



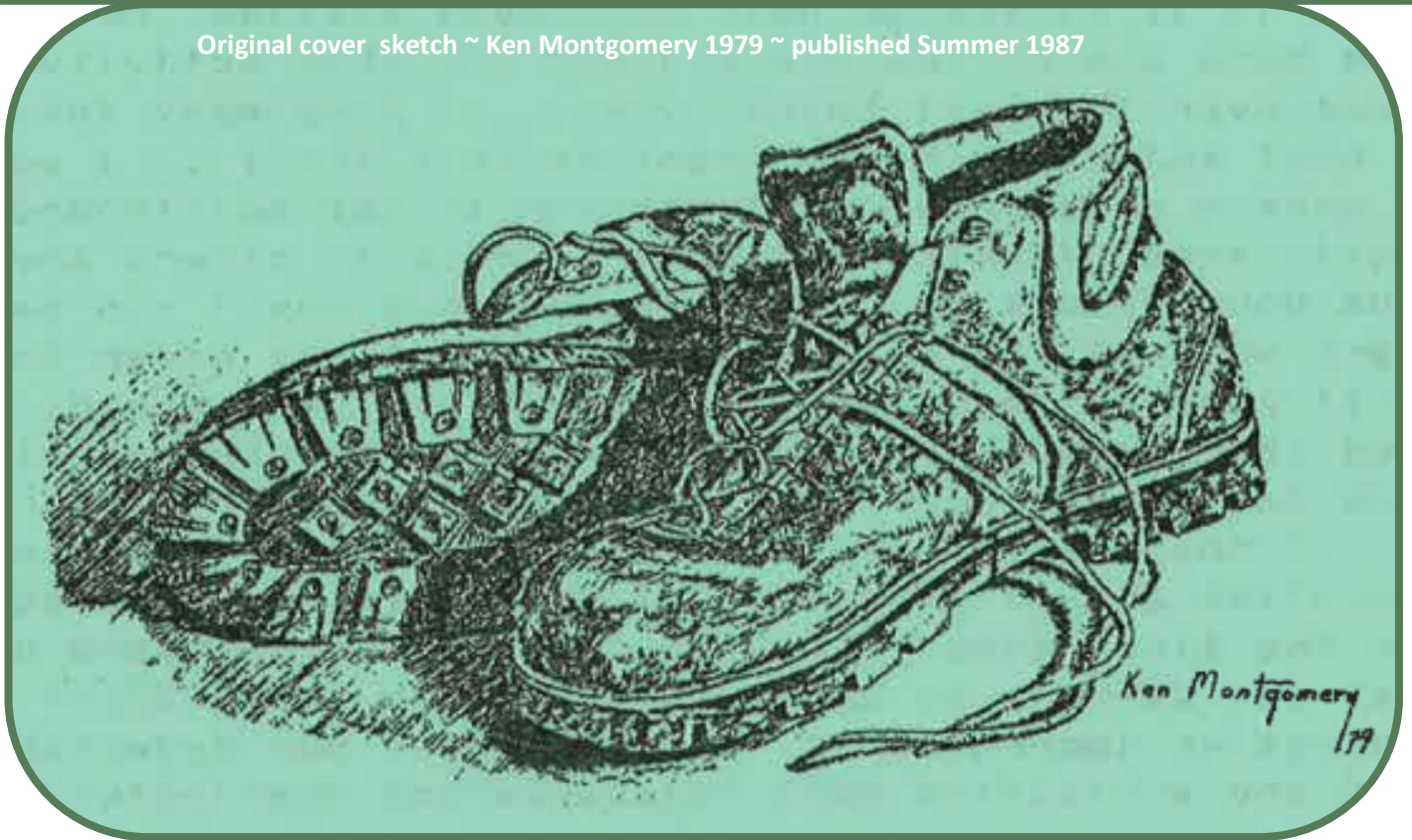
Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
SYDENHAM CLUB

THE SYDENHAM HIKER

SYDENHAM BRUCE TRAIL CLUB NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

Original cover sketch ~ Ken Montgomery 1979 ~ published Summer 1987



Celebrating 55 Years of The Sydenham Hiker

The Sydenham Hiker was first published in November 1968 (page 3). 2023 is its 55th year of publication, and this edition—Winter 2023—the 173rd and final edition of The Sydenham Hiker as the SBTC transitions to a monthly E-Notes format.

To commemorate 55 years, we bring you our final edition packed with nostalgia, reflecting on the publishing history of The Sydenham Hiker through samples of past content with thanks and credit to The Grey Roots Archival Collection.

What is most interesting to me as an editor is the amount of work going into publishing each edition, including hand drawn artwork as seen above, the use of typewriters and manual print-setting. Publishing tools available now are much more advanced, making our work considerably easier. I hope you enjoy this final retrospective edition.

As the most recent newsletter editor of the SBTC, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all my predecessors in this volunteer role. It has been my pleasure to bring the news and articles of interest to you, our members; to receive and compile all the wonderful content into a newsletter I'm proud to publish; and the opportunity to unleash my passion for writing through submissions and editing of content. It has been a very fulfilling role indeed.

Please continue to support the club with your membership that is so vital for the ongoing activities of the club; continue to like, follow and subscribe to our monthly E-Notes, our website, and our Facebook page; continue to engage in our Club's activities: our hikes, socials, AGM, Bruce Trail Day, and more; And mostly, I wish you continued success, good health and much happiness in 2024.

And that's a wrap!

Margaret O'Dell



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Sydenham Bruce Trail Club Honour Roll Book

~Pat Savage

The Sydenham Bruce Trail Club has kept an Honour Roll Book for many years, honouring members who have gone above the call of duty in their contribution to our club. They have been involved as trail captains, hike leaders, land stewards, worked on special committees, have taken on executive positions on our board, and as a representative to the executive board of the Bruce Trail Conservancy in Hamilton.

We have many talented people in our club but we also know there are many, many, more who we do not hear about. We, the current executive, would like to extend an invitation to all members of the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club to nominate someone who you feel has made a significant contribution. This can be done by submitting their name and why you feel this person would be a worthy candidate. The executive would like to honour one individual a year to join other inductees in our Honour Roll Book.

The Sydenham Bruce Trail Club Honour Roll Book was established in 1988 with a donation by Doug Metcalfe. A committee was established, and in 1988 Doug Metcalfe was honoured posthumously as the first inductee into our Honour Roll Book.

Also inducted that year were the following **Founding Members** of the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club, showing the years of service for which they were honoured:

- C.C. Middlebro' 1962-1963
- John A. Stuart 1962-1964
- Alexander Smith 1962-1988
- Edward Ritchie 1962-1972
- Malcolm Kirk 1962-1973



Other Sydenham Bruce Trail Club Honour Roll Inductees

- Doug Metcalfe 1972-1987
- Sidney E. Pearce 1962-1998
- Dr. Cuyler Y Hauch 1964-1972
- Dr. D. Barry Thurston 1967-1988
- Isabel (Leming) East 1963-1986
- William Snel 1974-
- Frank Alwyn Holley 1968-1993
- W.C. "Curly" Harnden 1976-1996
- Audrey Ilene Snel 1974-1996
- Len Holley 1975-1996
- Nelson Maher 1965-2002
- Luise Metcalfe 1967-2002
- Bettilyn Berglund 1987-2002
- Gordon "Scotty" McCaffrey inducted 2005
- Chris Walker 2003-2007
- Ross McLean 2003 inducted 2007
- Cliff Keeling 1966-2015
- Ron Savage 1999 -
- Don Richards 1996-2018
- Robert Knapp 1970 -





THE SYDENHAM HIKER

Volume 1

November, 1968

No. 1

Hiking News

During 1968 four organized hikes were held by the Sydenham Club. On May 5th. some 32 persons hiked along the southerly edge of "The Glen". The morels were in evidence. June 23rd. - about 35 hikers walked in the Bruce's Caves area, east of Oxenden. The walk was not long but rugged as it proceeded to visit the series of caves, ascend the escarpment via a chimney and return to the starting point along the top of the cliff. Stan Latham's rope came in very usefully as an aid up the chimney. The hike was planned and led by two members of the Rover Scout Crew which looks after the section from Oxenden to Skinner Bluffs. Some time in the future it is hoped a full day hike may be organized to cover this most interesting section. On September 29th. the 3rd hike - Dodd's Hill Section - was organized on a new basis with a bus being provided by the Club. The experiment was a success with over 50 persons making the trip. Wild apples made good eating for the walkers. Hawthorn apples were also plentiful and a tasty treat. October 20th. was the largest - and wettest - adventure. Over 70 eager people boarded the two buses provided and, in spite of intermittent rain, over 60 of these proceeded to hike through the damp woods north-east of Walter's Falls. In spite of wet feet, spirits were high. Each hike was marked by observation and enjoyment of the many natural features which couldn't hide. About 75% or more of those on each hike have been young people from under six up. The Club feels that this is just as it should be and hope that the interest will continue. A lunch is provided by the Club at the end point of each hike. Our aim is to keep each hike about 2 to 4 miles in length so that there is time to go slowly and to see things without feeling pressed for time or over-taxing anyone.

Evidence that all parts of the Trail are being well used is seen from the fact that the Trail is really becoming a clearly defined path. It remains most important of course, that hikers stick to the Trail, do not leave signs of their passing other than footprints, and that full respect to private property is observed in every way. Now and again a section captain reports signs of cooking fires being lit. This should not be

and causes concern. Also heard are some stories of trespassing off the Trail to places where hikers are not welcome. Bruce Trailers must do everything in their power to maintain pleasant relationships with the landowners. Every offence makes it a little harder to maintain these relationships. You can help by spreading the word of the need to use the Trail properly.

Blantyre to Warton Crests

The first - and, to date, only - citizen of United States to win this valued crest is Mr. Stewart Moore of Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Moore was a former editor of some weekly newspapers in this area and frequently returns for visits. He is an ardent Trailer. Among other things he repairs spots on the Trail he finds in need of a bit of work. This is, in fact, a measure of all good Hikers. From the reports received we gather much useful information as the hikers mention things they feel to be highlites of their adventures and as they mention, as well, weaknesses which need correction. Perhaps, in the next news letter, some of their interesting and interested comments can be included.

Bruce Trail Association Annual Meeting.

The 6th. Annual Meeting was held at Wildwood Lodge, Red Bay on the week-end of October 5th. 1968. A large assembly from many parts of Ontario and from United States taxed the accommodations. The Sydenham Club was represented by seven members from Section Leaders to Landowners. Among the highlites was the report of the tremendous increase in interest and in membership. Membership fees enable the Association and the Clubs to keep operating. These fees showed a healthy increase of \$1500. All available funds will be needed to help establish campsites at approved spots when landowners give permission. So far the Sydenham section has established such sites only at existing, commercially operated spots. Some of our landowners generously allow overnight camping on their property by private arrangements and by special permission. We do not want to overdo this type of camping and hope, eventually, to succeed in establishing a few more properly established camping spots.

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THE SYDENHAM HIKER

NEWSLETTER OF SYDENHAM BRUCE TRAIL CLUB
SPRING, 1991

Above and Left : Hand drawn newsletter cover;

Below: A Hiker's Woe's ~ submitted by Frank Holley ~ Spring 1991



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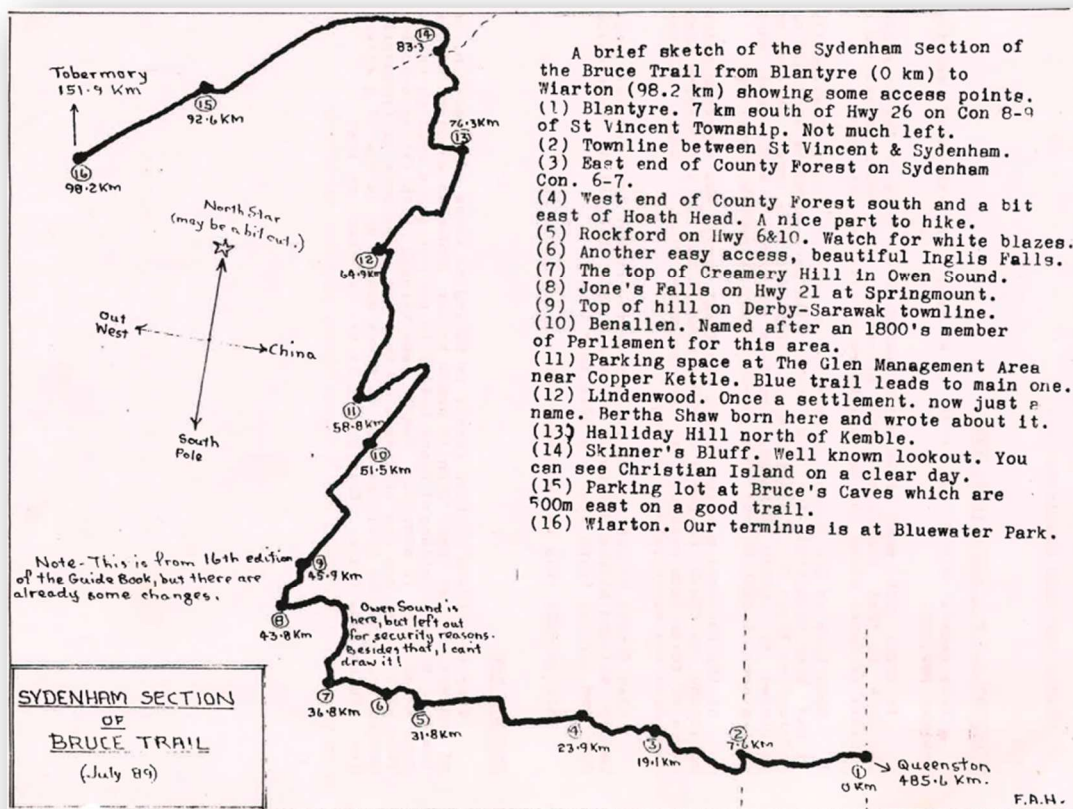
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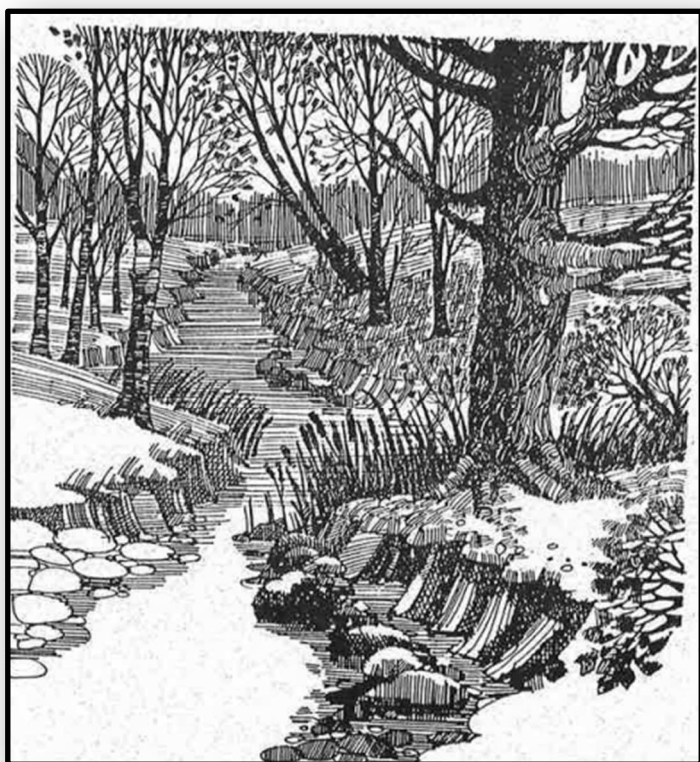
Left: Map published ~ Fall 1989.

Hand drawn and annotated by Frank Holley with the following introduction:

"Your co-editors confess freely to having no sense of direction or of connection at least when it comes to our Sydenham section of the Trail. So we challenged Frank Holley to put our whole section on one page and keep it simple. Frank came through with flying colours. This will be a map you will want to keep and refer back to frequently unless you know the Trail as well as Frank does. He is one of a select few. Thank you, Frank. This pulled it all together, at last."

Thanks to years of work with landowners and acquisitions the section has grown to 171km!!

Below: An Artist's sketch of Rocklyn Creek ~ Fall 1991



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Below: An excerpt from June—August 1995, biodiversity then and now such an important part of the work of the BTC

Creatures of the Trail.....

By John Ballard



THE TURKEY VULTURE

At this time of year, over much of the Bruce Trail we will observe turkey vultures soaring in wide circles. In flight they are among the most majestic of all birds.

Although they may not win any beauty contests, vultures perform a useful sanitation service. They clean up dead animals along the highways where animals struck by cars offer them a dependable food supply. This creature has evolved into "nature's garbage collector". The bald skin on the neck and head areas helps prevent feathers from becoming soiled as the vulture feeds. All vultures are meat eaters, but lack the strong curved talons of the hawks and owls. Their feet are weak so that it is impossible for them to pounce and kill. They usually feed on animals that are already dead; they do, however, eat some vegetation. When one bird descends to feed, others, always alert, arrive to share the feast. Turkey vultures are totally dependent on their sense of smell to locate food.

The turkey vulture is of the New World vulture family which include the California and Andes condors, black vultures and the king vulture all of which share a common ancestry with storks. The Old World vulture family include the vultures of Africa, Asia and Europe which descended from the same ancestor as eagles and hawks.

Turkey vultures do not build nests. They lay their eggs on the bare floor of caves or amongst rocks or cliffs. Usually two eggs are the norm and are laid between late March and the end of June. The young vultures (ugly but cute) hatch after about 38 days and will fly when they are about two months old.



WITH TRACY ON THE BRUCE TRAIL

As we live within sight of the Bruce Trail, about 1½ miles north of Jone's Falls, it is not surprising that when our little three year old Tracy asked to go for walks I took her on the trail. After walking about 20 miles, repeatedly going over the same part, we realized that there were possibilities for her doing the whole Sydenham section. She made that her goal. Tracy has completed the 65.1 miles about a month after her fifth birthday.

To any other Bruce Trailers who decide to take on a similar undertaking with their little ones, I wish them all the good luck and happy times we had. Although Tracy tries our patience sometimes at home, she was the most delightful little partner on the Bruce Trail. We were out 19 times, which would make the trips average about 3½ miles each, each one taking the whole of an afternoon. The longest stretch we did at one time was the 6.6 miles from Skinner's Bluff to Oxenden, which took us from 10 am. to 4 pm.

Tracy is the only one of our family to qualify for the Blantyre to Wiarton chevron, as the rest of us were either unable to go on certain portions or we had to be part of the transportation arrangements, driving around to the finishing point. I was with her most of the way, and have written up a little log of her trips.

She stuck her stick in every hole between Wiarton and Blantyre. She caught pollywogs, chased butterflies, and sat down and played with the little car she usually carried. And she made me smell flowers. There was not much we missed as we toddled along - the perfect way to travel the Bruce Trail.

I was reprimanded many times for such breaches of etiquette as stepping on her stick, walking on the wrong side, not letting her "through" to go in front, and for offering to help her over stiles. It has got so that I do not want to go on the Bruce Trail without Tracy, so if you see a big 'un and a little 'un going along sticking their sticks in holes and smelling flowers, give us a wave.

- Frank Holley.

- Some remarks from Tracy's Log

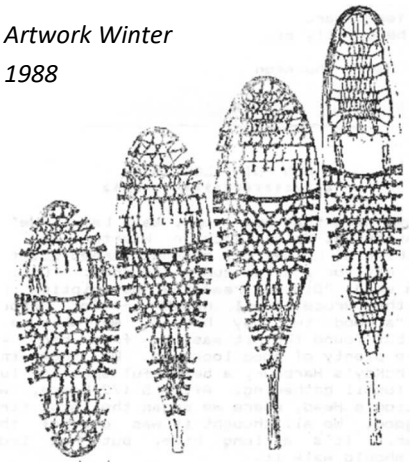
- "Watch out Daddy. Bee on Bruce Trail"
- "Bad Daddy. Step on Tracy's stick."
- "Tracy stuck in Mud."
- " Darn 'squitoes' ."
- "Daddy, Tracy slip in cow poo."
- "Tracy's legs betting sneepy."

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Children on the Trail

Left: an excerpt from October 1970. Tracy (nee Holley) is undoubtedly the youngest ever to complete the trail entirely on her own two feet, at the tender age of 5 years old!

Artwork Winter 1988



When the newsletter is late!

Below: from September 1972.

OF FINGERS & PIES

A tragedy has caught up with your editor -- too many pies and too few fingers. You see, when the idea was first proposed by Lloyd Annis some 5 years ago, the editor had an office, a secretary and full office equipment readily available. With the 10 nimble digits possessed by a competent secretary and with the editor's own array of ten arthritic digits there were enough fingers to fit all the pies. But, alas, that day has passed and now with only the same 10 arthritic digits of your editor there are just, sometimes, not enough fingers to fit all the pies and so there has been no June issue of this famous Sydenham Hiker. Sorry about that and hope you missed it. And, by the way, the "idea" mentioned above was the suggestion by Dr. Lloyd that we have some sort of news sheet of our own for the Sydenham B.T. Club.

And a further spot of trouble - we did intend a June, 1972 issue and, to that end had the last page prepared and addressed as a membership page and to our sorrow this page will now have to be soliciting membership renewals at this late date when, I hope, you have all renewed.



Sydenham's 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award

~ Ron Savage



This year, our Volunteer of the Year Award goes out to a husband-and-wife team.

Fran and Mike Murray/Turner look after the Bruce Trail between kilometres 8 and 9.9. It is a challenging section. It starts with a lot of vegetation to keep clear at the east end before entering a hardwood forest. The middle section has a long clearing with chest-high foliage that needs constant work to keep it clear. The path then follows a stream, sometimes forcing a reroute around flooded areas. Finally, the west section returns to chest-high wild hay and a permanent water-filled ditch.

Fran and Mike have done an amazing job keeping this path safe and open for our Bruce Trail hikers this year.

Congratulations, Fran and Mike – our 2023 Volunteers of the Year.

Sydenham Volunteer of the Year Award

This honour award began in 2010. Below a list of all the volunteers recognized since it's inception.

- 2010 Bob and Sheila Watson
- 2011 Dave and Joan Skelton
- 2012 Glendinning Family- Marsha, Ryan and Duncan
- 2013 Dave Sykes and Paul Dixon
- 2014 Suzanne Farla
- 2015 Ross Stager
- 2016 Paul Dixon
- 2017 Peter Harris
- 2018 David Forrest
- 2019 Paul Dixon
- 2022 Dan Ormsby
- 2023 Mike and Fran Murray/Turner

Edward Jones

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Thank You Volunteers





Colour photographs first appeared in 2009. Here are a few from that year, and some familiar faces! Recognize anyone?