

The Rattler



ISSUE #3 2017

President's Message

It's about you and the land! This club and the other eight are dedicated to helping – full stop!

You, the club members, provide money, talents and hard work (which, fortunately many consider to be fun). Why? Because the clubs are the local presences of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and together we conserve land and provide access to the beautiful landscape of Southern Ontario via a walking trail. There is no government funding so we depend upon your support.

Our club has over 125 volunteers who actively help the public and other members enjoy this land. We have about 700 members and it is with your financial support that this is all possible (thanks and please continue to renew your membership). In order to help, we do the two big things, steward the land and manage and develop the trail. In addition, we run hikes and provide information through our communications tools. It is this area that we are asking for your input and help.

In this issue of the Rattler we are announcing our intention to significantly reduce our paper distribution of the Rattler newsletter. This will save volunteer time and your donated money which can be used on projects. Please refer to the insert on how to check and modify your profile at the BTC site (pg.13) where the distribution list is kept. We have also introduced a new mailing address for your comments to the President (pbtcpresident@gmail.com). Tell me what you like or would like to see in the communication vehicles we have (web site, Facebook and The Rattler newsletter).

We have volunteers joining the Board to help and we still have openings in the area of communications and hike leadership. Don't feel you need to attend all the meetings. Many jobs can be done from home or when you are available. Please contact me about the various positions.

This year we were host to the BTC 50th anniversary and we celebrated ours at the same time even though the club probably started in 1962. The celebration on



Bruce Trail Pilgrimage Art Project - see details page 9

June 10th was a great success as were the Baton Hike and the 50 K Challenge. Our team has now completed the special anniversary E2E which for the first time used buses. Over 80 hikers completed the 166 KM of trail and got a badge. Special thanks to the volunteers who provided support and to Bridget Rosser and Susan Allen for dreaming this up and pulling it off! See Facebook for photos and the web pages for historical items.

The Peninsula Club will host the 2018 BTC AGM which will be located at the Evergreen Resort on Little Red Bay, Lake Huron. This is the location the initial trail builders used and one used by BTC AGM 20 years ago. It is a fantastic location; we will have full use of the facilities (I love the hardwood tabletop shuffle board); B&B accommodations in cabins or tents and guaranteed Lake Huron sunsets! See you there!

Walter Brewer President PBTC

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pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
 Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"March 7, 2018"

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1/4 page:	\$55	\$150
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Contents Issue #3, 2017

President’s Message pg. 1
 Teamwork pg. 3
 Award Winning Boardwalks pg. 4
 Award Winning Boardwalks -photos pg. 5
 A Sad Week pg. 6
 The Passing of Our Friends pg. 7
 Where the Trail May Lead You pg. 8
 Escarpment As Muse Exhibition pg. 9
 Nancy and Barry Ince pg. 10
 Many Hands Make Light Work pg. 11
 A Bench to Remember Sandra pg. 12
Fix Your BTC Profile pg. 13
Electronic Rattler pg. 14
 Board of Directors + Yurts pg. 15
 Fabulous Donors pg. 16
 Our Fabulous Donors - photo pg. 17
 BTC Volunteer of the Year, Deb Sturdevant. pg. 18
 PBTC Trail Angels Had Busy First Year pg. 19



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TEAMWORK

Big, black, hiding in the bush...

And not a bear! The Barrow Bay Side Trail is a beautiful stretch of Bruce Trail. It has everything - gorgeous lookouts from lofty heights on top of the escarpment at Rush Cove, steep and challenging ascents and descents to the turquoise water, easy paths along the waterfront, rocky beaches ... and an ominous black plastic drum full of sloshing liquid which had drifted ashore, and got stranded between the trees. Parts of the original labels were still attached, including the international symbols for corrosive and hazardous materials.

The location of the barrel was a good hour hike from the nearest road. The descents to the waterfront are technical - don't wear your flip-flops, hang on to the ropes and don't let go! How on Earth could we get this heavy, large, and hazardous object out of there?

Bob Cunningham and Grant Ehrhardt hiked to the location of the barrel, and recorded GPS co-ordinates. We then contacted the MNBPF Fire Department, and Fire Chief Wilf Barnes wasted absolutely no time. Muffy Davies, member of the emergency response team, hiked out to the barrel (with baby Zev giving perfect directions), took pictures, and advised against recovering the barrel on foot. Fire Chief Barnes contacted the Spills Action Center on September 27, and the Ministry of Environment on the 28th. He was given a list of companies which recover hazardous materials,



and on the same day, a company near Hamilton was tasked with removal of the barrel - by boat!



This happened the very next day, September 29 - the same day we experienced a powerful rain and wind storm on the Peninsula, with huge waves and gusts up to 100 km/hr. The 20 foot work boat was launched from the Lion's Head Marina at 8:30 a.m. and a 3 man crew headed out to the barrel - where one crew member waded to shore, and rolled the barrel up a ramp into the boat. The crew returned to the marina about 30 minutes before the storm broke. The contents of the drum were tested on site, and turned out to be highly acidic and corrosive (aqueous sodium bisulphate). After some paperwork in lashing rain and pounding wind, the barrel was safely en route to the Hamilton area, for proper disposal.

I would have gladly taken a day off from the library to see the action!

As Trail Captain and Land Steward of this section, I would like to thank everybody involved in this amazing collaboration and team work - above all, Fire Chief Barnes and his fantastic team, for responding so quickly and effectively!

Ulla Conrad

Award Winning Boardwalks

The PBTC is proud to announce that it was awarded the Philip and Jean Gosling Award at the recent 2017 BTC AGM for two replacement boardwalks in the Cape Chin area, km 103.0. This award recognizes trail improvements, including structures, which help to minimize the environmental impact of the trail.

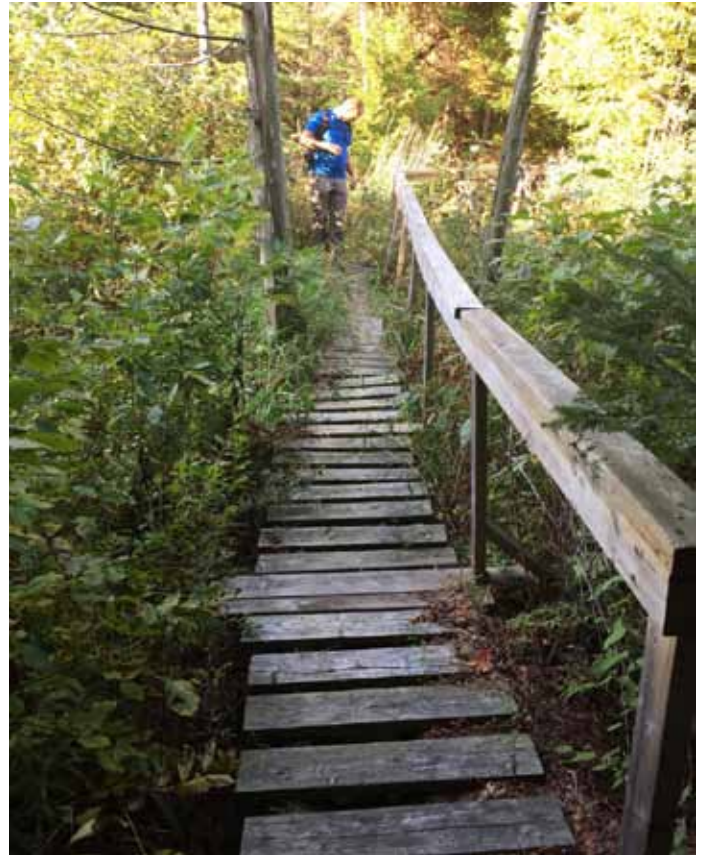


Bud Guice, Trail Captain, reported in the fall, that one small bridge and one boardwalk were in need of replacement as they were rotting and slanted, creating an unsafe situation.

Following a preliminary walkabout with Zane Davies, of TREADscape, a local trail builder, it was determined that it made economical and environmental sense to harvest and mill the necessary cedar wood on site. This eliminated the need to purchase finished wood and to transport the wood a great distance. This would have been very costly and presented a safety risk for the volunteers.

With the capable assistance of a few members of the Order of the Muddy Boot, the old bridge and boardwalk were removed and replaced by two new 'live-edge' boardwalks. The result was very environmentally and aesthetically pleasing. Many hikers have commented positively on it.

The next time you hike that section, take a close look at the boardwalks and marvel at the workmanship and effort put in by TREADscape and PBTC volunteers.



*Submitted by Tom Hall
Trail Maintenance Coordinator*

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Kathryn Burns working hard with the crowbar



Ready for Trail Users

A Sad Week

Recently the Peninsula Club lost two outstanding supporters of the BTC. Donna Baker passed away at her Lion's Head home surrounded by family and Russell Ferguson died while out on the Bruce Trail near Lion's Head.

We first met Donna in the early nineties at a Peninsula Club Executive meeting in Guelph. She was both Secretary and Treasurer at the time.

She eventually rose to the dizzying heights of President!

On a PBTC planning weekend John and Donna came to stay and it was then that John discovered a house for sale almost opposite ours and they became not only great friends but also our neighbours.

They had been living in Elmira where they raised a son and daughter. Donna was actively involved with the Girl Guide Association and Hospice and now they were retiring on the Bruce. However, Donna never retired, after being PBTC President Donna remained on the Board and she and John were still active Trail Captains and Land Donors. Donna loved being out on the trail and would not hesitate at hauling deadfall off the Treadway. Among all her other activities one of her greatest achievements was completing her undergraduate degree which she had started many years before but with the arrival of children had been unable to complete.

Donna soon immersed herself into life in Lion's Head, she curled, hiked and kayaked. She loved nature and the outdoors and was seen day after day tending her huge vegetable garden and with her generosity of heart, much of her produce she gave away. She was involved in many organizations including Hospice once again, The Environmental Club and eventually Meals on Wheels. She was the one cutting the cake on Canada Day and appearing everywhere where help was needed. Her life was spent helping others and welcoming newcomers to Lion's Head regardless of the fact that she was new herself. The door to their house was always open and with Donna's beaming smile one always felt at home.

Her "Celebration of Life" was a testament to the character of Donna. For two days people came and went to the Baker house. All with a story of something that Donna, in her unselfish manner had done for them. Family and friends were a huge priority for Donna, she was especially devoted to her two granddaughters and she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

She died with the same poise, grace and dignity with which she had lived her life.

We had known Russell Ferguson since the mid-nineties. We first met at the Lion's Head Curling Club, a game we all very much enjoyed, but at which we did not excel. Russell had also been very active with the Bruce Peninsula Environmental Group, an organisation we had also joined.

Russell became an active Trail Captain and a Director at Large. A particularly strong memory we have is when Russell and Katharine were Trail Captains of the Inland Side Trail at Lion's Head. Every year Russell would don coveralls, goggles, gloves and carry his gas weed-whacker many km's to attack poison ivy and growth on the Treadway. Hours later he would emerge exhausted and covered in green debris!

Russell was a trained horticulturalist, so a hike on the trail often consisted of some exposure to Latin plant names. Russell helped out with many trail projects and was a great companion on trail maintenance days. His interests were many. He enjoyed theatre visits and music and his time at their barn conversion home and acreage near Ferndale.

(cont'd on page 7)

(cont'd from page 6) Many Spring days were spent helping Russell and Katharine with maple syrup making ... hauling the buckets of sap through the snow, loading up the burner with logs and finally enjoying the results!

Over 25 years ago Russell started a small weekly coffee (breakfast) meeting with four to five friends to discuss current events or whatever else came to mind. Sadly, Russell was the last of the "original" group, but we hope to carry on his legacy.

Donna and Russell leave a huge hole in our hearts.

Our thoughts go out to the families.

They were great friends.

John and Judy Appleton



*Enjoying a meal with many Bruce Trail friends in Tobermory, June 10th, 2017 at the BTC 50th Anniversary
Russell Ferguson - far left
Donna Baker - far right*

The Passing of our Friends

The Club has been honoured with dedicated volunteers who become friends. We serve the same cause and share work and fun. It is with a profound sense of loss that the Club reflects on the recent passing of three people who gave so much to this club and to many others.

Donna Baker played a major role with the Club. She was President from 1997 to 2000 and perhaps her major contribution was the building of a strong relationship of the Club with the community. Prior to her, many local residents saw the PBTC as a group of people "from away." Donna and John provided land behind their house and were key to the revitalization of the Club. Donna helped to organize the archives and to interview and relay many stories about our Club members.

Jim Woods recently joined our Club after helping the Iroquoia Club and after completing his end to end. He served as a Trail Captain, builder of the Snake Boardwalk and Secretary on the Land Management Committee. Jim has supported projects

and recently pledged to help fund the refurbishing of the barn foundation on the Bull Homestead, the site of our donor recognition area.

Russell and Katharine Ferguson were supporters of the Bruce Trail since the early 1990s. Russell was known for long term support of the trail - he walked it frequently with his dog. Their first job with the Club was as Trail Captains for the formidable Inland Trail near Lion's Head. It was a half hour hike just to get to the access point of their section. Often they carried a large, two person saw to clear away deadfall in the spring and fall. Katharine remembers that Russell "dealt forcefully" with poison ivy on that stretch of trail. She remembers him leaving the farm dressed from head to foot, including overalls, a face mask and gloves at 5:00 a.m. in the morning. He carried a whipper-snipper in hand to cut the encroaching poison ivy way back from the trail. "It was hot in all that gear" explained Russell. Early was the best time to get the job done.

Walter Brewer

Where the Trail May Lead You

How is it that like-minded people find one another? That is what the Bruce Trail has done for many of us.

Moore Street in Lion's Head is a beautiful, scenic section of the Bruce Trail leading to lookouts over Georgian Bay. Though years apart we both found our homes while hiking the trail along Moore Street.

Many people walk past our homes during all seasons. We have an informal neighbourhood watch system from our windows. Donna Baker was always recognizable because she walked to and from the village often at a fast clip and with her hair bouncing in the breeze. She was renowned for her smile and cheery greeting to everyone she met.

Donna lived with great intention and was selfless in helping so many in the community. Their home is situated beside the trail's McCurdy parking lot. Donna was often in her yard or walking the trail and would meet people from Canada and other countries. More than once she would offer them supper or camping overnight in her yard – sometimes with breakfast the next day. She had a genuine interest in people and always enjoyed sharing her love of the trail.



Donna enjoying a winter hike



Donna and friends on the trail - Donna at left, Julie at right

The Bakers worked as Trail Captains for many years until they asked us to take over the job a few years ago. They even donated a portion of their property to the BTC to ensure the Isle Hanel side trail was secure for future generations.

I was given poppies from Donna's garden who, like her, volunteer happily in many locations. Her happy face sunflowers stood tall in her front garden near community plots the Bakers generously offered to neighbours and friends.

Donna Baker has left an imprint on and off the trail.

Hers was a life well lived

*Her friend and neighbour,
Julie Heinrichs*

Escarpment As Muse Exhibition Art Opening and Performances April 15, 2018 1-4pm, Hamilton, ON

The Bruce Trail Pilgrimage Art Project celebrates the Bruce Trail's natural beauty and promotes environmental stewardship through art exhibitions and performances.

Lead artist Cornelia Peckart is making connections with hikers and artists as she walks the trail end-to-end. Thanks to a City of Hamilton Enrichment Fund, Creation and Presentation Grant six Hamilton area artists (visual artists, performance artists, dancers, musicians and writers) have created new works inspired by the idea of Escarpment as Muse.

This exhibit will take place on the fourth floor of the Hamilton Public Library Central Branch on April 15, 2018. The list of artists include Amber Aasman, Donna Akrey, Gary Barwin, Tor Lukasik-Foss, Cornelia Peckart and Lisa Pijuan-Nomura.

Escarpment as Muse- Side Trail Project Exhibition Cornelia Peckart curated the Escarpment as Muse - Side Trail Project exhibition on the 1st Floor of the HPL Central Branch as part of the Bruce Trail Pilgrimage Art Project.

The artist has invited a number of artists (visual



artists, poets and musicians) to walk along the Bruce Trail with her and create new works inspired by the interaction.

Members of the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists in Lions Head area and artists living in the greater Hamilton area are represented in this diverse collection of visual and written works.



Donna Baker in 2016



Katharine and Russell Ferguson in 2013

A Bench to Remember Sandra

This bench was made possible by the fundraising effort of friends of Sandra Purchase. She was the Trail Captain for this section of the trail on the Cape Dundas Nature Reserve.

The bench is located near the Pease Family Donor plaque that was installed earlier this year.

With the help of Tom, Laura, Dale, Lloyd and Hank the bench was transported 2.2 km's and then assembled on site by the designer, Jim Kuellmer. The bench construction includes ash from trees on Jim's property.



Bench at Cape Dundas lookout - a place to rest and take in the view



Tom & Jim assembling the bench



Jim & Hank finishing the bench

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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Fix Your BTC Profile!



It is no secret to many members that the BTC has had significant difficulties this year with its revamped information systems. These difficulties have settled down but lots of our members have reported problems with membership renewals, E-Notes, newsletter links and other treasures of useful information. The only way to be sure all is right with your BTC Profile world is to update your Profile. We strongly suggest that all members do this now, whether or not they feel sure that everything is currently correct.

Please select the “E” mail option for Newsletter

- Go to brucetrail.org
- At top right, click on “Member Login”
- Insert your username and password, and click on “Log In”
- If your username and password are not current, update them following the instructions
- Once you are logged in, go to “My Profile” (top right)
- Click on “Settings” then “Manage newsletter subscriptions”
- Ensure your email address is correct, and tick off the items you wish to receive. The items you may wish to receive include: - Bruce Trail Conservancy E-News - Trail Change Notices - Newsletter & Hike Schedules from Club - Email Updates from the Club (including “The Rattler”)
- Click on “Update”
- Return to “Member Login” and ensure the remainder of the information is correct, then click on “Save”
- You may now “Logout” if you wish.
- Your email is confidential and will not be shared with third parties. You may opt out of any of the at any time.
- Please be sure to report any continuing problems to the our President at pbtcpresident@gmail.com or the BTC, or both.



Our Fabulous Donors



Two major donations to the BTC by members of the Peninsula Club were recognized November 2 at the annual Donor Recognition Night held in Burlington. Nancy and David Pease donated 232 acres of land at Cape Dundas, an area with a great diverse biosphere and 5 kilometers of trail! The second was a bequest from Chris Jefferies. These funds are being used to support purchases of land on the Peninsula.



Gifts through planned giving or through the donation of assets (like stock) are very tax effective ways to support the Bruce Trail and our Club.

We extend our thanks to the friends of Chris and to Nancy and David Pease.

*Left to Right:
Nancy Pease,
Warren Bell (Chair of BTC)
& David Pease*



Rectangle shows the Pease Property Donation



Friends of Chris Jeffries
L to R: Sigrid Feser, Murray Addison, Cathy Addison & Warren Bell



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BTC Volunteer of the Year Award Deborah (Deb) Sturdevant

**From chaos to order.
From boxes in the basement to digital records in a museum.
From legend to an annotated short history.**

Deborah (Deb) Sturdevant, the relatively new PBTC Archivist has completely modernized the PBTC archival records. She requested all volunteers to look in their storage areas and turn over the records of the club. This included publications of the Rattler, personal books from Ross McLean, minutes and correspondence. She read them, purged the duplicates and catalogued what she had. Deb arranged for the club to donate much of the archives to the Bruce County Museum where she arranged a Deed of Gift agreement that provides the BTC with some free access.

The Club now has Google drive from which we may view an inventory or all records in the

Archives (142 pages) a two page summary and an indication of which records are currently at the Museum and which are available digitally. In addition Deb has created a Historical Summary. This is a walk through time from the origination of the three Peninsula Clubs, the merger, its hiatus and resurrection.

It is wonderful resource for members and a great project that was used to support the PBTC 50th anniversary in 2017. Deborah Sturdevant was awarded the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award for the BTC at this year's annual meeting.

Walter Brewer, President - Peninsula BTC



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PBTC Trail Angels Had Busy First Year



With the Bruce Trail 50th Anniversary Celebrations occurring this year, and the lovely special badge available, the hiking season was quite busy. And, it's not over yet! The PBTC Trail Angels had eight volunteer drivers who provided over 80 separate shuttles this summer, raising over \$2200 for the Peninsula Club.

In a nutshell, this is what we advertise . . .
“If you are a solo hiker or hikers in a single car and need assistance to get to the start of your hike, we can help you out. In lieu of compensation for gas and time, a donation to the PBTC would be gratefully accepted.”

Shuttles are usually arranged for the morning, so that the Trail Angel meets the hiker(s) at their car, which is at the end point of their hike, and shuttles the hikers to their start point. This way, Angels can get on with their day, and there is no waiting around for hikers to reach their terminus at a specific time.

As with any new program, there were some successes to be celebrated, and some challenges to overcome. Hikers who used the shuttle service raved about the sensibility of the idea, and many passed on information about the PBTC Trail Angels to other hikers in other Bruce Trail clubs. Thus, the profile of the Peninsula Club was raised.

Another success was the improved communication and cooperation with the Bruce Peninsula National Park. Due to the 4-hour timed parking in the Park,

hikers who were not camping out overnight were not able to hike any distance along the trail without worrying that they could get back in time. How does one walk the path from Tobermory or Crane Lake gate to Cyprus Lake Head of Trails in four hours? Here's where the Trail Angels come in handy! Hikers were advised to leave their cars at the Crane Lake gate or at a location in Tobermory that did allow all-day parking, and they were then shuttled to the Head of Trails, where they could walk back to their car at their leisure, stopping for photographs, and soaking in that amazing scenery that the Bruce is famous for.

The main challenges were the lack of volunteer drivers especially when multiple shuttles were requested for the same time period, finding a spot for hikers to leave their car all day in the Tobermory area, and the vast distances from shuttle start points to shuttle end points.

However, the Trail Angel Shuttle Service has enabled hikers to do the hikes they want to do, without having to go back over the same terrain.

If you would like to volunteer as a Trail Angel Shuttle Driver, or if you would like information about Trail Angels, please contact Laura Browne at pbtctrailangel@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Laura Browne,
PBTC Trail Angel Coordinator*




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