

INSIDE: MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL PROGRAM

VOL. 62, NO.2, SPRING 2025

Bruce Trail

C O N S E R V A N C Y

MAGAZINE



**The Power
and Beauty of
Escarpment
Water**

Our Mission

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

SPRING 2025



Photo: Elisha Rubachna

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Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine is available digitally.

To receive your magazine by email:

- Fill out the request form at brucetrail.org (About Us > Stay Informed > Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine)
- Call 1-800-665-4453, or
- Email info@brucetrail.org



Photo: Lindsey Wilkinson

Cover photo: Beaver Pond on Epping Lookout Side Trail by Martin Lamprecht

Chief Executive Officer's Message



One of the things that makes the Bruce Trail so iconic is its proximity to beautiful Georgian Bay.

As the Trail meanders through the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, its rippling, crystal-clear waters are an awe-inspiring sight to behold, and a stunning reward for many triumphant end-to-end hikers.

This magnificent waterbody is one of many along our beloved Bruce Trail; our footpath crosses countless streams, leads to majestic waterfalls, and sidles up to wetlands and ponds that cradle huge amounts of life and remarkable biodiversity. The geological wonder we call the Niagara Escarpment is a teeming with water both above ground and below, where it courses through cavernous karst systems. All along the Bruce Trail we are surrounded by the beauty, sound, and effects of water.

In the spirit of confession, in addition to hiking, I love to kayak. This past summer I had the joy of paddling from our Chris Walker Nature Reserve at Rush Cove to our newly secured Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve. It was a unique way to gain perspective on our work to protect the Niagara Escarpment.

As I paddled along, I passed countless cottages and homes that dot the landscape sitting close to the shoreline. This was in stark contrast to the sight as I approached Sunrise Shores: hundreds of meters of natural, pristine shoreline and, on that day, a Bald Eagle perched in a tree. It's undeniable the impact humans have on the land and water, but we are making a difference together, for all of the species (including us) who rely on water as the source of life.

Leonardo Da Vinci famously said that water is the driving force of nature, and this issue of Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine really brings that premise to life. In these pages you will find a

feature on water stewardship and the active role we play as one of Canada's leading environmental charities protecting the many water sources, streams and tributaries that exist within our conservation corridor. We also take an in-depth look at how water has shaped the Niagara Escarpment over millennia and how water impacts our trail building efforts.

The next time you are out hiking I hope you pause and reflect on the fact that you are a part of an organization that is protecting water – and so much more of our natural heritage – for generations to come. •

Michael McDonald,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Photo: Michael McDonald

BTC's Sunrise Shores Nature Reserve, from the water

NIAGARA

niagarabruceclub.org

Fort-to-Fort Hike – April 12-13, 2025

Hike the entire length of the Niagara Parkway, from Fort George to Fort Erie, over two days. Enjoy approximately 27 km each day of beautiful river scenery. Small hills involved but mostly paved paths with some road walking. Registration for two days is \$65 for members (\$75 for non-members); for one day \$50 for members (\$60 for non-members). Fee includes bus, checkpoints and badge.

Niagara End-to-End – May 17-19, 2025

Cover this historic 80 km section of the Bruce Trail over three days enjoying panoramic views of vineyards, orchards and Lake Ontario. Rocky sections, heavily wooded areas and remnants of historic settlements - the Niagara section has it all.

Registration is \$80 for members (\$90 for non-members); for one day \$40 for members (\$50 for non-members). Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch on final day, and badge. You must complete all three days to earn this badge.



Laura Secord Hike – June 22, 2025

Enjoy a part of our Canadian heritage by hiking along the Bruce Trail from Laura Secord's Homestead in Queenston to DeCew House in Thorold. We are sure this 32 km hike was a challenge for Laura in a long dress and no Nikes, but we never heard any complaints. Follow her lead and rise to the challenge. Registration is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members; kids \$25 and \$30. Fee includes bus, checkpoints, light lunch and a badge.

Content deadline for Blazes for the summer 2025 issue is May 1, 2025.

Send content to: Laura Tuohy, BTC Manager of Community Engagement, at ltuohy@bruceclub.org

TORONTO

torontobruceclub.org

Toronto End-to-End – September 6-7, 2025

Please join us for our annual self-led End-to-End. You can enjoy and complete the 50 km distance over two days (approximately 28 km on Saturday and 22 km on Sunday) or the entire 50 km on Saturday.

Whichever you choose, both hikes will traverse the varied terrain from just south of Hilton Falls to the south entrance of the Cheltenham Badlands. Checkpoint stations will be approximately every 10 km offering refreshments, water refill, and assistance. The 1-Day hike fee is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members and includes bus transportation from the meeting point to the hike starting point, refreshments, parking and permit costs, online registration fees, and the official E2E badge. The price for the 2-Day hike is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members and includes all the same benefits of the 1-Day hike plus the added cost of a second bus on both days. For child members, the cost is \$40 and for child non-members, the price is \$50 (for the 2-Day).

Registration opens June 9, 2025 at 9:00 am for Bruce Trail Conservancy members at hikes.bruceclub.org under Saturday September 6, 2025. If any spots are still available at 9:00 am, Monday June 23, 2025, registration will also be opened then for non-members. Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. These are longer hikes and not suitable for beginning hikers. For both events, hikers are expected to maintain an average pace of 4 km/hr (or more). For the 1-Day hike, hikers must reach each checkpoint by a prescribed time to continue and ensure everyone is off the trail before dark.

Space is limited, hikes go rain or shine, and no dogs are permitted on this event. There will be no refunds or tax receipts issued for anyone who cancels their registration. For questions, please contact Jacquie Van Dyke at vdyke0946@gmail.com.

DUFFERIN HI-LAND

dufferinbruceclub.org

Dufferin Hi-Land 60th Anniversary Badge Series of Hikes

The Dufferin Hi-Land Club celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year with a series of hikes covering 60 km of trail in the Dufferin Hi-Land Section in 2025:

1. Side Trails Series begins March 15. Hikes are brisk and approximately 12 km long;
2. Tuesday Hikes Series begins March 22. Hikes are leisurely and 2-6 km long;
3. Dufferin Hi-Land Section End-to-End in Four Series begins April 13. Hikes are moderately paced and 15 km long;
4. While not qualifying for the 60th Anniversary Badge itself but nevertheless in the celebratory spirit of the Anniversary, a Geology Hike Series will also begin on April 19.

Details for each hike series may be found on the BTC Hike Schedule (hikes.bruceclub.org). Please join us in a special year for fellowship and fun in the great outdoors.



Dufferin Hi-Land 2-Day End-to-End – May 10-11, 2025

Join us for two days of hiking the rolling hills of Dufferin County. Enjoy the spring flowers while earning your Red Trillium Badge. Hike distances are approximately 29 km on Day 1 and 26 km on Day 2.

These hikes are challenging and not recommended for new hikers. Instead, check out the wide range of regular group hikes offered by Bruce Trail Clubs throughout the year at hikes.bruceclub.org.



There will be checkpoints along the hike with volunteers providing assistance, refreshments and snacks. No dogs. No children under twelve. No refunds. Registration is \$65.00 for members, \$75.00 for non-members. Registration is open at hikes.brucetrail.org.

BLUE MOUNTAINS

bmbtc.org

Blue Mountains End-to-End – May 24-26, 2025

Join us this spring for the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club 2-Day or 3-Day End-to-End hike event. Both hikes will wind their way through the beautiful and varied terrain of the Blue Mountains Club trails. Enjoy the early signs of nature awakening, the beautiful vistas and the rugged escarpment.

Whether you choose the 2-Day or 3-Day option, both hikes will cover the 69 km distance of our section which



runs from Lavender to Swiss Meadows. Checkpoint stations will be offered approximately every 10 km offering snacks, water refill and assistance along the way.

The 2-Day hike fee is \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the start point each day, refreshments, a Saturday end-of-hike BBQ, online registration fees and the E2E badge. The price for the 3-Day hike is \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members and includes all the same benefits of the 2-Day, and the added cost of busing the extra day.

Registration opens March 4, 2025 at 9:30 am for BTC members only, and the following Tuesday, March 11, 2025 for non-members. Details will be emailed to participants once registration is received. Hikes will fill quickly. Note, these are longer distances and generally not suitable for beginning hikers. For more information, please contact btcbblue2e@gmail.com

Visit Club websites for more news, events and hikes.

BEAVER VALLEY

beavervalleybrucetrail.org

Beaver Valley Annual Falling Water Event – May 31, 2025

Come and test your mettle!

This is an approximately 30 km hike that traverses the beautiful, rugged upper Beaver Valley. It's a challenging hike during which you'll experience all that spring has to



offer, including cascading creeks and waterfalls. Registrants should have experience with hiking long distances over strenuous terrain. The \$40 registration fee covers the cost of online registration, refreshments and the badge.

Registration opens March 3, 2025 at 8:30 am at hikes.brucetrail.org, so mark your calendar to secure your spot.

Details of the event will be emailed to participants once registration is received. For more information contact beavervalleytrailactivities@gmail.com

PENINSULA

pbtc.ca

Peninsula Club Trail Running End-to-End – Weekends, April 12-June 1, 2025

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) is excited to offer its first-ever trail running End-to-End series in 2025. Join the fun and earn a specially designed trail running PBTC E2E badge! The trail running Peninsula E2E series will take place over 4 weekends and 8 days, starting at 8:30 am each day. For details visit hikes.brucetrail.org (under April 12, 2025).

Peninsula End-to-End in 18 Series – May, June, September & October, 2025

Complete the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail over 18 hikes. Hikes take place on Thursdays and Fridays in May, June, September and October. For details visit hikes.brucetrail.org (under May 1, 2025).

2025 Peninsula Hiking Festival – September 19-20, 2025

Save the date for this fall festival on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula hosted by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. Watch pbtc.ca for details. •



Bruce Trail boardwalk at Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigmiing

Photo: Rhannon Caruthers

SAVE THE DATE

Bruce Trail Day - October 5, 2025

Let's get ready to welcome everyone to a Trail-wide celebration!

Bruce Trail Day is our largest outreach event of the year and a wonderful way to introduce more people to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's work in *preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

Free on-Trail events and virtual activities will encourage people to explore the Bruce Trail and learn more about the amazing variety of life along the Niagara Escarpment. Each of the

nine Bruce Trail Clubs will host a family-friendly event unique to their section.

Interested in joining the Bruce Trail Day team? Hundreds of volunteers are needed to make Bruce Trail Day happen. From planning and promotion to leading activities and welcoming participants, there are many ways you can help. Apply today at brucetrail.org/apply-online-to-volunteer

Watch for details at brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-day-2025



Photo: Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club



Photo: Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

For Our Members

ROM Discount for BTC Members

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto has extended its special offer for Bruce Trail Conservancy members through 2025.

To save 15% off ROM admission, buy your tickets at rom.on.ca and enter the promo code: **BTCROM**

This promo code can be used on multiple visits to the ROM throughout 2025 - so you'll have a chance to enjoy ROM galleries and special exhibitions all year round.

If you haven't yet caught the amazing *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024* feature exhibition, or want to see it again with a friend, now is the perfect time. This exhibit closes May 4, 2025. Or take in *Nature in Brilliant Colour*, a special exhibit featuring over 200 specimens, projections and soundscapes celebrating the vivid and untamed beauty of nature, running to August 2025.

Extend your exploration of nature through this special BTC member perk! •

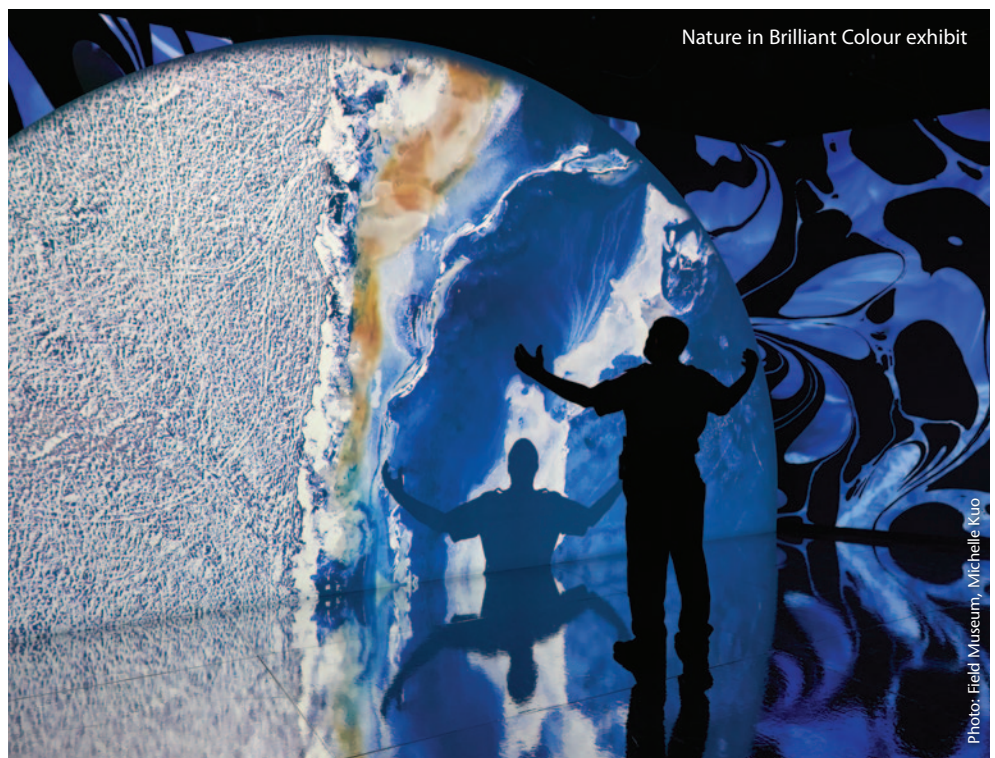


Photo: Field Museum, Michelle Kuo



MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM

LOVE THE TRAIL?

Refer a friend today and you'll both get special offers.

As our membership community grows, so does our capacity to preserve and maintain the Bruce Trail for future generations.

Most Bruce Trail Conservancy members decide to join when a trusted friend or family member encourages them. Think of how much we could accomplish if all our members encouraged just one other person to join.

Now, with our new Membership Referral Program, when you refer a friend and they join, you'll both get benefits and you'll both be supporting the future of the Bruce Trail.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1. Get your referral coupon code:**
BTC members must sign up for the program to receive their unique referral coupon code. To sign up, log in at brucetrail.org and go to the Membership Referral Program tab found on your Account Dashboard.
- 2. Refer your friends and family:**
Share your unique code with friends and family by email. Or you can request to receive cards by mail with your referral code.
- 3. Receive benefits:**
Whenever someone uses your referral coupon code when they purchase a membership, both you and your referral will receive benefits as a thank you for supporting the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

BENEFITS

For New Members: Free Digital Maps
Joining members who use a referral code will receive a free set of digital maps to help them explore the Bruce Trail.

For You: New Badges
Free "Membership Ambassador Badges" will be awarded to members after they have successfully referred 3, 5 and 10 members. Collect all three!

For Both of You: Conservation Success
Membership fees directly help to fulfill the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission of *preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

For questions or assistance, contact membership@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 0.



PHOTO CONTEST 2025:

FRIENDS ON THE BRUCE TRAIL

Introduce us to your Trail friends for your chance to win!

In our latest photo contest, we want to meet your Bruce Trail buds. Show us the triumphant faces of family or friends after a challenging adventure, the group of new pals you made on a guided hike, or your furry familiar who enjoys adventuring on the Trail as much as you do.

If you're typically a solo hiker, perhaps your Trail friend is your shadow, or the creatures you encounter along the way.

We can't wait to meet the people and animals you explore the Niagara Escarpment with.

What you need to know:

- To be eligible, photos must be taken from the Bruce Trail, so please abide by the Bruce Trail Users' Code by staying on the marked path.
- If you have a dog, always keep them on a leash. Any pictures of dogs off-leash will be disqualified.
- Photos do not need to be taken recently; images from past seasons and adventures are encouraged.
- Be sure to include a caption that states where on the Trail you took your picture and any other details you would like to share.
- If there are people in your picture, be sure to get their permission before submitting your photo to the contest.
- The contest deadline is 11:59 p.m. on June 1, 2025.

Entries will be narrowed down to ten finalists based on photographic quality, visual impact, originality, and how well they express the theme. All finalists will be featured in the fall 2025 issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*. The Grand Prize Winner and two Runners Up will each receive a one-year membership to the BTC and one of three prizes.



Grand Prize

\$250 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership

First Runner Up

\$100 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership

Second Runner Up

\$50 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership

For full contest details, rules and regulations, and to submit your photo, visit brucetrail.org/photocontest.

Contest Launch: April 1, 2025

Contest deadline: June 1, 2025 @ 11:59 pm

BRUCE TRAIL HIKE-A-THON

Returns this Spring

Get ready to lace up your hiking boots this May! The Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon is back!

Join the Hike-a-thon community and give back to the Trail you love with each footstep, while competing for fun prizes. Hikers of all skills and ages are encouraged.

The Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon is a month-long, self-led, hiking and fundraising event in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy mission. Hike-a-thoners set themselves a hiking goal, seek donations from friends and family, and hit the trail for a month of hiking.

First launched in 2014, the Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon ran successfully for six years with enthusiastic hikers raising over \$134,000. After a five-year hiatus, the Hike-a-thon is making its long-awaited

return – this time in May. It's the perfect month to hit the Trail, enjoy the spring ephemerals, and welcome the warmer weather.

This year, all funds raised through the Hike-a-thon will go towards the BTC's Trail Development and Maintenance Endowment Fund which ensures our Trail is safe and accessible today and into the future.

Plus, all funds raised through Hike-a-thon 2025 will be matched, doubling the positive impact of each hiker's step and each donor's dollar. All donations of \$20 or more will receive a charitable donation tax receipt.

Participation is easy and fun!

- Set an individual goal or hike as a team with friends, family or coworkers.
- Share your goals and encourage donations through your easy-to-use personal Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon webpage.
- Hike throughout May.
- Earn your Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon 2025 badge and compete for hiking and fundraising prizes.

Registration opens in April.

Get started at
brucetrail.org/hike-a-thon-2025





The Niagara Escarpment: A story of water

By Elli Papangelakis

Photo: Elisha Rorbach

The story of the Niagara Escarpment through time is also a story about water and how its presence shifts throughout the geological history of our planet's surface.

That history is perfectly preserved in the different sedimentary layers exposed along the Escarpment - from the oldest at the bottom to the youngest in the rivers and waterfalls at its surface today. This is the story of how water formed the Niagara Escarpment, the ecosystems that thrived around it, and its ongoing importance today.

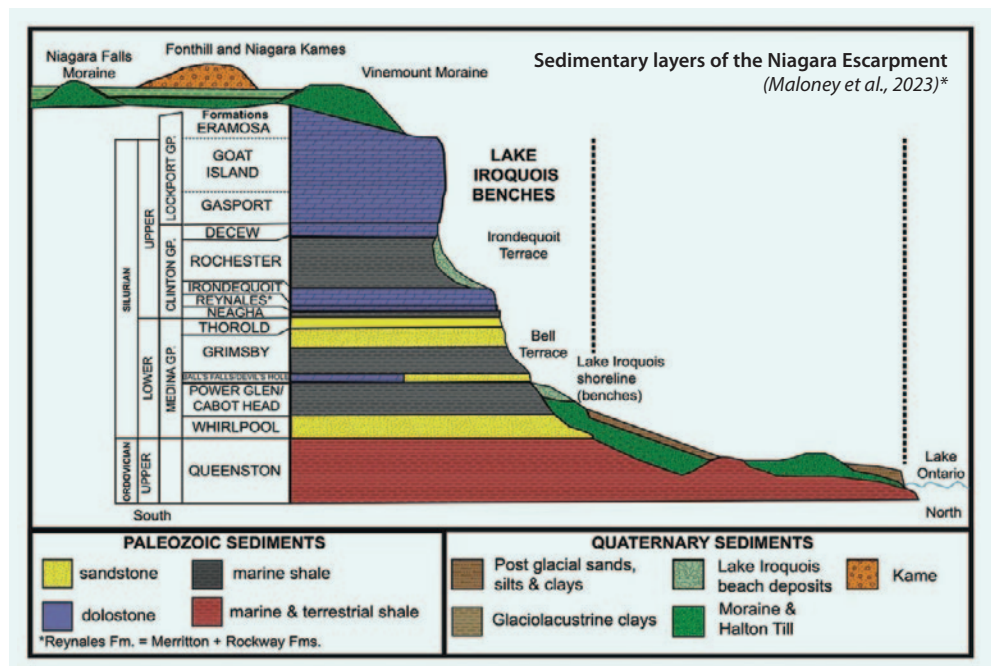
Stage 1: Mountain Building and Giant Deltas

The story begins before 440 million years ago with the collision of two tectonic plates that formed the Taconic Mountains along the eastern seaboard of ancient North America – a mountain range even older than the Appalachian Mountains. The formation of these mountains blocked off the ocean and resulted in a massive sea that covered present-day Southern Ontario. Rivers flowing from the Taconic Mountains into this sea carried broken-down sediments and formed an enormous muddy delta. Over time, the area that would become Southern Ontario was covered in layers of mud and sand deposited on this delta that were eventually compressed into rock. The distinctive layers of these sediments recorded the water conditions within the

delta: the red shales of the Queenston Formation were deposited in deep and quiet water, while the sandy Whirlpool Formation was formed during a time when shallow and fast-moving water predominated. The Grimsby and Thorold formations formed as the mountain-building phase came to an end and the supply of sediments to the delta dwindled.

Stage 2: Tropical Seas and Coral Reefs

By ~430 million years ago, the mountain-building phase had ended and water in the inland sea became clean and clear as sediment was no longer supplied by the delta. It is hard to imagine but at this time the area that would become Southern Ontario lay just below the equator. The inland sea was now a tropical oasis with a rich diversity of



ancient ocean creatures and coral reefs. Large floods would periodically bury plants and animals in mud, fossilizing them and giving us a glimpse into this ancient tropical world. The fossilized remains of the calcium-rich organisms now form the carbonate rocks of the Clinton and Lockport Groups found at the top of the Niagara Escarpment.



An intact fossil of a crinoid – an ancient tropical aquatic animal – in Escarpment rock.

Photo: D. Dick

Stage 3: Ice and Meltwater

Between 400 and 3 million years ago, the land surface was exposed and we have no sedimentary record of events from this time. However, during the past 3 million years, expanding and retreating glaciers carved out the Escarpment as we know it today, uncovering all the sedimentary layers hidden below the surface. These glaciers are also responsible for depositing the layer of glacial materials that overlies most of Southern Ontario today like a blanket. As the last glaciers finally retreated around 12,000 years ago, the huge amounts of meltwater formed a deep lake in the Ontario basin called Lake Iroquois. This lake was about 45 metres deeper than present-day Lake Ontario and its shores reach all the way to the Niagara Escarpment. The sediments deposited on the margins of this lake are host to the fertile soils that support orchards and vineyards on the Niagara Peninsula.

“It is our responsibility, working within our sliver of geologic history, to protect this unique and important feature of our local landscape and the fascinating water story it contains.”

Stage 4: Present Day

The Niagara Escarpment stands as a perfect record of the past, preserving the history of the water systems and aquatic ecosystems that once existed in Southern Ontario. Today, surface waters flowing over the Escarpment are responsible for the beautiful collection of waterfalls displayed along the Bruce Trail. The different rock strength of each exposed layer means that they erode at different rates, resulting in a diversity of waterfall shapes and sizes. The Niagara Escarpment has a rich diversity of flora and fauna perfectly suited to the continental climate we experience here today. This unique land feature is held dear in the hearts of the communities it intersects, providing a band of beauty and access to nature unlike any other in Southern Ontario.

Unfortunately, human pressures are encroaching on the Escarpment and its water systems. Many rivers are piped, and poor water quality threatens aquatic ecosystems. The rapid urbanization of

areas around the Escarpment has led to increases in flood flows and erosion rates, which municipalities attempt to mitigate through engineering projects that increasingly encroach on the natural areas. Invasive species are spreading, wreaking havoc on the native ecosystems. It is our responsibility, working within our sliver of geologic history, to work to protect this unique and important feature of our local landscape and the fascinating water story it contains. •

Elli Papangelakis is an Assistant professor and the Fairley Gadsby Research Chair in Fluvial Geomorphology in the School of Earth, Environment & Society at McMaster University. Her research focuses on the physical and ecological processes of urban rivers and how to best conserve, restore, and rehabilitate them.

* Maloney et al (2023). Earth Science Education 7. GeoTrails: Accessible Online Tools for Outreach and Education. Geoscience Canada, 50(3), 73-84. <https://doi.org/10.12789/geocanj.2023.50.198>

--- GeoHikes ---

Learn more about the geology, ecology, and water systems of the Niagara Escarpment with GeoHikes which offer virtual educational field trips along the Bruce Trail: <https://geoscienceinfo.com/geohikes/>



Photo: Emily C.



Innovations in Caring for Escarpment Ponds and Pools

By Ali Schofield

Photo: Mara McHaffie

Pull on your hip waders and take a dip into two recent aquatic stewardship projects on Bruce Trail Conservancy Nature Reserves. You'll discover how creativity, innovation and persistence are helping to preserve biodiversity in ponds and vernal pools.

Within the 15,000 acres of Niagara Escarpment habitat that is cared for by the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC), approximately 1,000 acres are wetlands. Though small in overall area, these vital aquatic habitats play an outsized role in their ecological importance and biodiversity and are some of the most vulnerable habitats on the Escarpment.

Two recent stewardship projects on BTC Nature Reserves highlight a few innovative approaches we are taking to restore, monitor and preserve biodiversity of aquatic habitats. In the first, we tackle a pervasive invasive species with amphibious vehicles, paddleboards and cane cutters; in the second, we work with researchers at McMaster University to look for endangered salamanders in a new way. Both offer creative routes forward in our work to care for the Niagara Escarpment.

The Formidable Phragmites at Fisher's Pond

The BTC's Fisher's Pond Nature Reserve north of Burlington in the Iroquoia section is an idyllic part of our conservation corridor. In addition to dense forests and a stunning vista, this

86-acre property includes a human-made waterbody that the previous owner initially intended solely for crop irrigation. Over time, it became a naturalized pond.

Secured by the BTC in 2019, Fisher's Pond Nature Reserve has since undergone



Phragmites at Fisher's Pond

Photo: Brian Popellier

Amphibious vehicle at Fisher's Pond removing Phragmites



Photo: Mara McHaffie

significant restoration, including a controlled burn to promote growth of tallgrass prairie habitat and extensive efforts to remove invasive species. One of the biggest invasive offenders on the property is the formidable Phragmites.

Phonetically, “mighty” is in its name – and that feels accurate. Phragmites (pronounced frag-MITE-ees), also known as European Common Reed, is a prolific invasive species that is often found near watercourses, ponds, and ditches. Typically growing in dense stands, Phragmites can reach over five metres in height and have bushy, feather duster-like seedheads of fibrous leaves. If you’ve seen the expansive stands of Phragmites along highway ditches, or even in areas along the Bruce Trail, you’d be forgiven for finding their tall stems and fluffy crowns somewhat beautiful as they bend languidly in the breeze.

Tackling Giants

Phragmites and other invasive species outcompete native species, overtaking and altering critical habitats that animals rely on for sustenance and shelter. They not only crowd out other plants but also release toxins from their roots into the soil to hinder the growth of surrounding plants. The Phragmites intake of water is so significant that they can lower the water level of nearby ponds and streams. Phragmites have a deep and complex root system. Once these tall trespassers take root, it is a significant challenge to remove them.

When restoration at Fisher’s Pond Nature Reserve first began, approximately

two thirds of the shoreline was overcome with Phragmites. Efforts to remove Phragmites from Fisher’s Pond began in 2022 with the support of the Invasive Phragmites Control Center (IPCC), which conducted treatments on dry land and used an amphibious vehicle to remove Phragmites in the water. This initial work helped bring the Phragmites to a more manageable level for BTC ecologists and Trail Ambassadors to continue removing.

Due to their complex root system, it’s important to remove large amounts of Phragmites at a time whenever possible. In places where the base of the stem and root system are at least 30 cm submerged in water, we use a method called “cut to drown”, which involves using cane cutters on the stalks close to the roots. The team then uses paddleboards as a raft to transport the Phragmites stalks out of the water. This is critical as, if the separated stems are left in the water, they can re-root. Once the stalks are hauled to dry land, their impact is largely mitigated. With widespread removal, the root system is depleted: the remaining plant is unable to photosynthesize, and, in some cases, the roots eventually decompose. The odd stalk may reappear the following year, but proper management year over year will lead to the eradication of this invasive species from these sites.

While this is a good method, like most invasive species, Phragmites still spread easily and need to be monitored regularly. Each spring BTC ecologists return to Fisher’s Pond and other areas along the Bruce Trail to monitor any regrowth. Gradually, biodiversity in this area will expand with a variety of native wetland species.

Making Room for Native Species

Once the Phragmites have been removed, ecologists will seed native species in the area to encourage restorative growth and prevent Phragmites and other invasives from returning. This is a time-consuming method, but with a dedicated team doing the research, planning and fieldwork, we are making great progress. So far, their efforts have created windows into the pond where there once was a wall of densely packed reeds. Each year, Fisher’s Pond becomes a healthier habitat for wetland-loving wildlife.

In the coming season, BTC staff and volunteers will continue restoring the Fisher’s Pond shoreline and other protected natural areas along the Bruce Trail, such as Woodend Meadow (Niagara section) and Silver Creek (Toronto section), by clearing Phragmites and keeping vigilant about their return.



Photo: Lindsay Wilkeson

BTC Ecologists removing Phragmites

Seeking Salamanders with eDNA Sampling

As the ice and snow melts each spring, shallow areas on the forest floor collect water and create vernal pools: a fleeting haven for water-dependent species like the Jefferson and Blue Spotted Salamanders. Away from permanent ponds and lakes, and therefore free from aquatic predators, these seasonal waterbodies provide an exceptional breeding ground for salamander species.

Jefferson Salamanders are endangered in Ontario and there are many groups, including the BTC, that are working to protect them and their habitats. Recently, we have partnered with a graduate study at McMaster University, which aims to understand more about the presence of salamanders in vernal pools in Ontario by analyzing DNA markers found in the water.

Until now, identifying Jefferson and Blue Spotted Salamanders had been a challenge. Not only do they look very similar, but the two species have started to hybridize to form fully female populations that reproduce without incorporating male genetic material. It is nearly impossible to distinguish these hybrids from the pure Jefferson or Blue



Jefferson Salamander

Photo: Clint Fulcom (CC BY-NC)

Spotted Salamanders on visual cues alone, so DNA samples can be more helpful. Historically, to sample these rare amphibians, it was necessary to find and trap salamanders and physically extract a DNA sample from the tail.

An emerging approach – environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling – is more efficient, less invasive, and offers a viable alternative to tissue-derived DNA in monitoring salamanders and other freshwater organisms. It involves collecting water samples rather than the salamanders themselves. Since salamanders (and all living things) shed DNA into their environment (through skin, blood, feces etc.) that shed DNA can be detected in the water and analysed, if collected appropriately.

So, as the weather warmed in 2024, McMaster researchers surveyed five BTC nature reserves for vernal pools and began taking water samples. Samples from the vernal pools were filtered to extract DNA and look for the appropriate markers that would indicate our species in question. Wonderfully, the research confirmed the presence of Jefferson Salamanders at two of the five nature reserves, one in the Iroquoia section of the Bruce Trail and the other in Caledon Hills section. Plus, the team were able to locate new vernal pools we were not aware of before.



eDNA sampling by vernal pool in Iroquoia section

Photo: Mara McHaffie



Vernal pool at Speyside – Toronto section

Photo: Brian Popeliter

This is good news not only for the salamanders, but for all the creatures that rely on vernal pools. Because vernal pools are temporary and small, they are often prone to destruction. Using this innovative new approach, the information gained from this study will support the ecological management plans for BTC properties with vernal pools and help to protect these important ephemeral habitats and their endangered inhabitants.

Naturalized ponds like Fisher's Pond and vernal pools like those in the eDNA sampling study are just a few of the important aquatic habitats that the Bruce Trail Conservancy stewards. With support from partners, volunteers and donors, the Bruce Trail Conservancy will continue to seek creative and effective approaches to understanding, monitoring, restoring and preserving their wonderful, water-loving biodiversity. •

Water Off, Hikers On: Approaches to Sustainable Trail Building

By Laura Tuohy



Photo: Brooke Henry

Bruce Trail Conservancy trail crews are great at paying attention to water. Thinking about where water is and where it will go helps to create and maintain sustainable trails.

Volunteers of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's Trail Development and Maintenance (TD&M) team manage over 1,400 km of trail from Niagara to Tobermory. Throughout the system they work hard to keep people on trails and keep water off them while protecting the Niagara Escarpment habitats through which they pass.

Ideally, trails that are sustainably designed and well maintained are easy for users to spontaneously follow, allow visitors access to natural areas and reduce their impacts on those areas. Watching the water is critical to creating such sustainable trails.

Water may be key to life, but it is a bit of a natural enemy of trails. Its erosive power and tendency to pool can destroy trail treads. Once that damage happens, trail users start skirting around it. The

trail becomes wider or multiple new trails are formed, leaving both the trail and the surrounding environment deteriorated. Not only is the local ecosystem degraded by this soil loss and disruption



Photo: c/o Duifern Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club

Muddy trail in need of love

but the downhill ecosystems where the soil ends up are affected as well.

Planning with Water in Mind

The easiest way to avoid water damage to trails is to think about water from the start when developing a trail. Careful trail planning and design will create a stable trail that will result in fewer problems with soil erosion, sedimentation and mud.

Steep trails that follow the quickest path up the Escarpment also provide the easiest path for water to flow down. Water always seeks the path of least resistance. Trails need to avoid following the 'fall-line' wherever possible. Conversely trails in flat, low-lying areas have tendency to encourage pooling since the water has nowhere to go.

Choosing a route that traverses the side of a slope rather than follow a flat area in a valley bottom or straight up a steep hill will allow for more natural drainage off the trail. Routes along ridges are also good solutions. Ridges are almost never wet, and they offer the

bonus of allowing hikers to look down into the forest on both sides.

Planning the route to incorporate grade reversals and other trail drainage features (see below) will similarly encourage drier trails.

Repair or Reroute?

In some cases along the Bruce Trail, we don't have the luxury of building trail from scratch. We have inherited sections that were built before modern sustainable trail building techniques. If we were to start over and build the 60-year-old Bruce Trail system again, we might make different choices in some areas about the route, the slope or the drainage features.



Using natural dips in terrain can help shed water

Photo: Laura Tuohy

So should we *reroute or repair* those established sections of Trail that are problematic? In each case, it's important to weigh the options. We don't have endless options for rerouting and need to carefully consider the best approach given the local landowners and the surrounding ecology. With a persistently wet or eroded section, sometimes a minor reroute onto drier or higher ground will solve the problem, provided the landowner has no objection and the ecology of the alternate route can accommodate a path. In other cases, repeatedly repairing a short section of eroded trail, though time intensive and perhaps costly, may cause less environmental damage than construction of a longer rerouted section.

Trail Drainage Features

Whether repairing or rerouting, there are a few trail building techniques that help to keep water off trails and hikers on them.

Outsloping

You may notice that when the trail runs along a slope, the tread isn't flat from side to side like a sidewalk. Rather, it's slightly tilted to the downhill side – it's out-sloped – so when water rolls down the side of a hill it continues to be shed off the path and doesn't pool or turn to funnel down the trail. Ideally this out-slope is just a slight 5% grade, enough to shed water without making it awkward to walk.

Side-logging

To prevent the trail itself from washing away, BTC volunteers often use side-logging – a series of logs laid along the downhill edge of the trail to support it. These need to be maintained so that soil doesn't collect next to the logs and cause water to flow down the trail instead of across it.

Water-bars

A water-bar is a step-like structure, placed at an angle across the trail, intended to divert flowing water off the treadway. Water-bars work well when built and maintained properly, but they easily fill with debris. They are imperfect but necessary structures on some of our steeper sections of trail.

Grade Reversals

Preferable to water-bars are grade reversals – a trail building strategy that takes advantage of natural dips in the terrain to prevent water from flowing any further down the trail. Grade reversals usually need to be planned into the construction of a new trail, so on older trails, digging 'dips' and 'knicks' in the trail at key points is a good alternative.

Trail hardening

Occasionally you'll see flat areas where the trail surface has been hardened with gravel, stepping stones or other permeable surface to deal with muddy spots. This method can be expensive and labour-intensive. Wood chips, while less

expensive and easier to transport, are only a temporary solution since they decompose and sink into the mud and have the unintended result of retaining moisture in the soil.



Photo: ©/ Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Mud control grids being tested in Beaver Valley

Mud Control Grids

Several Bruce Trail Clubs are experimenting with a new product, borrowed from the agricultural livestock industry. Mud control grids, made of 100% recycled plastic, are a new take on the old "stepping stone" concept. When placed in a muddy area, they allow hikers to cross with dry feet, but they don't impede the flow of water.

Boardwalks

When diverting surface water is unavoidable, and the terrain is flat, we often build boardwalks. A well-built boardwalk is beautiful and a welcome respite for hikers, but they are costly and require special skills to design and build.



Boardwalk at Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigmiing, Peninsula section

Photo: Claire Estey



Boardwalk through wetland at The Bill & Cecile Moses Family Property - Sydenham section

Photo: Ron Savage

Trail Building to Protect Wetlands and Waterways

While we don't like water on our trails, we love our trails to bring us near water. Bubbling streams, buzzing wetlands and awe-inspiring waterfalls are all attractive trail destinations. But building trails too close to these waterways leads to challenges for the trail and for the health of the aquatic systems themselves. So the BTC takes special care when routing and building trail in these areas to lay lightly in the environment.

With detailed maps and several on-site visits, BTC ecologists and TD&M volunteers identify the best route, avoiding vulnerable habitats, species at risk and areas where erosion would directly impact water systems.

Some of the most significant structures that are built along the Bruce Trail – bridges, boardwalks and viewing platforms – are specifically designed with water in mind. We strategically build boardwalks to elevate walkers above the soft wetland soils and keep hiker traffic confined. The construction techniques and materials chosen for structures are intended to minimize environmental impact wherever possible.

Join Us

The next time you're out on the Bruce Trail, look for these trail features and techniques that shed water and protect aquatic ecosystems. Then consider becoming a BTC TD&M volunteer for the opportunity to watch water in a new way and help the Bruce Trail stand the test of time. •

Learn more:

Curious about the BTC's approach to Trail Building and Management? Join our webinar on March 20, 2025 at 10 am or take in the recording. See details at brucetrail.org/events/#webinars.

MUD SEASON IS TOUGH ON TRAILS

Trails can become muddy in spring as melting snow, rainy weather, and frozen soil that doesn't drain easily combine to create super-saturated conditions. This is a vulnerable time for trails and for trailside vegetation.

In muddy conditions, hikers can help by:

- Avoiding muddy trails. (End-to-Enders, this is a great time to tackle those road walking sections of the Bruce Trail.)
- Walking in the middle of the trail or on hard surfaces, to avoid trail widening.
- Being prepared to get muddy and walking through the mud.
- Using hiking poles to help with balance in slippery sections.

- Rescheduling a hike until conditions dry out.
- Heeding any trail closures to allow time for the trails to recover.

Staying safe, keeping trails in good shape, and reducing our impact on the natural environment are what matter most.



Photo: Lila Fedor

Waterfalls: Destinations in Every Season

By Brooke Henry

When people think of waterfalls in Ontario, Niagara Falls often comes to mind. But there are hundreds of waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment just as wondrous in their own way.

Accessible by the Bruce Trail they have captivated hikers and adventurers for generations. These wonders, shaped by rivers and streams tumbling over the rocky layers of the Escarpment, draw visitors year-round with each season offering a unique 'waterfalling' experience.

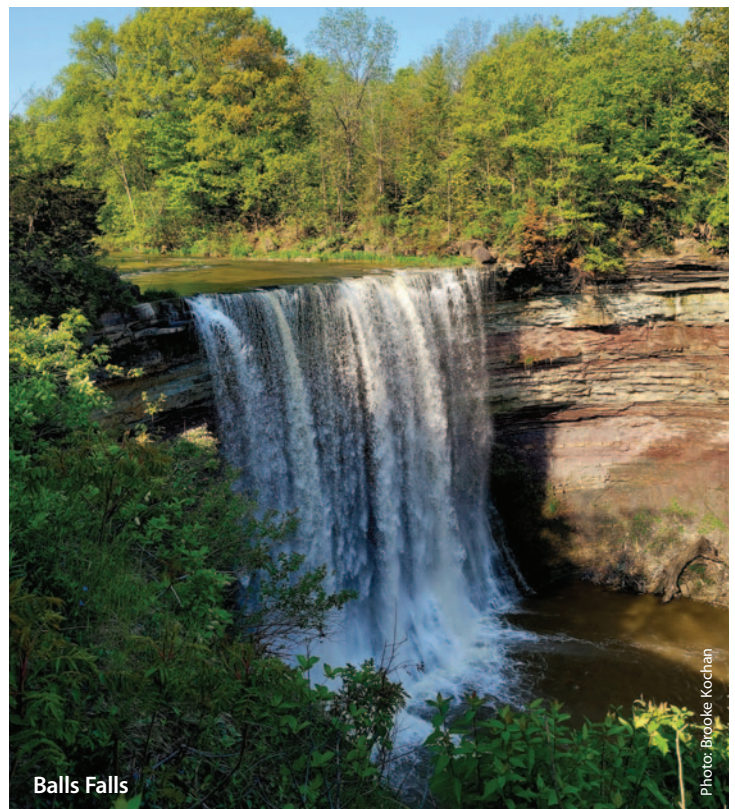
Not only are these sites beautiful to behold but research has shown that spending time near waterfalls can improve your mood and reduce stress. The sound of moving water is even believed to produce endorphins, contributing to an improved mental state.

Whether you're seeking the perfect photo or looking to de-stress and recharge, waterfalls offer enchanting scenery, contemplative serenity, and awe-inspiring beauty at any time of year. If you want to go chasing waterfalls, here are some tips to make the most of your visit in every season.

SPRING

Springtime brings warming temperatures and melting snow, strengthening the flow of streams and rivers and creating dramatic and powerful cascades. This is when many waterfalls are at their peak, and some falls may only exist in the spring when the flow is greatest. As a bonus, in early spring before the leaves on trees and shrubs fully emerge, views of falls are open and unobstructed.

Fast-flowing water courses also require caution. Be sure to keep a close eye on pets and children so they don't go too close to the edges. With faster-moving water also comes a larger spray zone which can make nearby trails slippery. Tread carefully, especially on wet rocks and roots. As temperatures rise, there is also the risk of falling ice as the frozen formations created during the winter melt. Be aware of your surroundings and never stand under a melting waterfall.



Balls Falls

Photo: Brooke Kochan

SUMMER

Summer is a very popular time to visit waterfalls as people look to escape the Southern Ontario heat. Being near cool running water and under the shady tree canopy decreases the temperature significantly, offering some relief. Many Escarpment waterfalls are accessible by just a short hike from parking areas, making them great stops on your summer road trip when you need to stretch your legs.

This is the busiest time of year to visit a waterfall so plan ahead, do your research, book parking ahead of time where you can, and consider visiting at off-peak hours.

Do note that if it's been particularly dry, waterfalls in summer can be reduced to a mere trickle or be completely dry. On the flip side, summer thunderstorms can transform calm streams into raging rivers. Always check the forecast before heading out and adjust your plans accordingly.



FALL

In the fall, Southern Ontario often sees an increase in rainfall meaning many Niagara Escarpment waterfalls come back to life. This, combined with the beautiful fall foliage, makes an autumn waterfall hike on the Bruce Trail particularly stunning. Keep your eyes peeled at this time of year and you may also spot migrating fish in the rivers and streams that feed the cascades.

Keep in mind, the colourful leaves blanketing the forest floor can become slippery when wet, especially near waterfalls where the spray can make the surrounding area damp. Be mindful of your footing and wear sturdy footwear to stay safe.



WINTER

Winter transforms waterfalls into beautiful frozen sculptures as water freezes over the rocky layers of the Niagara Escarpment. This is a quieter time to explore as the cold and ice tend to keep some visitors away. Equip yourself with icers or traction cleats for your boots to navigate the icy trails and consider bringing hiking poles with metal tips for extra stability in slippery areas.

Despite the breathtaking beauty of the season, caution must be taken when visiting a waterfall in the winter. Do not get too close to the falls as falling ice and snow pose serious hazards. And as always, never walk on frozen waterways as they can be unpredictable.

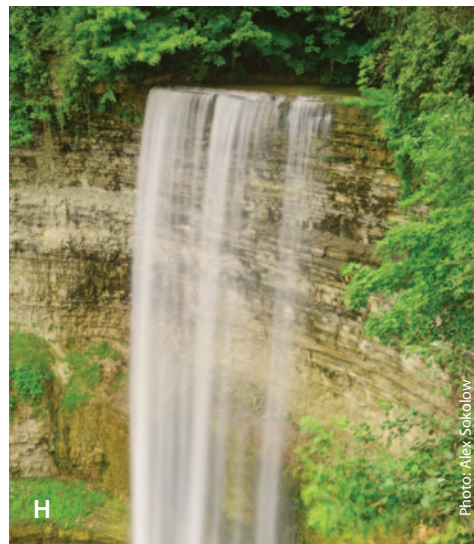
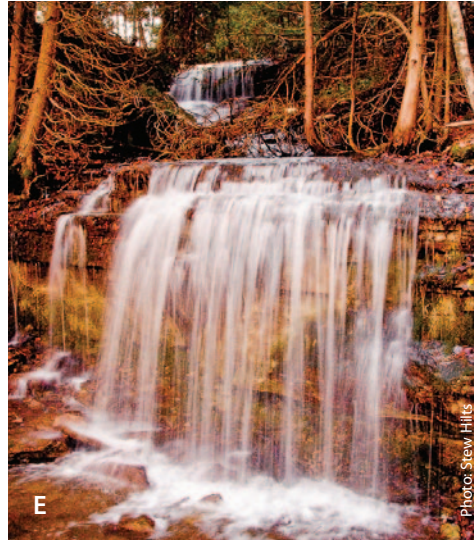
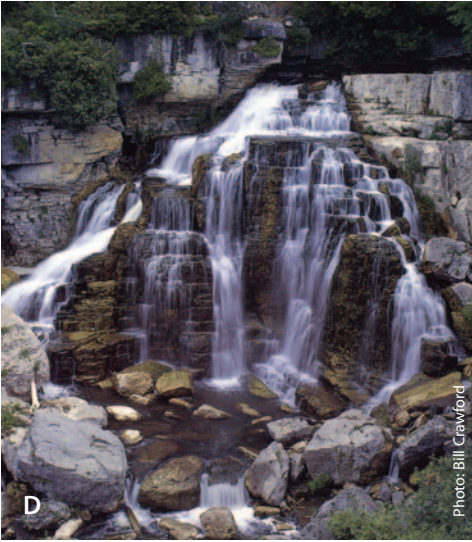
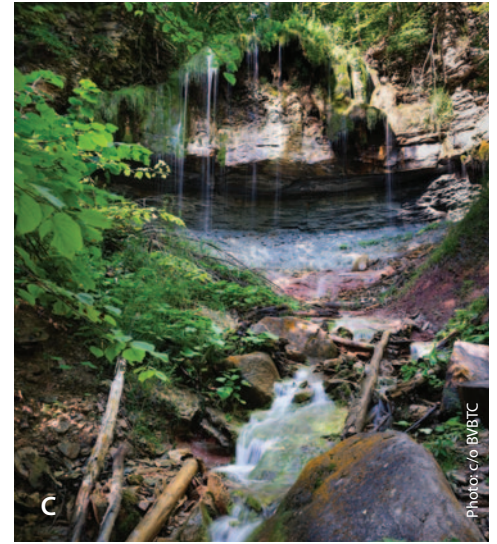
TIPS FOR ALL SEASONS

- Always stay on marked trails or designated viewing platforms.
- Do not trespass. Some online sources promote waterfalls that are not publicly accessible.
- The bottom of many Escarpment waterfalls are well off-trail. Avoid the temptation to reach the bottom and stay safely on the marked trail.
- Most waterfalls are by steep drops. Keep away from cliff edges. The 'perfect' waterfall photo is not worth the risk.
- Plan ahead for parking and make reservations wherever possible.
- Bring a map and plan your route before heading out.

With each season offering its own charm and character, the waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment are a destination worth visiting year-round. With each waterfall being unique, there are endless opportunities to explore and connect with these natural wonders. •

Know Your Falls

Can you name these Niagara Escarpment waterfalls visible from the Bruce Trail (main or side trails)? (Answers below)



ANSWERS: A: Canterbury Falls (Iroquoia, Map 8) B: Chris Walker Nature Reserve at Rush Cove (Peninsula, Map 37) C: Stew Hills Falls (Beaver Valley, Map 26) D: Inglis Falls (Sydenham, Map 32) E: Richardson Falls at Pinnacle Rock (Beaver Valley, Map 25) F: Hogs Falls (Beaver Valley, Map 26) G: Terrace Creek Falls (Niagara, Map 3) H: Tew Falls (Iroquoia, Map 8) I: Tiffany Falls (Iroquoia, Map 8)

Conservation in Action: New Protected Areas

Generous donors and dedicated volunteers and staff of the Bruce Trail Conservancy have enabled two remarkable wins for Niagara Escarpment conservation and Bruce Trail continuity in recent months.

Meltwater Moraine – Caledon Hills Section

Map 16 – Caledon East

137 acres | 640 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

North of the community of Caledon East where the Paris Moraine meets the Niagara Escarpment, lies the Bruce Trail Conservancy's newest protected natural area, Meltwater Moraine.

This protected area sits within the provincially significant Mono Mills-Caledon Meltwater Channels Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). It contains the eastern edge of the Paris Moraine, a rolling line of hills created at the leading edge of glacial ice as it pushed northwest out of the Lake Ontario Basin roughly 12,000 years ago. In addition to this special formation, Meltwater Moraine boasts 4 acres of forested land, three ponds, a small creek, and farmland which has been part of the community's agricultural heritage for over two centuries.

The securing of this 145-acre property will remove 3.1 km of Bruce Trail from the high-traffic areas of Airport Road and Escarpment Side Road, making it a significant win for Trail continuity and improving the Bruce Trail experience in the rapidly growing Caledon region.



Meltwater Moraine – Caledon Hills Section

Photo: John Whitworth



Eagle's Summit Nature Reserve – Beaver Valley Section

Photo: John Whitworth

Eagle's Summit Nature Reserve – Beaver Valley Section

Map 26 - Eugenia

123 acres | 733 m of Bruce Trail Optimum Route

With the generous support of hundreds of donors, the Bruce Trail Conservancy recently secured 123 acres of Niagara Escarpment land with the creation of Eagle's Summit Nature Reserve. Located south of Kimberley adjacent to the BTC's East Mountain property and near Old Baldy Conservation Area, this newly protected area features lush interior forest, seasonal watercourses and magnificent views overlooking the Beaver Valley.

This stunning addition to our conservation corridor is rich in biodiversity, with habitats ranging from grassy wildflower meadows, groves of Apple and Hawthorn trees, and iconic karst features. Eagle's Summit is home to Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Black and White Warblers, and Bald Eagles, who have been seen soaring overhead. An exciting new hiking experience is just on the horizon, as 733 metres of Bruce Trail will be blazed here in the future.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our year-end campaign in 2024 and supported the creation of Eagle's Summit with a generous donation. •



Photo: Dennis Minty

Adventure Canada and Bruce Trail Conservancy: Partners in Conservation and Community

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is proud to announce that we have once again partnered with Adventure Canada - Canada's only expedition cruise company renowned for crafting exceptional experiences to unique destinations across our country and around the globe.



Adventure
Canada

Like the BTC, Adventure Canada aims to cultivate connection and community through their explorations, while keeping the environment and conservation front of mind.

In December, Adventure Canada demonstrated their commitment to conservation by donating a small-ship expedition for two to the BTC's Ensuring the Future of the Bruce Trail Online Auction. With their generous contribution, the auction raised over \$25,000 towards the BTC's Trail Development and Maintenance Endowment Fund, all of which was matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor.

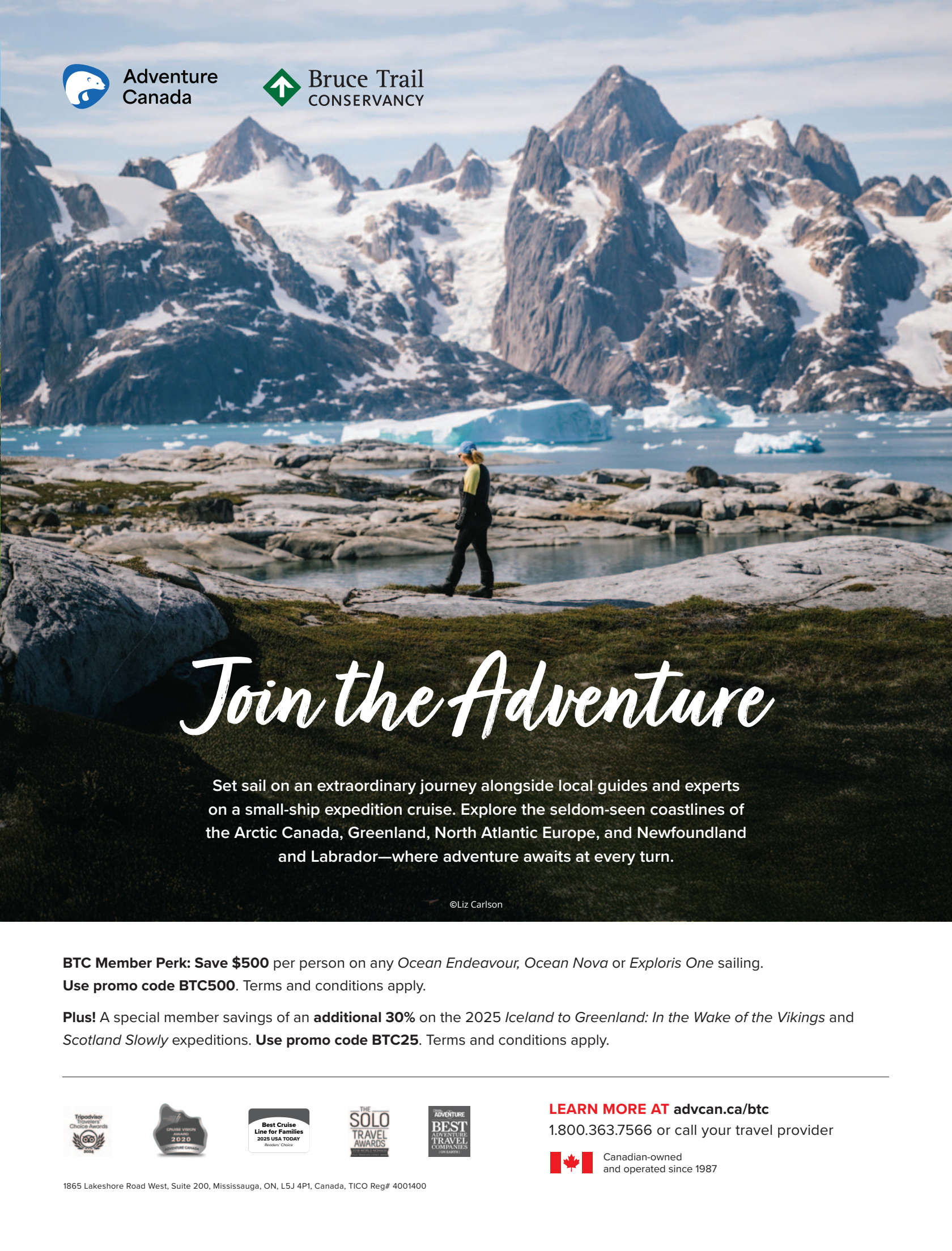
The Trail Development and Maintenance Endowment Fund supports long-term vital investments in the Bruce Trail experience. This includes everything from constructing bridges and boardwalks to supporting maintenance activities like tree health assessments and erosion control, all of which directly impacts the Trail's accessibility and sustainability. Thanks to Adventure Canada's support, we are one step closer to ensuring the longevity of the Bruce Trail for generations to come.

Through this renewed partnership, Adventure Canada is pleased to offer a **BTC member perk**: Save \$500 per person on any Ocean

Endeavour, Ocean Nova or Exploris One sailing. Use **promo code BTC500**. Terms and conditions apply.

Plus, a special member savings of an additional 30% on the 2025 *Scotland Slowly and Iceland to Greenland: In the Wake of the Vikings* expeditions. Use **promo code BTC25**. Terms and conditions apply.

The BTC is grateful for Adventure Canada's dedication to conservation and community, and we look forward to continuing this exciting partnership.



Join the Adventure

Set sail on an extraordinary journey alongside local guides and experts on a small-ship expedition cruise. Explore the seldom-seen coastlines of the Arctic Canada, Greenland, North Atlantic Europe, and Newfoundland and Labrador—where adventure awaits at every turn.

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BTC Member Perk: Save \$500 per person on any *Ocean Endeavour*, *Ocean Nova* or *Exploris One* sailing. Use promo code **BTC500**. Terms and conditions apply.

Plus! A special member savings of an **additional 30%** on the 2025 *Iceland to Greenland: In the Wake of the Vikings* and *Scotland Slowly* expeditions. Use promo code **BTC25**. Terms and conditions apply.



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BRUCE TRAIL – END-TO-END LIST

2024

Congratulations to our members who have completed an End-to-End of the entire Bruce Trail – an extraordinary physical and personal journey. The following are members who received their End-to-End recognition in 2024.

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES
4633	Johnson, Mark		4686	Zehr, Rosemary	11th Time	4739	Anderson, Sandy		4792	White, Janet	
4634	Oakey, Margaret & Lloyd		4687	Zehr, Rosemary	12th Time	4740	Rooyakkers, Lesley		4793	Hamilton, Karen	
4635	Fleming, Stewart	6th Time	4688	Zehr, Rosemary	13th Time	4741	Bauhaus, Aleisha		4794	Russell, Janet	
4636	Fleming, Stewart	7th Time	4689	Norton, Sharon		4742	Revington, Dan		4795	Tirion, Monica	
4637	Brule, Taylor		4690	Doel, David		4743	Moher, Cheryl		4796	Brown, Gail	
4638	Lailey, Christopher	9th Time	4691	Reichert, Claudette		4744	Frain, Doug	2nd Time	4797	Clarry, Mari	
4639	Lailey, Christopher	10th Time	4692	Junkin, Smadar	22nd Time	4745	Jarvis, Tracy	2nd Time	4798	McAuley, Tina	
4640	Hubner, Mark		4693	Green, Sandra	12th Time	4746	Price, Trevor	4th Time	4799	Cameron, Chris	
4641	Leach, Jane		4694	Reid, Alex		4747	Takacs, Ed		4800	MacLeod, Breda	
4642	Leach, Jane	2nd Time	4695	Reid, Marcus		4748	Abbott, Andrea		4801	Alarie, Benjamin	
4643	Kulik, Irina		4696	VandenBurg, Ron		4749	Abbott-Tate, Zoe		4802	Krueger, Khrista	
4644	Nasser, Hamid	2nd Time	4697	Lopes, Dan		4750	Van Der Kooi, Cody		4803	Alarie, Frances	
4645	Stephen, Norman	2nd Time	4698	Stephens, Patrick		4751	Gardiner, Mark		4804	Krueger, Tom	
4646	Nisbet, Fiona	9th Time	4699	Woodbeck, Lillian		4752	O'Dell, Margaret	16th Time	4805	Ledoux, Kathleen	
4647	Junkin, Smadar	21st Time	4700	DeMelo, Steven		4753	Woodiwiss, Rita		4806	Rajewska, Dorota	
4648	Bauman, Kate		4701	Teske, Steve		4754	Urquhart, Yvonne		4807	Buckley, Melina	
4649	Calvert-Goetz, Jill		4702	Healey, Pamela		4755	Wang, Freddy		4808	Hess, Mike	
4650	Goetz, Bill		4703	Fennell, Sandee		4756	Gray, Lisa		4809	Klassen, John	
4651	Bailey, Chadia		4704	Fennell, Pat		4757	Barnard, Merrilee		4810	Moores, Jennifer	
4652	Dharmapalan, Suresh		4705	Schaefer, Tyler		4758	Van Dyke, Jacquie	14th Time	4811	Bianchi, Marie	
4653	O'Dell, Margaret	14th Time	4706	Schaefer, Lisa		4759	Watson, Lorraine		4812	Van Geest, Ted & Marge	
4654	Rettie, Kristina	3rd Time	4707	Hill, Joanne		4760	Ang, Gina	3rd Time	4813	Chatterton, Anne-Marie	
4655	Wyman, Diane		4708	Arends, Kevin		4761	Cooper, Felicia		4814	Snelgrove, Dennis	
4656	Greenfield, Jennie		4709	Jeddry, Eric		4762	Law, Stuart	4th Time	4815	Domienik, Slawomir Andrzej	
4657	Teske, JoAnne		4710	Ethelston, Susan		4763	Janssen, Wilma & Dick		4816	Moffatt, Ruth	
4658	Secleaneu, Corina		4711	Corner, Margaret	19th Time	4764	Vanstaalduinen, Robin & Ingrid		4817	Junkin, Smadar	23rd Time
4659	Schuurman, David		4712	Corner, Margaret	20th Time	4765	Clouse-Jensen, Sue		4818	Jenkins, Carole	2nd Time
4660	Poulin, Ted		4713	Corner, Margaret	21st Time	4766	Ferrone, Patricia		4819	French, William	2nd Time
4661	Green, Sandra	11th Time	4714	Barone-Romasco, Sonia		4767	Ferrone, Carmine		4820	Wong, Gigi	
4662	Guilbert, Courtney		4715	Gauvin, Kyle		4768	Chivers-Millward, Debbie		4821	Young, Don	15th Time
4663	Spiers, Joe		4716	Gillier-Ramsay, Rosemary	3rd Time	4769	Schweizer, Janice		4822	Young, Don	16th Time
4664	Wouters, Marg		4717	Woods, Cynthia		4770	Wiffen, David		4823	Young, Don	17th Time
4665	Patfield, (Jody) John		4718	Cheng, Howard	2nd Time	4771	Dueckman, Susan		4824	Christie, Fiona	
4666	Spindler, Eric		4719	Cheng, Howard	3rd Time	4772	Funk, Wendy		4825	Giesbrecht, Peter	
4667	Schofield, Jennifer		4720	Galloway, Judy	5th Time	4773	Litke, Anne		4826	Shin, Asia	2nd Time
4668	Stokoe, David		4721	Chamberlain, Dennis	12th Time	4774	Verhaeghe, Marianne		4827	Versluis, Leo & Fran	
4669	McBride, Merv		4722	Lamport, Jackie		4775	Faichnie, Scott		4828	Kerr, Andrew	
4670	Slager, Kim		4723	Hutchinson, Mary Claudia		4776	Rossall, Julie		4829	Shearer, Philip	
4671	Bakelaar, Maria		4724	Lin, Lin		4777	Borges, Joe		4830	Rettie, Kristina	4th Time
4672	Bissola, Ren		4725	Smith, Jacob		4778	Gourluck, Suzanne		4831	Chadwick, Sandra	
4673	McArthur, Rosemary		4726	Smith, Noah		4779	Keyes, Christine		4832	Laver, Alan	2nd Time
4674	Gregson, Terry		4727	Smith, Jadon		4780	Van Gyssel, Jeff		4833	Mitchell, Lynskie	
4675	Gregson, Laurie		4728	Mustonen, Craig		4781	Difilippo, Marguerite		4834	Ryman, Diana	
4676	Forsyth, Carol		4729	Rowney, David		4782	Farrington, Grace		4835	Nisbet, Andrew	
4677	Tyndall, Julie	3rd Time	4730	Nisbet, Fiona	10th Time	4783	Mooney, Nancy & Scott	2nd Time	4836	Lloyd, Peggy	
4678	Tyndall, Julie	4th Time	4731	O'Dell, Margaret	15th Time	4784	Metzger, Robert		4837	Bouwmeester, Sheila & Bill	
4679	Schat, Melanie		4732	Lamarre, Celine		4785	Watson, Kim		4838	Shanks, Matthew	
4680	Kawka, Janice		4733	De Brabandere, Fran	7th Time	4786	Kent, Patricia		4839	Salt, Dave	2nd Time
4681	Nanek, Caelan		4734	Ius, Emma		4787	Howard, Sandy		4840	Senitt, Hannah	
4682	Nanek, Randy		4735	Barton, Ashley		4788	Meek, Kathleen		4841	Junkin, Smadar	24th Time
4683	Long, Joanne		4736	Glass, Randi		4789	Holm, Erling		4842	Junkin, Smadar	25th Time
4684	Datta, Julie		4737	Melendez Villegas, Nelson		4790	Blackwell, Tom		4843	Street, Dale	
4685	Van Dyke, Jacquie	13th Time	4738	Petley, Jeff	10th Time	4791	Sexton, Margot		4844	Tworek, Trish	

E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES	E2E#	NAME	#OF TIMES
4845	Thomas, Anna		4861	Troyer, Jill		4877	Cole, Mary-Ellen	6th Time	4893	White, Steven	10th Time
4846	Taylor, William		4862	Deweerd, Leanne		4878	Smith, Maggie		4894	White, Steven	11th Time
4847	Carroll, Andrea		4863	Deweerd, Colin		4879	Bridgman, Anne		4895	Carson, Rob	
4848	Lipowski, Mike		4864	Wingfield, Martyn		4880	Rokitnicki-Wojcik, Paula		4896	Aubin, Dana	
4849	Mazzulla, Marisa		4865	Chamberlain, Dennis	13th Time	4881	McRae, Gillian	2nd Time	4897	Aubin, Justin	
4850	Brain, Joan & Tom & Brooks		4866	Collins, Nancy		4882	Gulley, Susan		4898	Watson, Sheri	
4851	O'Dell, Margaret	17th Time	4867	Dale, Joe		4883	Chamberlain, Dennis	14th Time	4899	Reynen, Anne	
4852	Gheihman, Boris		4868	Yates, Marna	2nd Time	4884	Cornies, Kara		4900	Moar, Brian	
4853	Sutova, Natalia		4869	Johnson, David	2nd Time	4885	Kitson, Michele	2nd Time	4901	Goodman, Jackie	
4854	Klaassen, Kristine		4870	Trupp, Melanie		4886	Anonymous	16th Time	4902	Goodman, Nyella	
4855	Klaassen, Frans		4871	Besseling, Tania		4887	Irvine, D'Arcy		4903	Nasser, Hamid	3rd Time
4856	Costa, Grace		4872	Clark, Karin		4888	Irvine, Judy		4904	Antoni, Karen	
4857	Filice, Sarah & Pete		4873	Murch, Heather	7th Time	4889	Zehr, Rosemary	14th Time	4905	MacLeod, Jamie	
4858	Rankin, Amanda		4874	Cropp, Diane	9th Time	4890	Zehr, Rosemary	15th Time	4906	Hesch, Christine	4th Time
4859	Cummings, Tamara		4875	Cropp, Diane	10th Time	4891	MacLeod, Karen				
4860	Kotecki, Shannon		4876	Corner, Margaret	22nd Time	4892	White, Steven	9th Time			



Tew Falls - Iroquoia section

Photo: Alex Solokov

Volunteer Awards: Call for Nominations

Do you know an outstanding volunteer? Someone who has gone above and beyond in support of the Bruce Trail and the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy? Help us recognize their remarkable contribution by nominating them for one of our annual volunteer awards.

These awards have been established to honour those who have made an exceptional contribution to the Bruce Trail Conservancy and to formally recognize the time, skills, enthusiasm and passion they have shared in support of our mission.

Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award

The Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a volunteer who has shown extraordinary contributions to the Bruce Trail Conservancy within the last year. The award is not intended to recognize a lifetime of contributions as that would preclude volunteers who have been with us for a short time. Any form of volunteering for the Bruce Trail Conservancy may be considered for this award.

Jack Morgan Award – NEW for 2025

This award will be presented annually to an individual volunteer or group who has made a significant contribution to the land securement efforts of the Bruce Trail Conservancy in the past year, showcasing hard work and dedication to the BTC's mission and land securement goals. Award recipients may be involved

in any aspect of the land securement process, from nurturing positive relationships with important stakeholders to advancing complex securement endeavors with creative thinking or action.

Leaders in Hiking Award – NEW for 2025

This award will be presented annually in recognition of an outstanding Hike Leader, Hike Director or other Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteer or individual who has shown exceptional leadership within the Bruce Trail Conservancy hiking program.

Honorary Membership

The Bruce Trail Conservancy Honorary Membership is a prestigious award given to a member who has made a lasting, significant volunteer contribution to the organization at both the Club and

Conservancy levels. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and commitment and have accomplished significant achievements in furthering the Bruce Trail Conservancy mission. The recipient is awarded a certificate and a complimentary lifetime membership.

Calypso Orchid Environmental Award

The Calypso Orchid Environmental Award is awarded to an individual, volunteer group, institution or company that has demonstrated significant contribution to the restoration and preservation of the Bruce Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, or significantly enhanced the education of users or potential users of the Trail and/or the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere.

Please note that the recipient of the Calypso Orchid award does not need to be a member or volunteer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Nominate a group or individual by June 30 at brucetrail.org/award-nominations.

For more information on any of these awards please contact BTC Volunteer Coordinator William Jack at william.jack@brucetrail.org.



Trail Changes & Notices

DECEMBER 2024 – FEBRUARY 2025, POST EDITION 31

FOR THE LATEST TRAIL CHANGE AND NOTICES, VISIT BRUCETRAIL.ORG/TRAIL_CHANGES

Trail Changes & Notices are online and in the Bruce Trail App

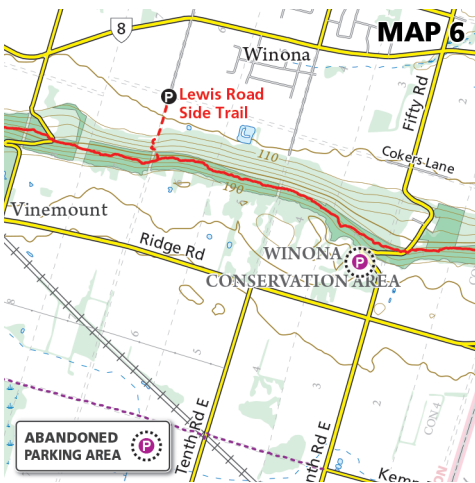
Visit brucetrail.org/trail_changes for the latest changes, searchable by Map Number, Club Section, and even by text in the description.

Download the Bruce Trail App to have the most up-to-date trail data on your mobile device.

IROQUOIA

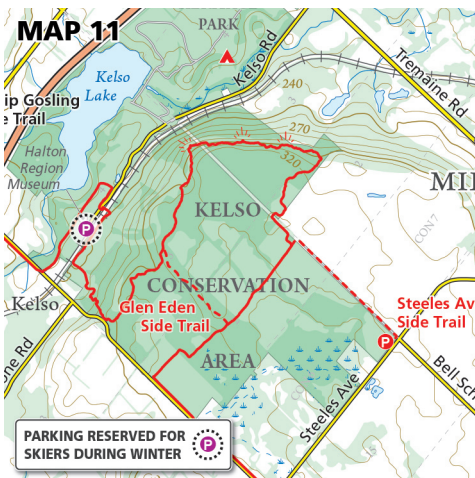
Map 6 – Parking on Fifty Road

Roadside parking on Fifty Road in Stony Creek near Winona Conservation Area is no longer recommended due to safety concerns.



Map 11 – Kelso Conservation Area, Winter Parking

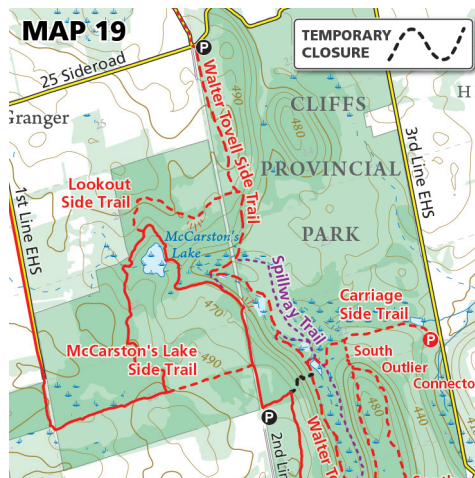
The parking area within Kelso Conservation Area is reserved for skiers during the winter months. The Bruce Trail through Kelso Conservation Area remains open for through-hiking. Some Kelso Conservation Area trails approaching the ski area are closed, but the Bruce Trail, the Glen Eden Side Trail, and the Steeles Avenue Side Trail remain open.



DUFFERIN HI-LAND

Map 19 – Dufferin Hi-Land – Carriage Side Trail, Temporary Closure

The upper portion of Carriage Side Trail between the main Bruce Trail and the Walter Tovell Side Trail in Mono Cliffs Provincial Park is closed until further notice.



New boardwalk in progress

REPORT A TRAIL ISSUE

You can help the Bruce Trail Conservancy maintain over 1,300 km of trail by using the “Report Trail Issue” feature in the Bruce Trail App.

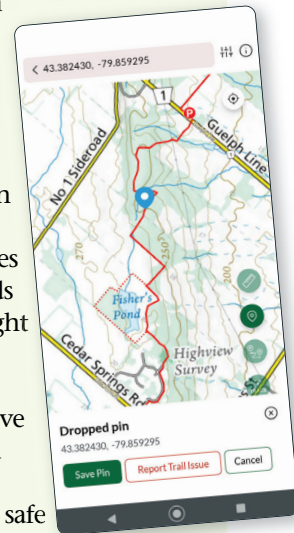
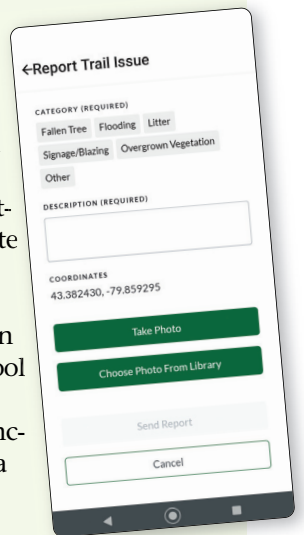
Thousands of volunteers care for the Bruce Trail and its many side trails: painting blazes, maintaining a clear treadway, building boardwalks and more. Though volunteers regularly monitor and care for the trail, conditions can change quickly and it can help to have issues reported by hikers.

If you notice something that needs attention on the trail, you can send a report directly to the appropriate trail volunteers using the “Report Trail Issue” function found in the Pin tool of the app.

The reporting function lets you send a location (with GPS coordinates), a description and even a photo to the trail volunteers in the Bruce Trail Club responsible for that area. You don’t need to know what section you are in or who to contact. The app takes care of that and sends your report to the right Club.

With these reports our trail crew will have the details they need and you will have helped keep the trail safe and navigable for future hikers.

For more information visit brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-app or visit the “News” section of the Bruce Trail App



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We are grateful to all 1,506 donors who chose to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a gift between October 1 and December 31, 2024.

Special thanks to the following donors who made a gift of \$10,000 or more during this time:

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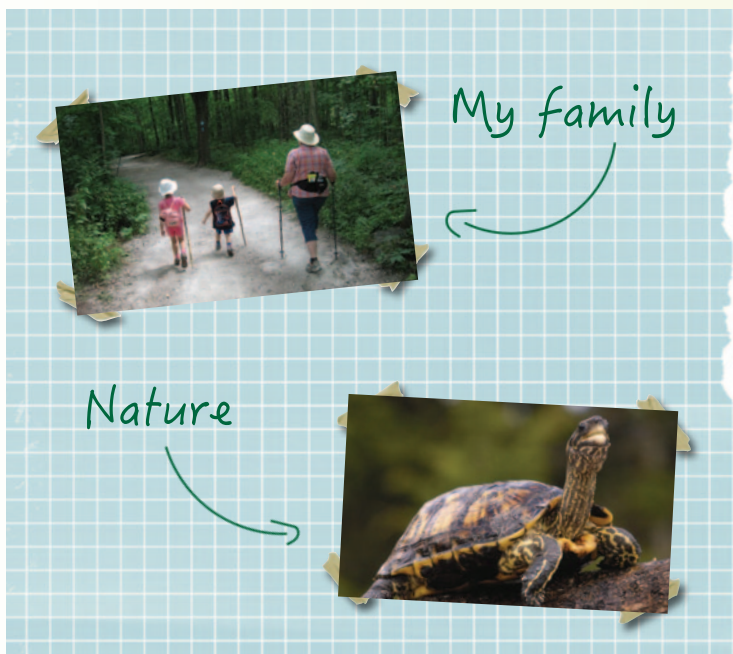
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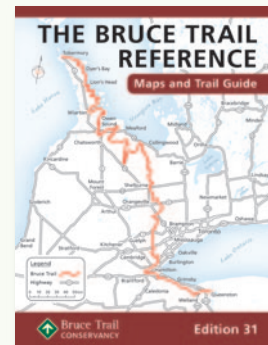


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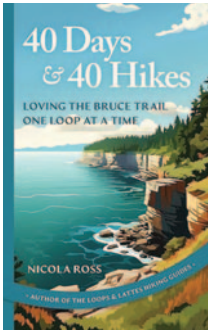


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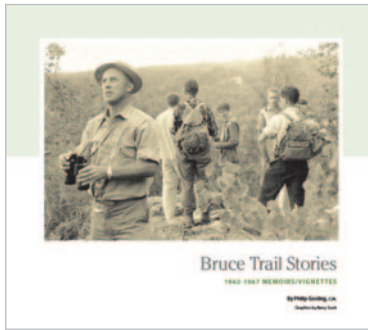
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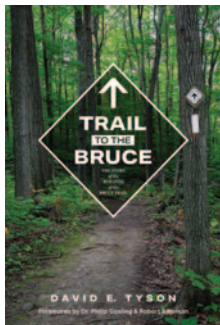
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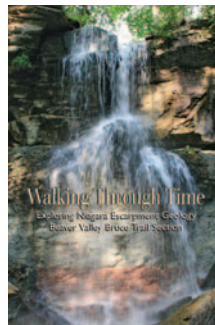
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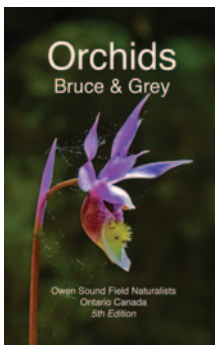
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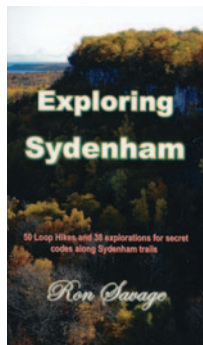
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