

The Rattler



ISSUE #1 2015

President's Message

The community was saddened at the passing of Joan McIlraith. Joan was active in many volunteer clubs and provided great support to the PBTC and Don as he filled four jobs including President of our Club for many years. Our condolences to Don and his family.

Spring (at last)! The club has been active throughout the winter working on developing job descriptions and filling in the various official roles on the Board. You will see some advertisements for positions as we have not completely filled out the roster; please think about joining the Board. Our new Hike Coordinator has a great variety of hikes this year in addition to the traditional E2E. Even I will be leading a hike with John Grandy.

The AGM and Spruce up the Bruce work day are May 2 with May 3 available for more work or a 5.3 km hike around Boundary Bluffs and the main trail with members of the Board of Directors.

This will be a great time to see the various facets of our wonderful escarpment paradise. Maybe the daffodils will be in bloom as well as the trilliums. Details for all these events are available in the Rattler and on our website, which deserves a look at now and again. We have FAQs, notices and advice posted there.

The Board is going to discuss a service for visiting hikers. I experienced the hospitality of visitor service clubs while travelling in Japan and I wonder if members of the Club could help answer hiker's questions or ferry them to trailhead. We do a lot of this now via the web page and in reply to Emails, however it is not organized. If you have any thoughts please let us know.

I am looking forward to the AGM and a chance to meet with some of you at the Spruce up the Bruce BBQ.

Walter Brewer
President



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"August 14, 2015"

Rattler Advertising Rates:

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		(3 issues)
Business card:	\$20	\$60
1/4 page:	\$50	\$140
1/2 page:	\$80	\$225
Full Page:	\$130	\$375
Back Half Page:	\$100	\$300
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Photos on pages 1, 2, 3 & 17 and graphics page 8
by Jan MacKie

* * Sign Up * *

For The Rattler Online

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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: www.pbtc.ca

Hard Work of Past Trail Directors, Captains and Workers Enjoyed for Decades

50 years ago - 1965

In 1965, Lion's Head Bruce Trail Club confirmed its existence to the Bruce Trail Association and listed an executive of: President, Alan Fowler; Vice-President, Mrs. Byron Greig, and Secretary Treasurer, Connie Forbes. The club claimed responsibility for developing the Bruce Trail from Hope Bay to Dyer's Bay and expressed concern over whether it would be completed by 1967 as "very little help is available in the village and the distances to be covered on foot are very considerable." With the assistance of both Peninsula and non-Peninsula residents, they were successful in completing the trail on time.

30 years ago - 1985

Plans began for the Gun Point section of trail due to the initiative of Lion's Head residents Maitland Warder and Elaine Hunter. They proposed to Ministry of Natural Resources Property Manager Gord Cottrill that a trail built out to and around Gun Point, partly as an addition to the Bruce Trail and partly to allow access to the Lion's Head rock, spectacular shoreline scenery and several geological features. Using the MNR's detailed survey maps, Cottrill confirmed for the BTA that that there was room to develop a trail on MNR land around private lands. The trail was built the following year.

20 years ago - 1995

After a rejuvenation of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club in 1993, trail development and maintenance activities accelerated, with Ross McLean as PBTC Trail Director. The Club achieved a spectacular series of reroutes in 1995 and consequently won the Tom East Trail Development Award. Perhaps the most significant reroute that year was at Driftwood Cove. In 1987, the Trail was moved far inland to avoid conflict with a newly-built private residence. In 1995, the landowner suggested a return to the original route, deviating only to avoid the home. He also suggested a side trail to a remarkable sinkhole, previously unknown to Bruce Trail hikers. The side trail is still known as the Sinkhole Side Trail. On the May 1995 "Spruce up the Bruce" weekend, 100 volunteers spread

out on the Peninsula, with the largest group concentrating on Driftwood Cove. The route is a little different today, as in 1999, a further reroute occurred to maintain a safety margin around the skeet shooting range and to reduce hiker-horse meetings on a multi-use section of trail.

1995 also marked the beginning of the original construction of the Snake Trail boardwalk at Cape Croker, a 1600-foot white cedar boardwalk at the western end of Sydney Bay, with partial funding supplied by four of the Bruce Trail Clubs (Toronto, Iroquoia, Caledon Hills and Peninsula). Work continued over the years, and the boardwalk was complete in October 1998, with an official opening in 1999.

10 years ago - 2005

The efforts of the 2005 PBTC Trail Securement Committee resulted in the BTA's acquisition of four properties in the Hope Bay, Cape Dundas, Barrow Bay and White Bluff areas, which created new opportunities for trail development in 2005 and 2006.

Sources: Letter, Alan Fowler to R.N. Lowes, Oct. 18, 1965; 1984 correspondence between MNR and BTA; Trail Director AGM reports and articles in *The Rattler*, 1995 and 2005.

By Deb Sturdevant, PBTC Archivist



Joan McIlraith

We lost a dear wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, friend and neighbour this past February. Family, friends and neighbours have written tributes to Joan, describing their relationship and memories of her. As you read, you will find there is common thread through them all – Joan’s many talents, her giving heart and her indomitable spirit.

Her husband Don, and their children Sara-Jane and Ian, in their tribute to Joan, captured the essence of her:

“Joan was full of life right to the end. She enjoyed many hobbies and activities including rug hooking, stained glass, knitting, needlework, sewing, baking, badminton, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, gardening, crosswords, and board games.....the list goes on. She played important behind the scenes roles in The Bruce Trail, Bruce Peninsula Environment Group and the Lakewood Community. Most of all she loved doing practical things for others. Joan will be greatly missed by her many friends in “The Bruce”, in Hanover and in Sudbury (where she lived for thirty-five years.)”

Beth Gilhespy Remembers Joan

I was privileged to get to know Joan over the past ten years. She was kind, funny, warm and a straight-shooter, usually all at the same time. She always engaged my children in spirited conversation and they enjoyed her company very much. I remember her delight at gatherings, whether it was a hike or relaxing at a Peninsula home with board games and good cheer. She had an infectious sense of fun, and wasn’t afraid to mix in a bit of mischief. My children and I will dearly miss her.

Loretta Plomley Remembers Joan McIlraith ...

Having had the privilege of knowing Joan for over twelve years and an even greater privilege to feel her genuine friendship, let me describe Joan in one word: SELFLESS!



Joan was a dear Soul who was always doing for others whether it was volunteering for BPEG, Bruce Trail, Earthbound Gardens at Red Bay or Lakewood. This dear lady was deeply involved in her community in so many creative and delightful ways. Every one of these organizations will feel a tremendous loss of Joan’s great spirit, fun and camaraderie!

Joan had a beautiful gift of bringing laughter and fun to anyone who had the pleasure of being in her company. Whether it was rug hooking, hiking, playing a gameboard after one of her delicious suppers, kayaking or doing road clean up, there was always fun to be had. Joan’s wit and sense of humour made you feel right at home and on so many occasions the McIlraith home was your home!

As a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, friend and volunteer, Joan will be so deeply missed. This little package of vim and vigour, of hilarity and sincerity of love and fun has filled our lives not only with great memories and stories to tell, but with great inspiration and admiration for her generous spirit.

Thank you Joan for being your beautifully unique and delightful self! We will miss you dear friend ... we will miss you deeply.

Remembering Joan by Donna Baker

Joan was a dear friend. I loved her sense of fun, her thoughtfulness of others, her boundless energy and agility, her ability to express what she felt, her dedication to her family and her love of nature. Examples of these are many.

I remember her kicking up her heels to some music at one of the early Hike Festivals where she was helping with registration. She loved to hike, ski, snowshoe and kayak. Joan loved crafts of all kinds: examples are stained glass works, large and small; knitted sweaters, socks and mitts and rug hooking. She sewed curtains for her house, and in her early years worked as a seamstress. Her painted rocks are found along her driveway and in her garden. She created many pieces as gifts for Bruce Peninsula Environment Group presenters and Bruce Trail volunteers and her friends. Most recently while recovering in Wiarton hospital, she made hooked hot pot pads as gifts for the retiring BPEG board members. Joan was very much a behind the scenes worker as you can tell and was always willing to help out; she was a very generous and thoughtful woman.

I do not remember my first meeting with Joan but I feel like she has been my friend forever. Joan was an excellent cook but she loved to go out to a restaurant for supper occasionally so often an impromptu phone call would be made and the four of us would meet at a local restaurant. On the last such dinner we had together at Marydale's, she commented that we had the same haircut!

Dee Goldstein reminded me of the hike the three of us took along the shore at Killarney on one of our kayaking trips. There was no trail as we walked over and around the beautiful rocks. It soon became apparent that we would have to remove our boots and even pants to keep them clean and dry while we crossed a swampy area shortcut back to the camp, Joan being determined not to turn back.



*Stained glass angel
gift made by Joan*

My Memories of Joan by Kathy Orr

I didn't realize it but Joan came into my life in 1961. She was a teacher for one year at a one room schoolhouse in West Luther Township that my brother attended. Flash forward to an evening at badminton in Lion's Head in 2003. Joan handed me a piece of paper with about six names on it, my brother being the first followed by others who attended the old schoolhouse. How would my friend Joan McIlraith know these people? Joan was Miss Bluhm, my brother's teacher.

In 2008 my brother was stricken with a serious debilitating illness. No matter when or where I saw Joan she always asked, "How is your brother?" And I saw Joan a lot, either in our kayaks, on our snowshoes or somewhere on the trail. Everyone knew when Joan was around, we would tease her, "Use your inside voice". I loved her spirit. When kayaking she always had to see what was on the other side of the beaver dam, when hiking she always had a map. Joan loved maps. And it never failed she would question, "What happens if we go this way?"

Joan had the most generous heart. As I look around my home I see stained glass pieces she made, house plants she gave. Every Christmas for the last number of years I would find a container in my mailbox filled with homemade chocolate peanut butter balls. There would be no note but I knew who they were from.

When Joan returned from Italy in October our visits were more frequently telephone visits. I treasure the sound of her gentle, "Bye bye".

The last time I saw Joan we did Facetime, a new experience for her. She was so excited, wanting to Facetime with her granddaughter Kate.

We both enjoyed the book *Wild* and we promised a "date" to see the movie when it came to Owen Sound. Sadly, Joan passed away before the movie got there but when I do see it I'll visualize Joan sitting beside me making comments about all the bad decisions this stupid woman made.

Good bye my friend, I miss you!



President's Choice

Loop Hike - Spirit Rock Conservation Area

Lake View, Circular Staircase, Ruined Mansion, Native Lore, Big Gopher

I received a recommendation to profile this hike because it has some interesting features and it is easy to access. As with many of the hikes in our section, the views are magnificent with a chance to walk along the water's edge and along the top of the escarpment on the same loop.

For ease of access just start in the Blue Water Park parking lot near the Wiarnton dock where you will find the Big Gopher Wiarnton Willie statue. Begin with nice stroll along the beach road and into the woods at the bottom of the escarpment – plenty of places to dabble in the water or skip stones. Now you are treated to an engineering marvel – the spiral staircase; it is certainly the quickest way to achieve the top of the escarpment and to get yet another panoramic view.

Take some time to wander over to the 'Corran', a late 1800's mansion which was once a beautiful seventeen room stone mansion overlooking Colpoy's Bay constructed and owned by Hester and Alexander McNeil. The mansion was destroyed by a fire and later purchased by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority in 1976. I like to ponder the social life at that time and the luxury that this house must have afforded which was in such a contrast to the pioneer's life.

http://public.greysauble.on.ca/ca_lands/spiritrock.html

The return route is a pretty stroll back along the upper side trails that pass the "Spirit Rock" where you can read the story of young love. The connection to the Wiarnton Side trail is just around the corner – follow it back to town and your car. BTW if you have time zip over to Rural Rocks ST – another treasure in the southern part of our club.

We would like to share your ideas of a great hike.
Please send in write up to pbtcrattler@gmail.com and
we will feature it in the President's Choice section
(I get to choose – so it's my choice).

Thanks and have fun.

Walter



*Ruined Mansion
at Spirit Rock
Conservation
Area*



Ann Johnston **519-795-7064**

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MOUNTAIN TROUT CAMP

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MONITORING SPECIES AT RISK

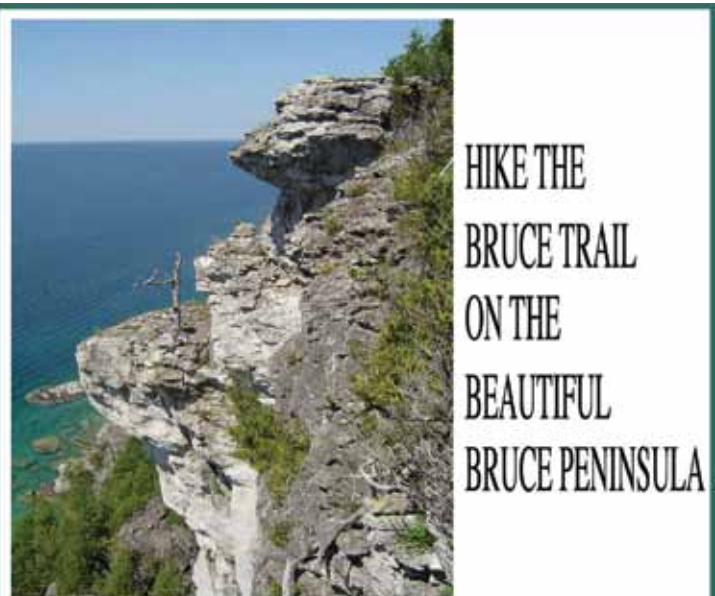
The Bruce Trail Conservancy is looking for citizen scientists to help us better understand the diversity, distribution and population sizes of at-risk bird species on the Niagara Escarpment. Whether you are a trained ornithologist, birding enthusiast, or casual observer, your sightings can help. Monitoring species at risk (SAR), by providing data on where a species was sighted, the number of individuals, and observations of breeding behaviour, contributes valuable information that can be used towards species recovery and habitat management planning. The submission of SAR observations within the Bruce Trail corridor stands to contribute valuable insights on species numbers and distribution not only for the BTC, but also at the provincial, national, and even international level. Look for the new “Citizen Science” section under the “Volunteer” heading on the main Bruce Trail website for more information.

Let’s Make It Happen

This summer, some members of the Northern Bruce Peninsula will be working to reduce our use of plastic by encouraging EVERYONE to use refillable water bottles in order to stem the tide of plastics that end up in our landfill sites. By not buying single use plastic water bottles we can help to preserve our environment. We will be working to encourage local businesses and the Municipality to make it easier for visitors to have better access to drinking water to refill their personal refillable water bottles. Talk to your friends and visitors about this. It’s a simple way to take action on a vital environmental issue. *Thanks - Judi MacLeod & Jan MacKie*



Springtime at Boudary Bluffs



The Home-To-Home Bed & Breakfast Network is a well organized accommodation package which allows you to hike on comfortable day hikes from B&B to B&B. For booking and information please see our website: Home-To-Home Bed & Breakfast Network www.hometohomenetwork.ca

**A Coveney's Side Trail Sketch and Hike - Leaders: Kristina Maus, 519-270-9062 or maus@highspeedfx.net or www.kristinamaus.com
Julie Heinrichs: cedargrovecfarmlh@hotmail.com**

DATE	TIME	NAME AND WHERE TO MEET	DOD	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Monday, April 27	9:00 a.m.	Crooked Toe Road Parking in Cape Croker. (Km 22.9 In Edition 28) Pack a lunch and snacks and we'll stop and eat along the way. Please pre-register for this hike so that if the weather is inclement, we can contact you with information about the raindate, Tuesday, April 28th.	Moderate to strenuous terrain, and at a moderate pace.	5 - 6 km	We will walk up Crooked Toe Road, follow the main trail with a few climbs to a lookout over the forest, descend into the forest, make our way to Coveney's Road, climb the hill to Coveney Road parking and complete a loop back to Crooked Toe Parking, passing by McIver Pond on our way back. We will stop three or four times to sketch at various places along the way. Participants are asked to bring their own art materials, whether it be drawing or painting. A small cushion or a folding stool would be handy. No drawing experience is required, just a willingness to put pencil or pen to paper, or bring your camera. This is mostly non-instructional but if you wish, Julie and Kristina will provide starters if desired, and of course, support any and all drawing efforts. This event is designed to encourage the development of great observation skills and enjoy a leisurely tour of the Trail!

**President's Choice Hike - Peninsula Bruce Trail Club - Leaders: Walter Brewer: walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca
and John Grandy, contact johncgrandy@gmail.com.**

Sunday May 3	9:00 a.m.	Meeting place - Pit Road parking area. Take Bruce Road 9 north from Wiarion to Waugh's Road. Follow Waugh's Road east to the end, then left onto Pit Road. Parking on right side of road.	Rocky terrain, moderate pace.	5.3 km loop	We will explore the beautiful Boundary Bluffs property which is owned by the Bruce Trail Conservancy, then at the top of the escarpment follow Hart's Tongue Side Trail and return via the Main Trail along Sydney Bay Bluff. With luck we'll see some spring flowers. Trail is likely to be wet at the start, wear waterproof boots.
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Jones Bluff Hike - Leader: John Grandy, contact johncgrandy@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 13	9:00 a.m.	Parking on Boundary Road. Take Bruce Road 9 north from Wiarion to Purple Valley Road. Follow Purple Valley Road east and north, then turn right (east) onto Coveney's Road. Follow this road right onto Port Elgin Road, then turn left (north) onto Boundary Road. Look for parking on the right at the crest of the hill.	Moderate terrain, moderate pace.	13 km	We will hike through two very different environments. Firstly, atop the escarpment following beautiful Jones Bluff. We will return along the McIver Side Trail where we should have great birdwatching opportunities
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Forty Hills Side Trail Hike - Peninsula Bruce Trail Club - Leader: John Grandy, contact johncgrandy@gmail.com.

Saturday July 11	9:00 a.m.	BTC parking lot on Forty Hills Road. From Highway 6 just north of Lion's Head, turn right on Caudle Sideroad, follow this to the end. Turn right (south) on Forty Hills Road. Look for Bruce Trail parking lot on the left side of the road.	Moderate terrain, moderate pace.	10 km	We will explore spectacular White Bluff, returning along two of our lesser-used side trails, Forty Hills Side Trail and Whippoorwill Side Trail.
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2015 Spring and Summer Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Easy Walks - Contact Elaine Wasserman 519-795-7407 - (see late summer walks page 12)

DATE	TIME	NAME AND WHERE TO MEET	DOD	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Tuesday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	Hope Bay Nature Reserve, Provincial Park. From County Road 9, turn east on Hopeness Road and south on Cathedral Road	Easy	3 km	A profusion of trout lillies, red and white trilliums, violets, possibly hepatica and spring beauty. In the past we have seen blue cohosh, cut-leaved toothwort, false mitrewort, squirrel corn, dutchman's breeches, virginia waterleaf in abundance.
Tuesday, May 26	11:00 a.m.	FON Alvar and Crane River. Parking on west side of Hwy 6, just north of Dyer's Bay Road	Easy	2 km	The alvar features rare lakeside daisies, dwarf lake irises, polygala, seneca snake root and starry false solomon seal. At Crane River rest spot, nodding trilliums, bulblet, maiden hair spleenwort ferns.
Tuesday, June 9	11:00 a.m.	Bard Side Trail Loop. Hwy 6 to Lindsay Road 5. Left on East Road, right on Cape Chin North Road. Watch for white blazes on the right and park where blazes turn right, at the Cape Chin Connection sign.	Easy	3 km	This is a lovely loop, partly along the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay. White polygala are abundant here.
Tuesday, June 30	11:00 a.m.	Showy ladyslippers and Petrel Point. Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery on Cemetery Road off Hwy 6.	Easy	2 km	First walking into the ANSI-protected cemetery bog, we will continue at Petrel Point where round-leaved and slender-leaved sundew, bog orchid, lobelia, loesel's twayblade, cotton grass, indian plantain, rue and sweet gale can be observed off the boardwalk.
Tuesday, July 14	11:00 a.m.	Singing Sands Amble. Parking Lot at Singing Sands National Park, Dorcas Bay Road, west off Hwy 6.	Easy	3 km	First walking the boardwalk, we will see a profusion of pitcher plants, also sticky tofieldia, lobelia, possibly rose pogonia, grass pinks and spotted coral root. Then along a woody walkway: hills thistle, pipsissewa, purple fringed orchid. Returning along Lake Huron: calamint, sundews, bladderwort and butterwort.

Birding Hike - Peninsula Bruce Trail Club - Leaders: Ray and Marlene Rothenbury - 519-795-7483 or mrothenbury@gmail.com

Wednesday May 13	9:00 a.m.	Municipal Parking Area at the top of Dyer's Bay Hill. From Hwy. 6, turn east onto Dyer's Bay Road to the T-junction stop sign. Continue right on Dyer's Bay Road (paved). Stay on the paved road at the top of the hill. A large sign will direct you to the Municipal Parking Lot on the left. We will carpool from there.	Easy	10 km	We will drive to 5 or 6 prime birding spots in the area, including Warder Ranch on Crane Lake Road. At each spot, we will park and walk slowly, looking for sightings. We then return to our cars and proceed to the next spot. We usually finish about 2:30 p.m. Bring clothing appropriate for the weather, good walking shoes, water, snacks, and lunch. We usually eat lunch at the Warder Ranch. Bring binoculars if you have them; scopes are welcome too!
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PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB END TO ENDS - SPRING 2015 DUFFERIN HIGHLANDS and CALEDON
(for information email susan_allen@sympatico.ca)

DATE and SECTION	MEETING TIME	WHERE TO MEET Bruce Trail Referenced 28	DISTANCE	PACE AND TERRAIN	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Tues May 5 Dufferin	10:00 AM	Map 20 km 18.7	18.7 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Mono Cliffs Provincial Park, ponds, boardwalks, switchbacks, steel viewing platform, stairs to interpretive plaques, old growth cedar and ferns, marshy valley, bridges and a kame
Tues May 12 Dufferin	10:00 AM	Map 20 km 34.9	16.2 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Promises of jewel weed turning the slopes a brilliant emerald green, views east over the Boyne Valley, and a lookout
Tues May 19 Dufferin	10:00 AM	Map 21 km 55.8	21.4 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet near end point for today's hike at Lavendar Cemetary and carpool to start. Old Kilgorie School, Dufferin Light and Power Co. ruins, Pine River fishing pond, hamlet of Black Bank, views
Tues May 26 Caledon	10:00 AM	Map 14 km 18.3	18.3 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Cheltenham Badlands, Forks of the Credit, hamlet of Brimstone, Catatract Falls, and the ruins of the Hydro Station
Tues June 2 Caledon	10:00 AM	Map 16 km 33.8	15.5 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Paris Moraine, views over the Oakridges Moraine
Tues June 9 Caledon	10:00 AM	Map 18 km 46.6	12.8 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Hike through The Dingle, hiker's rest bench with vistas to the east and an interpretive display
Tues June 16 Caledon	10:00 AM	Map 18 km 61.6	15.0 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Pine plantation, Cedar Highlands property, Sally's Pinnacle, Dave's Pinnacle, Hockley Valley Resort property, switchbacks
Tues June 23 Caledon	10:00 AM	Map 19 km 72.3	10.7 KM	Medium Pace with Moderate to Strenuous Terrain	Meet at end point for today's hike and carpool to start. Hockley Valley Nature Reserve, hiker's rest bench, dry kettle, mixed hardwood, escarpment descent via some crevices and a series of steps

Reeds Dump Hike - Peninsula Bruce Trail Club - Leader: Nancy Ince, contact nancyince@gmail.com.

DATE	TIME	NAME AND WHERE TO MEET	DOD	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Saturday July 25	9:30 a.m.	We will meet at the Richardson Side Trail on Forty Hills Road. From Highway 6, turn east at Ferndale and come to the stop sign. Turn north into Lion's Head and continue through the village straight up the road. You will come over Bannister Hill and continue north along Isthmus Bay. At the north end of Isthmus Bay, the road will swing to the left where it becomes Forty Hills Road. One half kilometer along, the road will swing to the right. Just around this corner, across from a farm field, there is the Bruce Trail Parking Lot. Coming from the north, turn east onto Caudle Sideroad. At the stop sign, turn south (right) and come down nearly one km to the parking lot which will be on your left.	Moderate terrain, moderate pace.	10 km	This hike will take us along the top of the escarpment offering some stunning views, along with a good variety of terrain. We will have lunch down on the shore and return to the parking lot through forest and logging road. Sturdy footwear is a must!! Please be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks and your lunch. This hike will be approximately three - four hours in length, which will include our lunch stop. Don't forget sunscreen and insect repellent, as well as a good sun hat.

2015 Spring and Summer Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Easy Walks - Contact Elaine Wasserman 519-795-7407

Tuesday, August 18	11:00 a.m.	White Bluff Nature Reserve. From Hwy 6, east on Lindsay Road 5, north on East Road, then east on Cape Chin South Road. At the first T- junction, turn left and at the 2nd junction, turn right.	Easy	4 km	A pleasant loop along an old logging road, then along the Georgian Bay shore. On our way back, through a wooded area, we should see rattlesnake plantain and indian pipe, spotted knapweed and star thistle.
Tuesday, September 15	11:00 a.m.	Jackson's Cove Lookout. Bruce County Road 9, east on Hopeness Road. Turn right on Jackson's Cove Road and park at the top of the hill.	Moderate	5 km	First walking along the escarpment, we loop back through deciduous forest where christmas, crested shield, holly and marginal ferns are a delight.
Tuesday, October 20	11:00 a.m.	Devil's Monument and Minhinnick Side Trail. From Hwy 6, east on Lindsay Road 5, north on East Road, then east on Cape Chin North Road and follow it to Borchardt Road at the top of the escarpment. Park at the end of Borchardt Road.	Strenuous	8 km	A lovely walk along the escarpment. Lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through forest.

Warton Area Hike with a Surprise - Leader: Harriet Nixon, 519-534-0426 harrietnixon@bmts.com

Wednesday Sept. 9	10:00 a.m.	Train Station, Bluewater Park, Warton	Normal pace, 1 vertical climb.	7 km	We will be hiking from town to the airport then crossing the street to Caframo. Bring a lunch. The hike will be approximately 4 hours. Please RSVP.
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The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Nominating Committee

is inviting interested volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors for 2015 - 2016.

A candidate must be...

- A member of the Peninsula Club or be willing to join.
 - Have recognized skills for particular facet of board work or be willing to learn.
 - Supportive of the purposes and values of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
 - Available to meet during the week, days or evenings, or on weekends.
- Willing to travel to board meetings without reimbursement.
- Willing to have a 1 year term minimum on the Board and attend all meetings.
 - Forward thinking, proactive, and a team worker.

Refer to the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club webpage www.pbtc.ca for additional details or email contactbrucetrail@gmail.com

Candidates are also welcome to visit a board meeting.

Director at Large: Directors with no specific responsibilities. It is expected that Directors at Large will move on to specific portfolios after their first year. Ideally will work with the Director whose portfolio they will assume. May be called on by the President to undertake special duties as needs arise. Participates in Board's deliberations and decisions in matters of policy, finance and advocacy.

Publicity: Searches out opportunities and responds to requests to promote the Club for members and the community at large. Liaises with the Webmaster to ensure that the website is current. Places ads and articles in local newspapers to maintain the profile of the PBTC in the community. Identifies needs/opportunities for articles or presentations and brings them to the appropriate Board member/committee. Reports to the Board at their meetings.

* * * * *



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Reflections of a New Land Steward

by Ken Clark

After completing our property's end of year report I reflected on what land stewardship means to me. For some, land stewardship seems perhaps an arcane but mysterious pastime. In reality it is a critical and practical management of a piece of land over time and of course is important to the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. BTC now acts as steward of thousands of acres of land all along the escarpment. It gives one a chance to regularly walk and observe a beautiful pristine landscape, learn new skills such as the use of GPS technology, meet new people and in my case, return to the halcyon days of my youth. The property which my neighbour (Kenn Lendrum) and I manage is part of the newly acquired Malcolm Bluff Shores property. This is located at the end of Mallory Beach Road where we cottaged as a family from 1960 to 2006. I remember roaming this beautiful area in the fall as a ten year old and hearing talk of a new trail being marked on the escarpment behind our cottage by Ron Gatis!

My first exposure to land stewardship came at a well organized workshop at David Clipsham's home. David is lead supervisor of this set of properties. Each of us received a comprehensive background on land stewardship as well as a binder detailing almost everything we would need to know on the subject. Don McIlraith and Grant Erhardt led the informative presentation. A subsequent meeting involved a get-together with BTC staff biologist and stewardship experts, Brian Popelier and Adam Brylowski who were a part of creating the management plan for the Malcolm Bluff Shores property. Land stewardship

entails regular site visits to observe such things as changing ecology-invasive species, possible untoward activities, marking original survey stakes and looking out for signs of historical-cultural interest. A report is completed after each visit which forms part of the record for all BTC owned or managed lands.

After a "challenging" but critical workshop with Don McIlraith on the use of GPS, Kenn and I set off into the wilds unsure of whether we might emerge safely and at the appointed location! The training must have been solid as we had a marvelous first visit with few hitches.

On each visit, Kenn and I typically stop at a half way promontory overlooking Colpoys Bay for lunch and a chance to rest and chat. If you have not been on this part of the trail, you are missing a delightful landscape balancing the escarpment, the blue waters of Georgian Bay and the mixed ecology of this part of the Bruce. Both of us had careers in business and a life time of planning, strategy building forecasting and "working to plan". What we often marvel at in this context is how well BTC has been managed over half a century and this is no mean feat for any organization. We find great personal enjoyment in what we have learned and what we experience on every visit as each one is different. I personally think of my days as a young boy and how today while older and hopefully wiser I am able to give back to the environment ... how lucky am I!

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ATTENTION

Do you enjoy writing? Do you enjoy people and the telling of stories?
We are seeking someone to write our Profiles for upcoming editions of The Rattler.
If you are interested or have any questions please send a message to pbtcraattler@gmail.com

PENINSULA CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Over the past year our club welcomed twenty-four new members taking our total membership up four percent to 669 people. This trend was experienced in most clubs and BTC in total added one percent to its membership of 8,724. Despite the fact that BTC is now fifty years old, that it continues to experience net growth is a marvelous achievement. Our club's net growth of twenty-four members was amongst the highest of all nine clubs, something we can be proud of. The Board of the Peninsula Club heartily welcomes our new members and urges them to enjoy our beautiful trails and to become more involved on a volunteer basis with the many activities undertaken throughout the year.

Design A Badge Competition

Sharpen up your creative skills and design a new badge for the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's 2016 "Peninsula Blue" hike series. This series will include all our side trails and will be conducted over the course of 2016. The badge will be awarded on the completion of all the hikes in the series.

Submit your prize design to the hike coordinator at bridgetjaneross@gmail.com

by November 1 for selection by the board at their December meeting.

Please submit your design as a jpeg. A prize (to be determined) will be awarded for the winning design.



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(cont'd from page 5)

Grace Telfer Remembers Joan

First, Joan always remembered my birthday and would bring a b-day card that kayak Thursday.

I tried to remember her's too which was the next week and Don's the day after mine. One week she even brought a muffin with a candle. Very thoughtful!

The one time we were at Joan and Don's for a kayak planning meeting Joan had made fiddlehead soup. Hmmm ... it was very good.

Joan gave me a box full of thyme plants which I planted on our septic bed. They have spread over a large area and I think of Joan every time I am out walking on the bed with the aroma of fresh thyme coming from under my feet or when I slip out to snip some off for cooking.

And we all can remember Joan with her bare feet up on the deck of the kayak, she usually took off her shoes in the boat.

John and Judy Appleton Remembering Joan

Our first recollection of Joan & Don was when sailing in the North Channel we pulled into the marina of the pretty little town of Kagawong on Manitoulin Island. We wanted to meet the couple who ran the marina every summer, as their son was a good friend of our daughter at University. As the conversation proceeded we discovered they were residents of Sudbury and on learning that we lived on the Bruce they told us of their good friends the McIlraiths who had recently moved from Sudbury. Not much later we met Don and Joan and made the connection and became friends from then on. Our paths have crossed ever since, primarily with our involvement in the Bruce Trail with hiking and volunteering, later kayaking, badminton, pickleball and the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group. Twice a year we organised a road cleanup for BPEG for ten years and without fail Joan and Don would be in attendance doing the dirtiest of jobs. One of our favorite pictures of Joan is in her rubber boots knee high in glass in a garbage dumpster sorting out the bottles, determined that all beer and wine bottles would not go out with the dumpster.

She wanted to donate every ten cents that she could find towards BPEG. Regrettably we were not as dedicated to the road clean up for the Bruce Trail that she and Don organised with their usual fervour for a similar number of years. Joan entered into everything with enthusiasm and energy, whether it was diving across the badminton court to retrieve an almost impossible shot or coaxing everyone back into their kayaks after a lazy lunch, or making a mass of delicious muffins and cookies for a Bruce Trail or BPEG meeting. She never stopped moving, she packed so much into her relatively short life, it was an honor to have known her, she will be missed.

Donna Dilschneider Remembers Joan

Joan was my next door neighbour, the best anyone could wish for, and a wonderful friend. From the day I arrived in Lakewood around thirteen years ago, she made me feel welcome and pushed me into getting involved in the community. She was totally open and forthright and unpretentious. And funny. She would frequently pop in unannounced, plunk down in a nearby chair or plop cross-legged onto the floor if she felt like it, for a little visit and a chat.

Sometimes she would tell you about a dream she'd had. Having to listen to someone else's dreams can be pretty boring, but not so Joan's. Hers were truly interesting and weird.

Joan loved to go "stalking the wild asparagus" so to speak. She knew where the best fiddleheads, the leeks, the wild grapes, the chokecherries, and other wild delectables were, and she would share them. She loved making things and giving them away. Going on a hike with her was an adventure. She would crawl into caves, scamper down sink holes, or disappear over ridges, sometimes to return bearing a puffball or morels.

She had a childlike fascination with all creatures, great and small. She would pick up snakes, salamanders, frogs, turtles, all kinds of critters that I would be too squeamish to touch. Once she chased down and rescued a garter snake that my cat had brought into my house.

Joan lived life to the hilt. How we will miss her!

Remembering Joan by Jim Kuellmer

Joan was a faithful member of the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group often working behind the scenes managing the snacks roster, coffee and tea, grocery tapes rebates and either purchasing or making herself the gifts presented to speakers. She was always very fair and if you managed to raise her ire, you can be sure that you deserved it. While unafraid to be in the spotlight, her preference was not to be there. Her colorful wit will be missed.

Marlene Rothenbury Remembers Joan McIlraith

I write this with sadness and feeling of personal and community loss, softened with warm memories of a woman blessed with an open and giving heart and an intuitive ability to create anything she put her mind and hands to.

I remember Joan as warm, caring, capable, independent and unassuming, despite all of her many talents. Joan had a true sense of herself and she was always true to her own spirit. No challenge would escape her. One standout for me was the

moveable shade drapes she had over her high rake head windows in her home. I commented at how they looked so attractive and functional, thinking they were custom designed. Well, I was wrong. Joan, in her quiet way, told me she had designed and created them to be opened or closed on those windows so high, easily from the floor. That set the tone for my admiration of a talented lady.

I look around one particular room in my house, and see the stained glass kayaks hanging in my window and the tiny wooden bird house on my mantle ... all gifts from Joan and her very warm heart. We talked on the phone after she and Don returned from Italy. I mentioned the gifts I see every day. In her usual, practical, down to earth way, she told me "you should be decluttering there girl". I laughed and told her I have, several times, and they always made the cut!!

As she always did with family, friends, and neighbours ... she always made the cut ... she was always there. I'll miss her presence and calm friendship.





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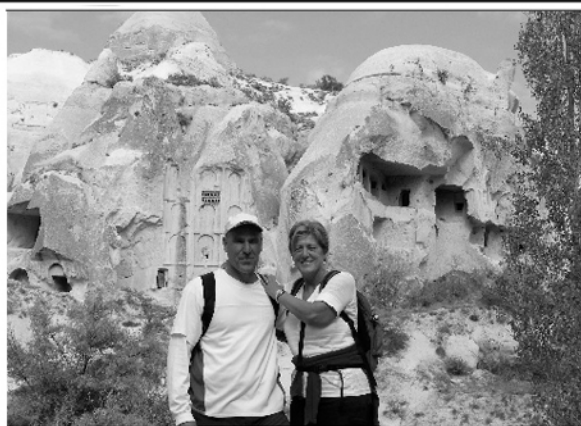
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September 12 to 25, 2015

Spend a week exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range. Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps.

From the Sacred Valley, journey south to Lake Titicaca for hikes on Uros, Amantani and Taquile islands.

**Do not to delay in making your reservation.
Inca permits must be booked now to ensure we get into Machu Picchu on our desired date!**



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October 17 to 28, 2015

Steeped in tradition and a masterpiece of nature, Turkey will impress you. With more ancient ruins than Greece or Italy, Turkey lets you get up close to living history.

Beginning on the South Aegean, visit famous Ephesus and hike on the Dilek Peninsula. Then head inland to hike in Cappadocia with its secret frescoed churches, underground cities and volcanic tuff sculpted into fairy chimneys.

Conclude in Istanbul to visit the Blue Mosque, the Aya Sofia and shop the bazaars.

This trip is more than halfway sold through already!

Spruce up the Bruce/Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 2015

"Spruce up the Bruce" helpers wanted and appreciated! Come and join our dedicated group of volunteers who keep the trails clear and the BTC managed land secure. Our trail workers come in all sizes and abilities.

During "Spruce up the Bruce" you are invited to participate in the diverse and rewarding activities that keep our section the jewel in the crown of the Bruce Trail. Contact us at: trailreportsbptc@gmail.com or Walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca for job details and we will get back to you.

Annual General Meeting, Saturday, May 2, 2015

We are planning a fun event around the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday evening. Your executive is working to make this a meaningful event so please join us on May 2 at Summer House, Miller Lake.

BBQ at 4:00 – 6:00 pm and AGM 6:30 – 7:15 pm. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided but you should bring your favourite beverage. If you can bring a salad or dessert it would be much appreciated.

Please make every effort to attend both, as they have both been proven to be popular events and great opportunities to meet old friends, make new acquaintances.

In order to help you stay up to date and participate, we are going to announce details and post the AGM reports on our webpage at www.pbtc.ca in April.

All are welcome. Contact us at Walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca for details and we will get back to you.



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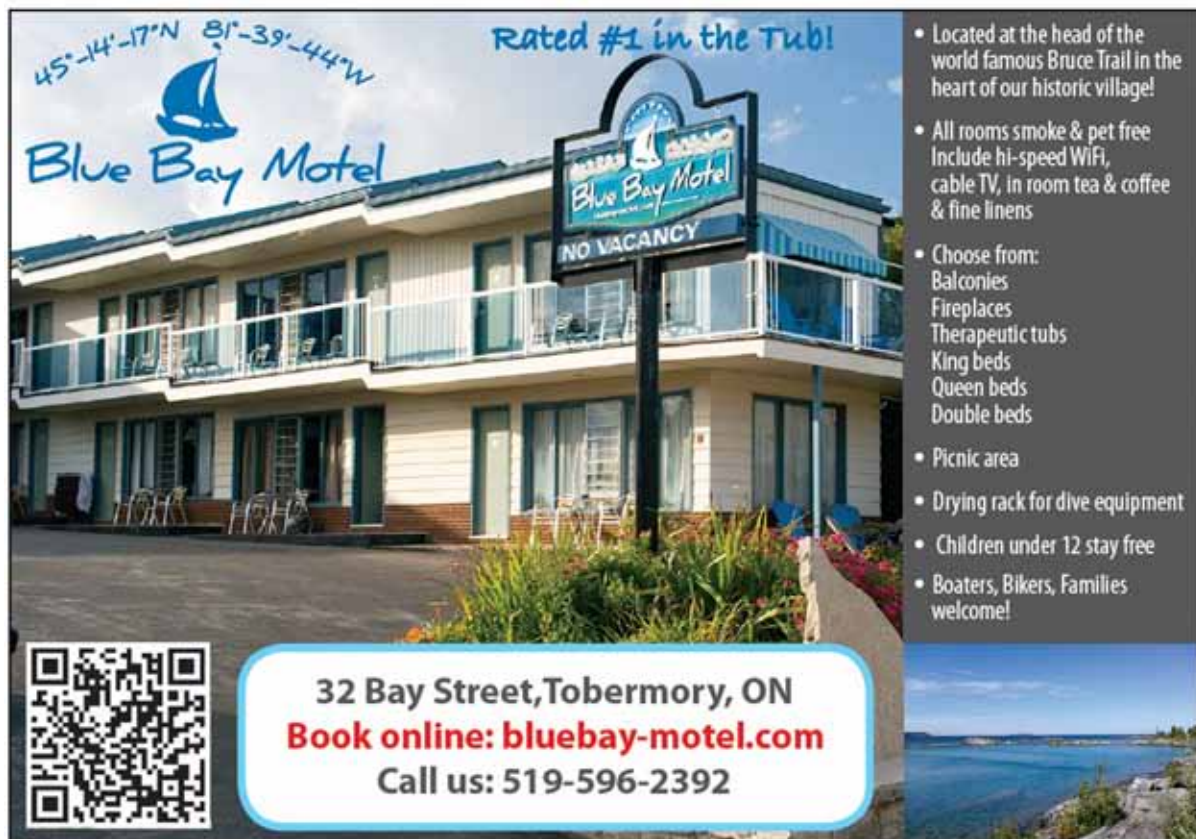
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