



THE RATTLER

The newsletter of the



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

PENINSULA CLUB

2025 #2

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Julie Bennett

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I grew up on the Hamilton Mountain brow with the Bruce Trail a block away. I was the kid who tried to see how far I could squeeze myself into the cracks in the escarpment or taking my friends on hikes where we would wash our hands before our picnic lunch in storm-water waterfalls around the Chedoke ski hill. When I wasn't running wild on the trails in Hamilton, I spent every summer at my Grandparent's cottage on the Bruce Peninsula. I guess you could say I grew up on the Bruce Trail.

When I retired after 37 years in the Canadian Navy, I wanted to get back to my roots - I bought the family cottage on the Peninsula and tried to figure out how to fill the void I was feeling of being an empty nester and no longer being part of the Military Family. Of course the Bruce Trail came to mind.

I made the leap and joined the Peninsula Club. Marg Glendon, the Membership/Outreach Director at the time, phoned me and made me feel incredibly welcome. Out of that phone call, I became the Trail Captain for Crane Lake to High Dump. Marg and Owen hiked with me to show me what my responsibilities of Trail Captain were, gave me an orange BTC safety vest, can of white paint and paint brush, taught me the benefits of a foldable hand saw from Lee Valley Tools and I was hooked. Tom Hall was very patient with me as I stumbled through the maintenance reports.



JULIE BENNETT, PBTC PRESIDENT

Wanting to do more for the club, I did the Ontario Hike Leader course with fellow participants Saabir, Les and Caley. At the same time, I had been taking courses in Sustainable Trails and Environmental Management at Fleming College.

I decided I might be able to contribute to the Board of PBTC and talked Caley into coming onto the Board at the same time. My fellow hike leader friends Saabir, Les, Marg and Owen were already Board members, too. Tamara Wilson was the President.

As everyone knows, Tamara is an exceptional forward thinking leader and advocate for the Bruce Trail. Throughout her tenure as President, Tamara together with Marg Glendon and the PBTC Board, raised the profile of the club within the Bruce Peninsula, BTC Community, nurtured a wonderful relationship with Saugeen Ojibway Nation and moved PBTC forward exponentially. Pretty hard act to follow for that kid that used to squeeze in the cracks of the escarpment!

Julie Bennett

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am truly honoured to be the President of PBTC and know I have huge shoes to fill. I rely on the expertise, skill sets, knowledge and advice of the incredible PBTC Board of Directors. Every member of our team is passionate not just about the trail, but the importance of the work we do for future generations.

I intend to continue Tamara and The PBTC Board's work by aligning PBTC with the five strategic priorities set out in BTC's 2030 Strategy:

- Urgently Protect Land,
- Restore and Care for Niagara Escarpment Lands,
- Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience,
- Support People and Culture, and
- Inspire Generosity.

Our Board, Committees and Volunteers have been incredibly busy clearing the trails after the ice storm; 100% trail maintenance reports completed; planting trees/ pulling invasive species; stewardship inventories of properties; working on land procurement; potential re-route for Crane Lake road; leading a multitude of end to end and specialty hikes including Rainbow Hikes and our first trail running series; continuing keeping the trails beautiful through "Hike it, Love it, Keep it Clean"; and participating in community events such as Chamber of Commerce AGM, speaking engagements, Canada Day, Homecoming and the Pow Wow.

To quote Marg Glendon from the AGM in May 2025. "We are so much more than just a hiking club."

I will never be able to thank Marg and Owen enough for welcoming me into the Bruce Trail Family, Tamara for mentoring me in my new role and the PBTC Board for your dedication and support.

Can't wait to see you on the trails!
Julie



THE RATTLER



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
PENINSULA CLUB

2025 ISSUE 2

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 November 7, 2025

Editors: Leslie McBeth, Larisa Nagelberg, Daksh Patel

Layout: Leslie McBeth

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Advertisements reach hundreds of readers and support conservation and community engagement work by the PBTC.

Rates:	per issue	yearly (3 issues)
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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.

Slowly but surely, with the help of our dedicated conservation volunteers, the PBTC is eradicating invasive periwinkle



WOODLAND RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS

Purple Valley Side Trail Woodland Restoration

LAURA PISKO
DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is thrilled that after several years, and many hours of volunteer efforts, the Purple Valley Side Trail woodland restoration has concluded successfully.

Four years ago, a very large area of invasive periwinkle was noted along the Purple Valley Side Trail entrance to Malcolm Bluffs Nature Reserve along Colpoys Bay. It is very likely that the periwinkle was brought to Canada by settlers and started innocently enough in someone's garden. Unfortunately periwinkle spreads very quickly in Ontario and outcompetes our native woodland plants such as trilliums and trout lilies. Periwinkle is also notoriously difficult to eradicate. Even tiny pieces of roots will start new vigorous colonies in the right growing conditions.

A decision was made to tarp the periwinkle - essentially to solarize it through heat generated by the sun on the

tarps. This proved to be a long process! Finally, in 2024, the periwinkle was deemed weakened enough to benefit from a “pull party”. A dozen eager volunteers removed several garbage bags of the weakened periwinkle. The tarps were then reinstalled for a further year.

In early May 2025, volunteers and the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s two Conservation Ambassadors replanted the now bare forest floor with 194 native woodland plants which can be found growing on the Peninsula. Lovely bulblet fern, foam flower, meadow anemone, white snakeroot and wild ginger have been introduced to outcompete any remaining periwinkle. They are well suited to the woodland area they have been planted in.

This is not the only area of the Peninsula Bruce Trail with periwinkle invasions. Slowly but surely, with the help of our dedicated conservation volunteers we will tackle these areas.

If you see periwinkle along the Peninsula Bruce Trail please report it using your Bruce Trail app or by contacting PBTC.dir.conservation@gmail.com.

Together we will protect the beautiful natural biodiversity of the Peninsula Bruce Trail.



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*Less Than One Month
Until the 2025 Peninsula
Hiking Festival!*

September 19-20: The Peninsula Hiking Festival

BY LES MCBETH
2025 PENINSULA HIKING
FESTIVAL CO-CHAIR

The theme for the 2025 Festival is "Diversity in Nature," a concept that celebrates how a healthy ecosystem is a balanced and sustainable environment supporting people, cultures, and the local economy. Our Bruce Trail community is a part of Nature's ecosystem, reflecting this same diversity and interdependence. Our programs and activities 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.



2024 PENINSULA HIKING FESTIVAL

The festival will be centred at Camp Celtic in Lion's Head. Located close to the shores of Lake Huron and Black Creek Provincial Park, Camp Celtic provides a rustic, communal setting where participants can escape the hustle of daily life and fully connect with the land and others. Evenings will feature social gatherings, meals, and engaging entertainment.

GLIMPSE AT THE 2025 FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Programming will include a variety of options, such as full-day and shorter hikes, guided hikes with experts, and 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.

BETH GILHESPY BOOK LAUNCH & PHOTO CONTEST REVEAL

Join us for the launch of Beth Gilhespy's third *Walking Through Time* geology book, which covers the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. The book will be ready just in time to launch at the festival! We will reveal the winner of the book's cover shot photo contest! Beth will have books on hand, and you can pick up a signed, first-edition copy.

EXPLORING WHITE BLUFF'S GEOLOGICAL HISTORY (HIKE)

Explore magnificent dolostone cliffs, quiet meadows, rocky forests, and hidden caves, all while uncovering the geological history of the remarkable White Bluff area. This moderate hike highlights the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment, from fossils and unique rock formations to glacial features.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE ESCARPMENT (PRESENTATION)

Delve into the fascinating world of Niagara Escarpment geology with a focus on its rocks, minerals, and fossils. You'll get up close with samples as you learn about the building blocks of our favorite local landform.

GLASSFORD WETLAND BIODIVERSITY WALK (HIKE)

Enjoy a leisurely-paced interpretive walk through the Glassford Wetland, a BTC-owned property. You'll observe the stunning biodiversity across its various habitats, including forests, meadows, and wetlands, which support a diverse array of migratory and breeding birds.

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA: SHINING RAINBOW DEER (GUIDED HIKE)

This guided hike explores the Shining Rainbow Deer reserve, a Nature Conservancy of Canada property. The loop trail winds through a lively wetland, dense cedar forest, and rare alvar habitat.

FOREST DIVERSITY AND TREE BADGE (GUIDED HIKE)

Learn to identify and document the Peninsula's diverse tree species along a scenic section of the Bruce Trail, working toward earning a special Tree Badge.

CAPTURING THE BRUCE (HIKE)

Take a journey along side trails to locations like Michiganders Arch and Devil's Monument, offering unique photographic opportunities. Participants will learn photography tips while exploring these breathtaking locations.

THE MAKING OF THE TRAIL (PRESENTATION)

Step back in time and explore the rich history of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club from its formation in 1964 to the present. You'll see rare historical photos and hear the stories of the dedicated early volunteers.



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JONES BLUFF: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND QUEER ECOLOGY (INTERPRETIVE HIKE)

Join an immersive interpretive hike in the beautiful Jones Bluff area in Neyaashiinigiimig, exploring the land through the lenses of Indigenous knowledge and queer ecology. This hike is a welcoming space for all, focusing on how identity, ecology, and land are deeply interwoven.

GINEBEK MIIKAANS—THE SNAKE TRAIL BOARDWALK (INTERPRETIVE HIKE)

Enjoy a short but powerful walk through the traditional territory of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, weaving together natural beauty with deep cultural insight into Anishinaabe history and land stewardship.

TAGWERK FARM: HOPS, BEES, AND BIODIVERSITY (FARM VISIT)

Join Master Brewer Christian R. von der Heide to learn about the symbiotic relationship between bees and wild hops, and the importance of a healthy environment in agriculture at Tagwerk Farm, located next to the Maple Cross Nature Reserve.



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NEW: Hike Saskatchewan 10 Days: June 20, 2025	\$5,295	\$6,395
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Newfoundland Coast-to-Coast 10 Days: July 25, 2025	\$7,595	\$8,595
Banff Hiking 8 Days: August 8, 2025	\$6,895	\$7,495
NEW: Portugal Hiking 12 Days: October 21, 2025	\$6,995	\$8,595

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You are invited to a special event celebrating the launch of Beth Gilhespy's new book: Walking Through Time – Exploring the Geology of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula.

Walking Through Time: Book Launch & Geology Hike with Beth Gilhespy

BY LES MCBETH
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

This new volume is the third in Beth Gilhespy's acclaimed geology series. It covers the entire Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, from Wiarton north along the ragged eastern edge, across to Tobermory, and down the gentle Lake Huron coast.

Date	Sunday, September 21, 2025
Location	Lion's Head Beach Pavilion
Time	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Host	Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) and Owen Sound Field Naturalists

ABOUT THE BOOK

In this latest volume, Beth takes readers on a fascinating journey through one of Ontario's most geologically rich and scenic landscapes – from fossil-filled cliffs and quiet wetlands to rugged shorelines shaped by ancient tropical seas and shifting continents. The book provides detailed information for 13 geology hikes, maps, and interpretive notes, making it the perfect guide for curious hikers and nature lovers. The book will describe the geology of the Peninsula. The theme of the book series is "Walking Through Time," which is all about time, starting 450 million years ago when the rock layers began to form, to the retreat of glacial ice 12,000 years ago.

Registration Information

- The book launch is open to all—no registration is needed!
- Hikes require pre-registration at www.pbtc.ca/hikes.

For more information, contact Beth Gilhespy at beth.gilhespy@gmail.com.

Come for the book, stay for the rocks—we can't wait to see you there!

Conservation Updates

LAURA PISKO
DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION
& LAND STEWARDSHIP

In July, the Owen Sound Ministry of Natural Resources Junior Rangers jumped into action to remove invasive periwinkle and garlic mustard at the Glassford property. Their efforts to help protect native plants are much appreciated (especially since they had to battle many mosquitos!)



In mid July the 4th Annual Appreciation /Meeting for Land Stewards was held. Topics included identification of invasive plants, bootbrushes, conservation activities and general updates by the Peninsula



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JOIN US FOR BRUCE TRAIL DAY

Sunday, October 5
12:00 noon - 2:00 pm



Cape Croker Park
112 Park Rd., Warton
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FREE Guided Hikes

8:30 AM The Big Loop Bruce Trail Hike	10:30 AM Mindful & Meditative Walk	12:30 PM Ginebek Miikaans Trail	2:00 PM Wazh Miikaans Hike
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Family Friendly Social & Refreshments Cape Croker Park Pavilion 12:00-2:00

Drop in! All are welcome!
Free Bruce Trail guidebook for the first 40 visitors
Free Bruce Trail Day stickers for all
Kids activities & refreshments
Info about year-round hikes, land stewardship and volunteering

For more info, contact outreachforpbtc@gmail.com
Register for hikes: <https://www.pbtc.ca/hikes>

Thank you to Cape Croker Park for waiving
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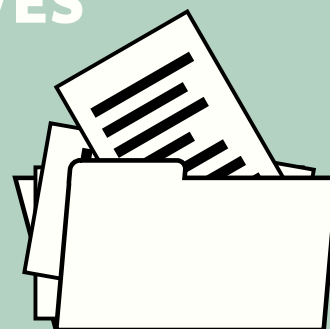
2025 marks the 15th running of this annual festival

Peninsula Hiking Festival: The Tradition Continues

BY BRENDA STEWART
PBTC ARCHIVIST

On September 19-20, the Peninsula Club will again be hosting its annual Hiking Festival. This Festival has been continuously held since 2004, with a brief hiatus through the years, 2019- 2022, due to Covid restrictions. This will be the Fifteenth Hiking Festival offered!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



This month, we learn more about the history of the Peninsula Hiking Festival.

This year’s theme is “Diversity in Nature”. It will feature a diverse offering of hikes and also includes a non-hike program featuring a slideshow history of the PBTC. In keeping with the history theme, this issue’s “From the Archives” spotlights an article written for the Rattler in 2015 about the history of the Hiking Festival, by Jane Greenhouse, PBTC Director, and Deb Sturdevant, Club Archivist.



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The History of Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's Hiking Festival

In 2003 the Bruce Trail Association (now Bruce Trail Conservancy) designated the first Sunday in October as "Bruce Trail Day". All nine Bruce Trail Clubs were asked to organize hikes that day. Marlene Rothenbury, a director of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC), organized hikes including: Nature photography with Ethan Meleg, Bruce Peninsula National Park (BPNP); Ferns of the Bruce in Hope Bay with Nels Maher; two hikes in Lion's Head and a long scenic hike through Cape Croker and Sidney Bay with Ross McLean.

This was so well received that in 2004 the PBTC board of directors decided to expand Bruce Trail Day to a weekend hiking festival. (This also balanced shoulder season events in Tobermory with the Orchid Festival in the spring.)

Twenty-five PBTC members volunteered for the first festival: they led hikes and acted as sweeps, handled pre-registrations, conducted publicity, worked registration and sales desks, sold raffle tickets, and hosted the wine and cheese. The first Hiking Festival committee included Marlene Rothenbury, Grace Telfer, Donna Baker, John and Judy Appleton, with Ethan Meleg being the Park's representative. In the following eleven years members of the committee included Darci Lombard, Jane and John Greenhouse, Don and Joan McIlraith, Russell Ferguson, Roger Plomley, Kathy Orr, Frank Schoenhoffer, Louise Jameson, Sheila and Jeff Buckingham, Ann and Peter Miller, Grant Ehrhardt, Mary Catherine Janssen, Chase Hoffer and Ashley Miller, among others. A few of the BPNP representatives were Darla Campbell, Robyn Simard, Lenore Keeshig-Tobias and Sheila Buckingham.

Marlene Rothenbury headed up the committee until 2009 when Darci Lombard became the chair person and in 2012 passed it on to Sheila Buckingham. All proceeds from the Annual Bruce Peninsula Hiking Festival are donated to BTC for the Escarpment Legacy Fund.

Every year PBTC organizes an "end to end" hike (Warton to Tobermory) and for the first eight festivals the final hike into Tobermory coincided with the Saturday of the Hiking Festival. The hikers that completed the end to end each year were awarded their badges at the Saturday evening presentation.

The PBTC, along with BPNP, worked in partnership to organize the "1st Annual Bruce Peninsula Hiking Festival Weekend." It was a resounding success.

2004: First Annual Hiking Festival

The Friday Evening Feature Presentation: "Dark Skies" with Astronomer Doug Cunningham.

Saturday Events: Birding with Ethan Meleg, BPNP; 19K hike with Ross McLean; Geology with Torben Hawksbridge; Hike to the Grotto; Wilderness Survival with Ted Phillips; Stroll at Cape Croker with Lenore Keeshig-Tobias, BPNP; Ferns of the Bruce with Nels and Jean Maher; Hike at White Bluff; Photography with Ethan Meleg, BPNP; Geology with Victor Last and Daryl Cowell; Hike to Cape Dundas and Jackson's Cove. During the weekend there was an Art Show and Sale by Friends of the National Park and a chance to meet both a flying squirrel with Steve Patterson and a live rattlesnake with Sean Liipere at the Visitor Centre.

Saturday Evening Feature Presentation "Footloose on the Bruce" by local photojournalist Willy Waterton.

2005: Second Annual Hiking Festival

PBTC with the BPNP offered a varied list of activities including Birding, Geology, Star Gazing at Singing Sands, Hiking, Aquatics, Aboriginal use of plants for food and medicines, Ferns, Rock Ramble, a Rattlesnake, Flying Squirrel, Nature Photography, and Orienteering. There were over 150 participants.

2006: Third Annual Hiking Festival

Friday Night Feature Presentation: Star Gazing with "The Star Lady" Donna Giesler,

Saturday Events: Sunrise photography at Halfway Log Dump with Ethan Meleg, BPNP; long and short hikes at Cyprus Lake; the Alvar at Singing Sands; Burnt Point Loop; Aquatic Ecology at Cyprus Lake; Aboriginal use of Plants; Three Geology workshops with Daryl Cowell, Victor Last and Torben Hawksbridge; Historical Walking Tour of Tobermory; Forest Ecology with Frank Burrows, BPNP; Birding and Alvar Discovery.

Saturday Evening Feature Presentation: "Insect Diversity of the Bruce Peninsula" with Steve Marshall.

(History cont'd on page 12)

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(History cont'd from pg. 9)

2007: Fourth Annual Hiking Festival

Friday Night Feature Presentation: "Look Up and See Infinity" with Astronomer Doug Cunningham; after the talk drive to see the stars at Singing Sands.

Saturday Events: Photography at Halfway Log Dump with Ethan Meleg, BPNP; Forest Ecology of the Upper Bruce with Frank Burrows, BPNP; Paddle "Wigwaas Jiiman" (Birch Bark Canoe) with Lenore Keeshig-Tobias, BPNP; Geology with Torben Hawksbridge; Birding from Dyer's Bay to Cabot Head; Geology of Cabot Head with Daryl Cowell; Going Batty Workshop with Melissa Prout, BPNP; Introduction to Geocaching; Bootlegger's Cave hike with Sean Liipere, BPNP; and Mushroom Foray with Lorraine Brown and Andrew Armitage.

Saturday Evening Feature Presentation: "Wildlife of the Bruce Peninsula" by Ethan Meleg, BPNP and Frank Burrows, BPNP.

Sunday Hikes: New Michigander Side Trail hike at Dyer's Bay or explore the new Rush Cove Trail.

2008: Fifth Hiking Festival

Friday Evening Feature Presentation: Astronomy "Beauty and Awe in The Astronomer's Universe" with Astronomer Doug Cunningham;

Saturday Events: Photography with Scott Currie, BPNP; Geology Hike with Victor Last; Geology with Torben Hawksbridge; Mushroom Foray with Lorraine Brown; Over and Under the Boardwalk with Tony Edwards, BPNP; Dyer's Bay Geology hike; Going Batty workshop with Melissa Prout; Bootlegger's Cave excursion with Sean Liipere, BPNP; A Walk in the Woods with Ecologist John Haselmayer, BPNP; Introduction to Geocaching with Ted Spieker.

Ongoing throughout the day at the Visitor Centre were: "Live and Let Slither" meet an Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and "Ask the Experts."

Saturday Evening Feature Presentation: "Exploring the Bruce Peninsula Landscape and Beyond" with Kas Stone, author of "Hiking and Paddling the Georgian Bay Shoreline".

Sunday Hikes: The new Otter Lake Loop, the new Glassford Trail near Purple Valley, the McIver Side Trail or a visit the Ferndale Wind Turbines.

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2009: Sixth Annual Outdoor Festival in combination with the Bruce Trail's AGM

Friday Evening Presentation: "Living in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve."

Saturday Events: Insect Investigations with Entomologist Steve Marshall; Mushroom Foray with Lorraine Brown and Andrew Armitage; Botanical Tour of Fens, Alvars, Ferns and Flowers with Botanist Joan Crowe; Survival in the Woods with Ted Phillips; Surveying for Reptiles and Amphibians with Joe Crowley, Herpetofaunal Atlas Project Coordinator for Ontario Nature; Natural History of Flowerpot Island with Daryl Cowell; Geology with Torben Hawksbridge; Over and Under the Boardwalk at Singing Sands with Tony Edwards, BPNP; Bootlegger's Cave Rock Ramble Hike with Sean Liipere, BPNP; Kayak Tour of Tobermory Harbour and Fathom Five National Marine Park with Marlene Rothenbury and Kathy Orr; A Tour of the Tub with historian Holly Dunham; Fun with your GPS with Ted Spieker; Fossil Find with Peter Russell.

Join us for a hike!



Visit pbtc.ca/hikes for more information



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Saturday Evening Event: Sunset Cruise on Chi-Cheemaun with Don Wilkes, Interpreter BPNP.

Sunday Hikes: Boundary Bluffs, the Rush Cove Loop, the Pease Side Trail or a visit the Ferndale Wind Turbines.

Having hosted the festival for six years it was challenging to find new and different events so it was decided to base the festival on the UNESCO theme of the year (when applicable).

2010: Seventh Annual Bruce Peninsula Outdoor Festival: "The Web of Life"

Friday Evening Presentation: "Exploring our Ancient Cedars" by Pete Kelly, co-author of "The Last Stand: a Journey through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment"

Saturday Events: Birding with Ethan Meleg, BPNP; Halfway Rock Escarpment Geology with Daryl Cowell; Aquatic Invertebrates with Jenna McGuire, BPNP; Botanical Tour with Joan Crowe; Look, See, Paint with Julie Heinrichs; Surveying for Reptiles & Amphibians with Joe Crowley, Herpetofaunal Atlas Project Coordinator for Ontario Nature; Medicinal and Edible Plants with Barbara Bobo; Introduction to "Bouldering" with the Ontario Access Coalition; Bootlegger's Cave Rock Ramble with Sheila Buckingham; Fun with your GPS with Ted Spieker.

(History cont'd from pg.13)

2014: Eleventh Annual Hiking Festival. "Year of the Family Farm"

Friday Night Feature Presentation: "Archaeology of the Early Settlers" with Scarlett Janusas

Saturday Events: Roofed Accommodation (yurts) and hike with Tony Edwards, BPNP; Lumbering at Gilles Lake with Bill and Mary Crawford; Belrose Settlement Loop with Darla Campbell, BPNP; Art at the Museum with Julie Heinrichs; Tobermory Fishing History with Holly Dunham; Burnt Point Loop Rattler Run; Field Hopping at Pedwools with Cavan Harpur, BPNP; Gas and Whistle Buoy with Grace Telfer; Bootleggers Cave Rock Ramble with Jeff and Sheila Buckingham; Warder Ranch with Roy Warder and Lenore Keeshig-Tobias, BPNP.

Saturday Night Feature Presentation: Excerpts from "The Portrait" by Allen Smutylo, his play about Tobermory in the 1960s.

Sunday Hikes: Fossils at Cape Croker with Beth Gilhespy, BTC Director.

2015: Twelfth Annual Hiking Festival "Year of the Light"

Friday Night Feature Presentation: Dancing to Music by "Ol' Thyme Contraband"

Saturday Events: Medicine Walk with Lenore Keeshig-Tobias, BPNP; Cabot Head Light Station with Pat Barton; Hidden Valley Hike with Doug Sweiger; Birding with Martha Allen, BPNP; Photography with Laurence Acland; Light for the Soul (Pottery) with Mark Kellner; Navigational Lighting the Way with Jeff Buckingham.

Saturday Night Feature Presentation: "Starlight Only" with Mike Warkentin from Bay Shore Astronomy in Lion's Head.

Sunday Hikes: Lion's Head Pot Holes.

By Jane Greenhouse, Director, PBTC with information from PBTC Archivist, Deborah Sturdevant



The Hiking Festival returned after a pandemic hiatus in 2023 and was held at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Center.

In 2024, the festival moved to Camp Celtic, and drew 100 hikers from across the province.

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Grandmother Cedar Awarded at the AGM

BY LAURA PISKO
 DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION &
 LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2025 featured a truly heartfelt moment as Cathie and Peter Thuerig were presented with the prestigious Grandmother Cedar Award. This award recognizes their profound and enduring commitment to the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and the protection of the Peninsula's cherished natural landscapes.

Cathie and Peter have been dedicated members of the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 1991, marking an incredible 34 years of membership. Their hands-on volunteer journey began more recently, in 2013, and has since blossomed into invaluable service to the PBTC.



**CATHIE AND PETER THUERIG'S
 ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANDMOTHER
 CEDAR AWARD**

For the last six years, since 2019, the Thuerigs have been exemplary Land Stewards of the Palmer property. This critical role sees them undertaking a vast array of tasks essential for the health and preservation of the land, such as monitoring and watering trees, preparing sites for tree planting, removing invasive species like lilac, and trail clearing and property inspections.

The story of their commitment highlights their proactive approach to conservation. The Land Stewardship Director recounted first meeting Peter when he called, genuinely concerned about the health of the Palmer property after noticing a large stand of sumacs that looked dead. This concern encapsulates their deep connection to the land.

Bruce Peninsula Students Help Restore Vanishing Stream Property

LAURA PISKO
DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION
& LAND STEWARDSHIP

Students from Bruce Peninsula District School recently pitched in to support conservation work on the Vanishing Stream property, proving that even young hands can make a huge difference!

A group of Grade 5/6 students showed up ready to work—they were attentive, sociable, eager to plant, and very efficient!

The students quickly planted all 50 trees. This effort included planting 29 endangered butternut trees. Their hard work meant the trees were planted in no time at all!



STUDENTS AT VANISHING STREAM

After the successful planting, Bill and Sheri led an interesting hike through the Vanishing Stream property. The students got to see and hear some of the unique features of the site:

- The Vanishing Stream: They all heard the stream gurgling under the rocks.
- Conservation Efforts: They saw endangered American Chestnut trees that were planted last year.
- The Meadow: They observed the meadow that was slow-burned and reseeded.
- Wildlife Corridor: They saw the fence, which has been limbed up so that small mammals can easily access the property.

The event was a huge hit with the young conservationists—the consensus of the kids was they'd like to do it again!

Fox | Waagosh Award For the Peninsula Hiking Festival

BY TAMARA WILSON
PBTC PRESIDENT

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's (PBTC) Fox | Waagosh Award is an annual award bestowed by the President, recognizing an individual or group in the Club who is an outstanding Change Agent. This individual or group has promoted and supported a new way of doing things within the Club, whether it's the use of a new process, the adoption of a new Board structure, or the transformation of an old Club event into a new, invigorated, and/or improved way of accomplishing activities. This award recognizes responsible innovation in Club processes, new approaches, improved methods to conservation, and our interaction with the fragile beauty around us.



MARG GLENDON ACCEPTS THE FOX AWARD FROM TAMARA WILSON AT THE AGM

"Waagosh" is the Anishinaabemowin name for "fox". "Waagosh" is integrated into the name of this award in recognition of the profound relationship between the natural environment where the PBTC operates and the Traditional Keepers of this land, the Anishinaabek people of SON. It is through the winter tracks of waagosh that we often find new trails, more efficient routes, and new areas of the Peninsula to explore.

What stood out in evaluating candidates was the 2024 Hiking Festival Committee's ability to nurture local connections. The Festival's theme, "Listen to the Land,"

highlighted the significance of connecting with and learning from the land. It emphasized the wisdom and stories nature holds, reinforcing how our relationships with the environment—land, water, flora, and fauna—shape our past, present, and future. The theme itself created a platform that highlighted the integrated nature of our community—its people and land.

Included in the Community Connections that the Committee nurtured was:

- holding the event at **Celtic Sports Camp**,
- the new farm-based experience with Tagwerk, “**Beer and Bees**”,
- utilizing the catering services of the **Peninsula SWANS**, a local women-led nonprofit service group,
- the integral role that **Club hike leaders** played in shaping the Festival’s theme and hikes,
- the platform provided to **other conservation groups**,
- and last but not least, the connection to **local business** who were invited to sponsor the Festival thereby raising their profile as a business who cares and gives back to their community.

The following names appear on the plaque that was presented at this year’s AGM on **May 10th, 4pm at Summerhouse Park**

2024 Peninsula Hiking Festival Committee: Randy Vanderlaan, Jeannine Kralt, Saabir Sohrab, Natalie Mechalko, Les McBeth, Gail Pells, Pat Turner, Jane Greenhouse, Jess Pridham, Nathan Monk, Lynne Jones, Rachel Bloc, Margaret O’Dell, Marg Glendon

Thank you for all of your volunteerism and elevating our Club within the Community of the Saugeen Peninsula and beyond!

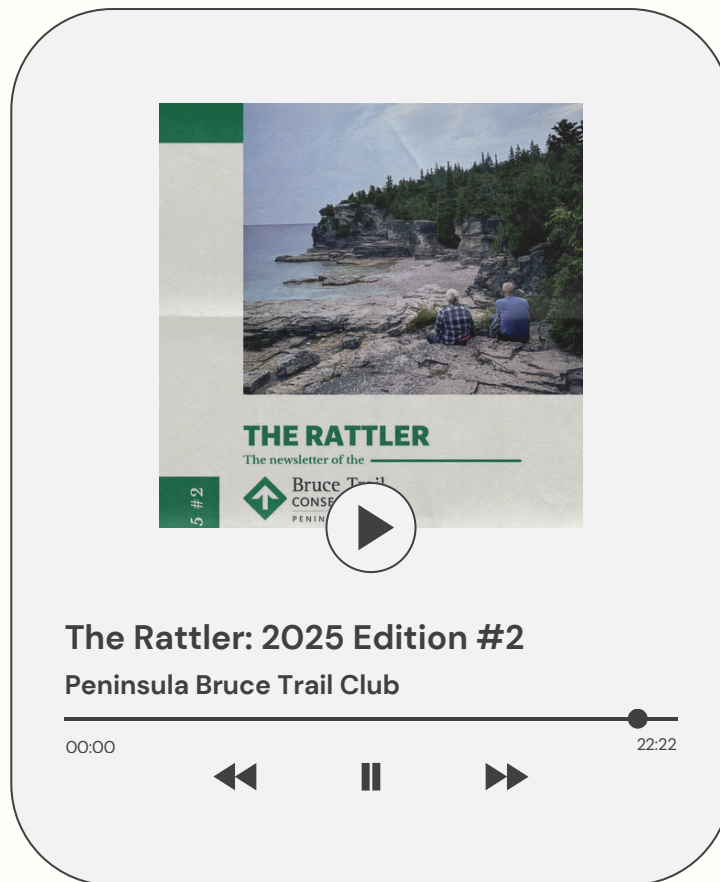


2024 PENINSULA HIKING FESTIVAL

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