



THE RATTLER

The newsletter of the



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

PENINSULA CLUB

2025 #1

In This Issue

● <u>President's Message</u>	03
● <u>Save the Date: 2025 Peninsula Hiking Festival</u>	05
● <u>Vanishing Stream Restoration Continues</u>	08
● <u>Moonlit Magic: PBTC's Night Hike Series</u>	10
● <u>PBTC Volunteers - John Nadjiwon</u>	13
● <u>Photo Contest: Beth's New Book</u>	18
● <u>Building a Trail for Everyone</u>	19
● <u>Peninsula Bruce Trail End-to-End Trail Run</u>	21
● <u>The People of the Three Fires on the Peninsula in 1615: The Odawa</u>	25

Tamara Wilson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seeing Bruce Trail nature through all its glorious seasons has been particularly challenging this snowy winter. A set of snowshoes and other additional equipment, like crampons, icers, and poles, make access just a bit more achievable in all of the deep, fluffy snow. I want to thank the Club's Hike Leaders and Event Organizers for their perseverance through the weather challenges we have faced here on the Peninsula.

We know that one of the best ways to engage people in the concept of protecting nature is to get them to experience the beauty on the Trails firsthand. As with previous years, the Club's 2025 hike calendars have been loaded onto the pbtc.ca/hikes website and are filling quickly.

Spring is just around the corner when we can look forward to gentler days ahead on the Trails, participating in conservation stewardship projects and other fun community outreach activities.

Tamara Wilson
Peninsula Bruce Trail Club President



THE RATTLER



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
PENINSULA CLUB

2025 ISSUE 1

PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

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PUBLICATION AGREEMENT #40555516

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

If you have a story that might be of interest to Rattler readers, please send it to pbtc.hikes@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions for the next edition is August 7, 2025

Editors: Leslie McBeth, Larisa Nagelberg, Daksh Patel

Layout: Leslie McBeth

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Contact: Larisa Nagelberg at pbtcadvertising@gmail.com

SAUGEEN (BRUCE) PENINSULA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land.

The theme for the 2025 Festival is “Diversity in Nature.”



PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2024 HIKING FESTIVAL

Save the Date: 2025 Peninsula Hiking Festival

LESLIE MCBETH
2025 PBTC HIKING FESTIVAL
CO-CHAIR

Building on the success of previous years, the Peninsula Hiking Festival is excited to announce its return on September 19-20, 2025!

A healthy ecosystem is a balanced and sustainable environment which supports people, cultures, and the local economy. The Bruce Trail community is part of Nature’s ecosystem, reflecting diversity and interdependence. Our community is stronger and more resilient because of the many ways people can engage with the trail – whether it’s seeking a personal challenge, connecting with nature, strengthening relationships, finding peace and well-being, or all of those. Our programs and activities centered on this theme will explore these concepts and celebrate the many ways we connect with the land and each other on the stunning UNESCO Biosphere of the Northern Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula.

Centred at Camp Celtic, located in Lion's Head, our venue is surrounded by nature. Close to the shores of Lake Huron and Black Creek Provincial Park, Camp Celtic provides a rustic, camp-like atmosphere and a communal setting where participants can escape the hustle of daily life and fully connect with the land and others.

Programming will include a variety of options, including full-day and shorter hikes, guided hikes with experts, and hikes that are longer with less interpretation, as well as non-hiking activities. Participants can look forward to opportunities to explore the unique ecosystems of the Bruce Peninsula, learn about its diverse flora and fauna, and experience the rich cultural history of the area. Evenings will feature social gatherings, meals, and engaging entertainment.

The event website is under construction and will be launched with more details as programs and activities are finalized. Registration information will also be available on the website. Stay tuned to our social media channels for further updates and announcements!

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AGM AT 5:30PM

RSVP: [BIT.LY/PBTCAGM](https://bit.ly/PBTCAGM)

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You're invited to a tree planting – no experience needed!

Vanishing Stream Restoration Continues

BY LAURA PISKO
DIRECTOR OF
CONSERVATION & LAND
STEWARDSHIP

Help restore a beautiful Bruce Trail property near Colpoy's Bay on Saturday May 24, 2025.



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING TREES

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is restoring its Vanishing Stream property near Colpoy's Bay. This May 400+ more native trees will be planted by local volunteers. Come and enjoy this very satisfying experience.

The unique 105-acre Vanishing Stream property was heavily grazed for well over a century. It contains a meadow, wetlands and woodland areas with a "hidden" - but audible - stream under the limestone rocks.

Over several years, thousands of native trees and shrubs will be planted to replace non-native invasive ones and restore woodland. This will increase biodiversity and enhance the Bruce Trail's wildlife corridor with sustenance and shelter for many species of birds, animals and pollinators.



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING TREES

Some of the trees are being donated by Tom Gehrels, a local travel agent with Adventure Coordinators. The new trees will help address climate change by storing carbon - mainly in their roots.

If you've got a shovel and a desire to help our planet by restoring this beautiful peninsula Bruce Trail property, please RSVP to: Laura Pisko, Director, Conservation & Land Stewardship at Pbtc.dir.conservation@gmail.com. The planting will qualify for volunteer hours for high school students.

TREE PLANTERS WANTED!

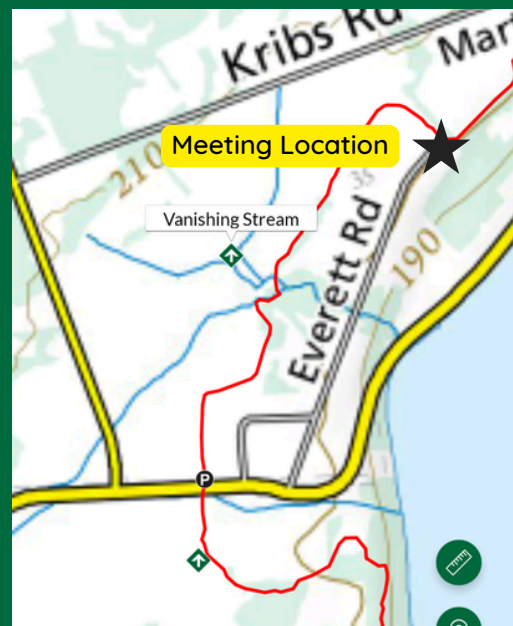
When: 10 a.m. sharp Saturday May 24, 2025 (Rain or Shine)

Where: Bruce Trail entrance at the north end of Everett Road (Colpoys Bay)

What: wear long pants and long sleeved top, gloves with sturdy footwear (may be muddy)

Bring: a shovel to dig in baby trees, and as much water as you can carry to water them

RSVP: Laura Pisko, Director, Conservation & Land Stewardship at Pbtc.dir.conservation@gmail.com.



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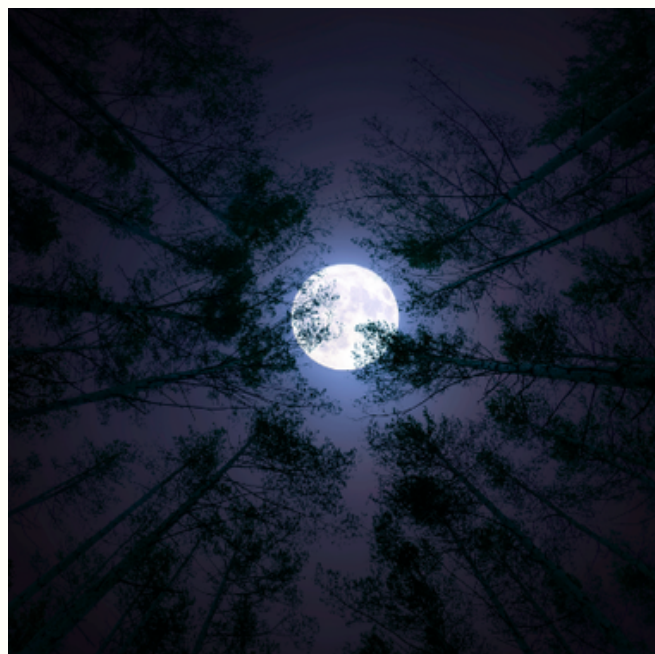
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“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”
- John Muir

Moonlit Magic: Peninsula Bruce Trail Club’s Night Hike Series

BY SAABIR SOHRAB
 HIKE DIRECTOR

As the winter nights stretched long and the moon cast its silvery glow over the snow-covered trails, the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club embraced the magic of the season with our six hike Moonlit Hike



Series. The series brought together hikers to explore the beauty of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula under the enchanting light of the winter moon.

A GLIMPSE AT THE HIKES

Led by our dedicated hike leaders, the Moonlit Hike Series took participants on unforgettable journeys through some of the most scenic sections of the Bruce Trail. Let’s take a stroll down memory lane and revisit the magic of the hikes we enjoyed:

October’s Hunter’s Moon Hike set the tone for the series with a magical evening under the Hunter’s Moon, which this year was also a Super Moon! With clear skies and mild temperatures, it was the perfect night for exploration. Hikers warmed up with hot chocolate and were treated to captivating stories from Brenda Stewart, PBTC Archivist. Brenda shared fascinating tales of the Lindsay Tract, including the history of Murdoch McLay’s sawmill, the Knechtel Furniture Company, and the mysterious Kendall murder.



BEAVER MOON HIKE IN NOVEMBER

November’s Beaver Moon Hike saw 26 participants gather at sandy beach in Black Creek Provincial Park under the Beaver Moon, also known as the Freezing Moon. The moon’s silvery glow over the calm waters of Myles Bay set the tone for a magical evening. Hikers explored the remains of the old Hoyt cottage and the ruins of a boathouse and dock along the

shoreline. After the hike, the group gathered for hot chocolate and listened to Brenda Stewart’s captivating stories about the history of Stokes Bay, the seiches of 1952, and the area’s lumber industry.

December’s Frosty Stroll brought a bit of drizzling rain that quickly cleared to reveal a gentle moonlight ambiance through the trees. A trail was carved through the snow, leading hikers to a cozy spot under the maples where they sipped warm herbal tea and serenaded the forest with songs and laughter.

January’s Wolf Moon Hike celebrated the Wolf Moon, also known as the Spirit Moon. Hikers gathered at the Cape Chin Trailhead to explore the Cape Chin Maple Reserve property of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The 6 km hike meandered through beautiful forests and meadows, culminating at a stunning architecturally-designed home on the estate. Here, hikers took a break to soak in the breathtaking views of Georgian Bay under the glow of the full moon.

Join us for a hike!



Visit pbtc.ca/hikes for more information



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Unfortunately, February’s Snow Moon Hike had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. While we were disappointed to miss this opportunity to explore the trails at the Bruce Ski Club’s Sawmill Nordic Centre in Hepworth, safety always comes first. We look forward to trying again next year!

This winter’s hike series concluded with March’s Worm Moon Hike on March 14th. Also known as the Snowcrust Moon or Worm Moon, this hike celebrated the transition from winter to spring as the snow melts and the earth awakens. Anishinaabe guide Caley Doran led participants along Ginebek Miikaans – the Snake Trail Boardwalk – located in the unceded Anishinaabek territory of Neyaashiinigmiing.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HIKE LEADERS

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our hike leaders, including Beige McIntosh, Bill Floyd, Caley Doran, Natalie Mechalko, and Margie Gloade. Thank you all! As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.” And the creation of a thousand unforgettable memories is in one hike with these amazing hike leaders



MARCH’S WORM MOON HIKE INCLUDED A TOUR OF THE ZIIBAAKDAKAAN MAPLE SYRUP SHACK

EXCITING NEWS: INTRODUCING THE MOONLIT HIKE BADGE

We’re thrilled to announce that starting next season, participants in the Moonlit Hike Series will have the opportunity to earn a special Moonlit Hike Badge! Stay tuned for more details on how to qualify and claim your badge. (Hint: It involves hiking, not moonwalking—sorry, Michael Jackson fans!) There’s something truly special about experiencing the Bruce Trail under the winter moon, and we’d love for you to be part of it. Whether you’ve joined us for every hike or are considering your first Moonlit adventure, lace up your boots, grab your headlamp, and join us next season. For more information and updates, visit www.pbtc.ca/hikes.

ELEVATE

*your next
adventure*

Use code
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and for each hike booked by
your club for 2025, we will donate
\$25 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy



Gaspé Hiking	DOUBLE	SINGLE
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NEW: Hike Saskatchewan	DOUBLE	SINGLE
10 Days: June 20, 2025	\$5,295	\$6,395
P.E.I. Hiking	DOUBLE	SINGLE
8 Days: July 15, 2025	\$4,795	\$5,695
Newfoundland Coast-to-Coast	DOUBLE	SINGLE
10 Days: July 25, 2025	\$7,595	\$8,595
Banff Hiking	DOUBLE	SINGLE
8 Days: August 8, 2025	\$6,895	\$7,495
NEW: Portugal Hiking	DOUBLE	SINGLE
12 Days: October 21, 2025	\$6,995	\$8,595

PRICE INCLUDES: Roundtrip airfare from Toronto, Connections Program, motorcoach transportation, accommodation, meals and highlights as listed on website, all entry fees and passes, local guides and Tour Director. Prices are in Canadian dollars, are per person and include HST.



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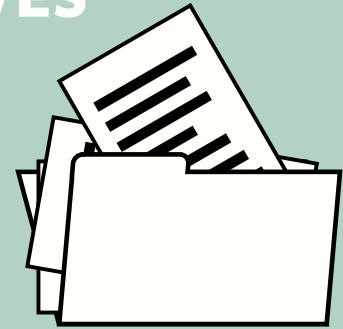
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FROM THE ARCHIVES



This month we honor another Bruce Trail early supporter and volunteer, John Nadjiwon.

“Walk in the bush. Go and learn nature. It’s a real educational source.”

- John Nadjiwon

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Volunteers - John Nadjiwon

BY BRENDA STEWART
PBTC ARCHIVIST

John Nadjiwon, and indeed, many members of Neyaashiinigiing, have been involved with the Bruce Trail since its conception. In an article written about

Cape Croker for the Bruce Trail News in Spring 1996 Scott Black stated, “The 19 km of trail winding through the reserve make the Chippewas of Nawash our largest private land-owner. The trail has travelled through Cape Croker since the genesis of the BTA in 1960. Cape Croker Park, today one of the most popular camping destinations on the Bruce Peninsula, was established in 1967. Twenty-nine years later, the BTA and the band boast an enviable partnership based on mutual respect and economic ties.” (BTN, Spring 1996, pg. 18)

Phillip Gosling, the BTA’s first Trail Director, mentioned the Peninsula group in a report he wrote on August 7, 1962. He stated that a meeting was held in Warton on July 31 at which Chief Vernon Jones and his 1st lieutenant were present, and that there was “full support for the trail on all Indian lands.”

In Chapter 4 of his book, “Trail to the Bruce”, David Tyson also quoted a report from Phillip Gosling dated October 13,

First meeting held at Wiarton on July 31st. 24 persons present.

Agreement unanimous to promote and sponsor the Trail. A further meeting called for August 15th at Lions Head.

Among persons present were:

- Ross Whicher M.P.F.
- Chief Vernon Jones - Cape Croker and his 1st Lieutenant. Hostel. Full support on all Indian lands.
- Several large property owners (including one 300 lbs)
- Reeve of Lions Head
- Public Health Inspector - Roy Mahood.
- Dep. Game Warden - Ron Gatis.
- Reps. from Wiarton Echo and E/W Record.

The August 15th meeting will set up a system of operation for the Bruce Peninsula. A series of small groups is likely. From Tobermory - A.K. Adams top ten miles; J.C. Munn next 15 miles aided by several councillors an ex-Reeve and warden (W.S. Fox book) and the caretaker of Flower Pot Island, Lloyd Smith.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BTC ARCHIVES, "TRAIL DIRECTOR PHILLIP GOSLING FINAL REPORTS", 1962, PG. 5.

PHOTO AND QUOTE ON PREVIOUS PAGE COURTESY OF WE HAVE SPOKEN: THE ELDERS OF NEAASHIINIGMIING : VOLUME I, JOHN NADJIWON, PG. 147, BCMCC ARCHIVES, A2010.099.1282

1962, where he stated that a Lower Bruce Peninsula Group had been formed which included: "Duncan Armstrong of Wiarton, Ronald Gatis from Colpoy's Bay, John Nadjiwon and Chief Vernon Jones from the Cape Croker Reserve, Alan Fowler and Mrs. Tessie Grieg from Lion's Head".

made on the 30-mile strip across the Cape Croker Reserve (Neyaashiinigiing). They state, "under chairman John Nadjiwan (sic) and with the backing of Chief Vernon

At a later meeting of the Lower Bruce Peninsula Bruce Trail group held at the Council Hall, Cape Croker, on April 23, 1963, the minutes recorded that Mr. John Nadjiwon stated that, "the first few miles of the route through the Reserve had now been cleared and flagged. A decision has been made not to put the Trail around Kings Point Bluff but around the base to the east of it. He suggested a side trail could be marked in the future which would lead to the tip of the bluff for those who wanted the view." (BTC archives, "Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Bruce Peninsula Bruce Trail group")

Shortly after that, an article appeared in the Walkerton Herald, on May 9, 1963. In the article, they describe how the most progress on the Bruce section has been

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Jones, have laid out the route and for about four miles a path four feet wide has been “brushed” and path markers set on trees and rocks.” (See Photo below.)

This close relationship with the Bruce Trail continued for many years. The Bruce Trail Association’s AGM was held at the Cape Croker Community Center in September, 2000. John Nadjiwon gave welcoming comments on behalf of the reserve and “delves into the history of the Bruce Trail in the Cape Croker area.” (BTC News, Winter 2000, pg. 19)



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMCC ARCHIVES, A2014.003.0550 BRUCE A. KRUG, BRUCE PENINSULA/BRUCE TRAIL SCRAPBOOK.

At the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club’s AGM in 2003 plaques were presented to “individuals and families who were pioneers in the conception and development of the Bruce Trail on the Peninsula during the 1960s”. John Nadjiwon was presented with one of these plaques by Ross McLean, along with 9 others. (PBTC archives, 2003 AGM minutes, pg. 4)

Ross McLean devoted a section of his book, 50 to Remember, to John. This book is available to purchase from the PBTC (email pbtc@gmail.com) or it is available to read in digital format, along with 3 other of Ross’s books on our website www.pbtc.ca

Sadly, John Nadjiwon passed away on December 10, 2015 at the age of 83 years. The following is an article written by Ross McLean for the Rattler newsletter about John in the Spring 2002 edition. It is an excerpt from his book “40 Years of Trail Building: The People and Stories of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club”, also available to read in its entirety on our website.

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PENINSULA TRAIL PIONEER - JOHN NADJIWON

One of the pleasant surprises at the 2000 B.T.A. Annual General Meeting hosted by the Peninsula Club at Cape Croker was the speech of John Nadjwon, an elder of the Chippewa's of Nawash. He had been instrumental in developing the Bruce Trail at Cape Croker some four decades ago, and he shared with members his enthusiasm and love of nature that surrounds the Trail.

To learn more of this unrecorded history, this summer Donna Baker and Ross McLean met with Mr. Nadjwon at his home so that we could share with you his stories of the early days of the Trail.

It was in 1960 or 1961 when Ray Lowe and Ron Gatis visited him. At that time, the Trail was "just an idea", based on the concept of the Finger Lakes Trail which would eventually link to the Appalachian Trail. They asked John to get involved, and he went to the band council for permission and there were no objections.

The original trail construction took place in 1962 and 1963, and the volunteer workers were the Boy Scouts and two young male teachers from the band school. John was very active in the Scout movement at that time, and part of his motivation was to give them a sense of achievement. "I did it pretty well myself", he reports modestly.

From Malcolm Bluff the trail was built towards Ron Gatis' section to the southwest. They used the original timber tracks of his ancestors to the base of King's Point Bluff, and from Boundary Bluff to Jones Bluff. It took a year to complete the trail construction, but the only sections that really had to be cut open were Jones Bluff and Sydney Bay Bluff. Since then the trail route has often been moved,

and is now more on the top of the Escarpment. The initial route on the timber tracks was very wet in the spring.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, the Trail was officially opened at Tobermory, and Chief Joe Akiwenzie participated in the ceremonies.

Mr. Nadjwon expressed some disappointment that the Bruce Trail has not emphasized more the historic sites along the trail corridor. For example, he spoke of an old timber slide on the reserve as you approach Hope Bay. At one time this was the trail route, but it has "changed many times."

He told us of his early days on the reserve, when Donald Cameron operated a general store across from King's Point Bluff until the early 1950's. Here you could buy one hundred pound bags of sugar and flour as well as clothing and boots. In Purple Valley, Margaret and Charlie Gilbert ran a store which featured a couple of live bears in a cage. He laughingly concludes that they "probably ripped us off."

Mr. Nadjwon's personal story is a fascinating one of achievement in spite of hardships. He has lived all his life at Cape Croker "off and on", he reports. His family moved to Toronto at the start of the Second World War to help in the manufacture of armaments, and upon his return home he was shipped off to Reservation School in Spanish. He came back in 1947 and then went to Owen Sound Collegiate but found the discrimination too painful and quit.

Over the years he has held a variety of jobs, but he came home and helped with the building of Cape Croker Park in 1962. It officially opened in 1967 and he worked there for 14 years, managing it un-

til 1980.

John has been legally blind now for 15 years, but nevertheless in 1988 started building his own camping park. Today Ungoo-moowin Kewelah or Harbour Park is located on Cape Croker, and he has had visitors from Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Spain. To John, "the best part of the job is meeting people like yourself that enjoy and respect the outdoors." Here you find "the enjoyment and growth only the beauty of the natural landscape can give." The park features a clean washroom, hot showers, large sites, and "hiking trails to soak in the beauty."

For more information on the campground, contact:

John Nadjwon,

R.R.#6,

Warton

NOH 2T0

(519) 534-2798

or e-mail nadjwon@bmts.com

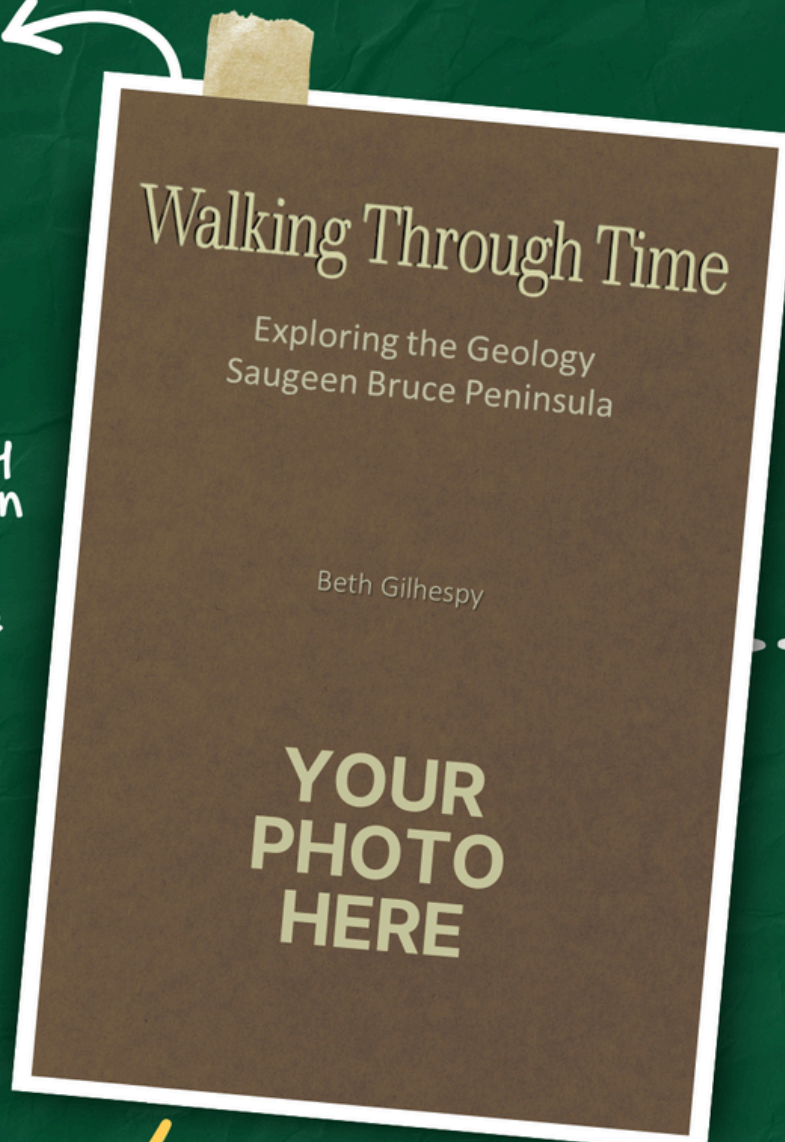
Mr. Nadjwon says modestly that "I did my part...in building the Trail." For his immense contribution in opening up to all of us a land of such beauty, we are forever grateful.



PHOTO CONTEST

Create the cover of
Beth Gilhespy's next geology book!

Great cover shots can include a geological feature, an image that suggests exploration and discovery of geology, an image that suggests the passage of time.



Submission deadline: June 30th



The Winner will receive 3 signed copies of the book plus some great BTC swag!

Submissions can be sent to beth.gilhespy@gmail.com



For details, go to: bit.ly/pbtc-photo

Contest for the Cover of *Walking Through Time: Exploring the Geology of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula*

BY BETH GILHESPY
AUTHOR & GEOLOGIST

In Fall 2025 the next book in Beth Gilhespy's *Walking Through Time* geology book series will be released. The book will cover all of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, from Wiarton north along the ragged eastern edge of the Peninsula, across the top to Tobermory and then down the gentle Lake Huron coast. The book will describe the geology of the Peninsula and provide detailed information for 14 geology hikes.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SHOT
FOR THE COVER!

Contest outline

- Contest opens March 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2025
- Submissions can be sent to beth.gilhespy@gmail.com
- Submissions will be evaluated by a team and shortlisted to 5 shots; from those 5, one will be selected for the cover and the other 4 used somewhere in the book.
- Maximum 5 entries per person

PRIZES

- The Winner and their cover photo will be featured on the Peninsula Club social media and in the Rattler
- The Winner will receive 3 signed copies of the book plus some great BTC swag! Runners up will get a signed copy of the book.

SPECIFICATIONS

- The theme of the geology book series is *Walking Through Time*. Geology is all about time, starting 450 million years ago when the rock layers began to form, to the recent retreat of glacial ice 12,000 years ago which left behind a barren landscape of scoured rock, to the more recent processes that are still eroding and reforming the rock of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula today. Great cover shots can include a geological feature, an image that suggests exploration and discovery of geology, an image that suggests the passage of time. Use your imagination!
- Photo must be high resolution; the book is 9"x6" in size and the cover photo must be crisp and clear.
- Photo submissions that are not selected for the cover may be used in the body of the book
- People can be in the photo but only if they approve of its use on the cover or in the body of the book
- Photo can be taken in any season; it does not have to be new photo but must be high resolution and suitable for a cover
- Photo must be of a location that people have access to via a trail or road, or of something visible from a place with public access (i.e. no obvious off-trail shots or restricted locations)
- Photo should not suggest or encourage unsafe or unauthorized behaviour e.g. shots of people at cliff edges, dogs off leash, open fires, etc.



WEARING A RAINBOW BADGE IS ONE WAY PBTC HIKE LEADERS AND MEMBERS SHOW THAT ALL ARE WELCOME ON THE TRAIL

Building a Trail for Everyone: The Story of the PBTC DEIB Committee

BY LEAH BURNS
PBTC DEIB COMMITTEE
MEMBER

When the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) set out to create a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee, it was a first step in a commitment to making the Bruce Trail a truly welcoming space for all.

A GRASSROOTS EFFORT TOWARD INCLUSION

In late 2022, PBTC members recognized that while the Bruce Trail offered a space of beauty and reflection, not everyone felt equally invited to experience it. With the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) strengthening its focus on people and culture in its 2030 Strategic Plan, PBTC took action by forming an Ad Hoc DEI Committee. This group worked to raise awareness, assess policies, and create pathways for a more inclusive trail community. In April 2023, PBTC's Board of Directors formally established this AdHoc initiative as a Standing Committee, ensuring this work would continue for the long term.

WALKING THE TALK

Since its inception, the PBTC DEIB Committee has actively sought to build bridges, promote learning and remove barriers to access. Its initiatives include:

- Strengthening connections with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation through the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
- Expanding relationships with diverse community organizations such as Grey Bruce Pride, Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership, and M'Wiwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Hosting educational webinars on Indigenous perspectives and 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion
- Reviewing PBTC policies and engagement strategies through a DEIB lens
- Expanding outreach to schools and community groups to welcome new trail users

The PBTC board has also had the privilege of welcoming Janna Chegahno as First Nations & Indigenous Relations Advisor and Caley Doran, Anishinaabek Trail Guide as a Director at Large. Their support and insights have helped to ensure that indigenous perspectives are an ongoing part of board decision making processes.

LOOKING AHEAD

The PBTC DEIB Committee continues to evolve, guided by the belief that a truly inclusive trail is one where everyone feels they belong. We recognize that working towards equity is a life-long process that takes courage and patience. For those eager to be part of this journey, the committee welcomes new voices and perspectives to help shape the future of the Peninsula Bruce Trail community. Contact Marg Glendon for more information: pbtcoutreach@gmail.com

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“The mountains are calling, and I must go.”
 - John Muir

Peninsula Bruce Trail End-to-End Trail Run: A First-of-Its-Kind Adventure

BY SAABIR SOHRAB
 HIKE DIRECTOR

While John Muir may have been referring to towering peaks rather than rugged escarpments, his sentiment perfectly captures the spirit of adventure that awaits participants in the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club’s (PBTC) inaugural Peninsula End-to-End Trail Run.



Peninsula E2E Trail Running Series


Hey Trail Runners...
 Join the first-ever PBTC trail running E2E series in 2025!

Spread over 4 weekends and 8 days, the group runs will cover from 16-25km each day to earn a new PBTC badge.

Revised dates due to ice storm damage:

- Sat. May 10 and Sun. May 11
- Sat. May 17 and Sun. May 18
- Sat. May 24 and Sun. May 25
- Sat. May 31 and Sun. June 1

To learn more and register:




www.pbtc.ca/hikes

For the first time ever, trail runners and experienced hikers will embark on an epic journey spanning 161 kilometers across four weekends, traversing some of Ontario’s most breathtaking landscapes. This is no ordinary run—it’s a challenge designed for those who crave both physical endurance and awe-inspiring scenery.

What is the Peninsula End-to-End Trail Run?

Imagine lacing up your shoes at sunrise, surrounded by the crisp air of spring, with nothing but miles of wilderness ahead. Over eight days spread across four weekends in April, May, and June 2025, participants will run approximately 21 kilometers per day, starting in Warton and finishing triumphantly at the iconic Tobermory Cairn. Led by PBTC hike leaders Margie Gloade and Natalie Mechalko, this series promises not just a test of stamina but also an unforgettable celebration of nature.



TRAIL RUNNING PILOT, FALL 2024

Each day brings its own unique challenges and rewards—from steep ascents through dense forests to rocky scrambles overlooking Georgian Bay. Participants will traverse difficult terrain, including

sections of the Niagara Escarpment, where limestone cliffs meet turquoise waters. As a hiker once remarked, “It’s like passing through a postcard!”

WHY RUN THE BRUCE TRAIL?

For many, trail running offers more than just exercise—it’s therapy for the soul. Research shows that spending time in nature reduces stress levels, boosts mood, and improves mental clarity. Combine that with the cardiovascular benefits of running, and you’ve got a recipe for holistic wellness. Here are just a few reasons why joining the PBTC E2E series could be life-changing:

- **Physical Fitness:** Trail running engages muscles you didn’t even know you had. Uneven surfaces require balance and agility, while inclines build strength and endurance.
- **Mental Resilience:** Pushing yourself over long distances teaches perseverance and focus—skills that translate beyond the trail into everyday life.
- **Connection with Nature:** Few experiences rival the tranquillity of standing atop a cliff, watching waves crash against ancient rock formations. It’s moments like these that remind us how small yet significant we are in the grand scheme of things.
- **Community Spirit:** Sharing this journey with fellow adventurers creates bonds unlike any other. Whether cheering each other on during tough climbs or swapping stories over snacks, the camaraderie is infectious.

As trail enthusiasts often say, “This isn’t just about completing a distance; it’s about embracing the journey and discovering what you’re truly capable of.”

LOGISTICS MADE EASY

One of the standout features of this event is the meticulous planning behind it. PBTC has arranged bus transportation to ensure seamless transitions between start and end points each day. No need to worry about parking logistics or shuttling vehicles—just show up ready to run!

Participants will meet at designated locations such as Bluewater Park, Hawthorn Street Parking, and Legion Street Public Parking Lot in Tobermory. On certain days, buses will transport groups to the starting point, while others will provide return trips to vehicles. Volunteers will also be stationed along the route to offer water refills and moral support—a lifeline when energy starts to wane.

A BADGE WORTH EARNING

Completing the entire series earns you more than bragging rights—you'll receive a specially-designed Peninsula End-to-End Trail Run badge, commemorating your achievement. If you miss a day, you can still earn the badge by completing the missed segment independently. Flexibility meets determination!

Tips for Success

Running 161 kilometers over eight days is no small feat, so preparation is the key. Here are some tips to help you thrive:

- **Train Smart:** Incorporate hill workouts, long runs, and strength training into your routine. Practice running on uneven surfaces to mimic trail conditions.
- **Pack Wisely:** Carry essentials like water, electrolytes, snacks, and extra layers. Weather on the Bruce Peninsula can change rapidly, so always be prepared.

- **Listen to Your Body:** While pushing limits is part of the fun, don't ignore signs of fatigue or injury. Rest when needed—it's better to finish strong than risk burnout.
- **Embrace the Group Dynamic:** Experienced trail runners often emphasize the importance of teamwork. One sentiment I've heard from the community resonates deeply "We're all in this together. Lean on each other, share the highs and lows, and celebrate every step of the way."

CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY

The stage is set for an incredible adventure. Twenty-five determined individuals will soon lace up their trail shoes and take on the Bruce Peninsula like never before. For those who couldn't join this year, don't worry—this is just the beginning. The PBTC hopes to make the Trail Running End-to-End an annual tradition, inspiring more trail enthusiasts to embrace the beauty and challenge of Ontario's wild spaces.

To those embarking on this journey: cherish every moment, savor the views, and lean on your fellow runners. Together, you'll create memories that will last a lifetime. And remember, as trail runners often say, "The trail doesn't care how fast you go—it only asks that you keep moving forward."

"Every great journey begins with a single step." Take yours today, and let the Peninsula Bruce Trail lead you to new heights—literally and figuratively. See you on the trail!

For more information about future events, visit the PBTC website (pbtc.ca/hikes) or contact Hike Leaders Margie Glode and Natalie Mechalko.



UPCOMING HIKES

April 19	End-to-End Makeup Hike in 8: Hawthorn ST Parking to Richardson ST parking lot
April 20	End-to-End Makeup Hike in 8: Richardson ST parking lot to Cape Chin North Rd.
April 21	End-to-End Makeup Hike in 8: Chin North Rd. to Crane Lake Gate
April 26	Peninsula Sunrise Series: Hope Bay Forest
May 1	Peninsula End2End in 18 Series
May 3	Peninsula End2End in 8 Series
May 10	End-to-End Makeup Hike in 8: Crane Lake Gate to Cyprus Lake, Marr Lake Trail
May 10	Peninsula BTC Trail Running End-to-End
May 11	Birding with Brian
May 11	End-to-End Makeup Hike in 8: Cyprus Lake, Marr Lake Trail to Tobermory Cairn
May 15	Birding at Otter Lake and Maple Cross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin
May 18	Warblers and Waterfowl
May 27	Spring Birding: Wetlands, Meadow and Forest Hike
May 31	Peninsula Sunrise Series: Cape Chin Maple Cross Reserve
June 7	Pride on the Trail: A Rainbow Hike for All
June 28	Peninsula Sunrise Series: Burnt Point Loop & Lookout Tower
July 12	Peninsula Sunrise Series: Cape Chin South Shoreline
August 9	Hiking with Pride: Fern Hike at Hope Bay Nature Reserve
August 9	Peninsula Sunrise Series: The Grotto
September 13	Peninsula Sunrise Series: Malcolm Bluff
October 18	Fossils Fall Hike: Queer Folx and Allies
October 18	Peninsula E2E - Six Consecutive Day Challenge

TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR HIKES, VISIT
<http://www.pbtc.ca/hikes>

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT PeninsulaBTC.Hikes@gmail.com

The People of the Three Fires on the Peninsula in 1615: The Odawa

BY TAMARA WILSON
PBTC PRESIDENT

After being on the waiting list for two years, my name finally rose to the top of the pile and I was offered a spot on this winter's Ontario Master Naturalist course at Lakehead University. The course has weekly online Zoom calls, circumventing the challenges of winter travels. After the first round of class introductions, I found myself on the assignment list for: "Who were the First Nation People on the Land that you lived on in the 1600's when Champlain arrived?" I was excited to share the story of the mysterious lost Recolet/Jesuit Missions of St Judes and St Simons even though a couple of SON friends had told me that they didn't exist. But surely, how could Sherwood Fox and his great Book on the Peninsula, The Bruce Beckons be wrong?

I thought a great place to start on my research journey was to talk about the Club's Land Acknowledgement provided by Saugeen Ojibway Nation, the traditional keepers of the land we live on:

SAUGEEN (BRUCE) PENINSULA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land.

I recall Caley Doran sharing that the Confederacy of the Three Fires pre-dated the arrival of the Europeans by many years. I learned that the Confederacy of the Three Fires was established in 796 AD, Michilimackinac between:

THE OJIBWAY: OLDER BROTHER - KEEPERS OF THE MEDICINE

THE ODAWA: MIDDLE BROTHER - KEEPERS OF THE TRADE

THE POTTAWATOMIE - YOUNGEST BROTHER - KEEPER OF THE FIRE

Michilimackinac was the original name for present day Mackinac Island, Mackinac Strait and Mackinac County, the meeting place of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron/Georgian Bay and Lake Superior. The Members of the Three Fires Confederacy were all part of an Algonquin cultural/linguistic group.



**MAP FROM JOHN RILEY'S BOOK:
STONE AGE MEETS IRON - AND SMALLPOX
THE 1500'S AND 1600'S, THE ONCE AND
FUTURE GREAT LAKES COUNTRY**

I learned from John Riley's book, one of the references for the course, that Odawa were the people who lived on the Peninsula When Champlain arrived.

On John Riley's map, the Peninsula is shown to be occupied by the "Ottawa" people but from our Anishinaabemowin language lessons, that there are no hard "t" sounds in the language but rather "Odawa" is closer to the name.

ONLY TWO MEETINGS WITH CHAMPLAIN

Champlain documented only two early encounters with Odawa who he calls the High Hairs or Cheveux Relevés before disease and war dismantled their culture: the first in 1615 and the second meeting in 1616. From the Figure below, Champlain's meetings with the Odawa take place on the green line travels. By the time Champlain meets the Odawa, he has already had encounters (red line) with the Iroquois and some of whom may have sported variations of the Mohawk haircut.

The Odawa's appearance and hair must have been very impressive, becoming the



REF CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

feature with which Champlain remembers these new people from the many other peoples he has met and so, Champlain writes:

"We met with three hundred men of a tribe named by us the Cheveux Relevés because their hair was elevated and arranged very high, and better combed than that of our courtiers, beyond comparison. This seems to give them a fine appearance. For arms they have only the bow and arrow, but made in the manner you see in the picture, which they carry, as a rule, and a round buckler of dressed leather which comes from an animal like the buffalo. When they go out from their houses they carry a club. They wear no breeches, and are much pinked about the body in divisions of various



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patterns; and they paint their faces with different colours, and have their nostrils pierced and their ears fringed with beads.”

It should be remembered that Champlain’s purpose of exploring is not to make social contact and learn about new cultures. Rather, Champlain is interested in continued political and financial support from the French crown, for the colony of New France and self marketing his greatness as an explorer. From the Odawa’s perspective, they have been the expert keepers of the Trade routes between the Huron tribes to the south and the Algonquin tribes to the North for at least a thousand years since the role was assigned during the establishment of the Three Fires Confederacy. The Odawa shared with Champlain that they have a sizable 2000 km trade area.

Clearly the Chief of the 300 men dressed in warrior garb is pulling Champlain’s leg when he tells Champlain that they are out on a mission to pick blueberries. Champlain, instead of studiously recording the details in his journal, should have known that as it was fall, blueberry picking season was far gone. As well, based on the other First Nations people he had met, blueberry picking was a job typically assigned to women and children. One historian noted that the Chief of the Odawa war party/blueberry pickers suggested Champlain take a route that was not a direct way to go where he wanted to go. The 250km extra reroute may have been suggested to avoid the marauding Iroquois, or as a way to keep Champlain away from the Odawa trade routes. Regardless, this encounter is considered one of the first documented examples of Indigenous humour. During this meeting, the Chief drew Champlain a map of the Odawa region on birch bark with charcoal.

HEY! I KNOW YOU!

Champlain met the Odawa yet again in the winter, February 1616.

In 1616, Champlain ventured forth to visit Petuns in the Collingwood area, and while he was there, he decided to travel even further up the coast of Georgian Bay, maybe as far as Colpoy’s Bay. Here he encountered the very same Chief and war party/blueberry pickers that he met the year before. Champlain recorded that the Odawa settlement was the “cleanest most industrious” and that the Chief was “very glad” to see Champlain again. “We swore friendship with them also, and they likewise promised to come and see us and pay us a visit.” Champlain was impressed by the large community who could throw a lavish feast at short notice. To this end, Champlain writes: “They are a great people for feasts, more than other Tribes. They gave us very good cheer and received us very kindly.”

We can gather from Champlain’s documented encounter that the community’s winter subsistence was based on the central storage of gathered produce. Champlain mentions feasting on corn and other crops. Clearly, the Odawa were not scraping by, living a bare existence through the middle of winter. Champlain noted that “They are great hunters, fisherman and rovers: cultivate the land and sow Indian corn: dry blueberries and raspberries, in which they make a great trade with other tribes taking in pelts, wampum, nets and other commodities.” But alas, Champlain’s purpose was to proceed to the Neutrals, one of the Odawa’s major trading partners, and possibly further to China but the Odawa dissuaded Champlain from doing so saying that their relationship was not good at the time. Champlain did however, meet several Neutral at the settlement during his visit.

It would not be surprising if the Odawa, the Keepers of the Trade, aimed to establish themselves as the middlemen in regional trade for European goods and to that end, wanted to keep Champlain from getting too friendly with their “customers”. They had been the middleman in local trade routes for over a thousand years.

In the end, we do not know how far Champlain may have ventured beyond the Petuns in Collingwood based on the map that he drew from his memory. Historians resort to probability in considering the accuracy of Champlain’s maps and how far he could have ventured.

DEVASTATION IN A FEW SHORT YEARS

Disease:

From these early contacts, as soon as the French arrived, so did influenza, the measles, smallpox, and a host of other diseases. (Measles 1634, Influenza 1636, Scarlet Fever, 1637). This reminded me of our modern day brush with Covid 19, and how the public did not know what was happening initially, and people were falling ill and dying in some cases. Back in the 1600’s this would have been like Covid 19, Covid 20, Covid 21 – as a series of new and unknown epidemics rolling through the communities. In the end, the First Nations people did not have the antibodies that the Europeans had built up over the millennia to combat the new diseases that the Europeans introduced to North America.

In LeJeune’s 1637 Relations, the Jesuit noted “the epidemic that slaughters the Huron has not been communicated to the French.” He also records a visit to the



Map 1 - Part of Champlain's "Carte de la Nouvelle France" 1632, showing the contrasts in accuracy as indicating where he actually visited and where he did not.

MAP FROM CHARLES GERARD

Jesuits in Wendake by an Odawa/Cheveux Relevés delegation. Struggling to understand the cause of the devastating epidemics sweeping through northern communities, a council was sent to the Jesuit mission and “Some remembered that they had once robbed the deceased Etienne Brulé of a collar of 2400 porcelain beads... they decided that they had found the source of their malady.”

Henry Dobyns, estimates 95% of the total First Nation population was killed by European Diseases in the first 130 years of contact. (John Riley)



Transportation for hikers in the Peninsula



PHOTO: SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

TRADE WARS

Some consider the start of the Beaver Wars to be the 1609 Battle of Lake Champlain between Samuel de Champlain and his Algonquin allies against the Iroquois. From that time forward, even during Champlain's first meeting with the Odawa, the Iroquois were on a mission to systematically annihilated the Huron, their confederacies and trading partners which would have included the Odawa, in order to establish themselves as the dominant trading partner with the Europeans. Of those who survived, it is estimated that 20,000 refugees were pushed into areas that were not large enough to support the populations. Starvation and disease ensued. The Odawa travelled as far away as Oklahoma or assimilated into other Algonquin groups. In 1701, the Treaty of Grand Paix was signed in Montreal where the Iroquois committed to cease their raiding and the refugees were invited to return (70 years later). Would you have returned home seventy years after so much upheaval? Some did along with the new communities that they had banded together with for survival.

In the figure below, the red arrows represents Iroquois raiding parties and the green represent the Odawa routes of escape prior to 1701.

IN THE END, WE DON'T KNOW

Devastation of the Odawa way of life on the Peninsula happened so quickly, within a 20 year period or less, that there is very little European record of their pre-contact way of life. For their part, the Odawa largely relied on oral histories to carry their story.



FIG FROM NOTTAWASEPPI BAND WEBSITE



EUROPEANS LEARNED MUCH ABOUT THE SAUKEEN BRUCE PENINSULA BETWEEN 1823 (LEFT) AND 1850 (RIGHT). THANK YOU TO DR. SCOTT MCLEAN FOR SHARING THESE MAPS.

Today, Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office oversees on-going significant archeological studies that have revealed:

- A thriving Aquaculture (whitefish and the Fishing Islands, subsurface manmade structures Hope Bay)
- Pukaskwa pits (Thunderbird nests) along the Huron/Georgian Shore and islands, on cobble shorelines (holes in the shore covered with ice and wood/sawdust)
- Shards of pottery, stone tools, scrapers, projectiles for spear or arrow heads, burial bundles, Some being found as far north as Tobermory.

We know that then as of today, Odawa would have taken advantage of the abundant fish and fowl that migrated along and around the Peninsula as well as the corn noted by Champlain either grown themselves or by their trading partners to the south. Food was abundant for the pre-European First Nations people. We know that the Odawa thrived as mobile traders prior to European

contact, managing trade routes between the Northern Great Lakes region and West to southern Ontario and the Eastern US.

Through my research, I came to agree with the historians that declared that there was no St. Jukes or St. Simons Mission on Dyers Bay as proposed by 1660 map by du Creux which is not accurate of the area, Champlain did not visit this far up the Peninsula and the Odawa/Algonquin were the Indigenous people of the Peninsula - not the Petun. The Jesuit focus was converting the Hurons/Petuns as France's primary trading partners. Sherwood Fox was writing from what he thought was the best available knowledge of the day and should not be taken as the gospel for the Peninsula.

In conversations and maps supplied by Dr. Scott McLean, a family member and now retired professor of Archeology at a King's College university in the UK, I was further surprised to see how long the Peninsula was a mystery to Europeans. Below are two maps from Scott's collections.



EUROPEANS LEARNED MUCH ABOUT THE SAUKIING BRUCE PENINSULA BETWEEN 1823 (LEFT) AND 1850 (RIGHT). THANK YOU TO DR. SCOTT MCLEAN FOR SHARING THESE MAPS.

REFERENCES

It seems that there was a leap in knowledge of the area between 1823 and 1850 and if we are committed to keeping an open mind regarding the Peninsula, I think there is opportunity to learn even more about the Odawa, the people who called the Peninsula home for thousands of years prior to 1600.

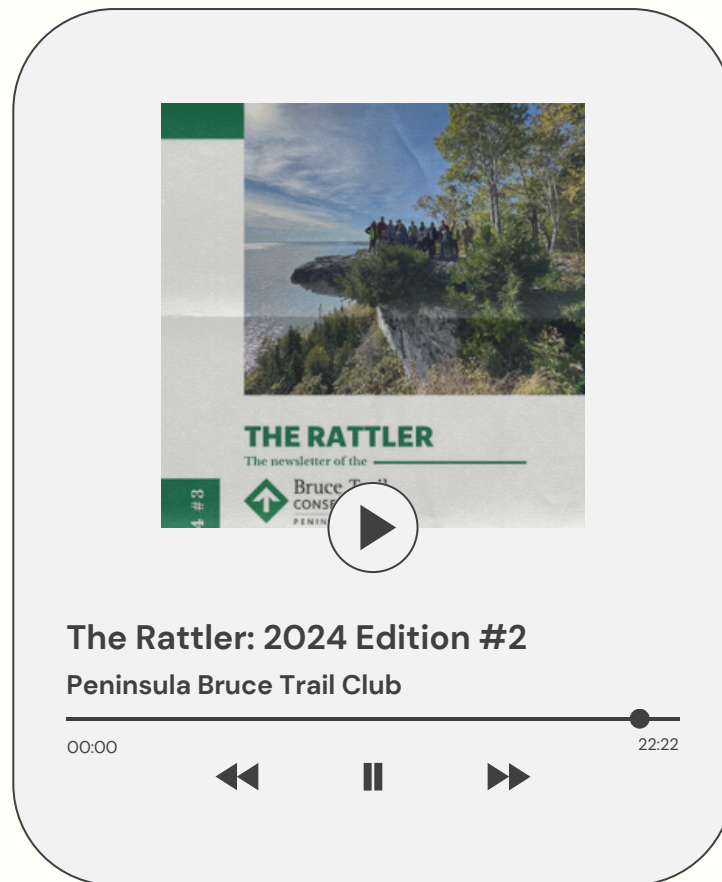
Residents and visitors who travel to the Peninsula to hike the Trails are encouraged to watch for SON Environmental Office Open houses when SON OE will often put some of their archeological finds on public display. (SON Environmental Office is located on Hwy 6 just north of Wiarton, 10129 Hwy 6) For the Bruce Trail's part, at times, the Trail is rerouted around places where archeological investigations are underway or archeological sites established. The Bruce Trail Conservancy has adopted a practice of working with SON to conduct archeological reviews of areas before constructing infrastructure like parking lots and other developments.

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