

# The Rattler



ISSUE #2 2014

## President's Message

New leaders, same business. The Board of Directors of our club is always renewing and this year we have a few new faces; so a hardy welcome to Brenda Langlois (Membership), Ann Miller (Park Relations), John Grandy (Trail Development) and two Directors at Large – Marianne Williams and Bob Cunningham – Welcome! Many thanks to John Whitworth for his tour of duty over the last two years and to Susan Allen our new VP. John led the team through a period of change and investigation of the Cabot Head and Barrow Bay areas.

Thanks John.

The club is vibrant, refreshed and active. We have a slate of hikes aimed at the seasons and hiker's abilities, a celebration of hiking planned for the traditional Fall Festival in Tobermory and ongoing trail management and new trail exploration. A special note of thanks to the team that continues to work with Trail Captain Alan Bobo to repair the Snake Boardwalk at Cape Croker.

The Club has about 650 members (thanks for your support), 20+ on the Board and about 150 volunteers who lead hikes, steward the land and maintain the trails.

What a great supportive group – one of the highest percentages of volunteers in the BTC. The Board consistently remarks on the great support provided to the club. Fortunately we still have positions available if you want to help with any one of the main areas just let anyone on the Board know.

The Rattler is our primary voice from and to you the member. We have a great team headed

by Ken Clark and they love to get input from members – a story, a poem or observations on the beauty of the northern Bruce Trail are welcome as we love to share. Please be an active part of the club; write an article, volunteer for a work party or join the Board of Managers. I'm sure you will find it a rewarding activity.

**Walter Brewer**  
**President**



*"Porcupine Quills" by Kristina Maus*

## Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

P.O. Box 2  
Tobermory, ON  
N0H 2R0  
[www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca)  
[pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)  
Contact Ken Clark  
Telephone: 519-270-7644  
[klclark5@hotmail.com](mailto:klclark5@hotmail.com)

## Bruce Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 857  
Hamilton, ON  
L8N 3N9  
[www.bruce-trail.org](http://www.bruce-trail.org)  
[info@bruce-trail.org](mailto: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](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?  
Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:  
**"November 7, 2014"**

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Back Half Page:	\$100	\$300
Contact: Mike Marshall		
Email: <a href="mailto:marshland_3@amtelecom.net">marshland_3@amtelecom.net</a>		

## Contents Issue #2, 2014

President's Message .....	pg. 1
Cape Croker Boardwalk .....	pg. 3
Meet Jeff and Sheila .....	pg. 4
Meet Jeff and Sheila (cont'd) .....	pg. 5
Remembering a Trail Captain .....	pg. 6
Rural Rootz .....	pg. 7
PBTC AGM / New Executive/Trail Captain	
Positions Open .....	pg. 8
Invitation to All Artists .....	pg. 9
PBTC 2014 Fall Hike Schedule .....	pg. 10
Hike Schedule (cont'd) + Yurt Camping.....	pg. 11
Fighting Off Bear Thoughts .....	pg. 12
Fighting Off Bear Thoughts (cont'd) .....	pg. 13
Celebrating Donors + Birding Walk .....	pg. 14
PBTC Annual Birding Walk (cont'd) .....	pg. 15
New Bench + Hike & Sketch Artist .....	pg. 16
The Rattler 2013 Report .....	pg. 17
Don't Miss Out!! .....	pg. 18
Volunteer Service Awards/Sales Position/ Your Captions .....	pg. 19



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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: [www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca)

## Material Moving on the Trail Cape Croker Boardwalk

The Snake Boardwalk at Cape Croker is over 900 meters long and provides a great experience for the walking public. It was built by the members of the Chippewas of Nawash band, funded by four BTC clubs and completed in 1997.

The boardwalk has aged poorly; it has deteriorated, become slippery and slanted so the Peninsula Club elected to repair it. A plan was set to repair damaged decking, level sections that were still viable and to replace up to 300 meters that suffered from badly deteriorated foundation material. A grant from the RBC Bluewater Foundation Action Grant was obtained and additional funding was provided by a matching gift received by the Bruce Trail Conservancy for trail maintenance. This work has been ongoing throughout the summer and fall of 2014.

Material for 300 + meters of boardwalk and several hundred replacement deck boards was source at the lumber yard of Brough and Whicher in Wiarton and took a couple of large stake trucks with each load weighing an estimate of 4-5 tons. Moving the first load of material 300 meters to trailhead was a

challenge which was overcome by renting a unique material mover; a narrow gage tracked machine (a cross between a tank, a wagon and a snow blower) which can carry over 1,000 pounds each trip; so two people were able to load and move one truck load in a day.

We called on a lot of volunteers and started the "order of the muddy boot". A core team of 6-8 helpers came out most Thursdays to pull up boards and old material, remove nails and lay down new decking or a completely new sections. Alan Bobo is the trail captain and he summers at a camp site in the park so he is close to the work site.

He has spent many days each month getting material ready and using his wagon to transport tools and boards, he knows all the twist and bumps of the boardwalk!

When the project is complete the team will have replaced over 1,000 deck boards, leveled ten sloping areas, replaced the bridge and 300 meters of boardwalk. Material will be applied to reduce slipping next year. The club and hikers from all around extend thanks to the hard working volunteers who drove so far to work on their knees in some hot weather to repair this structure.

*Walter Brewer*



### **Royal Bank Grant Helps Refurbish Cape Croker Boardwalk**

We were delighted to learn that the BTC was recently the recipient of a \$6,000.00 grant as a part of the Royal Bank's Bluewater Project Grants Program. These grants are intended to make sustainable, meaningful and measurable impacts in the communities which the bank serves. This particular grant is earmarked for our local club's refurbishing of the Cape Croker boardwalk and is being completed with the assistance of local band members. The boardwalk crosses a variety of wetlands of the Cape Croker band's campsite at Sydney Bay. Employees of the Wiarton Royal Bank Branch gathered on June 10th to mark this partnership. (original story appeared in Wiarton Echo, a Sun Media Co.)

## Meet Jeff and Sheila Buckingham, Volunteers Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

*I've asked Jeff and Sheila to recall their favourite memories of their involvement with the Bruce Trail. Here are their stories. I've added my recollections of them below theirs.*

### Jeff's Story

I remember my first Bruce Trail membership card in '67 Or '68 with Ray Lowes' signature on it. That being said, my involvement with the trail over the years has been minimal because of my other interests. I taught scuba diving for 20 years and came to the Bruce frequently, but only rarely for hiking. However, I was a trades manager for a large company for many years and that seems to have been a selling point when a new trail maintenance director was needed. John Greenhouse and John Appleton invited me over for a beer (or two) and I recall that they intimated that the position really required very little work, so I agreed, being somewhat under the influence. Then I found out that the term "very little work" was quite subjective. Since that time, I have enjoyed working with a great number of the wonderful Bruce Trail family of volunteers, and intend to continue as long as I'm useful.

—Jeff Buckingham



### Sheila's Story

While I am not able to recall the first time I was made aware of the Bruce Trail, I do remember my first work outing; Jeff and I accompanied John and Jane Greenhouse and Mike and Cheryl Marshall on a Spruce the Bruce overhaul of the Burnt Point Loop. John sported a backpack with a chainsaw that poured gasoline down his back throughout the day and Jane had blaze kits, bow saws and loppers. As John removed offending trees, the rest of us tidied up in general.

I, however, am not a fan of "skirt work" and elected to remove tree stump sections to the underbrush rather than sweep up the trail proper. I found it easiest to heave the logs over my head to transport them. Apparently Mike and Cheryl nicknamed me "the Amazon" that day. Who could resist continuing with an organization that calls playing outside "work?"

Now I assist Jeff with trail maintenance and help plan all the fun activities like barbecues and festivals. Parties and playtime??? Now there's a job for me!

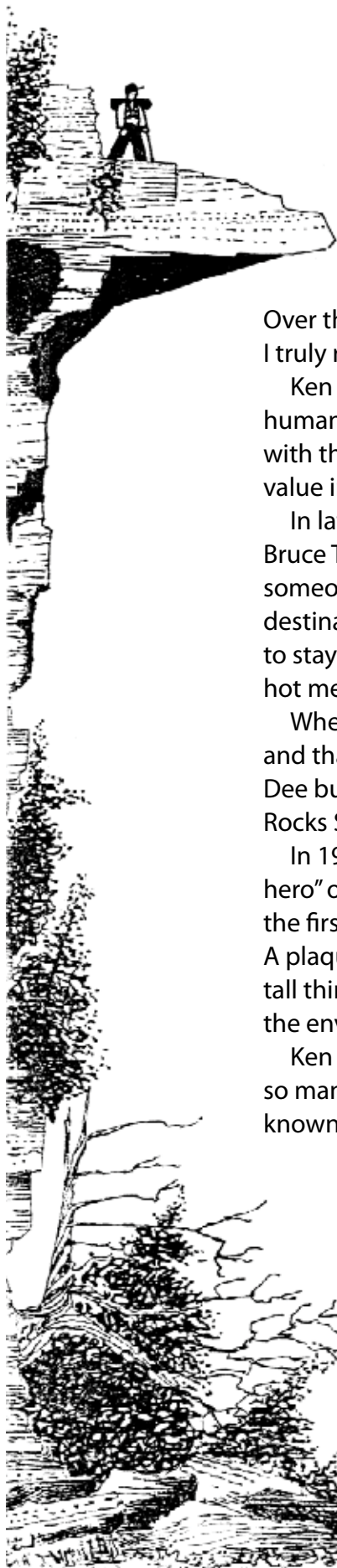
—Sheila Buckingham



### Now it's my turn:

I can remember Jeff and Sheila from almost as many years and I can remember being involved with the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This dynamo couple have been contributing and supporting many community functions for many, many years. They are a Tobermory Institution, but their reach stretches far down into the Bruce Peninsula and beyond. So many organizations have been touched by their generosity and hard work, including Parks Canada, Tobermory Chamber of Commerce, and, of course, the Bruce Trail.





## Memories of a Fellow Long Time Trail Captain

Over the years I have made many close friends through the Bruce Trail. One who I truly regard as an influential role model was Ken Ingham.

Ken Ingham was a medical doctor from Dundas. In addition he was a humanitarian, an oncologist and a conservationist. Through our work together with the Bruce Trail, we became close, and it is a relationship which today I still value intensely.

In late 1988, upon retiring as a doctor, Ken began an end-to-end hike of the Bruce Trail. He was tackling the Peninsula section in the winter, and he needed someone to ferry him away from his car to that he could hike to it as his daily destination. That is how he first met Tom and Dee Ashman. They convinced him to stay around for a couple of days on the Bruce, and to enjoy a warm bed and hot meals. From that grew a deep friendship.

When the Peninsula Club was reconstituted, Ken continued as Trail Captain and that is where our personal friendship first evolved. He had helped Tom and Dee build a trail network on their land and invited us to establish there the Rural Rocks Side Trail, today one of the more popular hiking loops on the Peninsula.

In 1996, the Susan Oleskevich Award was introduced to honour an "unsung hero" of the Trail who emulated her commitment to a quality footpath. Ken was the first recipient. I remember as well a tribute to Ken in 2000 in Dundas. A plaque was unveiled, reading, "In appreciation of George Kenneth Ingham, a tall thin man whose broadly-based friendships, community service and work for the environment are recognized here."

Ken was a special person, both to the Trail and to me personally. His work in so many ways contributed to the quality of all our lives. It was an honour to have known him.

—*Ross MacLean*

## Rural Rootz

On Friday, 16 May, 2014 the Warton Echo newspaper published an article written by Nelson Phillips, the caption "Rural Rootz run deep for local couple". To comply with copyright rules we are unable to reprint the article in its entirety but the following relays this connection to BTC.

Back in 1975, Tom Ashman and Dee Cherrie Ashman bought a 100 acre property on the South Bruce Peninsula. Originally held by the Crown, Tom and Dee are the third owners of this place.

The Ashmans transformed the property on Bruce Road 13, just west of Warton, into the Rural Rootz

Nature Reserve, which in 2000, was officially protected by a Conservation Easement, an agreement that Dee and Tom entered into with the Canadian Federal Government and is now part of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.

By making this agreement the couple have successfully ensured that the land will never be quarried. Upon its acceptance Rural Rootz became the first property in Ontario to have a conservation easement and an integrated trail system — which is also backed and supported by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

Under the careful eye and help of friend, Ken Ingham, they set up

seven stem-and-loop trails. He got in touch with the Bruce Trail Association and had a group of their Board of Directors come to the property. The Bruce Trail Association helped build a four kilometer loop trail that goes around the circumference of the property, past a ten acre beaver pond and over a couple of boardwalks. The Bruce Trail group reports that the property boasts the broadest spectrum of ecology and geology on the entire length of the Bruce Trail

*For more information on Rural Rootz, visit: [www.ruralrootz.com](http://www.ruralrootz.com) or on Facebook search: Rural Rootz Nature Preserve.*

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**Contact Gianni or Hamish for more information:**

Gianni Salvador: [giannisalvador@yahoo.com](mailto:giannisalvador@yahoo.com)

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## Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Holds Annual AGM

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club held its annual AGM on May 10 at Summer House Park recreation hall. Traditionally, the AGM is preceded by a work day called "Spruce Up The Bruce". This year the weather again cooperated and members were busy working on trail maintenance and land stewardship. Following a long, energizing day some eighty club members sat down for a club sponsored barbeque. Members, guests and landowners then stayed to participate in the annual general meeting hosted by out-going President, John Whitworth. President John presented a comprehensive review of the club's activities over the past year including trail development and maintenance, land stewardship,

membership and volunteer management, land securement, sales and fund raising as well as special events.

The annual awards presented to volunteers included the John Appleton Porcupine Award won by long-time volunteer Barbara Wynd and a picture presented to veteran member, volunteer and land owner Ron Gatis.

At the meeting's conclusion, members elected the following people to the club's Board; President-Walter Brewer, Past President-John Whitworth, Vice President-Susan Allen, Treasurer-Lloyd Hayward and Secretary-Bob Light.

A number of positions relating to the on-going work of the club were also filled.

## Our New Executive 2014/2015



*Standing from left to right:* Alicia Allcorn - Hike Coordinator , John Grandy - Trail Development , Lloyd Hayward - Treasurer , Bob Light - Secretary, Walter Brewer - President, Jane Greenhouse - Sales, Sheila Buckingham - Special Events Coordinator, Bob Cunningham - Director at Large, Deb Sturdevant - Archives, Brenda Langlois - Membership, Jeff Buckingham - Trail Maintenance North Don McIlraith - Land Stewardship, Grant Ehrhardt - Publicity  
*Seated:* David Clipsham - Assistant Land Stewardship, Marianne Williams - Director at Large, Susan Allen - Vice President, Bridget Rosser - Volunteer Coordinator

### **Trail Captain Positions Open**

*The Peninsula has some of the best trails in the BTC and you could enjoy looking after a section!*

*We have a few available from Tobermory to Wiarton.*

*Volunteer Trail Captains maintain 4 to 5 kilometers of trail. The work is fun and requires 2 to 3 visits a year after which you submit a check list report. You don't have to cut big trees or build structures; the job consists of refreshing the painted blazes and cutting back the foliage which creeps onto the path each year. We have the tools and we will walk the trail with you to familiarize you with it and the process.*

*Please contact Walter at [walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca](mailto:walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca)*

## Invitation to All Artists and Artist Wannabees

from Kristina Maus and Julie Heinrichs

### A Lion's Head Harbour Sketch and Hike

**Date:** Thursday, September 25th, 2014      **Time:** 9:00 am to about 2 pm

(Raindate: Wednesday, October 1st)

**Meeting Place:** Lion's Head. We'll meet at the McCurdy Parking Lot on Moore Street, km 80.3 on the Bruce Trail Map #38 at 8:45 am

**Distance:** 6 km, not strenuous terrain for the most part, and at an easy pace. We will have a little climbing but much of this is road walking. Should someone wish to shorten the hike it is certainly possible as we are walking in town.

**Description:** From the McCurdy parking lot, we'll follow the trail north on the paved road briefly, and then descend a right-of-way to the bottom of the cliff. We will visit a little waterfall there and stay for a little bit. Then we'll cut through a camp ground, follow the waterfront around the beach to the harbour. We'll follow Dock St. to the end, continue north into the bush along a terrace, past Bannister's Hill Side Trail (lots of poison ivy there so long pants are recommended) to Williams Caves. They are quite spectacular if you haven't seen them and it would be fun to sketch a rock or two! We will follow Chetwynd Lane along the beautiful shoreline to Isthmus Bay Rd. at km 83. After that we'll retrace our steps back to the parking lot.

Participants are asked to bring their own 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!

Pack A Lunch and Snacks and we'll 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, Oct. 1st.

For more information  
feel free to contact:

Kristina Maus, 519-270-9062  
or [maus@highspeedfx.net](mailto:maus@highspeedfx.net)  
or [www.kristinamaus.com](http://www.kristinamaus.com)

Julie Heinrichs:  
[cedargrovesfarmlh@hotmail.com](mailto:cedargrovesfarmlh@hotmail.com)  
or 519 793 6192



In the leadup to the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's 11th annual  
Fall Hiking Festival

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presents

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## FALL 2014 PENINSULA-BRUCE TRAIL HIKE SCHEDULE



DATE	TIME	NAME AND WHERE TO MEET	DOD	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Saturday September 13	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	A Bruce Trail Hike Leadership Course has been scheduled for Saturday September 13 at Woodford Hall, Woodford, between Owen Sound and Meaford and will be led by Hike Ontario President Tom Friesen. The course is open to those wanting to obtain the Hike Ontario Leadership qualification as well as those people interested in becoming Hike Ontario Leadership Instructors. Contact susan_allen@sympatico.ca for more information.			
Wednesday September 17	10:00 AM	<b>JACKSON'S COVE LOOKOUT</b> - Bruce County Rd 9 E on Hopeness Rd, turn right on Jackson's Cove Rd and park at top of the hill	Moderate	Approx 5 km	First walking along the escarpment we then loop back through deciduous forest where Christmas ferns are abundant. Leader Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407
Thursday September 25 (raindate Wed Oct 1st )	9:00 AM to 2:00 pm	<b>LION'S HEAD HARBOUR SKETCH AND HIKE</b> Meeting Place: Lion's Head at the McCurdy Drive Parking Lot on Moore Street, km 80.3 on the Bruce Trail Map #38 at 8:45 am	Easy Pace Easy Terrain	Approx 6 km	We will have a little climbing but much of this is road walking. Should someone wish to shorten the hike it is certainly possible as we are walking in town. Kristina Maus, 519-270-9062 or maus@highspeedfx.net or www.kristinamaus.com or Julie Heinrichs: cedargrovefarmh@hotmail.com or 519 793 6192
<b>HIKING FESTIVAL</b> OCTOBER 3, 4, 5TH For more details see the itinerary outlined in this edition of the Rattler or the PBTC webpage					
Wednesday October 15	11:00 AM	<b>DEVIL'S MONUMENT AND MINHINNICK ST LOOP</b> - Borchardt Rd. Parking Lot, Cape Chin North	Moderate	Approx 8 km	A lovely walk along the escarpment, lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through forest. Leader Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407
Saturday October 18	9:00 AM	<b>Blue Mountain E2E Day 1 of 4</b> Meet at end point of today's hike km 16.3 Bruce Trail Reference Ed 27	Medium Pace Moderate Terrain	16.3 km	Starting from the village of Lavender we will soon enter the Noisy River Nature Preserve. Then for the next 2 kms the Trail moves in and out of the woods and crosses pasture land to reach the Escarpment edge and a scenic lookout. Then crevices, lookouts, orchards and drumlins. Contact susan_allen@sympatico.ca for info

Saturday October 19	9:00 AM	<b>Blue Mountain E2E Day 2 of 4</b> Meet at end point of today's hike km 33.0 Woolner Place Duntroon Nordic Highlands, Bruce Trail /reference Ed 27	Medium Pace Moderate Terrain	16.7 km	We will hike past the ruins of an old kiln where early settlers burnt the Escarpment's dolostone to create lime. There is a descent by a series of switchbacks down into the Devil's Glen Ski Club property and the Mad River before climbing the other side
Saturday October 25	9:00 AM	<b>Blue Mountain E2E Day 3 of 4</b> Meet at end point of today's hike km 47.1 Bruce Trail Reference Ed 27	Medium Pace Moderate Terrain	14.1 km	Moraine, views, transitional forest, Pretty River Valley. Contact susan_allen@sympatico.ca for info
Sunday October 26	9:00 AM	<b>Blue Mountain E2E Day 4 of 4</b> Meet at end point of today's hike km 66 Bruce Trail Reference Ed 27	Medium Pace Moderate Terrain	18.9 km	Osler Bluffs, Petun Conservation Area, erratics (the rock kind - not us), spectacular views of Georgian Bay and Collingwood Contact susan_allen@sympatico.ca for info

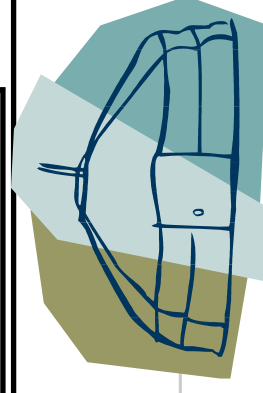
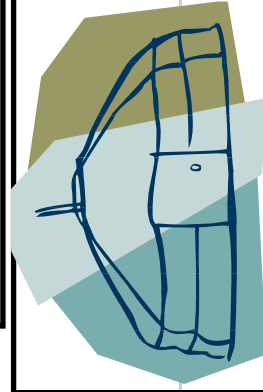
### Trail Captain Workshop

Sat. Oct. 25, 9 am to 4 pm

**Location** - Woodford Hall, Woodford

**Description** - Address various aspects of managing a trail. This will cover tools, support, pruning, structure, safety and techniques like logging wet area management. **Registration required.**

Contact: Walter Brewer - Walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca



### Annual Yurt Camping January 24, 25, and 26th, 2015 at McGregor Provincial Park

There will be a Yurt Camping planning meeting on September 14th at 3:00 p.m at the Lake Charles Schoolhouse. McGregor Provincial Park is one of the few Provincial Parks open in the winter for camping: heated yurts, heated washrooms with hot showers, cross country skiing, skating, snow shoeing.

The yurts sleep 6 people and the costs are shared by those camping in each yurt. Food preparation is shared among those camping in each yurt. At the planning meeting the yurts will be booked and reservations made. The yurts are fully booked about 4 months in advance so we must reserve immediately.

Please call Danuta Valleau at 519-534-1788 or Marianne Williams at schoolhouse lady@gmail.com or 519-534-2087 for more information.

## FIGHTING OFF BEAR THOUGHTS HALFWAY DUMP TO HIGH DUMP

The Bruce Trail Guide says that the hike from High Dump to Halfway Dump is a challenging and remote trek. In places the trail clings to the cliff edge but there is no storm path here. There is no access to water for several kilometres. There might be a pit viper rattlesnake – Massasauga rattlers love to sun themselves out there on the rocks. And finally, this is Black Bear Country. These mammals I did not want to meet up with. I am already acquainted with black bear encounters. It happened on a portage in Killarney Provincial Park. I had a fifty-pound pack on my back and a whistle around my neck. I remember seeing a black Labrador retriever panting in an open canoe in the blazing heat and I felt sorry for him. Keeping my own pace, I was well back of the adventure guide but ahead of several members of the group. Turning a sharp bend on the path, I could see dark fur and assumed it to be the back end of the bear. I was less than twelve feet away from the beast when it turned its head to take a good look at me. I saw black. I saw brown. I saw big.

The bear stared at me with what I interpreted to be a look of disdain, as if to say, "What do you think you're doing here?" Then I became seized by the notion that those eyes began to glare. I thought I saw the nostrils twitch. I did everything wrong. I forgot about the make a lot of noise advice, the whistle and my own vocal chords remaining silent. Very slowly I backed up, largely because running with a huge load (which by the way was packed with everyone's supper) was not an option, at least not for me. Eventually I met up with my group and we blew hard on our whistles. When we reached the bear site she had vanished, leaving only splotches of scat beside a large plot of blueberries. So don't scoff

at those "Bear Warning" signs. And don't tell me that bears don't grow fat in the forest.

I decided to hike south from Halfway Dump to High Dump and back on a hot July Friday. I armoured myself with my trusty and most foul-smelling Muskol, jammed a white cap on my head and clipped a bear bell to the bottom loop of my daypack.

After a short distance of fairly easy terrain, the rock became increasingly rugged and I passed several lookouts. Views across the lake were less than spectacular that day though, more like a gray abyss, no partition between the boundless sky and the pewter water. As the heat and humidity cranked up, the topography began to have a hypnotic effect on me. Drenched in sweat, I fought my way through clouds of miserable mosquitoes. I cursed them and their ugly insect bodies. But hurrah for gossamer-winged dragonflies, those delightful mosquito-eating machines!

I kept hoping for a patch of soft earth or a protective canopy but as I got closer to High Dump, the cliff edge began to sneak closer. Vegetation consisted of stunted spruce and small shrubs quaking in the heat. I was fairly successful at fighting off bear thoughts until I spotted a large cave to the right of the trail. The grass near the mouth had been trampled, not a good sign.

*Bears make dens out of caves and rotted tree stumps, don't they?*

I veered back, telling myself that it was just another curious hiker peering into the cave. Only then did I realize that I'd traveled several kilometres and had not met up with a single human being.

*Well maybe they know better than to trek out here in high summer. They're lying on a raft somewhere or drinking a cool gin and tonic. With ice cubes and a lime twist.*

When I finally reached High Dump I was so clammy, I felt like throwing myself into the bay. Somehow, I had deceived myself into believing that the trail would deliver me to a flat rock terrace or a gently sloping cobble beach – that Georgian Bay would spread out before me in cold blue bliss. What I encountered instead was sheer rock face and a thick yellow rope with which I must hoist myself up and down the escarpment.



**Fighting off Bear Thoughts** *cont'd from page 12*

I managed to descend the cliff face to a designated Overnight Rest Area. The atmosphere was eerie – dark, hazy and hooded by a thick canopy. I found a wooden emergency shelter loaded down with graffiti, near it a large “WARNING!” sign with full frontal and side views of the black bear. “YOU ARE IN BLACK BEAR COUNTRY” it announced. “Bears are wild animals that demand your respect.” Yes! I said as I read the list of exhortations especially the part that instructs that if you are attacked, do not play dead.

**No.** You get aggressive too. Fight back. Yell and scream and wave your arms wildly.

*There are no humans here because the bears scared them away. This is probably where bears hide – was there a bear hiding in that shelter? I forgot to check.*

My imagination started to blur with reality so I headed down to the cobble beach, ripped off my hiking boots and soaked socks, sat on the edge of a large stone and dropped my pulsating feet into the cold water. I could almost see them shrink down a full size.

*It's so hot. What if a bear comes down to the water for a drink?*

I unpacked my lunch and tried to distract myself by watching a couple of terns soak their feathered bodies in the bay. Lunch was raw vegetables, fruit, cheese and hummus.

*Bears are herbivores, aren't they? I should have brought meat!*

I just couldn't sit there any longer so I inhaled my food, pulled on my footwear and approaching the yellow rope at a half run, yanked myself onto the escarpment trying to block out bear propaganda, albeit unsuccessfully.

That tree over there – the lower bark is worn off. Don't bears scratch their backs by rubbing up against tree trunks? No wait. They like to mark trees with their claws. It's a form of communication. “I was here.”

Bear thoughts continued to plague me as I hobbled back to Halfway Dump.

*What is that rustling back there? Is that a bear following me? Or is that just the sound of my own feet shuffling through dead leaves and pinecones?*

*Is the earth pounding or is that the sound of my own heart?*

I asked myself if I was just losing my grip? And with that thought, the cliff took command. My right

foot slipped down a greasy root and slammed into a rock. I fell backwards and reached out in an effort to break the fall, cutting the palm of my hand on a jagged ridge of dolomite.

*Blood! Does the scent of fresh blood lure bears?*

I realized then that the cliff could toss me at any moment. I had better stop spacing out. I began to listen to the chime of the bear bell and a thought occurred to me.

*Damn, if bears fear noise and there's nobody out here, I may as well sing!*

So I did – nothing special, just a string of folk tunes, pop songs and creative little ditties. I threw in a couple of hymns too. I began to feel considerably more confident.

*Here I am, a woman in her mid-fifties being a little deviant and a little wild. Ha!*

Finally, after about six hours of hiking and only a 15-minute, nerve-wracked break, I reached Halfway Dump again. I was baked. My eyes detected two hulking forms walking towards me – tall with massive heads and long appendages. I began to wonder if my vision was going now, flying away with my mind. But if I stopped, I could grind to a halt so I kept on walking. I met up with the hooded figures – a couple bedecked in brimmed hats and dark mosquito netting. They were from Germany. They wanted to see the water. I let them look at my map and advised them to head north.

Safely back in the car, I hurled my cap into the back seat, turned the air conditioning to high and thought to myself: Well you never saw any bears but maybe a bear saw you!

© Kathy Berg, August 2014



*And remember, when making maple syrup, let the bear try your latest batch - just to reassure folks - this photo is in fun - the bear is not for real*

## Celebrating Donors

On a beautiful June 10 afternoon several Bruce Trail volunteers and staff as well as members of the Bruce Resource Stewardship Network assembled at the Bull Homestead property to dedicate the plaque commemorating the significant donation of funds to assist in the acquisition of the Bull Homestead property. This historic land was purchased from Ron Gatis and the Whicher family estate. Land Stewards for the property, Anita and Bob Cunningham, pointed out that the property is home to at least two endangered species of birds, many other species of birds and several other important features - trees and geology.

Thanks to the Bruce Stewardship Network for their continued support.



*Left to Right:* John Grandy, Walter Brewer, Beth Gilhespy (BTC), Craig Todd, Ron Gatis, Norah Toth ( Bruce Resource Stewardship Network)

### **Peninsula Bruce Trail Club 2014 Record Breaking Annual Birding Walk 64 Species Identified**

***Lead by Ray and Marlene Rothenbury with eleven other enthusiastic birders.***

There were 13 of us this year, and what a birding walk it was this May. We always target the Wednesday of the second week of May each year for our walk. A lot of it is pure luck ... will we be lucky enough to catch the northward bound migration just right? Will the budding leaves hold back just a little longer ... for best viewing? Will the weather be fair ... not too hot, not too cold, not too wet, not too sunny, not too windy? We're a demanding lot, we spring birders. We nailed it this year! All conditions were perfect. We were able to surpass previous years' records and break through the big 60 barrier!

All of our participants were locals this year, and brought together great birding experiences, and a good knowledge of the areas we walked. Bill Hansen and Don Douma conduct a yearly waterbird survey of Dyer's Bay for the Cabot Head Bird Observatory and are very familiar with wildlife and wave conditions of the bay. They helped us identify waterbirds from the Dyer's Bay dock—we had several scopes to get a "bird's eye" view. One young team member this year is attending university in B.C. and spends his summers at his family cottage here while working in Tobermory. His young eyes and ears were invaluable—especially is spotting two American Bitterns in the tall grasses of 'Bartley Lake' on Dyer's Bay Rd.

***PBTC Annual Birding Walk - cont'd from page 14***

The very illusive Sora find was confirmed by another team member by playing it's call on an APP. The response from the wetlands in the same area was unmistakable. Thanks to Bill, Don, and Mike Marshall for being so willing to come out on our walk when we call with the annual plea for help.

Our usual route takes us from Dyer's Bay Dock to Brittain Lake Rd., and then around the concession block of Bartley Drive, Lindsay Rd. 40, Crane Lake Road, and Dyer's Bay Rd. We carpool and break for lunch at the Warder Ranch, each of us finding our spot on the grass up against the warm south facing wall of the homestead house of the Warder's. But we better not mention the secret stash of salad we find still growing in what once was the homestead kitchen garden. No bears showed up on the distant hills across Crane Lake ... we always invite them but they had other plans.

The follow is the final sighting list of the 64 species identified this year. Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Mallard, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs,

Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch.

Thank you all birders that came out this year to help with the sightings. It was a collective success again this year.

Birds of the day: How about the 2 American Bitterns and the Sora at 'Bartley Lake' on Dyer's Bay Rd., and the tree full of migrating Cape May Warblers at the swamp on Crane Lake Rd. Whoopee, what a day!

—Ray and Marlene Rothenbury



***Sora***

## New Bench at Lion's Head Library

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club and Bruce Peninsula Environment Group co-sponsored a bench erected in front of the Lion's Head library on June 21.

It is dedicated to honour the two gentlemen: Patrick Lima and John Scanlan who for several years opened their 'Larkwhistle' garden to the public.

They are supporters of both BPEG and PBTC and have added a significant measure of environmental, conservation, gardening, musical, and literary culture to our Peninsula community.

The bench was designed and built by Jim Kuellmer, president of BPEG and well known PBTC land steward and trail captain. The steel frame is made from recycled propane tanks and the wood back and seat are of ironwood cut from Jim's woodlot at Rush Cove. The idea for its placement in front of the library came from Suzanne Dyke, who belongs to the PBTC and BPEG, and volunteers to maintain the gardens at the library.

We hope you will take a few moments to enjoy the bench and remember the gifts of Larkwhistle.



*Left to Right:* Don McIlraith, Jim Kuellmer, Suzanne Dyke

## Hike and Sketch Artists

Local hikers with an artistic side came together for a Hike and Draw at Walter's Falls on Thursday, June 26th. It was organized by Kristina Maus and Julie Heinrichs, both members of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, with the goal to promote both the trail and art. The hike was up and down the river bank near the Walter's Falls Inn, about an hour and a half, and sketching opportunities followed. The weather was perfect, the trail breathtaking, company collegial and folks appreciated the time to sit and sketch and enjoy the atmosphere of the river, the falls, the old Mill and the Bruce Trail. All enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Walter's Falls Inn. Thanks to members of the Shoreline Artists, the Bruce Trail Club and guests from as far away as California who were able to participate. The beauty of the Bruce Trail draws people in from all over!



*Kristina Maus & Julie Heinrichs*

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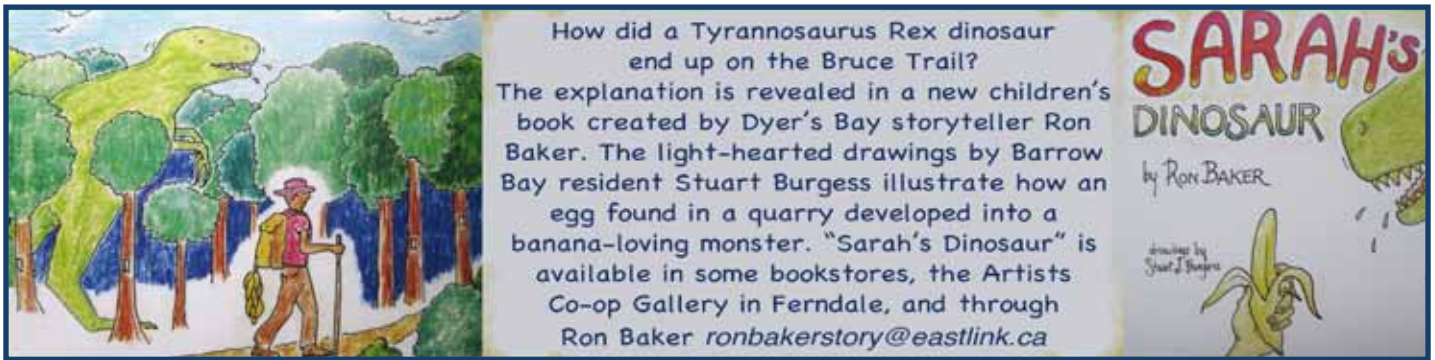
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## The Rattler 2013 Report

I am pleased to submit the PBTC newsletter report for 2013 on behalf of The Rattler team.

Our club had 645 members at year end. Of this total, 154 members receive their newsletter by print. However, as we mail to a larger group which includes landowners, advertisers, etc. our mailing group typically numbers 200+.

Revenue for 2013 was \$1,630.20 against costs of \$2,875.50. The net cost of The Rattler to our club then was about \$1,245.00. With postal rates increasing this year we are asking our print folks to switch to receiving the newsletter electronically. We may, however, be at the optimum electronic "reception" point and the 24% who receive through the mail simply prefer hard copy.

I would like to thank the dedicated team that puts together such a solid product in a timely fashion; Kathryn Orr, Julie Heinrichs, Jan Mackie, Mike and Kathy Mason, Mike Marshall and our "editor emeritus" Don McIlraith who provides timely advice and settles disputes.

Our club can be justifiably proud of its newsletters which always provide colourful and informative communications.

— Ken Clark



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### Help!

Get the most out of your membership.  
Get involved with your club.  
Meet more great members.

Volunteer to join the Peninsula Club Board of Directors. Only three meetings plus the AGM per year.

The Board for 2014-15 requires the following positions:

- a) Recording Secretary
- b) Assistant Sales Director

The Club also requires:

- a) Trail Captains
- b) Trail Work Party Volunteers

*Contact: Don McIlraith  
donmcilraith@amtelecom.net*

## Don't miss out!

\*Receive all the news from the Peninsula Club and the BTC

\*Notices, hike schedules, upcoming events, call for work parties are all sent out in Peninsula Club's enotes 'Rattling on'. This is an occasional publication a few times a year in between Rattler Issues.

Here's how to sign up: Sign in to [www.Bruce Trail.org](http://www.Bruce Trail.org)

Scroll down the left side of the home page and click on 'Subscribe to Newsletters'

Click on all the choices to get all the most recent news.



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## ISRAEL

March 9 to 22, 2015

Fascinating and complex, Israel offers immense diversity. Hike the lush vineyards of the Golan Heights & the deep canyons of the Judean Desert, plus the famed Jesus Trail from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. We shall visit Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada, Bethlehem and Tel Aviv, and although this holiday is not religious by design, we cannot help but be immersed in the dominant role it has played for centuries.

## CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

April 15 to 27, 2015

Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is finally time to add our own footsteps to this historical journey in the north of Spain. Walk the last 152km, staying in lovely hotels along the way while having your luggage transported for you. Meet other pilgrims and share your stories, finally concluding your adventure in Obradoiro Square overlooking the gothic cathedral that has inspired so many. Collect your "compostelas" and forever wear this trip as a badge of honour. "*Buen camino!*"

## CORFU, GREECE

May 11 to 23, 2015

This Greek island is the perfect combination of European flare and tranquil sea-side living. Hike to the heavens to visit holy monasteries and trek in shade of ancient olive groves. We promise - you will never tire of the deep, deep blue of the sea that surrounds you. Opa!

## IRELAND

June 2 to 12, 2015

With more shades of green than you can imagine, the **Emerald Isle** lives up to its deserving reputation. From historical Dublin to picturesque Killarney & parts in between, we will take you hiking through some of the most sought-after scenery the country has to offer - and we'll even make a few pub stops along the way!

## KENYA

July 5 to 17, 2015

Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too!  
Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsman in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?

## AMALFI COAST, ITALY

October 5 to 17, 2015

Italy never fails to capture the hearts (and stomachs) of its visitors, and the Amalfi Coast lives up to that reputation - towns perched impossibly on mountainsides, one of the most famous stretches of coastline in the world, sapphire-blue water in every direction, an infamous volcano and some of the finest Limoncello anywhere. Come hike in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and on the posh island of Capri.

## 2014 Volunteer Service Awards

On June 9th, a number of members of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club attended OSCVI in Owen Sound to participate in the presentation of Volunteer Service Awards hosted by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in recognition of years of dedicated volunteer service.



Our recipients were:

*left to right*

- Don McIlraith  
—10 years
- Nancy Ince  
—5 years
- Jane Greenhouse  
—10 years
- Jim Kuellmer  
—10 years
- Kathryn Orr  
—10 years
- Lloyd Hayward  
—10 years
- Elaine Wassermann  
—10 years  
(separate photo)

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## Sales Director Position

After six years of building a popular offering of Bruce Trail merchandise that has helped our fundraising efforts, our Sales Director Jane Greenhouse has decided to take a well-deserved break. As a result, we are looking for a new sales director to take over her role. The position is responsible for ordering, stocking, and distributing Bruce Trail-related merchandise to any interested retailers as well as through mail order. Last year the sales role generated over \$7,500 of profit.

The position is what you want to make of it, and could be filled by someone who just wants to maintain the offering as is or by someone who wants to continue to work on expanding the product and sales base. The workload is typically heavier in the summer months with the winter months only needing small planning and ordering work.

Jane will be available to facilitate an orderly transition and will deliver the new candidate a full process that runs quite smoothly. Interested candidates should email [pjanegee@yahoo.ca](mailto:pjanegee@yahoo.ca) or call 519-596-2081

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In the March issue of the Rattler we asked for your captions for this photo. Here's what you thought it might read.

"Ken, what is the waypoint for the fountain of youth?"

We need younger volunteers on the Peninsula

Proof we need younger volunteers

"Where are the grandkids when you need them"

"What does GPS stand for again?"

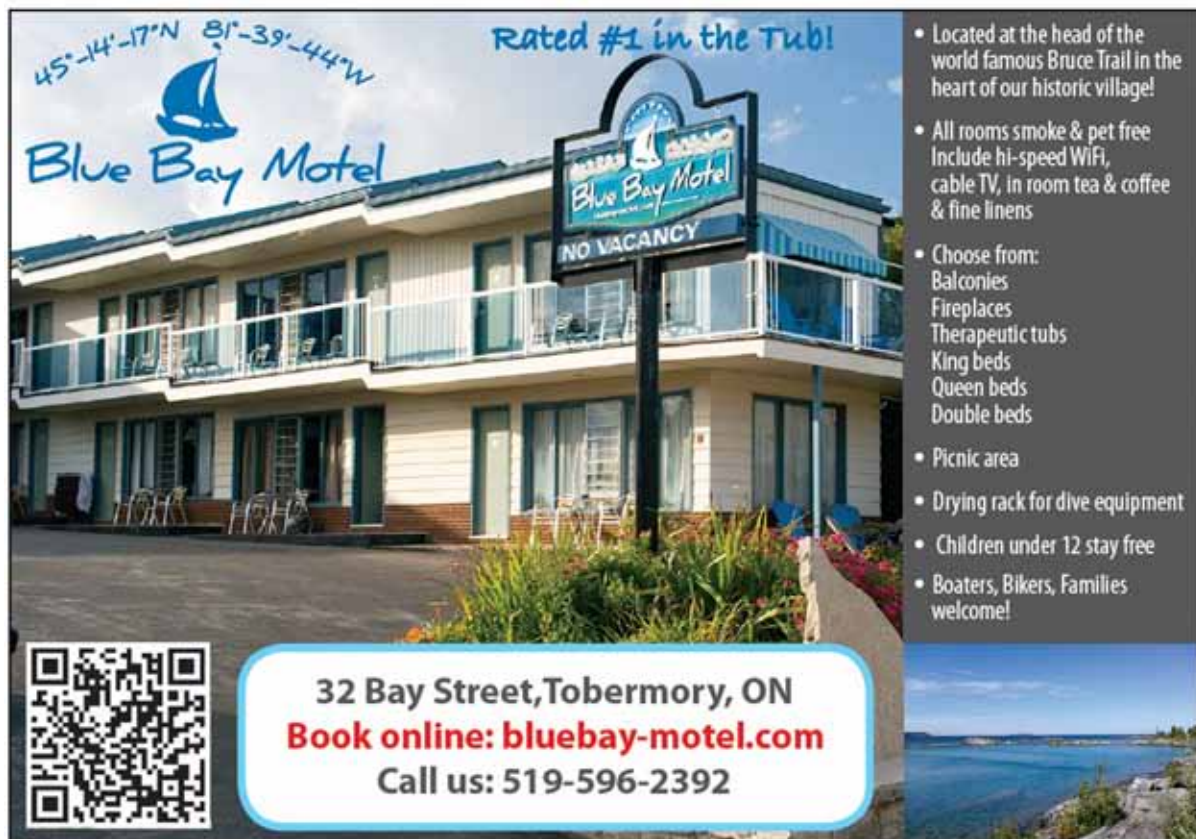
**Thanks!!**

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Send us your favorite photo taken on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format to:

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# 11TH ANNUAL HIKING FESTIVAL

in celebration of the  
**UNESCO**  
International Year of Family Farming  
October 3rd to 5th 2014



Here at the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club we keep a sharp eye on UNESCO's annual themes as they are always worthy of contemplation, and often suggest a good focal point for our fall hiking festival. This year is no exception with "The Family Farm" a rich subject in this peninsula settled by the most intrepid of pioneers. Many farms still flourish in the lower parts of the peninsula and the echoes of those that once sustained families here in the north are patterned on the landscape. Though not all the pioneers here were farmers; the loggers and fishers also played an important part in the region's development and have left their own imprints on the physical and cultural history here. All three groups braved harsh conditions and lonely isolation to try to eke sustenance from this less-than-generous landscape.

However what we look to the landscape for now is provided in abundance – the majestic forests, crystal-clear waters and towering shorelines draw hundreds of thousands to this area yearly. This massive migration would have likely seemed absurd to those here in past centuries.

So this year, we honour the tough-minded and tougher-bodied pioneers of our beautiful peninsula and seek out the physical and cultural relics of their past.

Hikes will explore sites from each of the areas of enterprise and knowledgeable leaders (several are descendants of these pioneers) will tell of the real-life stories that shaped the places you'll see and the changes that have occurred there over time.

On Friday evening we will have a presentation from local archaeologist Scarlett Janusas who will share her finds from physical exploration the region's past. And on Saturday, we will hear from Allen Smutylo, an artist and playwright who spent many years here decades ago chronicling on canvas the few remaining people still living the hardscrabble life of the pioneer way. His recently premiered play "The Portrait" about local fisherman Orrie Vale will be referred to through original songs performed live during his presentation.

We are looking forward to sharing this terrific opportunity to know more about the cultural and physical history of the Bruce Peninsula through exciting speakers and wonderful walks through the very places where these stories unfolded.

Please see the activities descriptions and registration form at [PBTC.ca](http://PBTC.ca) under "festival" and sign up early to be sure to catch the outings of your choice before they fill up.

## Festival Events & Itinerary

### Friday, October 3, 2014

#### 1:00 p.m. Flowerpot Island Tour

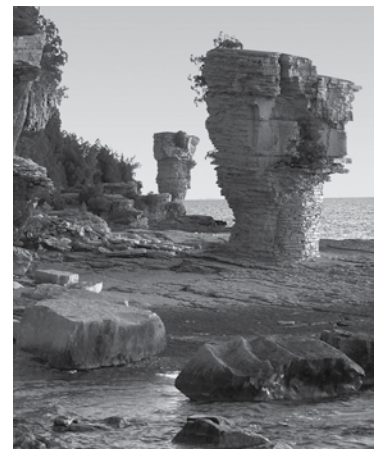
*Location:* Blue Heron Dock (The Blue Heron Co.), 24 Carlton Street, Little Tub Harbour, Tobermory. Join us for a hike at Flowerpot Island if you want to start the weekend early! Meet at the Blue Heron dock in Tobermory harbour.

*Note:* This tour is not included in the festival pass price but we do need you to pre-register. We have negotiated a special price of \$35 for preregistered festival attendees, to be paid as part of your online registration.

*Duration:* about 3 hours <> Dock location: Google Maps

#### 6:00 p.m. Evening Social at the Ancient Cedars Cafe

Join us for a social evening at the Ancient Cedars Cafe, Cornerstone Golf Course, 7178 Highway #6, Tobermory (Google Map | Street View). Shaun and Judy Hurst pride themselves in using locally grown and raised foods. Order directly from the menus, but do let us know if you are coming. There is a \$5 cover charge if you do not purchase the Festival Pass. **Arrive early for a round of golf - its just a hike with a ball!**



# Saturday October 4, 2014

Two Saturday events (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) are included in the Festival Pass. Individually they are \$20 each. When completing the online Registration Form, please indicate a first and second choice for both the morning and afternoon; events will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THESE EVENTS START AND END AT THE PARK VISITOR CENTRE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED OR ARRANGED.

**SATURDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES** – You may participate in one of the following morning events and must indicate a first choice and a second choice when completing the Registration Form.

**Saturday 8:30 a.m. Event 1. The History of Lumbering at Gillies Lake Hike (I)**

Ned and Mary Crawford have offered to show small groups around their property that includes the old flume and sawmill that made Gillies a lumbering centre over a century ago. Limited to 10 persons. This event is repeated in the afternoon. Hike level is moderate.

**Saturday 8:30 a.m. Event 2. Roofed Accommodations Hike**

From the Yurts along Cyprus Lake to the naturally eroded shelter provided by Overhanging Point. If you haven't enjoyed the view from under either "roof" this is a must. Two registration options are available for this hike. Meet at the visitor centre for 8:30 a.m. and drive up as a group to the yurt area, or if you are staying in a yurt, sleep in a bit, and we will bring the reservation to you at 9:00 a.m. Hike level moderate to difficult. Leader to be announced.

**Saturday 9:00 a.m. Event 3. The Settlement Loop Hike**

Take a hike through 'The Settlements' agricultural past. Starting at Lot 47 Concession 1 EBR, the original homestead of Jacob Belrose, our walk will follow the open fields and stone fences through several early farms to 'Daves Bay' and then back for a historical tour of the original farm house. Hike level moderate. Hike leader: Darla Campbell.

**Saturday 9:00 a.m. Event 4. Tobermory's Fishing History Hike**

Start with coffee and muffins at the Reader's Haven Book Store, 10 Bay St. Tobermory, ON (Google Maps | Street View), and continue with Holly Dunham to explore the fishing history of the Tobermory settlement. For those who have gone with Hike Leader Holly before, she promises that this year will have a new perspective and it's worth going again. Hike level easy.

**Saturday 9:30 a.m. Event 5. Art in the Museum**

Join local artist Julie Heinrichs in the St. Edmunds Township Museum, (Google Maps | Street View) for a morning of sketching and watercolours. Materials are provided, but you can of course bring your own if preferred.

**Saturday 10:00 a.m. Event 6. Fourth Annual Rattler Run**

Distance 5 km. Bring your competitive spirit to the Park Visitor Centre, also your running shoes for a pleasant run around the Burnt Point Loop. Please arrive early at the Visitor Centre for check-in and marshalling. The fee for this event has been reduced to \$10.

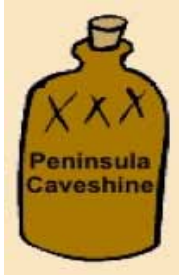
**ADDED FEATURE: KID'S RUN** (up to Grade 8) 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. to the Dunks Bay lookout and back to the base of the tower, with a victory climb to the top for a prize. This kid's event is FREE.



## LUNCH NOTE

A lunch will be provided at the Visitor Centre for \$8. The cost of a lunch is not included in the Festival Pass. Indicate on the registration form if you want to buy a lunch.

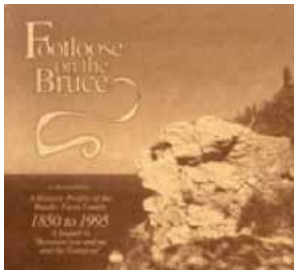
**SATURDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES** – You may participate in one of the following afternoon events and must indicate a first choice and a second choice when completing the Registration Form.



**Saturday 1:30 p.m. Event 7. Rock Ramble to Bootleggers Cave**  
 Another perennial favourite. Follow Sheila and Jeff Buckingham deep into the crevices and crannies among the boulders strewn along the shore above halfway log dump. There is an easier way to get to bootleggers' Cave, but the shore is by far the most interesting! This is more than a hike as minor caving, climbing and crawling are involved; please be advised that it is a very tough route. Wear sturdy boots, bring extra water but not poles. Difficult to extreme! Leaders: Jeff and Sheila Buckingham.

**Saturday 1:30 p.m. Event 8. The History of Lumbering at Gillies Lake Hike (II)**  
 A repeat of the morning Event 1. Again limited to 10 persons. Ned and Mary Crawford have offered to show small groups around their property that includes the old flume and sawmill that made Gillies a lumbering centre over a century ago. Limited to 10 persons. Hike level moderate.

**Saturday 1:30 p.m. Event 9. Field Hopping Hike**  
 A mix of the old and the new. The Johnstone's field is being restored with native tree species in the coming years. Starting there on Highway 6 and heading north towards the Warder Ranch, see an area of the Bruce Peninsula National Park that is seldom visited. Hike level moderate. Leader: Cavan Harpur.



**Saturday 1:30 p.m. Event 10. Hike through Bruce Peninsula History: The Warder Ranch**  
 Again, a popular repeat from last year. Entering at the Crane Lake gate east of Dyers Bay we will hike through the pastures and buildings of this legendary Bruce Peninsula farm, featured in Maitland Warder's book "Footloose on the Bruce". Hike level moderate. Hike leader: Lenore Keeshig.

**Saturday 1:30 p.m. Event 11. Gas and Whistle, Fen and Fossil Hike**  
 A repeat of this popular hike from last year. The hike starts at Johnson's Harbour heading south, crossing the mouth of the Crane River and continuing to the Cove Island Gas and Whistle Buoy now derelict on the shore. Time permitting we will visit a small fen and then a shoreline site with some of the best fossils on the peninsula. Easy to Moderate, 4 km. Waterproof boots recommended. Leader: Grace Telfer.



\* \* \* \* \*

**SATURDAY EVENING**

Following tradition, we will close this day of hiking with an evening reception and a fascinating talk



**7:00 p.m. > Wine and Cheese**  
 Location: Parks Canada Visitor Centre  
 The wine and cheese will be followed by a talk by well known artist, author and playwright Allen Smutylo. The presentation will include live original music from his play "The Portrait".  
 This event is included in the Festival Pass - otherwise \$25.

# Sunday, October 5, 2014

## BRUCE TRAIL DAY HIKE



The Bruce Trail Day hike will be led this year by the irrepressible Beth Gilhespy, Executive Director of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and geology fanatic. Learn about fossils of the Niagara Escarpment on this exploration of Coveney Hill, Cape Croker.

Depart at 10:00 a.m. from the parking area (P) at the join of Coveney's and Crooked Toe Roads (coordinates 44.862904, -81.067827) - see a portion of Bruce Trail Reference Map 36 below. Google Maps of Meeting Place: [Map](#) | [Satellite](#) | [Street View](#)  
To view Google Maps driving directions from Bruce Road 9 at coordinates 44.814365, -81.140590 (north of Colpoys Bay) [click here](#)

