Birds” Art Fundraiser, fern- and nature-based hikes, Hike It! Love It! Keep it Clean! hikes, Two-eyed Seeing hikes, the Peninsula Club Hiking Festival October 13-14, Land Stewardship activities and much more, the Peninsula Section is abuzz with fun activities we hope will bring our diverse membership together to celebrate the exquisite natural beauty around us!

Tamara Wilson  
Peninsula Bruce Trail Club President

# THE RATTLER



Bruce Trail  
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PENINSULA CLUB

2023, ISSUE 2

## PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION

If you have a story that might be of interest to Rattler readers, please send it to [pbtctherattler@gmail.com](mailto:pbtctherattler@gmail.com).

Deadline for submissions for the next edition is March 7, 2023

Editor & Layout: Leslie McBeth

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## SAUGEEN (BRUCE) PENINSULA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land.*

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*From diving deep into the local culture and ecology to exploring the intricacies of Forest Ecology, attendees were treated to a plethora of interpretive hikes and some good old-fashioned social mingling.*

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## Hike, Laugh, Connect: The Peninsula Hiking Festival That Had It All!

**RANDY VANDERLAAN**  
PENINSULA HIKING FESTIVAL  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

---

Hello, hiking enthusiasts! If you missed out on the [Peninsula Hiking Festival](#) this year, let me take you on a delightful journey through the trails, tales, and triumphs of this unforgettable event.

First off, if you were hoping to snag a last-minute ticket, you were out of luck! The festival was sold out weeks in advance. Held on October 13 and 14, 2023,



the Peninsula Hiking Festival was a two-day extravaganza that celebrated the stunning beauty and rich biodiversity of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. The theme? ‘Building Connections To Nature’. And boy, did we connect!

From diving deep into the local culture and ecology to exploring the intricacies of Forest Ecology, attendees were treated to a plethora of interpretive hikes and some good old-fashioned social mingling. The program lineup, which you can check out

in detail on the festival website, was nothing short of spectacular. Birding on the Rankin, exploring the geology of the Bruce Trail, and getting up close and personal with fungi in Hope Bay were just a few of the highlights. The festival's inception began many moons ago, with the organizing committee convening for the first time in February. At the helm of this grand venture were Festival Coordinators - Jess Pridham and Marg Glendon. Their vision, passion, and relentless energy transformed this dream into a reality that we all got to experience.

PBTC's Communication Director, Leslie McBeth organized the registration and communication with festival participants. Her "can-do" attitude and unwavering dedication made her the unsung hero behind the scenes. And speaking of heroes, a standing ovation for our organizing committee members - Caley Doran, Lloyd Hayward, Saabir Sohrab,



Tamara Wilson, Nathan Monk, Jane Greenhouse, and Randy Vanderlaan. A special shoutout to Jane, whose Silent Auction skills helped raise more than \$2000 for the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club! Over 30 local businesses and individuals generously donated toward the Silent Auction - thank you!



Friday night set the tone with a lively "Mix and Mingle" session. Imagine this: cold beer, stone-fired pizza, soulful music by two very talented young musicians, a mesmerizing presentation by the **Bluewater Astronomical Society**, and stories shared around a warm campfire with smores in hand. Saturday was a whirlwind of hiking activities led by very engaging subject experts and was capped off with a sumptuous three-course dinner prepared by the centre's Chef Rob Klunder.

The highlight of Saturday evening was the inspiring keynote address by Jackie Randle, Vice President of Operations at

the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the International Chair of the World Trails Network. Jackie introduced attendees to the expansive World Trails Network and the transformative International Friendship Trail program. With her deep passion for hiking and global exploration, she painted a vivid picture of World Trails Network's breathtaking trails. Encouraging everyone to broaden their horizons, Jackie emphasized the importance of building connections, fostering cultural understanding, and embracing the beauty of trails around the world. Her words left an indelible mark, inspiring many to lace up their boots and embark on new adventures beyond the Peninsula.

Our gratitude extends to our generous sponsors, including Camp Celtic, Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, Red Bay Lodge, Tagwerk Bier, goodr Sunglasses, Suntrail Source for Adventure, and Believer Coffee. Their support played a pivotal role in the festival's success. Thanks to Tobermory Press for its outstanding on-site signage and Rural Rootz Nature Reserve for printing individual registration schedules. Their printing support helped us to find our way and know when to get there!







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*The popular fundraiser is back for 2023, showcasing local Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula talent for a good cause*

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PRETTY LADY BY FRAN TURNER

## For The Birds 2023 - Local Artists Support Nature

**BY MARG GLENDON**  
OUTREACH AND  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

---

Help protect birds on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. Promote local artists. Start your holiday shopping now. **Sales End November 26th!**

For the third consecutive year, Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) and local artists have collaborated to create an online art sale, “For The Birds”. 100% of the proceeds will be directed toward the protection of bird habitat and bird species at risk, and support education about birds living on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. Thank you to Les McBeth, Fran Turner and Arlene Saunders for coordinating this year’s art sale!

In 2023, “For the Birds” helped to support local students through the Junior Birder Program, created opportunities for our community to build birding knowledge through annual bird species surveys and hikes on local BTC nature reserves and surrounding area. With the help of local

volunteers and guidance from BTC Ecologist, Brian Popelier, PBTC is restoring and protecting bird habitat on local BTC nature reserves.

Your support can help us make a difference! Here is a short story to illustrate - Following a visit to the Grade 3-4 classroom, one of the students recognized me at the local grocery store, and intentionally followed me to initiate a conversation about birds, "Guess what we saw at school this week? About 100 Bohemian Waxwings! They were beautiful!" That made my day - the fact that the student was excited about birds and wanted to share their observation with me, told me they were smitten with the love for birds. They already see nature's beauty and understand the importance of protecting it.



PEREGRINE FALCON BY ARLENE SAUNDERS

PBTC is grateful to each of the artists who have donated 100% of the sale from their beautiful art pieces. Over 2 dozen nature-inspired paintings will be available for you to purchase online, in early November. You can learn more about "For the Birds" and participating artists at: [www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca) > click on Birds Fundraiser.

If you have questions, please email Marg at [pbtcoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcoutreach@gmail.com). Give a gift that protects the environment and connects people to nature!

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Volunteers. Thank you to Susan Miller from Passionate Glass for  
making this possible.

Proceeds from ornament sales help preserve local bird habitat  
and protect rare bird species along the Peninsula section of  
the Bruce Trail, through land stewardship and education.



**Sales Start  
December 1st**

**visit [pbtc.ca](http://pbtc.ca) for details**



**Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY**  
PENINSULA CLUB

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*Congratulations to this year's winner, Serge!*

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## PBTC 2022 Canine Volunteer of the Year – “The Roxy Award”

**BY MARG GLENDON**  
OUTREACH AND MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTOR

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It's about time that we acknowledge the important role our canine volunteers have on the Bruce Trail. They often hike and work on the trail with us and welcome trail users from far and wide!

On May 6th, at the PBTC AGM, for the first time - we acknowledged the importance of our canine volunteers through the PBTC “Roxy Award”.

The “Roxy Award” is given to the canine volunteer who demonstrated dedication to keeping the trails clean and going above and beyond the call of duty to help promote responsible trail use - inspiring other canines and their humans to “leave no trace” by carrying out their litter, including dog poop bags.

Roxy was a senior canine volunteer who dutifully accompanied her human (Brenda) on most of their Hike IT Love It! Keep It Clean! Litter Pickups on the Bruce Trail - in all types of weather and terrain. Her gentle presence reminded owners to “pack it out” while on the Bruce Trail.

The 2022 recipient of the prestigious, and first award of its kind, was awarded to “Serge”.



Serge's humans - Julia and Aaron often hike with Serge on the Bruce Trail and participate in the Hike It! Love It! Keep It Clean! group cleanups regularly!

Recently, I had an opportunity to present his certificate in person, and interview Serge and his humans, about our recent acknowledgement of his work on the Bruce Trail.

Marg: What do you like about the Bruce Trail?

Serge: I love all the smells on the trail, especially when it's a section I haven't visited for a while. I like the main trail and side trails equally, but I prefer to walk in a loop - more new smells that way

Marg: Are you always on a leash?

Serge: Yes, my humans often use a Bruce Trail leash - but yes - I am always on a leash. I like to walk in front of my humans - "following from the front". The leash keeps me and the flora and fauna safe. I get so excited about following the smells, that I get distracted and chase after the new smell - and unfortunately might step on some fragile species - and I don't want

to do that! Or, I might encounter some Poison Ivy or a Rattlesnake - yikes!

Marg: What is your favourite part of the Bruce Trail?

Serge: Really, I love it all! Rush Cove is my favourite main trail section and McKay's Harbour is my favourite side trail. You can tell, because I wag my tail like crazy when I hop out of our vehicle and start the hike. Yippee! I love when the trail goes down to the lakeshore so that I can have a drink of water. Humans - please make sure you keep your canine companion hydrated. I prefer the taste of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, but if you aren't hiking near water - bring a water bottle and portable bowl.

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Marg: This is a personal question – but I have to ask – when you poop, what do your humans do with it?

Serge: Yes, that is quite personal, but I am happy to answer that, because it is important. Dog feces can carry harmful bacteria that impacts the flora and fauna on the trail. The doggie poop bags are not biodegradable – even the ones that say they are. It’s plastic – my humans take it out with them and responsibly drop it in the garbage containers. A message for all humans – please pack out our poop (POOP)!

Marg: Finally, do you have a message for other canine volunteers?

Serge: Yes, I love being a Trail Ambassador and promoting the principles of “Leave No Trace” Get involved, help keep our Bruce Trail clean.

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## PBTC Celebrates Over 25 years of Highway Cleanups!

**BY BRENDA STEWART**  
PBTC SECRETARY/ARCHIVIST

On May 24, 2023 six dedicated PBTC members completed the club's Adopt-a-Highway spring cleanup for this year. This marks the 26th year that PBTC volunteers have been conducting these twice yearly cleanups on the section of Hwy 6 between Dyer's Bay road and the Miller Lake Rona store.

For each cleanup, the recyclables and LCBO returnable cans and bottles are separated from the garbage for disposal. This year 12 bags of garbage and 3 bags of recyclables were collected.

On a somewhat alarming note, there were 129 alcoholic beverage containers collected in the 4 km. stretch of highway! The deposit returns to LCBO netted \$13.30 to donate to the PBTC. Over the years some unusual items are always seen with each cleanup, this year was no exception. A kayak ballast, a highway construction sign, and a large piece of Styrofoam insulation were collected.

The PBTC highway cleanups started in 1997. Joan Bowman, a Peninsula Club Board Director, wrote a letter to the MTO inquiring about their Adopt-a-Highway program. A motion was put forward to the PBTC Board of Directors at their next meeting on March 5, 1997, to adopt a section of highway and it was approved for the highway section between Miller Lake Rona and Dyer's Bay road. The first cleanup was conducted over two days, on April 18 & 21, 1997 by Joan and George Bowman. It took over 12 hours and 12 bags of garbage were collected!

As part of the agreement with the MTO, a Post Cleanup report was to be filed listing the number of bags of garbage collected, number of bags recycled, and any comments about the cleanup. These reports show some interesting trends with respect to litter on the highway, as well as some revealing comments.

Joan and George Bowman were the first “Highway Cleanup Directors” on the PBTC Board in 2000 and continued in this role until 2003. Joan’s first post-cleanup report noted that there was a “large quantity of old coiled barbed wire fence in the ditch just north of D\*\*\*\*\* refurbished log home”. (Name redacted here for privacy). The May 1998 report stated, “Property owner at \*\*\*\* seems to have a car vehicle repair shop, all small garbage, used oil filters end up in the ditch”. Luckily, the October 1998 report noted an improvement, “Property owner at \*\*\*

seems to have improved his disposal of oil filters, etc.! We picked up very little garbage in front of his house.” She also commented on dead animals found, “One dead red-tailed hawk, one dead raccoon, and one dead porcupine” were found in the September 2000 cleanup.

Don and Joan McIlraith took up the roles in 2003 and continued coordinating the twice-yearly pickups for over 10 years! Don was also the Club president during that time, as well as many other roles! As Ross McLean wrote in his book “50 to Remember”, “I still get a chuckle out of the Winter 2009/2010 Rattler. John Greenhouse as head of the Nominating Committee put out a “call” for volunteers. To illustrate the need for more Board members, he used the same picture of Don four times. Under each were the captions “Our







President”, “Our Land Stewardship Director”, “Our Appointee to the BTC Board”, and “Our Highway Clean-up Person (with Joan)”. It made the point about the need for more volunteers, but it also emphasized just how important Don was to the operations of the PBTC.”

I spoke by phone with Don in February of this year at his home in London, Ontario about his role with the litter cleanups. He remembers the cleanups well. Like Joan Bowman, he also made comments on the reports. In Oct. 2012 he noted, “Less than previous years, (garbage) still lots of beer cans and bottles-makes one wonder about drinking and driving”, and yet again in October 2013, “more beer cans than usual- scary”.

Sadly, Don’s wife, Joan passed away in February 2015 and Don announced his resignation from the Board of Directors in March of that year. Joan had been a huge volunteer presence in the club, as well as a Board member and her absence

was keenly felt. There were many heartwarming tributes to her in Issue 1 of the Rattler, 2015.

The 2 positions of Highway Cleanup Coordinator were then retired from the Board of Directors, but the Highway Cleanups continued under the capable supervision and organization of Barry and Nancy Ince, from May 2015 until I took over the role from them this spring. Nancy and Barry dropped by my house in February to explain the procedures and hand over to me the supplies. They mentioned how often the whole crew would go over to Summerhouse Park for lunch or coffee, after the pickups.

It is a testament to the committed volunteers of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club that this program has been in operation for over 25 years, helping to keep the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula community clean. In conjunction with the “Hike It, Love it, Keep it Clean” program, and other PBTC Litter Pickup initiatives on the Bruce Trail, it is indeed something to be proud of!



**Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY**  
PENINSULA CLUB

# UPCOMING HIKES

**11/23** EASY HIKE – CAMERON LAKE WALK  
IN THE WOODS

**11/30** TRAILS AND TALES OF A TRAIL  
CAPTAIN AT LION'S HEAD

**12/01** EASY HIKE- VANISHING STREAM:  
RESTORING NATURE & RESTORING  
OURSELVES!

**12/07** EASY HIKE – SHINING RAINBOW  
DEER SANCTUARY

**12/08** EASY HIKE – HIKE! COOL DOWN!  
CELEBRATE!

**12/17** GEORGIAN BAY ODYSSEY: LITTLE  
COVE TO DRIFTWOOD COVE

**12/22** WINTER WANDERLUST

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*Let the trail guide you  
to new heights and  
forge lifelong  
connections along the  
way.*

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## Experiences of a Rookie Hike Leader: Leading a Group on the Bruce Trail Peninsula E2E Hike

**BY SAABIR SOHRAB**  
HIKE DIRECTOR

---

Since moving to Tobermory, my wife and I have enjoyed hiking the Bruce Trail on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. Hiking the peninsula end to end, or E2E, from Wiarton to Tobermory was on my wish list. When Covid restrictions began to ease in the winter of 2022, I reached out to Barb Reuber, the Peninsula Bruce Trail



Club's Hike Director at the time, about a Peninsula E2E. At the time, the availability of hike leaders to lead a Peninsula E2E was uncertain. I offered my help in any form to organize a Peninsula E2E. While I had prior experience leading friends and family on hikes, leading a larger group required additional skills in managing group dynamics and ensuring everyone's safety. To prepare, I obtained my Ontario Hike Leader and First Aid certifications. The Peninsula E2E 2022 was close to becoming a reality!

Tom Hall, PBTC's Director of Trail Maintenance, played a key role in jumpstarting our Peninsula E2E 2022 journey. He designed the entire 11-day schedule and helped us keep track of participants for each hike. Barb led the initial two hikes, and I took on the responsibility of leading subsequent hikes, including makeup hikes for those who missed the regular hike days due to various reasons. Our journey began at Bluewater Park in Wiarton, spanning over 160km until we reached the Cairn in

Tobermory. Along the way, we created memories with lots of fun and memorable moments.

Our hiking group consisted of amazing individuals who shared their passions and knowledge. Some hikers educated us about birds, plants, and even wild mushrooms! They graciously posed for numerous pictures without complaint, and their faces radiated excitement whenever we reached a scenic lookout.

As someone who primarily works indoors in the field of information technology, leading hikes provided a much-needed escape for me - as Barb remarked "you've found your calling in being a hike leader!" Leading a group of hikers on the Bruce Trail Peninsula E2E 2022 hike was an enriching experience for me. I learned so much about nature from these individuals and carved new friendships. I've also learned to be careful about how I share my snacks with others. When hiking, instead of other sugary treats I always carry dates for snacks. On a hike that my wife missed, during snack break I offered dates to our Peninsula E2E 2022 hikers who happened to be women. My offer of "would you like to have a date" was met with amusing looks. To this day my wife teases me that I go around offering women 'dates' in her absence!

During the Peninsula E2E 2022, I had the pleasure of meeting Randy, a fellow hike leader with PBTC, who co-led some of the hikes on this E2E. Since then, we have become good friends and collaborated on other hikes, including the Blue Series of hikes for the side trails on the peninsula. This year, we are once again collaborating on the Peninsula E2E in 18 hikes.



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Leading a group on the Bruce Trail Peninsula E2E 2022 hike as a rookie hike leader was a transformative adventure. It allowed me to immerse myself in nature, learn from fellow hikers, and create lasting memories. The Peninsula E2E 2022 journey not only enriched my understanding of the trail but also connected me with remarkable individuals who shared their expertise and passion. Through this experience, I have found a new calling and formed valuable friendships.

I encourage anyone with an interest in hiking and leadership to seize the opportunity and embark on this incredibly rewarding journey. Let the trail guide you to new heights and forge lifelong connections along the way. The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club offers many different hikes - from the more ambitious E2E, to leisurely rambles, to interpretive hikes focused on learning about the flora and fauna on the peninsula. Information is available on the Club's website and facebook page. Happy hiking!

*Love hiking?*

## NEW PBTC HIKE LEADERS WANTED

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# Fall Easy Hikes!

**BY MARG GLENDON**  
**PBTC OUTREACH AND**  
**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Just because the cooler is here, doesn't mean we have to stay indoors!

If you live on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, you recognize the quick switch in life's momentum. There is this sweet transition of having too much to do - to scratching our heads wondering what we can do! Many of our friends, who live here seasonally, have closed up the cottage and waved goodbye until next year.

According to Community Foundations of Canada, research tells us that healthy communities focus on three core themes - belonging, engagement and well-being.

PBTC has created a series of Easy Hikes which focus on these core themes - by providing opportunities to learn something new, to be active and to connect with nature and one another.

Easy hikes are defined as small group hikes which are less than 5 km, at a slower pace (<3 km per hour) and generally short in duration. These hikes are usually on fairly level ground, although there will be some uneven terrain with tree roots and rocks. Each hike will start with a short "cold weather" warm up and cool-down activities. Certified PBTC hike leaders and sweeps have organized safe, enjoyable hikes



where we learn from one another and from community experts.

Join us on the trails! No experience needed! Everyone is welcome! Easy Hikes are free! Need a ride - contact Marg @ pbtcoutreach@gmail.com, or call 519-719-7739. Learn more about all PBTC hikes here: <https://www.pbtc.ca/hikes>



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## In Memory of Maldwyn "Mal" Williams: A Dedicated Trail Enthusiast and Community Member

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) community was saddened to hear of the passing of Maldwyn "Mal" Williams on August 1st, 2023. Born March 1, 1945, Mal leaves behind a legacy of commitment to outdoor activities, service, and family.

Mal's involvement with the PBTC began in 1998 when he joined the Board. Over the years, he held various roles including treasurer, president, and past president until 2007. His genuine interest in the outdoors could be traced back to his Scouting days where he achieved the rank of Queen's Scout. Later, as a leader, he introduced many scouts to the beauty of the Bruce Trail.

Mal's dedication to the Peninsula Club was evident in every step he took on the Bruce Trail. Though he hiked almost the entirety of the trail, a small segment near Hamilton remained. Yet, in the hearts of those who knew him, he completed the trail in spirit. The Peninsula Club remained his favorite, and he often expressed admiration for the volunteers who poured their time and energy into maintaining the trail.

Outside the trails, Mal was actively involved with the Warton Rotary Club. He participated in various community

projects, with The Village Fair and Miracle Place standing out as his favorites. Even as Alzheimer's began affecting him, his commitment to the Rotary Club's initiatives and the community remained steadfast.

Alzheimer's is a relentless disease, one that takes away cherished memories and moments. However, as Marianne Williams, his beloved wife, fondly recalls, the vision of Mal striding joyfully along the trail is a memory that refuses to fade. In her words, "In spite of it, I intend to remember him striding along the trail enjoying every moment of the experience." She expressed her gratitude for the continued support from their family, especially their daughter Bronwen, son-in-law Spencer, and grandchildren Rhys and Bryn.

To honor Mal's memory, his family intends to make a donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This gesture ensures that Mal's passion for the trails and land conservation continues to make a lasting impact.

As we bid goodbye to a stalwart of the PBTC community, we take solace in the memories shared, the trails walked, and the impact he left on the community. Mal's life will be celebrated at the Kemble-Sarawak United Church on October 28th at 2:00 pm. Our thoughts are with his family during this time.

*Article contributed by the editor of "The Rattler", with heartfelt acknowledgments to Marianne Williams, a former Board member and Mal's steadfast partner in life.*

## Rainbow Hikes on the Bruce Trail

**BY MARG GLENDON**  
 OUTREACH AND MEMBERSHIP  
 DIRECTOR

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is committed to building a diverse and welcoming organization at all levels. This is an ongoing process as we learn more along the way. We are proud to highlight the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) Pride Badge encouraging hikers and nature enthusiasts, both locals and tourists, to know that the Bruce Trail and the BTC Clubs are safe spaces for everyone.

For decades BTC has protected the diversity of beautiful wildlife, flora and fauna along the Bruce Trail; and as we have seen the rise in adversity and hatred towards our diverse 2S-LGBTQQIAP+ Community, we felt it important to remind everyone that the Bruce Trail is a safe space for all of our community members and that we also encourage and celebrate their diversity and beauty. Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) and Grey Bruce Pride are thrilled to announce our new collaboration. Together we will be offering regular "Rainbow Hikes" exploring the Peninsula Section of the Bruce Trail.

Grey Bruce Pride has been leading social hikes on their own for the past several years, and together we feel we can



connect and use our platforms to strengthen our community.

These hikes are family friendly and encourage community - both members of the 2S-LGBTQQIAP+ Community and allies - to gather and explore the beautiful lands which we are so fortunate to learn and live amongst.

Like all of our hikes, it also gives an opportunity for individuals to connect from different communities within Grey Bruce and beyond to make like-minded friends while exploring the Bruce Trail. PBTC hike leaders offer a wide range of hikes, including Rainbow Hikes. You can register online and read more about all organized PBTC hikes here: [www.pbtc.ca/hikes](http://www.pbtc.ca/hikes) Most BTC hikes are open to, and free to BTC members and non-members.

Learn more about Grey Bruce Pride here: <https://greybrucepride.squarespace.com>

We look forward to this new collaboration and hope you will join us for our Rainbow Hikes!



# QR Codes: Decoding History

**BY BRENDA STEWART**  
PBTC SECRETARY/ARCHIVIST

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club launched QR Code Side Trail Project this summer! Have you ever hiked on one of the side trails in the Peninsula section that was named after an individual and wondered, “Who was this person, and why was this trail named after them?” The PBTC is launching a new side trails project which will hope to answer that question.

The Peninsula Bruce Trail section has over 70 side trails covering more than 100km. Twenty-five of these trails are named after people. The club is launching a project that will have QR code stickers affixed to the side trail signs on these trails. A QR code is a printed code that can link to a website or a block of text. You scan the QR code with your smartphone and follow a link to a webpage on the PBTC website where you can hear an audio clip telling a short story about the individual, or read the background story and see a picture of the individual.

Currently we have 4 side trail “snapshot stories” which launched this summer. These are the John Appleton Side Trail and the Beth Gilhespy Side Trail, both in the Barrow Bay area.



These two trails are now part of an International Friendship Trail. The other two QR code trails are the Donna Baker Side Trail near Lion’s Head, and the Gord Cottrill Side Trail near Dyer’s Bay. An exciting new development is the possibility of having “GeoTrails” on the Peninsula! Geotrails are an exciting new way to explore the fascinating geological and environmental history of the Niagara Escarpment.

To learn more about GeoTrails, watch a webinar on the BTC website: [brucetrail.org/events/#past-webinars](http://brucetrail.org/events/#past-webinars)

We hope you will try out one of the new QR code trails, and that it will inspire you to learn more about the wonderful volunteers and individuals who have helped make the Peninsula Bruce Trail the outstanding recreational trail that it is. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the project, please email [pbtcarchives@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcarchives@gmail.com)