

The Rattler



ISSUE #1 2017

President's Message

This an exciting and busy time for the BTC and your club. The final BTC 50th Anniversary event will be held in Tobermory on June 10th and you are invited! The preparation within the club has been going on since last year starting with the renewal of the website so we could get more collaborative input. That has been a great success and we have normal information sections on hiking and getting around the club services as well as a blog and a special section for the 50th Anniversary where stories about the trail and the people who built it will be featured all year.

Our Communications Team of Marianne Williams and Susan Allen have arranged for the new site and the coordination of the material that will go into it and The Rattler and Facebook. However, behind all this is our remarkable Archivist, Deb Sturdevant who has spent two years organizing archival material so that it can be used by many of us. See her story of the beginning of the club, it was not as simple as you would think. The official Peninsula Club name for the complete section did not come into being until the 1980s!

Hikes! Yikes! There are a bunch of ways to get a badge and to do your E2E, you could do it twice! See the notices and web page for details. There are Bus Hikes, Baton relay hikes and traditional hikes as well as the BTC 50 K challenge with yet another badge.

The Rattler team had to work really hard on this edition so that we could cram in all the notices and stories. Great work folks!

Our AGM is May 13th after we enjoy a day of trail preparation on Spruce up the Bruce Day, a tradition started by the southern clubs that supported the north back in the '80s when there were not enough volunteers to maintain our section (see what you can learn from the archives!). If you are a Captain or a Land Steward, please try to get on the land to enjoy it and clean it up or the visitors that are coming.

If you are member or land owner near the trail please join us at Summerhouse Park, Miller Lake for the AGM and say hello.

Please enjoy the various stories and hikes available this year and particularly enjoy getting out to see the Peninsula from the Bruce Trail, it is a gift from pioneers and trail builders.

Walter Brewer

President PBTC

***Wild Apple Trees at Jan & Jim's Land
by Cornelia Peckart***

(see details pg 19)



Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

P.O. Box 1087,

Warton, ON

N0H 2T0

www.pbtc.ca

pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

Contact Ken Clark

Telephone: 519-270-7644

klclark5@hotmail.com

Bruce Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 857

Hamilton, ON

L8N 3N9

www.bruce-trail.org

info@bruce-trail.org

Telephone: 800-665-4453

Telephone: 905-529-6821

Fax: 905-529-6832

Newsletter Editors:

Content : Kathryn Orr

Julie Heinrichs

Layout: Jan MacKie

Please send us your stories:

pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

"August 7, 2017"

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Contact: Mike Marshall

Email: marshland_3@amtelecom.net

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* * Sign Up * *

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



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**
PENINSULA CLUB



The Early Years: Challenges and Achievements, 1962 to 1992

Deb Sturdevant, PBTC Archivist

This 50th anniversary year is a great opportunity to consider the very beginning of the Bruce Trail, and the great accomplishment of establishing and maintaining this Trail and conservation corridor!

Early Club Development & Initial Trail Building

The idea of the Bruce Trail was initially suggested in 1959 at a Hamilton Naturalist Club meeting. In 1960, the Bruce Trail Committee was established under the leadership of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (until the Bruce Trail Association ("BTA") was formed in 1963, later renamed the Bruce Trail Conservancy ("BTC") in 2007).

The trail was completed and officially opened in the Peninsula in June 1967; but work started on developing the trail here in 1962. People became aware of the initiative through newspaper advertisements in Toronto papers, local

news articles reporting on planning meetings, and word of mouth. For example, in July 1963 a Bruce Trail themed Eastnor Horticultural Society float won first prize in the Rotary Frolic Parade, thereby spreading information about the planned trail.

(The Society was also the first organization to pay a fee to the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club in 1964.)

The first known meeting on the Peninsula appears to have occurred in summer 1962. A number of people were inspired very early on, including the families of Alf Adams, Tom Adams, J.C. (Baise) Munn,

Lloyd Smith, J.P. Johnstone, Joe Aki-wenzie, John Nadjiwon, Ron Gatis, Byron Greig, Allan Fowler, Richard Cross, Howard and Bruce Krug, Cuyler Hauch, the Adams family, Duncan Armstrong, Ivan Lemcke and others. Many of these people also served as original executive members, as did family members such as Tessie Greig, Shirley Johnstone, Dorothy Fowler, and Connie Forbes.

The work wasn't just trailblazing. Owners of the land over which it was hoped the trail would cross for permission. With no email, and had to be identified and contacted expensive long distance charges, trailblazers had to await responses to letters sent to many absentee landowners, including United States residents. During 1963 meetings, Peninsula area representatives expressed great pleasure at the positive response of many landowners. The strong presence of local landowners and community leaders on the committee certainly played a role in this success. For example, J.P. Johnstone was Reeve of St. Edmunds Township and Tessie Greig was Reeve of Lion's Head.(cont'd on page 4)

Photo: Courtesy of Bruce County Museum, A2014.003.K-64-13-23 - Working on the Bruce Trail at Cave Point dump Oct. 25, 1964.



Not in this order: Sid Street, Peter Street, Bud Street, Don McLean, Jeff Ankenmann, Ken Steinhoff, Tom Soper and Howard Krug

Early Years (cont'd from page 3)

Ron Gatis, with his maternal Whicher family, took initiative to suggest the trail cross their land after reading about it in a Toronto newspaper. His was the first handshake agreement in the Peninsula, and he took an active role in establishing and maintaining other portions of trail as well. When permissions to cross land were slow in coming, the objective became to build the Trail as rapidly as possible and later, if found advisable, make route changes. Those route changes continue in the present!

Many laboured through the dense and rugged bush of the Peninsula, opening up the beauty of the area for others to discover. For many then, as today, trail clearing was a labour of love, but a labour all the same, and a very time-consuming task! Cape Croker was off to a flying start, and their enthusiasm served to inspire others. The Walkerton Herald reported that the Cape Croker section of trail was likely to be complete by July 1963. With too few hands, however, the task of establishing the entire Peninsula trail was daunting! In the 1963 Spring Bruce Trail News, Lion's Head area representative Alan Fowler put out a plea for help: "So far, a considerable amount of work has been done by interested ladies, but some sections are quite rough and require experienced male help." (These days the request for those capable of heavy lifting would no doubt leave the gender out - many of the PBTC's capable trail workers are women!)

A high percentage of initial trail blazers either lived or owned cottages on the Peninsula. For example, Howard Krug and his brother Bruce owned land in the area, but lived in Chesley, Bruce County. They organized a group from the Chesley area who would head north up to eight days a year in 1964 and 1965 to work on the original trail between Cabot Head and northwest of Cave Point, sometimes joining J.P. Johnstone and others. (Until 1978 the trail ran from Wingfield Basin along the base of West Bluff and then

beside the escarpment edge to High Dump.) Howard Krug's trail-blazing diary "Notes of the Chesley Bruce Trail Club" reveals their enjoyment of the unexplored nature of the area, including the fascinating views and interesting discoveries. Perhaps not so enjoyable were the access challenges, sometimes resulting in more time spent hiking to the trail than working on it. Much is the same as today, but they were working without GPS, Gore-Tex, and other new, lighter, and convenient gear and equipment.

By 1965, the Peninsula trail was formally under the care of three organized clubs reporting to the BTA: Lower Bruce Club (Warton to Sydney Bay), Lion's Head Club (Sydney Bay to Dyer's Bay), and Peninsula Club (Dyer's Bay to Tobermory). Enough of the trail had been cleared to enable the production of the first edition of the Bruce Trail Guide Book describing trail in the Peninsula Section from Cabot's Head to Dyer's Bay, from Whippoorwill Bay to Lion's Head, and from Lion's Head to Warton (with the exception of Hope Bay to Sydney Bay which had not yet been blazed.)

The entire trail was finished by 1967, and Peninsula resident Ruth Arnsberger, an accomplished artist and weaver, designed the cairn which marks the northern terminus of the trail in Tobermory. The cairn was constructed by Ivan Lemcke, a self-taught stone worker who worked in the Peninsula with native dolostone. Grif Ebel of Ebel Quarries cut the stone arrowhead.

The Bruce Trail officially opened during a June 10, 1967 Tobermory ceremony before about four hundred people, with guest speaker the Hon. Rene Brunelle, Ontario Ministry of Lands and Forest, who indicated that the Trail opening signaled the "beginning of a long range programme to preserve a unique natural and historic resource.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Winners hike was an August 1967 event which attracted much attention

...(cont'd on page 5)

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Courtesy of Bruce County Museum, A2014.003.K-67-26-09 - Duke of Edinburgh Award hikers unveiling ceremony at Tobermory Cairn, Aug. 1967

Early Years (cont'd from page 4)

Local members J.P. and Shirley Johnstone, Ron Gatis, Ken McKay, and Sydenham's Sid Pearce played a significant role in organizing this ten-day hike, from Tobermory to Owen Sound, completed by about twenty young people from throughout the British Commonwealth.

Lady Hunt and Lord Hunt, who managed the British expedition which first climbed Mount Everest, hiked with the group as far as Cabot Head. On the harbour side of the Tobermory cairn are inscribed the names of the twenty-five people who completed that hike. In 2009, many of the original group reunited for the 42nd anniversary of the hike in Tobermory, arriving from countries including Australia, Jamaica, Britain and Canada. (cont'd on page 7)



A Problem Resolved

Bob Blasing wanted to meet someone involved with trail maintenance for the PBTC. Bob's father and he are long time supporters of the Bruce Trail, landowners in the Smokey Head – White Bluff Provincial Nature Reserve area. At the Otter Lake Special Event, Darci Lombard, Landowner Relations introduced him to me, Trail

recently met the newly appointed Ontario Parks Niagara Escarpment Technician, Braden Atchison. He readily approved my request for the work to be done. I then contacted Dave Moule, a Trail Captain in the Lion's Head area for many years. He had dealt with a similar situation at the McKay's Harbour ORA. He agreed to construct the required project.

neighbours and Trail Captains, Nancy and Barry Ince. Nancy's input was important at this juncture. Placement in the right location was critical.

Once in place, I received a few updates from John as to how things were going. Though slow at first, things picked up and soon everything was running smoothly.

With the fine teamwork of landowners and PBTC trail maintenance workers, in collaboration with Ontario Parks, the issue first identified by Bob Blasing, has been resolved. Many thanks to all involved.

Tom Hall

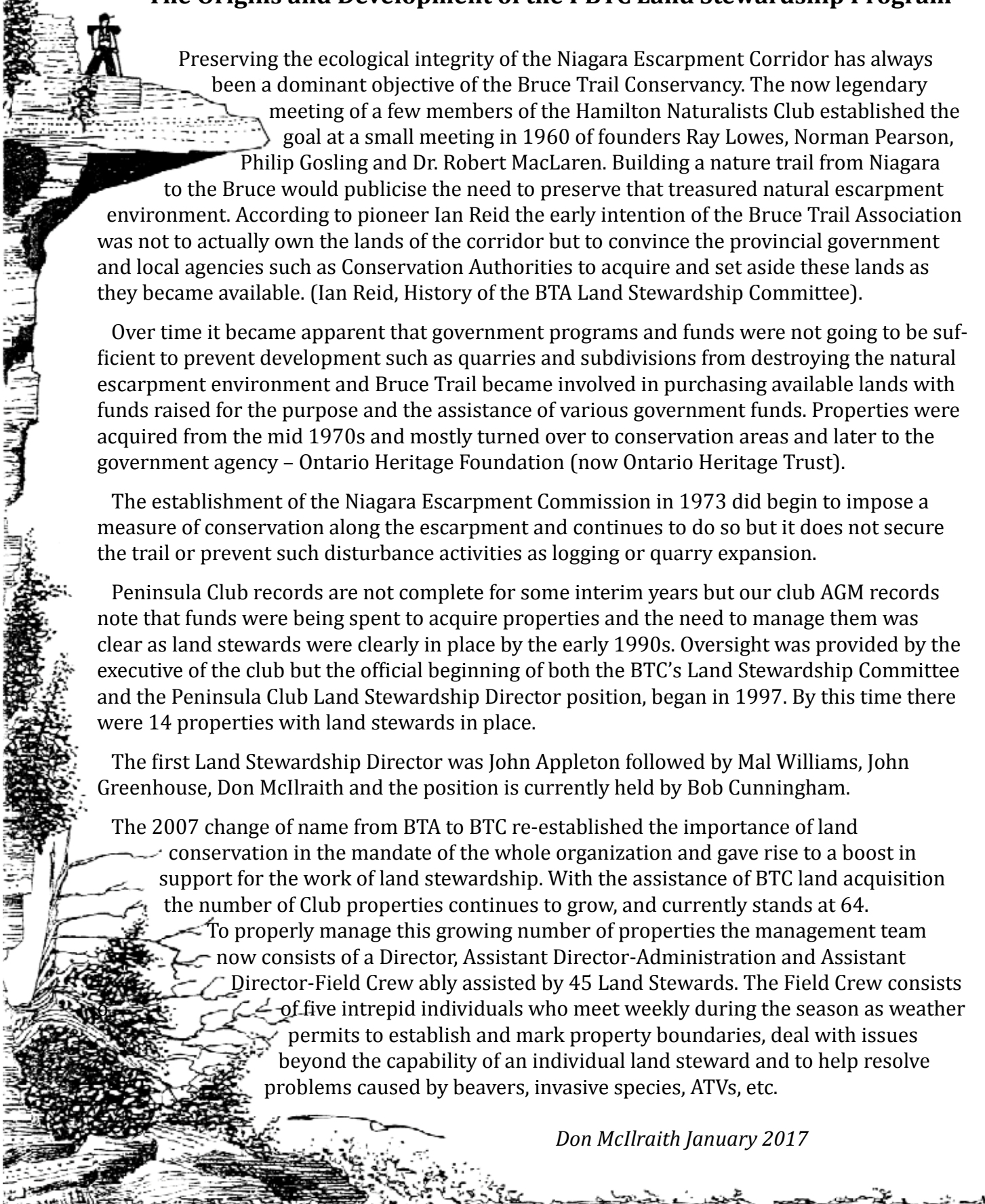


Maintenance Coordinator. Over a beverage retrieved from a cooler in the back of his truck, Bob expressed his concern regarding the conditions at the Reed's Dump Over Night Rest Area (ORA) and suggested a solution. He even offered to help resolve the problem. His enthusiasm was evident. I responded that I would look into the matter. Fortunately, I had just

A couple of months later, Dave dropped it off at my house, disassembled for easy transport, but clearly labeled for easy reassembly. John Jackson, another supportive landowner in the same area, and a good friend of Bob Blasing, picked it up. He and Bob had offered to transport the materials to the site and reassemble it. This they did, with the assistance of nearby



The Origins and Development of the PBTC Land Stewardship Program



Preserving the ecological integrity of the Niagara Escarpment Corridor has always been a dominant objective of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The now legendary meeting of a few members of the Hamilton Naturalists Club established the goal at a small meeting in 1960 of founders Ray Lowes, Norman Pearson, Philip Gosling and Dr. Robert MacLaren. Building a nature trail from Niagara to the Bruce would publicise the need to preserve that treasured natural escarpment environment. According to pioneer Ian Reid the early intention of the Bruce Trail Association was not to actually own the lands of the corridor but to convince the provincial government and local agencies such as Conservation Authorities to acquire and set aside these lands as they became available. (Ian Reid, History of the BTA Land Stewardship Committee).

Over time it became apparent that government programs and funds were not going to be sufficient to prevent development such as quarries and subdivisions from destroying the natural escarpment environment and Bruce Trail became involved in purchasing available lands with funds raised for the purpose and the assistance of various government funds. Properties were acquired from the mid 1970s and mostly turned over to conservation areas and later to the government agency – Ontario Heritage Foundation (now Ontario Heritage Trust).

The establishment of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 1973 did begin to impose a measure of conservation along the escarpment and continues to do so but it does not secure the trail or prevent such disturbance activities as logging or quarry expansion.

Peninsula Club records are not complete for some interim years but our club AGM records note that funds were being spent to acquire properties and the need to manage them was clear as land stewards were clearly in place by the early 1990s. Oversight was provided by the executive of the club but the official beginning of both the BTC's Land Stewardship Committee and the Peninsula Club Land Stewardship Director position, began in 1997. By this time there were 14 properties with land stewards in place.

The first Land Stewardship Director was John Appleton followed by Mal Williams, John Greenhouse, Don McIlraith and the position is currently held by Bob Cunningham.

The 2007 change of name from BTA to BTC re-established the importance of land conservation in the mandate of the whole organization and gave rise to a boost in support for the work of land stewardship. With the assistance of BTC land acquisition the number of Club properties continues to grow, and currently stands at 64.

To properly manage this growing number of properties the management team now consists of a Director, Assistant Director-Administration and Assistant Director-Field Crew ably assisted by 45 Land Stewards. The Field Crew consists of five intrepid individuals who meet weekly during the season as weather permits to establish and mark property boundaries, deal with issues beyond the capability of an individual land steward and to help resolve problems caused by beavers, invasive species, ATVs, etc.

Don McIlraith January 2017

The Early Years (cont'd from page 5)

In 1968, the Upper Peninsula had only twenty-seven members, many of which were from Ontario outside of the Peninsula area, and five from United States. With a small number of members residing in the Peninsula, the difficulty in running local clubs and maintaining the entire section of Peninsula Trail is understandable!

Developments and Challenges, 1970-1992

An example of the challenges faced by local Peninsula Clubs in the 1970s is expressed by the Lower Bruce Club President at a BTA AGM when he said that the Club's objective was to "keep on keepin' on ... we do not have annual meetings; we do not have any other kind of meeting; we do not publish a newsletter; we do not organize hikes; ... but we do have one of the most scenic sections of the trail."

In the Lion's Head Club, Ilse Hanel took over the role of Secretary in 1971 and, by the late 1970s, she was the sole Board member. Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club began organizing a spring work weekend to help maintain the Lion's Head Club portion of trail in the early 1970s. By the late 1970s, that Club agreed to handle the administration of the Lion's Head Club and landowner relations, as well as trail maintenance, when Ilse Hanel could no longer handle those responsibilities. There is little evidence in the PBTC archives of much formal activity from the other local clubs during the 1970s.

In May 1980, the three Peninsula Clubs amalgamated to be known as the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, with Shirley Johnstone as President, Jerry Blair as Vice-President, and other executive members including Kay McClellan and Ron Gatis.

In 1983, BTA recognized that a combination of a smaller population base, too few local volunteers, absentee landowners, and too many kilometers of trail made maintenance more than the PBTC could handle. It formally organized larger clubs to assist a few key Peninsula members with trail maintenance. These clubs valued the opportunity to explore and contribute to trail they loved:

- * Caledon Hills: Tobermory to Halfway Dump;
- * Toronto: Halfway Dump to Barrow Bay;
- * Blue Mountain: Barrow Bay to Hope Bay;
- * Iroquoia: Barrow Bay to Wiarton.

This arrangement continued, with slight changes to areas covered, for more than thirteen years, and many individuals of other Clubs continue to be Peninsula Trail Captains today.

Significant challenges were overcome by the BTA and Peninsula members between 1978 and 1982 when a number of landowners withdrew permission for the

Bruce Trail to cross their lands, largely in response to suspicions created by the preliminary proposals of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and in a few cases due to misuse of the trail by hikers not yet educated in trail etiquette.

As of May 1981, the entire trail was closed north of Dyer's Bay due to landowners retracting permission to cross their lands. It took months of field work and negotiations with landowners to find an inland route at Cabot Head and to reopen trail north of that area. By September 1981, the thirty km of trail between Tobermory and High Dump was re-opened with some rerouting. The remaining twenty km was reopened between Dyer's Bay and High Dump in spring 1982. Some areas of the original route have still not been fully restored.

Some of these experiences contributed to the BTA's inspiration to begin focusing on acquiring land to protect and preserve a conservation corridor across the province. The BTA began acquiring property in 1974, but it was another twelve years before it made an acquisition in the Peninsula section. In 1986, the BTA finalized the purchase of an easement in Lindsay Township in the Cape Chin South area near Pat Daunt side trail. The first two full Peninsula property acquisitions occurred in 1987: two hundred and forty-three acres in the Gun Point Area and thirty-five acres encompassing the Richardson Side Trail and Main Trail on the way north to White Bluff. By 1992, the BTA had acquired, through purchase or donation, about fifteen properties on the Peninsula.

Despite the Peninsula Club having only between one and four executive members from the late 1980s to early 1990s (compared to the board's more than fifteen members today), there were great gains due to those individuals' contributions as well as the work of others. The trail was rerouted to more scenic routes in a number of areas, over newly acquired land and over privately owned land with landowner permission. (cont'd on page 14)



Courtesy of Bruce County Museum, AT2016.009.047b - Eastnor Horticultural Society Bruce Trail float for Rotary Frolic Parade

50th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017
TOBERMORY, ON 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Join us for our biggest party of the year! Commemorate 50 years since the opening of the Bruce Trail, tour the Niagara Escarpment by chartered boat, enjoy interpretive Bruce Trail hikes, socialize at the Community Centre with a catered lunch, take in Bruce Trail historical displays, and bid on silent auction items.

Formal Ceremony

10:00 am Bruce Trail Cairn, Northern Terminus of the Bruce Trail

Events all day at the Tobermory Community Centre

11:00 am – 5:00 pm. Lunch, Historical Displays & Silent Auction

Chartered Boat Cruises on Georgian Bay

90 minutes; Space limited; 11:30 am & 3:00 pm. Registration required

Short Hikes

Cairn to Little Dunks Bay lookout & back; 1 hour, 2.5 km; 11:30 am, 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm

Longer Hikes

Cairn to Burnt Point Loop & back; 2 hours, 7 km; 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm.

Register by June 1, 2017 at brucetrail.org

Registration is required for the Boat Cruises. Registration is requested for the rest of the event so that we may get a sense of numbers for lunch and hikes.

Accommodation on the Bruce Peninsula can fill quickly in the summer.

Book yours as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

* * * * *



50th Anniversary End to End Badge - available for 2017 only

To earn this special end-to-end badge you must have hiked the entire main trail from Wiarton to Tobermory between January and December 2017.

See our website for details www.pbtc.ca/badges

* * * * *

50 km Challenge – June 25, Peninsula Section

Consider participating in an epic hiking and fundraising event – *50 km in one day*, raising funds to support the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The route begins near Rush Cove and ends at the BTC's Vanishing Stream Nature Reserve just north of Wiarton.

More details at brucetrail.org. Registration opens April 1st



50th Anniversary Baton Relay – April - June

Each of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs will carry the 50th Anniversary Bruce Trail baton for one week this spring – ensuring it travels along the length of the entire Trail by volunteer power, until it arrives in Tobermory in time for the BTC's 50th Anniversary Event on June 10th.

The baton begins its journey on April 1st as the BTC Board of Directors present it to the Niagara Bruce Trail Club.

Interested in participating or watching the baton's travels? Visit brucetrail.org and follow [#brucetrailbaton](https://twitter.com/brucetrailbaton) on Twitter, Instagram & Facebook.

* * * * *

Hello PBTC Volunteers:

* Twenty years ago, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, a commemorative baton was passed along the entire length of the trail by members and guests. The baton is now proudly displayed on the wall of the BTC Head Office in Dundas. This year, for the 50th anniversary of the Conservancy, the BTC plans a similar baton passing event. A new baton will be created to travel the entire length of the current trail and carried into a 50th anniversary celebration in Tobermory on June 10th.

* Each of the nine BTC clubs is asked to move the baton through their section. The Peninsula Club has the honour of the final carry and arrangements are underway to make a high profile passage through our section between May 28th and June 10th.

* Additional details and images will be posted on our Facebook page and in the What is Happening feature of our Website.

* Let me know if you are interested in leading one or more of the hikes. On the days with two hikes, the second one would start after the first one and would consist of mostly road work. Family and friends are invited to participate. See the following schedule.

Thanks, Tom Hall, PBTC Trail Maintenance Coordinator

DATE	START	END	DUSTANCE	MEETING PLACE	STARTING PLACE	HIKE LEADER
28-May	0.0	12.0	12.0	Crawford Drive	Bluewater Park	
29-May	12.0	22.9	10.9	Crooked Toe Rd.	Crawford Drive	
30-May	22.9	34.3	11.4	Park Rd.	Crooked Toe Rd.	
31-May	34.3	43.1	8.8	Water St.	Park Rd.	
01-Jun	43.1	50.4	7.3	Jackson's Cove Rd.	Water St.	
02-Jun	50.4	56.6	6.2	Rush Cove	Jackson's Cove Rd.	
02-Jun	56.6	68.1	11.5	Cemetery Rd.	Rush Cove	
03-Jun	68.1	80.3	12.2	Moore St.	Cemetery Rd.	
03-Jun	80.3	86.0	5.7	Richardson ST	Moore St.	
04-Jun	86.0	97.2	11.2	Carter Rd.	Richardson ST	
05-Jun	97.2	108.5	11.3	Cape Chin North Rd.	Carter Rd.	
06-Jun	108.5	118.8	10.3	Lindsay Rd. 40	Cape Chin North Rd.	
06-Jun	118.8	126.6	7.8	Crane Lake Rd.	Lindsay Rd. 40	
07-Jun	126.6	140.7	14.1	Half Way Dump ST	Crane Lake Rd.	
08-Jun	140.7	157.6	16.9	Little Cove. Rd.	Half Way Dump ST	
09-Jun	157.6	164.4	6.8	Visitors Centre	Little Cove Rd.	
10-Jun	164.4	165.1	0.7	Tobermory Cairn	Visitors Centre	BTC YOUTH
TOTAL			165.1			



EASY HIKES WITH ELAINE
2017 SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL
contact Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407

DATE	TIME	NAME WHERE TO MEET	DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION
Tuesday May 9	11:00 AM	Hope Bay Nature Reserve From County Rd 9, turn east on Hopeness Rd and south on Cathedral Rd. Go to end.	Easy	3 km	A profusion of Trout Lilies, 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 Breechs and Virginia Waterleaf in abundance.
Tuesday May 30	11:00 AM	FON Alvar and Crane River Parking on west side of Hwy 6, just north of Dyer's Bay Rd.	Easy	2 km	The alvar features rare Lakeside Daisies, Dwarf Lake Iris, Polygala, Seneca Snakeroot and Starry False Solomon's Seal. At the Crane River rest stop there are Nodding Trilliums, Bulbet and Maidenhair Spleenwort Ferns.
Tuesday June 6	10:00 AM	Bard Side Trail Loop From Hwy 6, turn east on Lindsay Rd 5, north on East Rd, east on Cape Chin Rd N. Park where trail crosses road at Cape Chin Connection	Easy	3 km	This is a lovely loop, partly along the Niagara Escarpment, overlooking Georgian Bay. White Polygala are abundant here.
Tuesday June 27	10:00 AM	Cemetery Road and Petrel Point Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery, east from Hwy 6 on Cemetery Rd.	Easy	2 km	Our first stop is the ANSI-protected cemetery bog where we will be treated to a display of Showy Lady Slippers. On to Petrel Point where Round-leaved and Slender-leaved Sundew, Bog Orchid, Lobelia, Loesel's Twayblade, Cotton Grass, Indian Plantain, Rue and Sweetgale can be observed from the boardwalk.
Tuesday July 11	10:00 AM	Singing Sands Amble Parking lot at Singing Sands National Park, Dorcas Bay Road, west from Hwy 6	Easy	3 km	While walking the boardwalk we will see a profusion of Pitcher Plants, also Sticky Tofieldia, Lobelia and possibly Rose Pagonia, Grass Pinks and Spotted Coral Root. Then along the woody walkway there are Hill's Thistle, Pipsissewa, and Purple Fringed Orchid. Returning along Lake Huron we may see Calamint, Sundews, Bladderwort and Butterwort.
Tuesday July 25	10:00 AM	White Bluff Nature Reserve From Hwy 6 turn east on Lindsay Rd 5, north on East Rd, east on Cape Chin Rd South. At first T-junctions turn left and at the 2nd junction turn right	Easy	4 km	A pleasant loop out along an old logging road and returning by the scenic Georgian Bay shore. On our way back we should see Rattlesnake Plantain, Indian Pipe, Spotted Knapweed and Star Thistle.
Tuesday August 15	10:00 AM	John Appleton Side Trail County Rd 9 south of Barrow Bay	Moderate	2.5 km	The Trail passes by a beaver pond and meanders through a variety of mixed, cedar and hardwood forest. Much of the surface consists of fractured dolostone rock with occasional larger cracks know as "grikes" containing delicate Maidenhair Spleenwort Fern
Tuesday September 19	10:00 AM	Jackson Cove Lookout From Bruce County Rd 9 turn east on Hopeness Rd. Turn right on Jackson's Cove Road and park at the top of the hill.	Moderate	5 km	Beautiful views of Hope Bay, Cape Croker and Barrier Island. The loop features Rattlesnake Plantain, Indian Pipe, Spotted Knapweed and Star Thistle.
Tuesday October 17	11:00 AM	Devil's Monument and Minihinnick S.T. From Hwy 6 turn east on Lindsay Rd 5, north on East Rd, east on Cape Chin North Rd and follow it to Borchardt Rd at the top of the escarpment. Park at the end of Borchardt Rd.	Strenuous	8 km	Devil's Monument is a striking inland "sea Stack" or "flowerpot" This pillar of rock was separated from the rest of the escarpment by wave erosion some 5500 years ago. A lovely walk along the escarpment. Lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through the forest.



2017 Peninsula Club does the Sydenham Section - Easy End to End - Bruce Trail Reference Ed 27

contact Susan Allen 519 534 5898 or susan_allen@sympatico.ca

Date Thursday	Distance km	Start - End Points @ kms	Description of Meeting Location (end point of day's hike)	Hi-Lites of the Day
May 4 10:00 am	14.5	0 - 14.5	Roadside Parking on 2nd Con. just south of Sideroad 3	Blantyre, Rocklyn Creek, boardwalks, Walter's Falls, surviving water turbine
May 11 10:00 am	15.2	14.5 - 29.7	County Rd 18 directly opposite 4th Concession S	Bighead River Valley views (8.5 km road walking)
May 18 10:00 am	12.3	29.7 - 42	Woodford Community Hall, from Hwy 26 north on Woodford Cres.	Bognor Marsh- boardwalks with bird and wildlife sightings, valley views, glacier spillway, coral fossils
May 25 10:00 am	16.7	42 - 54.9	North of Hwy 26 on St Vincent- Sydenham Townline at bend	Limestone kiln, disappearing waterfall, narrow crevice, views over Georgian Bay and Meaford Training Ctr, Lebanon Mountain Friendship Trail
June 1 10:00 am	9.8	54.9-64.7	Roadside Parking-Irish Block Rd where trail crosses approx .5 km north of Hwy 26	Hawthorne hedge, hardwood forest, wetland, view to the waters of Owen Sound plus the Beaver Springs ST if there is time (extensive road walking)
June 8 10:00 am	9.6	64.7 - 74.3	Roadside Parking on west side of 8th Con N approx 1 km north of Hwy 26	Small valley between escarpment and hill, numerous crevices, Lloyd Laycock Caves
June 15 10:00 am	15	74.3 - 86.2	Centennial Tower on west side of Hwy 6 & 10	Polish Soldier Tree, very exciting giant dolostone blocks,
June 22 10:00 am	9.4	86.2 - 95.6	Roadside Parking at north end of Con 3	The Palisades, Inglis Falls, cliff swallows, Raven's Nest ST
June 29 10:00 am	14.6	95.6 - 110.2	Benallen - roadside parking where rail trail crosses	Lookouts to city, harbour and Georgian Bay, Jones Falls views to Sydenham Valley, flowerpot formation
July 6 10:00 am	11.9	110.2 - 121.6	Roadside Parking on road allowance of Con 14	Trail follows a series of spectacular crevices, wide variety of fossils, The Glen - a bay of beautiful tree tops
July 13 10:00 am	12.9	121.6 - 134.2	Corner of Cole's Rd and Taylor Sideroad	Lindenwood Property, alvars, views of distant Georgian Bay
July 20 10:00 am	11.3	134.2 - 145.5	East end of Graham's Hill Rd off of Big Bay Side Road	Views, wide variety of rare ferns, passage through a fissure,
July 27 10:00 am	15	145.5 - 160.5	Bruce's Caves, Oxenden off of Bruce Rd 1	Skinner's Bluff - spectacular view
Aug 3 10:00 am	7.9	160.5 - 168.4	Bluewater Park, Train Station, Wiarton	Bruces Caves, Oxenden, Wiarton Airport, Wiarton Willie statue GRAND FINALE!!!

Turning Points: The decade from 1993

....In looking at the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) for the decade starting 1993, I drew upon the image of a wheel - with the rim being the trail, the spokes being the volunteers and the hub being the club's board. The hub is like the leader of a team - in touch with all of the spokes, serving as a connection point for all the spokes in the wheel. The hub keeps all of the spokes focused, in touch with one another and

Eighteen people stepped up to the plate.

The first formal meeting of those eighteen appears to have been held on March 3rd at Keith McAllister's house in Kitchener. The minutes show that the new group called an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for June 20th, appointed a nominating committee to establish an Executive, opened a bank account in Guelph and requested that the BTA transfer relevant funds to that account. They started *The Rattler*,



represents the point at which the wheel is connected to something bigger - like the wagon, or in this case, the Bruce Trail Association (BTA), presently known as the Bruce Trail Conservancy. In 1993, the PBTC was in danger of losing its hub. When Fred Binder, the sole Board member in 1992, resigned, the BTA sent out a letter calling for a meeting of PBTC members to organize the club's activities. That meeting occurred in Guelph in January 1993.

offered free Peninsula Club membership to 16 of the 20 existing trail captains. This determined group worked to infuse new life into the Club, in particular by building up a board which could coordinate the many functions of a growing base of volunteers, connecting to the local community and reaching out for new members. It is a testament to their efforts, that the club has held regular executive meetings and annual general meetings since 1993.

The early trailblazers built membership from 27 in 1968 to 240 in 1993. The new Board worked on membership recruitment with the goal of someday surpassing the 500 mark.

(cont'd on page 14)

Our sincerest congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. With the Bruce Trail at our doorstep in Hope Bay, we have been privileged to welcome so many hikers into our B&B and cottages over the last 13 years. As well we are honoured to have the Lion's Head Access 25 parking area named the McCurdy Parkette - McCurdy Drive was named in memory of John's mother, Marie. Marie's neighbour was Ilse Hanel, an original member of the PBTC so it is fitting that the side trail on William Street passes both of their original properties.

Thanks to everyone for your dedication and hard work.

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Left to right: Back row: Mal Williams, John Appleton, Bob Light, Russell Ferguson, John Greenhouse, Marlene Rothenbury, Duncan MacDonald Slightly in front of back row: Larry Kelly (green sweater) Grace Telfer (orange sweater) Seated: Diane MacDonald, Chris Jeffries, Donna Baker, Betty McGaffey, Grant McLaughlin

Turning Points (cont'd from pg 13)

By 1994, membership had grown to over 300 members, reaching 361 by the end of 1999, establishing a slow but steady growth which has continued to present. The new Board designed and printed a club brochure which volunteers would place on parked cars. They designed presentation displays which were used to increase awareness of the club through such events as Earth Day sponsored by Bruce Peninsula Environment Group (BPEG). The Peninsula News newsletter was revived in 1993 and changed its name to The Rattler that summer.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Early Years (cont'd from page 7)

From 1988 to 1989, the Peninsula Club's tried to infuse more vitality into the club by publishing a few newsletters and calling for volunteer participation. However, those efforts bore no lasting results at that time. From 1989 to 1992, Fred Binding was the only Peninsula Club executive member: he published a few newsletters, organized some activities and hikes, and assisted the BTA in initiating improvements to trail location. He also promoted the trail, driving up and down the Peninsula with membership brochures. In the Peninsula News Spring 1992 issue, Binding indicated: "We had many compliments last year about the excellent condition of our section of the trail (the longest in the overall BTA). Thanks to the members of our club and several other clubs who maintain the one hundred and fifty km of trail in our section."

After Fred's resignation in 1992, the BTA organized a PBTC meeting in January 1993 in Guelph because almost two-thirds of PBTC members lived in Southern Ontario. Thirty-nine out of two hundred and twenty-nine members attended, and eighteen volunteered to contribute. An interim committee was established and at a PBTC AGM on June 20, 1993, they elected an executive. The Club has remained strong since that time, and it thanks all the early volunteers who put so much effort into the great task of establishing and maintaining a trail, and growing conservation corridor, that has now been enjoyed for fifty years!

Deb Sturdevant, PBTC Archivist

Donna Baker must be credited with one of the boldest moves that has rooted the Club in peninsula soil. As President of the Club in 1998, she felt that it was time to move the Board meetings from the south up to the Peninsula. The meetings have remained on the peninsula ever since. A trend appeared to be developing, as in the case of the Bakers, as a number of our members and volunteers from the south moved to the peninsula in their retirement and became even more active in the club.

The AGM became important occasions for the club to invite the local community to mingle with members, landowners, and the Board, and to become better acquainted with club activities. The PBTC sponsored the BTA AGM at Cape Croker in 2000 and attendance was very good. The partnership between the Trail and the Band was felt to be supportive, with a common love for the land, and a desire to protect its riches. The AGM and the Spruce up the Bruce (SUTB) work weekend were held separately for several years. (cont'd on page 15)



Turning Points *(cont'd from page 14)*

In 1996, The AGM and the SUTB were combined on one weekend and started a popular new tradition I don't know if it was the first BBQ but the June 30, 1999 Rattler has a photo of the SUTB volunteers at John and Judy Appleton's home in Lion's Head after enjoying a BBQ and before heading to the AGM in the new North Bruce Municipal office.

The first official road clean-up took place April 18, 1997 from Miller Lake to Swan Creek. I found a Clean-Up Report in the files signed by Joan Bowman, a then Board member, indicating that there had been only two volunteers! This new venture earned the Club an "Adopt a Highway" plaque at the side of Highway 6 illustrating the Club's interaction with the local community. I can attest that this clean-up goes on annually - with many more volunteers!

In 2003 BTA designated the first Sunday in October as "Bruce Trail Day". PBTC organized hikes including: Nature Photography with Ethan Meleg, Bruce Peninsula National Park (BPNP); Ferns of the Bruce in Hope Bay with Nels Maher; two hikes in Lion's Head and a long scenic hike through Cape Croker and Sydney Bay with Ross McLean. This was so well received that in 2004 the PBTC decided to expand Bruce Trail Day to a weekend Hiking Festival, also known as Bruce Peninsula Outdoor Festival, which has continued annually.

The BPNP was established in 1987. In 1993, Park planners approached one of our Board members, Ed Doadt, to become part of the planning team. This was the first time a member of the public had served in this capacity. In 1995, the Park offered free camping to volunteers for the SUTB weekend. Donna Baker can remember wandering into a PBTC meeting which was being held in the park office about 1995. The Board was not large at the time, they were looking for a recording secretary and treasurer. Donna became both in 1996 and within approximately a year was asked to be President. There was often a little arm-twisting going on but members were recognizing that the strength of their board on the peninsula was increasing the profile of the club, especially locally, and ensuring its continued growth. There is a story handed down that when Grace Telfer went on her second club hike, she was Vice-president before the hike was over.

But I must not forget the trail! Gaining momentum in this decade, a growing number of committed volunteers improved the trail in many ways from reblazing to ensure uniformity to a slow but continuous move to the optimum route. Additions to the Trail on the optimum route came almost annually. The number of side trails was increased so loop hikes became more numerous. The several Tom East Trail Development Awards

received by PBTC from BTA in these years spoke to the level of trail activity being maintained on the Bruce. The BTA's Land Stewardship Program was developed in 1997. At that time, there were 17 properties owned or managed by the BTA on the Peninsula.

The Cape Croker Snake Trail Boardwalk was constructed after receiving financial support from the Toronto, Peninsula, Caledon and Iroquoia Clubs. The first section was completed in 1995, the next in 1996 by an Environmental Youth Corps crew. Fundraising and construction occurred in 1997, and then the near 1,000 m boardwalk was completed in 1998. This was a significant achievement in moving more trail off the road. Ted Roberts was instrumental in building the metal staircase up the escarpment from the boardwalk. PBTC and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation were awarded the BTA's Calypso Orchid Environmental Award for the boardwalk.

In 1999, the Rural Rocks Side Trail was built to the northwest of Wiarton. It was an issue which caused some controversy within the club, because it appeared unlikely that it could ever be connected to the main Trail. However it was a spectacular example of Escarpment geology. Because Rural Rocks was a distance from the optimum route, the property acquisition was handled by the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, and the PBTC built and today manages the trail.

Another significant change in this decade, was the transfer of management of the peninsula's trails from four of the southern clubs to the PBTC club itself. Caledon Hills was the last of these "transfers", although the dedicated trail captains continued in their roles. The PBTC would miss the Caledon Club's annual "Go-to-Blazes" work weekends in May. From 1993 to 1995, the club had grown from 10 trail captains to 50 which was reported in The Rattler as a higher percentage club involvement than any other club in the BTA.

Ten years after that "revival" meeting in January of 1993, the momentum had been established. The prognosis for the club to achieve its goals appeared positive. The local community had been brought closer to the Trail and a good percentage of the Board now resided on the Bruce. The volunteers from the south continued their efforts joined by greater numbers on the Bruce. The PBTC was now taking ownership of their entire section of the trail. Promising partnerships with the likes of Parks Canada and the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation were strengthened. New traditions were being established. New member outreach was on-going. Most importantly, people were having fun, hiking, planning pot-lucks, enjoying themselves as they worked as a team. And so the wheel continued to turn...

Brenda Langlois

Pat and Pete Elliot

One sunny afternoon in the summer of 2009, my husband Pete, a newly minted retiree, was hiking at Grindstone Creek. He happened to meet two people who were picking up litter along the trail. "Want some help?" he asked. Soon, he was walking along, chatting away as the three of them made the trail even better. It turned out that this couple were co-captains of that trail section! And they were smart enough to have BTC membership application forms in their pack! When I arrived home from work that evening, Pete announced "I want to join the Bruce Trail" . . . and the rest is history!

We decided to join two clubs – Iroquoia, where we live, and Peninsula, where Pete's family had cottaged for decades. In the Peninsula, we've been happy to maintain a beautiful section at Cape Chin North. We've sold the cottage, but have become Bruce Peninsula trailer dwellers at Summer House, so we are still close by during the summer months. Pete completed his End to End in June 2014, and is honoured to be a member of the Peninsula Club's "Order of the Muddy Boots", the group who rebuilt the Snake Boardwalk at Cape Croker. I help on our sections for both clubs, and when Pete accepted the responsibility of coordinating Iroquoia's trail maintenance volunteers. I supported him with administrative and computer skills. This past fall, Walter Brewer asked if I would be interested in a similar role with the Peninsula Club. How could I refuse?

The first task is to update our volunteers list. If we don't know where we are, how can we plan to do anything? So, I sent an email request to everyone on the list. Many folks have responded . . . thank you again for your time! But several of the email addresses we have are not valid, and we do not have email addresses for everyone. If you're reading this piece, please take time to contact the club with your current contact information (address, phone number, and email address if you have one). The Peninsula club has a lot to celebrate, particularly this year! And we want to make sure you're on board to enjoy it too!

Pat Elliott, Volunteer Co-ordinator

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SPRUCE UP THE BRUCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Join us on Saturday, May 13 for our popular Spruce up the Bruce. This is an opportunity for our Trail Captains and Land Stewards to provide "first of the season" maintenance and tune-up to our club's trails and managed lands.

Helpers and extra volunteers are always welcome! If you are a first time volunteer contact us at: trailreportsbptc@gmail.com

After a great day of working on the Trail everyone is invited to Summer House Park, Miller Lake for a delicious BBQ and potluck supper. From 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, sausages and hamburgers will be provided and if you can help out, bring a favourite salad or dessert (and your choice of beverage).

NEVER MISS AN UPDATE www.pbtc.ca

Make sure you sign up to receive our quarterly e-brief!

Each Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter you will be emailed an abbreviated overview of the upcoming season and links for further information. This is just one of the many features offered on our new website created in celebration of the Peninsula Club's 50th anniversary. We are thrilled to showcase our hiking options, trail updates, event notification, historical information and interesting Blog on this new platform. The website is a pleasure to read, easy to navigate, and full of timely tips and links.

Try it for yourself and sign up to stay current.

The pot luck is for all volunteers whether they work on the trail or not. Also, if you have been working on the trail all day and are unable to bring a contribution you are still very welcome. In addition, we would like to extend an invitation for the BBQ to all our generous landowners hosting trail on their property.



Our AGM will follow the meal from approximately 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm after which you can chat with our club's executive. We hope you can join us so we can all personally thank you for your continued generosity.

Summer House Park is located at 197 Miller Lake Shore Road, Miller Lake, 519-795-7712. Stop at the park front gates for directions to the Recreation Hall and parking areas.

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Nominating Committee

We are looking for volunteers to fill unique and rewarding positions on our Board of Directors for 2017 - 2018.

For more information contact pbtccgeneralinfo@gmail.com



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Let me start with the words: "I miss you!"

As a veteran volunteer (or what do you call a volunteer who moved away and is not so active anymore?!) of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club I have to admit that I miss my fellow volunteers and friends from the Bruce Peninsula a lot! I still am up there as much as I can and look after my old trail, The Warder Side Trail, and clean up whatever debris I find on the trails I walk on. I guess that's just what you do as a seasoned Bruce Trail Volunteer. I miss the Peninsula forest, the fresh air, the blue, clear water but moving to Brighton has its perks as well! One of it is to come back on the Bruce as a tourist and actually have the time to enjoy it! And that's exactly what I did last November in perfect weather!

After checking and walking my old trail (which was in VERY good condition!) I actually found time for 'real hikes'. I don't know if I should admit this: after 11 years I spent in Lion's Head I finally hiked the beautiful Gun Point Trail with a very good friend, Ulla, from the Bruce! I don't know how many thousands of guests in our B&B I sent up there without ever having been there myself. Shame on me, but now it's done! Love it!

I also found time to visit and enjoy a wonderful cup of tea with my 'Sawing Buddy' Bob Cunningham and my birdie-teacher, Anita! They wrote in The Rattler that



Barbara & Ulla Conrad on the trail.

anyone will be welcome to rest on their gorgeous bench outside of their wonderful home, so I took them up on it! The proof is attached and I look very much forward to my next visit in May and hope to see you all on the AGM! Please, no rain!

Another reminder of the good times spend outdoors was the 'Trail Development & Maintenance' section in the last Bruce Trail Magazine: found my friendly face on the photo about the Snake Boardwalk reconstruction which I had way too little time to help with! Still have to see the completed renovation, I walked it after the first year. I was just a very small part of this big effort – Kudos to all of you who did the fabulous job!!!!

Last but not least: to all of you who are tinkering with the idea of becoming a volunteer: do it - it is fantastic! It does not feel like work at all when you are out there surrounded by Mother Nature with absolutely awesome people

with you. I don't remember any aches from working on the trail, but aching muscles from laughing so hard! Thank you!

All the best – and warm greetings to all I know up there,

Barbara Wynd
Brighton



Barbara Wynd on the Cunningham's Bench (near Lion's Head)



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Cover Artwork for Rattler this issue

“Wild Apple Trees on Jan & Jim’s Land” is a watercolour and block print on wood created on the Peninsula in the spring of 2016 by Cornelia Peckart

Cornelia is a Hamilton native and Ontario College of Art graduate, Cornelia has lived, worked and played in Toronto, Berlin, Ottawa, Pittsburgh, Rotterdam, Burlington and Hamilton.

Alongside her arts practice she has worked as an artist and educator at a number of internationally recognized art institutions. She currently teaches at The Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre and Centre 3.

Cornelia has planned for 2017 “The Bruce Trail Pilgrimage” - Cornelia plans to hike the Trail End –to End with members of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and other interested parties, allotting two days for hiking and one full day for painting along the trail each week with at least one other artist present for approximately 30 days. Vlogging the progress of the pilgrimage each week as well as updating and promoting the project on social media pages regularly will be an integral part of the project.

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*** Member and Volunteer Info Update ***

Many folks have responded ..
...thank you again for your time!
But several of the email addresses we have are not valid, and we do not have email addresses for everyone.

Please take time to contact the club with your current contact information (address, phone number, and email address).

The Peninsula Club has a lot to celebrate, particularly this year! And we want to make sure you’re on board to enjoy it too!

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