

The Rattler

ISSUE #1 2012

President's Report

As I write this on another cloudy February day in this yo-yo non-winter, so far anyway, it is a bit hard to take a sunny view of things. We are further saddened to hear of the recent passing of long time Bruce Trail supporter and proprietor of Cape Chin Connection: Ann Bard.

On the other hand we aren't sitting home with a lack of activities to engage our attention. We have a full slate of Club sponsored hikes ongoing despite the lack of snow for snowshoeing and many of us take to the trails in friends' hikes each week. Winter slow down also gives us time to recharge a bit and plan our hikes, our special events as well as our trail building and maintenance and land stewardship activities for the coming warmer season.

We are planning public information sessions with our partner Sydenham club to the south. We are planning public information kiosks at a number of sites in partnership with Bruce County Tourism. We are also working on the revised day hike guide, and new sales programs. The Trail building crews are planning a very busy season under Laurence Acland. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come.

The Rattler has a couple of new committee members. Our editor, Bob McKay has moved on for family reasons, Thanks Bob for your excellent work as editor. We welcome new Rattler committee members: Jan Mackie and Ken Clark.

To round out our communications efforts, our webpage enjoys constant contacts and the Facebook page continues to thrive and, a long time coming, we welcome our new e-notes initiative under new editor Rich Payette. Make sure you follow the instructions to sign up for this occasional update.

Our Hike Director Susan Allen is leading an introduction to hiking program in the spring called Gear up and Go Hiking.



Arthur's Gatineau Park - Painting by Suzanne Dyke

Take a break

Hike an hour on the trail

Free up your senses

Hear the call of the cardinals the caw of the first crow,

Hear the mating chirp of the chickadees

"Hi Sweetie. Hi Sweetie"

Reset your mind

Life continues in the larger reality

Of Nature on our treasured Peninsula

Mark your calendar for the Spruce Up The Bruce Work Day May 5. We had many positive comments from our experiment last year to combine the Spruce Up The Bruce Day with the Club AGM so we are repeating that plan. The AGM will follow the annual pot luck- barbeque as last year.

We welcome your participation in Bruce Trail activities. Getting involved is the best way to enjoy your membership. The Peninsula Club is strong and active because of the superb work of our many many volunteers.

Awaiting the sunshine.

Don McIlraith, President

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"August 14, 2012"

Rattler Advertising Rates:

	Per issue:	Yearly:
		(3 issues)
Business card:	\$20	\$60
1/4 page:	\$50	\$140
1/2 page:	\$80	\$225
Full Page:	\$130	\$375
Back Half Page:	\$100	\$290

Contact George Telfer.
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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: www.pbtc.ca

Results of 2011 Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count for Bruce Peninsula National Park was held on December 14, 2011. Approximately 20 participants spent the day out tallying every bird that could be found in the count area (roughly from Dyers Bay Road north). A total of 1404 birds were found of 47 species.

Three of the species were new records for the count:

Harris Sparrow (1) at a feeder in downtown Tobermory

Swamp Sparrow (1) - Tobermory

Barred Owl (1) - Johnson's Harbour area

Some other interesting sightings were:

Bald Eagle (8)

Great Black-backed Gull (19)

Red-bellied Woodpecker (1)

Northern Shrike (2)

White-winged Crossbill (3)

Common Redpoll (18)

Thanks to the participants who contributed their enthusiasm for birding and enjoyed a balmy day by Christmas Bird Count standards. And a huge thanks to the people who helped out behind-the-scenes with meals and logistics.

Christmas Bird Count results contribute to a large, long-term database that helps to track trends in bird populations. Visit the Bird Studies Canada website www.bsc-eoc.org for more information about bird counts, or to view the tally of species recorded over the years.



Participants – Gwenda Wilkes, Jane & John Greenhouse and Bridget Rosser Photo submitted by Don Wilkes

Ethan Meleg

Promotion & Visitor Info Coordinator | Coordonnateur de la promotion et de l'info pour les visiteurs

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PBTC enters Tobermory Santa Claus Parade

For the first time we can remember the PBTC entered a float in the Tobermory Santa Claus Parade. The stile from the Park Visitor Centre was mounted on the Greenhouse's utility trailer and festooned with cedar bows, trail signs, front and rear banners and even lights. John and Jane, with Sheila and Jeff Buckingham, did the decorating. The pièce de résistance was our Correspondence Secretary Chris Jefferies perched on the bow nattily outfitted as an elf. Two local teenagers, Tim Wilkins and his friend Luke, stood on the rear deck and tossed candies to the crowds, while Jane Greenhouse and David Arnold distributed walking sticks, PBTC bookmarks, and winter hike schedules.

Top Photo: Elf Chris Jefferies tries to stay warm as the float gets underway.

Lower Photo: Rear view of the float, with Tim and Luke ready to toss candies.



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written by Bridget Boyle
Happy 13th birthday Bridget you rock!!!!

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Fifty years in the making.....

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celebrating 50 years of volunteering.

Location - Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Date - June 9, 2012

Time - 11am to 4pm

Program - Lunch, live entertainment, historical displays and hiking on your magnificent Bruce Trail.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy will celebrate a series of 50th Anniversary milestones between 2012 and 2017. Join us on June 9th, 2012 to share in 50 years of Bruce Trail memories.

Please RSVP to jrandle@bruce trail.org or 905 525 1978 by May 1st, 2012

Jackie Randle
Director of Volunteer Programs
Bruce Trail Conservancy
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jrandle@bruce trail.org
www.bruce trail.org

Chain saw volunteers and training
- the next course is in June
Mason Mickle is 4th from the right
Brian Keaveney is 3rd from the left.



Is the Bruce Trail part of your family's history?

Do you have tales to tell how the Bruce Trail has been a part of your life?

2012 is the Bruce Trail's 50th Anniversary so if you have any memories you wish to share we welcome all contributions.

Please email The Rattler Editors at pbtrattler10@gmail.com

Trail workers on Chainsaw Course




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Hiker's Tale



Another letter I have chosen to include is not from recent hiking experience on our trails but is a lovely 26 page epistle from Don Beattie of Commerce, Michigan. Don is one of the most travelled hikers I have ever encountered and his letter is filled with his own extensive hiking experiences over his 73 years having hiked on trails from Newfoundland to Alaska, from the Appalachian Trail to the Continental Divide and Pacific Coast trails. Don included a good bit of history, trails and otherwise in his letter and shared with us some of the haikus that he wrote while hiking the Bruce in the mid 1970s. Don actually completed the BT end to end in 1975 at the John Muir Epping Lookout in Beaver Valley. Ever since learning of John Muir's time in Meaford that extraordinary pioneer has been Don's 'mentor'.

What I really enjoyed in Don's letter was his expression of his attitude toward hiking and life:

" Americans seem to be obsessed with records in all they do - the biggest, highest, deepest, coldest - an obsessive quest to claim the mostest, but seldom to stop, slow down and savor the experience, the quiet joys along the way. I've seldom had an agenda while hiking, only ending each day when the time runs out.

I can still recall my Sept 1973 hike - a big Detroit teachers' strike and I refused to sit around waiting and started the Bruce From Queenston Heights and finished to Hamilton before the strike was over. I recall Webster Falls - I think I spent the better part of an hour just looking at the falls and writing haiku. I was filled with peace and joy as I continued on the trail.... The go,go,go frantic persons are never satisfied - someone else may go faster or hike the BT more times and end their record - a good Type A heart attack material. The Guinness records reflect this mostest obsession.... My joy comes from experiencing the trail not just finishing it, in fact I always feel a bit sad when I reach the end of a long trail- I had a few tears at the end of the Bruce in 1975.

*I love that expression - '**Experience the Trail**'. Let's adopt it.
Don McIlraith, President*

SPRUCE UP THE BRUCE AND ANNUAL AGM

On May 5th, 2012 we will once again get out on trails to "Spruce up the Bruce" and take care of some special projects while we're at it. But what's a day of work without a bit of fun? We don't even want to know!

So be sure to plan to come along to tuck into some of Jeff Buckingham's famous barbecue at Summer House Park and then stick around (or arrive for) the Annual General Meeting of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. The barbecue is for everyone, trail worker or meeting attendee and gives everyone a chance to do a little socializing. If you can bring a dessert or salad to share that would be a most welcome addition to the supper – everything else will be there.

Barbecue starts at 5 pm and the AGM will begin at 7 pm. Trail work on your sections is on your own schedule or contact Walter Brewer Walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca for special project activities. All volunteers are welcome and trail captains are encouraged to take this occasion to check your trail sections and get them summer ready. It'll be great to get out on the trails again, though at this point we sure can't complain about the long hard winter!

All signs point to a terrific gathering on May 5th – mark your calendars now and we'll see you there!

STAYING INFORMED - ENOTES

If you would like to receive approximately once monthly updates on events and important information regarding the Peninsula Club that comes up between the publication of The Rattler then you must subscribe to Email Updates. Go to <https://brucetrail.org>– log on and follow the instructions to subscribe. If you run into any problems you can email your information to info@brucetrail.org or you can call 1-800-665-4453.

Once logged on Members have these options:

Member choice

Members can subscribe and unsubscribe to various email options:

- Bruce Trail Conservancy E-News
- Trail Change Notices
- Newsletter & Hike Schedule from my Club(s) by email
- Email Updates from my Club(s)

This is where you can tell us that you would like to receive The Rattler ON-LINE. Why not view the beautiful art work in vivid colour?

Please ensure your email address is accurate.

Give These Enotes a Snappy Name

Just for fun we thought it would be exciting to have a friendly competition to name these enotes for the future. Warm up that winter brain and get clever. Send your submissions to enotecontest@gmail.com by March 1. The winner will be announced in the next Enote after that date. The prize is our undying esteem. If you have any information you wish distributed via enotes send it to enotecontest@gmail.com and our enote Editor, Rich Payette, will follow up.



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Home Made Stone Soup

Being involved with the Peninsula Section Bruce Trail hikes reminds me of the children's story "Stone Soup". This children's story tells of how a villager passed the word around that he could make soup out of a stone. The crowd gathered and a large pot on the stove was filled with water and a stone was dropped in. As the water came to a boil, the villager tasted a spoonful and said it was almost ready except for salt. With growing excitement someone in the crowd offered salt from their leather pouch. Tasting the soup again, the villager declared it needed a carrot. Someone else in the crowd pulled out a carrot from their pack and it too was added. Another taste by the villager found a potato was needed and someone gave a couple from their basket. After more taste testing and the additional contributions of meat, vegetables and rice a wonderful aroma filled the room. The soup was finally declared ready to eat and everyone sat down to share.

The Peninsula Section Hiking Program is like the home made soup as it also has water and stone, but our flavour comes from the leaders, trail captains, webmaster, Rattler staff, Facebook contributors and friends, support by the local media and of course the hikers. Our hiking program success is truly a combined effort.

To help grow the ingredients that go into our pot there are a variety of activities being offered this spring and summer. We have members attending a Hike Ontario Leadership program offered in March

and we welcome both experienced and new leaders to include a hike on our upcoming schedule or help lead one of the already listed outings.

The more the merrier when it comes to Peninsula Section hikers, so we encourage you to get the word out to your friends and neighbours about our Gear Up and Go Hike workshop. For those new to hiking or new to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, the Peninsula and Sydenham Sections together with **Suntrail - Source for Adventure** are offering an educational and entertaining introductory talk about Bruce Trail hiking in the area and how to outfit for safety and comfort. Immediately following will be a discounted shopping opportunity for attendees only. The free workshop will take place in the Hepworth Community Hall on April 14, 2012 from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm followed by a chance to "gear up" with help from the trained staff at Suntrail. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers are required.

The 2012 E2E is shaping up to be even more challenging than usual. Our guest leader, John Grandy, will be covering the section in 9 days - the last three weekends in August and the three day long weekend in September. If completing the Peninsula Section is on your bucket list now is the time to do it.

Spring and summer also brings a variety of shorter and more leisurely hikes for you to enjoy. Keep our schedule handy and join us if you can. We would love to see on the trail!

Susan Allen, PBTC Hike Coordinator

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Spring and Summer 2012 Peninsula Bruce Trail Hike Schedule

Date	Where to Meet	Name/Description	DOD	Km.	Hike Details
Sat. April 14, 2012 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm		For those new to hiking or new to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, the Peninsula and Sydenham Sections together with Suntrail - Source for Adventure (Hepworth) are offering an educational and entertaining introductory walk about Bruce Trail hiking in the area and how to outfit for safety and comfort. Immediately following will be a discounted shopping opportunity for attendees only. The free workshop will take place in the Hepworth Community Hall on April 14, 2012 from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm followed by a chance to "gear up" with help from the professionals at Suntrails. Pre-registration is required. susan_allen@sympatico.ca			
Sat. May 5, 2012		Spruce up the Bruce Bruce trail maintenance and development day followed by our volunteer appreciation dinner and the club's AGM. It's a wonderful way to start the season and reconnect with friends. Please contact walt.g.brewer@sympatico.ca for more information.			
Sun. May 6, 2012 10:30 am	44.95328228810- 81.12802325210	Sandra Purchase was the first trail captain at Cape Dundas. Last year she died of cancer and her family and close friends held a memorial hike in her honour. That tradition we hope will become an annual one, and on Sunday May 6 the Second Annual Sandra Purchase Memorial Hike will celebrate both Sandra's life and the trail which she loved.	Moderate	6 km	All Peninsula BTC members are invited to join those who were close to Sandra. Bring lunch and water; we shall eat overlooking the waters of the Bay. Leaders: Ross McLean 519-821-0243 and Tove Fynbo. Meet east end of Scenic Caves Rd see map 37
Wed May 16, 2012	Municipal Parking-Dyers Bay	Meet at 9:00am at the Municipal Parking Lot at the top of Dyers Bay Hill. Directions: Hwy 6, East on Dyers Bay Road to T intersection, turn right and continue on Dyers Bay Road	Moderate	10 km	Spring Birding Walk for Birding Novices to Experts - All are welcome. We will carpool to favourite birding spots in the area and then walk. Bring lunch, water and dress for the weather. We work together to sight as many species or more than previous years. Leaders: Ray and Marlene Rothenbury plus local birding enthusiasts 519-795-7483
Sat. June 23, 2012 10:00 am	Bruce's Caves Conservation Area parking, Oxenden	Bruce's Caves Conservation Area-Len Holley ST--Curly Harnden ST	Moderate	8.4 km	The Main Trail heads through cedar and hardwood forests along the scarp with some breaks in the forest cover which provide magnificent views across Colpo's Bay. The addition of the two side trails allows for a loop. Bring lunch. Susan Allen 519 534 5898
Sat. July 7, 2012 10:00 am	45.2568872080- 81.65671995160	Burnt Point Loop Sintab'dik Rd, Bruce Peninsula Parks Canada Visitor Centre	Moderate	3.5 km	Leaving the main trail this side trail heads east out to Burnt Point with wide views to the south, east and north. After following the Georgian Bay shore for some distance the side trail reaches the northern-most point on the Bruce Trail. The trail turns inland and rejoins the route east to complete the loop. Susan Allen 519 534 5898
Sat. July 21, 2012 10:00 am	Where the Main Trail crosses Circle G Lane	Environmental Hike Alvar (dolostome pavement with little soil)	Easy	2 km	Short hike to discover this unique biological environment that is a challenging habitat for lichen and mosses. Susan Allen 519 534 5898
Sat. July 28, 2012 9:00 am	Boat launch on Huron Drive. From Hwy. 6 take Johnson Harbour Road (7 km) or Dorcas Bay Road (12 km) to the end. From there follow Huron Drive approx. 200 m to the boat launch.	A hike from Pinetree Harbour to Johnson Harbour along the Lake Huron side of the Bruce Peninsula. This hike is not on the Bruce Trail. It will show you the beauty of the other side of the Peninsula.	Moderate	9.8 km	From the boat launch on Huron Drive we car pool to Pinetree Harbour. We first walk through the forests and meadows along Lake Huron. Later along the boulder shore line of the lake, crossing the Crane River East of Lake Scugog (you might get your feet wet) to Johnson Harbour. Bring lunch, water and insect repellent. Leader Rainer Hoffmann-Taylor 519 596 8359
DOD - Degree of Difficulty					
Easy - A slower paced walk, along even treadway or roads.					
Moderate - A normal paced hiking speed. We do not race. The treadway could have some climbing both up and down, with some uneven sections, including tree roots and small rocks.					
Strenuous - A normal paced hiking speed. We do not race. The treadway could have some steep climbing both up and down, some scrambling, boulder beaches, and escarpment drop offs close to the trail. Usually longer hike days.					

PBTC 2012 – EASY HIKES – Leader: Elaine Wassermann (519-795-7407)

Date and Time	Hike Name	*Where to Meet	**DOD	Km	Hike Details
Wed., May 2 11:00 a.m.	Hope Bay Nature Reserve Provincial Park	County Rd. 9 to Jackson's Cove turnoff, where you turn East on Hopeness Rd. to Cathedral Rd. Park at the end of road.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	On our first hike of the season we hope to see Trout Lillies, red and white Trilliums, Squirrel-corn, Dutchman's-breeches, Violets and perhaps Spring-beauty
Tues., May 15 11:00 a.m.	Minhinnick ST + Devil's Monument	Hwy. 6 to Lindsay Rd. 5. Turn left onto East Rd., Right on Cape Chin North Rd. Left on Borchardt Rd. to the end. Parking on left.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	To enjoy Trilliums, Blue Cohosh, Violets and Bellwort
Wed., May 30 11 a.m.	FON Alvar and Crane River	Parking Area on West side of Hwy 6, just North of Dyer's Bay Rd., or carefully on the side of Hwy. 6.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	A prime location to see Lakeside Daisies, Dwarf Lake Irises, Seneca snake root and Polygala
Tues., June 12 10:00 a.m.	Bard Side Trail	Cape Chin Connection – Hwy. 6 to Lindsay Rd. 5, Left on East Rd., to Cape Chin North Rd. Park at Cape Chin Connection B&B	Easy	Approx. 2 km	This is a lovely loop, partly along the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay. White Polygala are abundant here
Wed. June 27 10:00 am	Showy Ladyslippers & Petrel Point	Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery on Cemetery road off Hwy. 6	Easy	Approx. 3 km	A walk to appreciate local orchids and wildflowers
Tues., July 10 10:00 a.m.	Singing Sands Amble – Optional – Bring lunch, and a swim afterwards	Parking lot at Singing Sands National Park. Dorcas Bay Rd. west off Hwy. 6.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	We are hoping to see Purple Fringed Orchid, Rose Pagonia and Grass Pinks. As we amble along the beach, Butterwort, Bladderwort, Calamint, Slender-leaved Sundew & Spotted Coral Root
Wed., July 25 10:00 a.m.	Hardwood Forest along County Rd. 9 with Susanne Smith	Park along County Rd. 9 at #2303 – south of Lion's Head.	Easy	Approx. 5 km	A beautiful walk to see Hart's Tongue, Maiden Hair & Rattlesnake Ferns, Partridgeberry and various Lichen
Tues., Aug. 7 10:00 a.m.	Dyer's Bay	Municipal Parking lot – at the top of Dyer's Bay hill – carpool.	Moderate	Approx. 7 km	We will walk the Bruce Trail on top of the escarpment. Optional: A visit to Virginia's Garden; Larkwhistle Garden is also in the area.
Wed., Aug. 29 10:00 a.m.	White Bluff Nature Reserve	Hwy. 6, East on Lindsay Rd. 5, North on East Rd., then East on Cape Chin South Rd. At the 1 st 'T' Junction turn left. At the 2 nd 'T' Junction, turn right.	Easy	Approx. 4 km	A pleasant loop along an old logging road, then along the Georgian Bay shore
Tues. Sept. 11 10:00 a.m.	Devil's Monument and Minhinnick ST Loop	Borchardt Rd. Parking Lot	Strenuous	8 km	A lovely walk along the escarpment, lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through forest
Tues. Sept. 25 10:00 a.m.	Ilse Hanel & Warder ST	Moore St. and McCurdy Dr., Lion's Head	Moderate	Approx. 7 km	A beautiful walk through a mature forest Leader Rainer Hoffmann-Taylor 519-596-8359
Wed., Oct. 10 10:00 a.m.	Purple Valley Walk	From County Rd. 9, turn East onto Purple Valley Rd., continue straight onto Wright's Crescent. Park at Purple Valley Access Tr.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	From several lookouts along the escarpment, we enjoy the autumnal palette below and the Georgian Bay islands beyond Colpoys's Bay. Leader Rainer Hoffmann-Taylor 519-596-8359
Wed., Oct. 24 11:00 a.m.	Jackson's Cove Lookout	Bruce County Rd. 9 to Hopeness Rd., turn Right on Jackson's Cove Rd., Park at the top of the hill.	Moderate	Approx. 5 km	First walking along the escarpment we loop back through deciduous forest where Christmas ferns are abundant

Guest Hike Leader: John Grandy

DATE	Lat - Long to Meet	Where to Meet	DOD	Km.	Hike Details
August 11, 2012 8:00 am Hike 1/9	44.83637786170,-81.05441057510	Bruce Rd. 9, East on County Rd. 18 (Purple Valley Rd.) and continue straight as road becomes gravel = Wright's Cres. To Purple Valley S.T. parking area on right.	Strenuous	17.1 km	Start Wiarton - km 0.0 End Purple Valley ST - km 17.1
August 12, 2012 8:00 am Hike 2/9	44.89146252190,-81.09071863570	Meet at Cape Croker Campground and Store parking: From Wiarton, Hwy. 6 to Bruce Rd. 9. Right on Sideroad 18. Left on Purple Valley Rd. Right on McIver Rd. and left on Campground Rd. Drive to Cape Croker Campground Store or from Lion's Head south on Bruce Rd. 9 to Waugh's Rd. and right on Purple Valley Rd., left on McIver Rd. then left on Campground Road.	Strenuous	19.5 km	Start Purple Valley ST - km 17.1 End Park Rd Cape Croker - km 36.6
August 18, 2012 8:00 am Hike 3/9	44.93953641460,-81.13331855860	Meet at Jackson Cove Parking lot located at the top of the hill. Take Hopeness Rd from County Rd 9 to Jackson Cove Rd.	Very Strenuous	16.2 km	Start Park Rd Cape Croker - km 36.6 End Jackson Cove Parking - km 52.8
August 19, 2012 8:00 am Hike 4/9	44.95882510070,-81.22616782720	Meet at Barrow Bay BT Parking at East side of the road: County Rd 9 South of Lion's Head or County Rd 9 North from Wiarton.	Very Strenuous	17.7 km	Start Jackson Cove Parking - km 52.8 End Barrow Bay Parking - km 70.5
August 20, 2012 8:00 am Hike 5/9	45.02046007880,-81.28378993170	Meet at Forty Hills parking lot North of Lion's Head on Forty Hills Rd.	Very Strenuous	17.2 km	Start Barrow Bay Parking - km 70.5 End Forty Hills Rd Parking Lot - km 87.7
August 21, 2012 8:00 am Hike 6/9	45.10869955010,-81.31195343710	Meet at roadside parking along shoulder of Cape Chin North Rd.	Very Strenuous	18.4 km	Start Forty Hills Rd Parking Lot - km 87.7 End Cape Chin N Rd - km 106.1
September 1, 2012 8:00 am Hike 7/9	45.19081306090,-81.41965838850	Meet at Crane Lake Gate: Hwy. 6, east on Dyer's Bay Rd., then left on Crane Lake Rd. (It is approximately 10 – 15 min. drive to navigate this winding country road to the gates at km 129.1). We will be hiking south to north.	Very Strenuous	23.0 km	Start Cape Chin N Rd - km 106.1 End Crane Lake Rd at National Park Gate - km 129.1
September 2, 2012 8:00 am Hike 8/9	45.19081306090,-81.41965838850	Meet at Crane Lake Gate: Hwy. 6, east on Dyer's Bay Rd., then left on Crane Lake Rd. (It is approximately 10 – 15 min. drive to navigate this winding country road to the gates at km 129.1). We will be hiking north to south.	Very Strenuous	19.7 km	Start Marr Lake, National Pk - km 148.8 End Crane Lake Rd at National Park Gate - km 129.1
September 3, 2012 8:00 am Hike 9/9	45°15'9.67"N 81°39'47.14"W	Grande Finale Meet at the Tobermory Chamber of Commerce Parking 7420 Hwy. #6, Tobermory, Ontario, Canada N0H 2R0.	Very Strenuous	18.6 km	Start Marr Lake, National Pk - km 148.8 End Tobermory Cairn - km 167.4

This will be a challenging End to End. The Degree of Difficulty is Very Strenuous. Expect difficult footing and/or steep slopes on major portions of the section. In order to complete the End to End in nine days the daily distances to be covered are long and the pace steady. Start time is 8:00 am. As this is a Peninsula Club fund raising event we are asking for a donation of \$100.00/entire E2E or \$15.00/day Please confirm that you are attending by emailing susan_allen@sympatico.ca Early accommodation reservations are recommended.

Moderate Hikes

Since this year's scheduled Peninsula End to End will be very challenging we would like to hear from hikers that would be interested in doing a more moderate, midweek completion over twelve days. Dates and day of week to be determined by the group.
email: susan_allen@sympatico.ca

Bruce Trail Geology Hikes - Geology 101 on Foot Spring 2012

A series of geology hikes in support of The Bruce Trail Conservancy. Since they began in September 2003, the “Geology 101 on Foot” series has raised almost \$50,000 to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s mission to secure and steward a Conservation Corridor on the Niagara Escarpment. The geology hikes continue this Spring. If you have an interest in learning about geology, and an enthusiasm for the Niagara Escarpment and its protection, why don’t you join us? Advanced registration by phone or email is mandatory. A “tuition fee” in the form of a donation to The Bruce Trail Conservancy will be collected on each hike (donations of \$10 or more receive a tax receipt). Advanced registration is mandatory and these events are very popular – register as early as possible to ensure a space. Maximum of 35 people each hike. Meeting locations will be announced upon registration. To register or get more information, please email Beth Kümmling at bkummling@bruce-trail.org or phone (905) 529-6821 ext. 23

A Weekend on the Bruce Part 1 - Cape Dundas “Cove to Cove” (6.5 km)

Saturday, May 19, 2012 11:00am

We’ll trek from the heights above Jackson’s Cove, down through four distinct rock layers, along the shoreline of Cape Dundas, and end our day at the beautiful Chris Walker Nature Reserve at Rush Cove. Geology hikers will be rewarded with towering clifftop views, fossils, alvars, cobble beach ridges, and the beautiful shoreline of Georgian Bay.

A Weekend on the Bruce Part 2 – Location to be determined

Sunday, May 20, 2012 10:00am

We’ll explore the Barrow Bay Side Trail and surrounding area, and hopefully a new section of the Bruce Trail! More information about this exciting hike will be posted by mid April. Regardless of the route we take we’ll enjoy steep rocky outcrops, the relaxing Georgian Bay shoreline, a lush hardwood forest and spring wildflowers.

[Other geology hikes this spring \(see www.bruce-trail.org for more details\):](http://www.bruce-trail.org)

April 22 – Splitrock Narrows in the Dufferin Hi-Land section (explore a new BTC acquisition!)

May 13 – Duncan and Metcalf Rock in Beaver Valley section

June 3 – Terra Cotta and Silver Creek in the Toronto section

* * * * *

Sydenham Club End-to-End 2012

To commemorate Sydenham BTC’s 50 th Anniversary, we are pleased to offer an End-to-End hike in the spring and autumn of 2012. We will spread this hike over four weekends, two days each, on these dates:

May 12 & 13, June 16 & 17, September 8 & 9, and October 13 & 14.

With a total trail length of 170.1 kilometres, each hike will average 21 Km.

All hikes will begin at 8:00 AM at predetermined locations.

Sydenham BTC volunteers will serve as hike leaders and sweeps for all hikes.

Daily hikes can be completed at each individual hiker’s pace, but it is expected that participants will complete each day’s distance by a mutually agreed time.

This promises to be a vigorous, interesting, scenic and satisfying series of hikes.

Hikes will take place regardless of weather.

A detailed weekend-by-weekend itinerary and information about the registration process and fees will be available at a later date.

Please send an email message to indicate your interest in this event or make further inquiries to Doug at: cummingdl@sympatico.ca

Who will take up the challenge and continue the story ???

Not A Peninsula Any More

According to a Mayan calendar, the world is to end around December 23, 2012. However, doom may not be an exact science, nor may it be what you think it is.

On Thursday morning, August 23, 2012, the Bruce Peninsula woke up. Many residents noticed there was something different, not definable, but different. It was in the air, in the sky and on the water. The sun looked different, perhaps slightly out of place. And people noticed that some islands near the Peninsula – Flower Pot, Cove, and Bear’s Rump – weren’t there. Maybe it was the fog, but the sky seemed clear. Hydro was out in many places. There were no radio or TV signals. The Internet was down, ‘The server does not answer.’ The Chi-Chemaun’s early sailing to Manitoulin Island was cancelled when its navigation system, and the microprocessors that controlled the engines and steering, all failed.

Later in the morning, a trucker frightened and nearly incoherent, pulled into the UPI gas bar in Ferndale. He related that earlier in the morning he was heading south on Highway 6 for Owen Sound. When he crested the North Hill, the highway disappeared. There was nothing but open water as far as he could see. Wiarton was gone. By the next day, it was apparent that the Bruce Peninsula was an island afloat in an endless sea – not a Peninsula any more.



It took a year or more for the people of the ‘Peninsula’ – Bruce Island just didn’t sound right to most people – to begin to accept that they were isolated, and perhaps the only people left on earth. Peninsula people proved to be a hardy, resourceful lot. They survived the winter and began to plant crops. The wind turbines on the Ferndale flats continued to function providing some hydro along the Highway 6 corridor. One of the diesel generators on the Chi-Chemaun was finally started up; it was supplying some electric power to Tobermory. The ship’s diesel bunkers were only a quarter full; there were concerns that the fuel should be conserved.

People on the Peninsula began to divide into two groups: the survivalists, who called themselves the ‘Bruceters’, who were content, even exhilarated, with their changed lives; and the others, who called themselves the ‘Pilgrims’, wanted to find out if they were truly alone, they wanted the Chi-Chemaun to become their Ark. Pilgrims believed that there must be a Promised Land out there somewhere, while many Bruceters believed that the Bruce was the Promised Land.

As conflict grew between the Bruceters and the Pilgrims, people began disappearing, sometimes almost vanishing before other peoples’ eyes. Some religious-minded people believed that it was the Rapture. This Rapture, if that’s what it was, appeared random and incremental, not the dramatic event that some predicted. Besides, many of those who vanished seemed unlikely to be included in the Rapture: the odd drug dealer and crystal-meth maker, some former politicians.

Disappearances continued and apprehension grew. Many thought the Chi-Chemaun could be their escape. Others were determined to stay and fight it out. As well, many were determined that no one should be allowed to abandon the Peninsula.

By Bob Light, Wiarton

If our readers have ideas as to what the next chapter of this story could be, please write us at pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

Experience Ontario's Greenbelt Along the Bruce Trail

Spanning over 880 kilometres including almost 7,000 acres of Niagara Escarpment land, the Bruce Trail is an ecologically and culturally important part of Ontario's Greenbelt.

What exactly is the Ontario Greenbelt? It is 1.8 million acres of prime farmland, wetlands, ecologically sensitive lands, and watersheds. This translates into clean water, healthy local food, great recreational spaces, and taxpayer savings.

"The Greenbelt keeps money in the pockets of communities and citizens across Southern Ontario," says Mausberg. "At the same time, it provides measurable benefits, like clean drinking water," he added.

A recent report published by the David Suzuki Foundation shows that the Greenbelt saves taxpayers \$2.6 billion dollars per year in environmental services like water filtration and waste treatment.

The Bruce Trail is not only an important part of the Greenbelt, it is also a very large piece of land within the Greenbelt boundaries, and has expansive biodiversity. Along the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail is home to an assortment of plants and animals: 36 species of reptiles and amphibians, 53 species of mammals, 90 species of fish, and more than 350 species of birds.

"The Niagara Escarpment is one of the world's natural wonders and the Bruce Trail takes you through

the beauty of it all," says Mausberg.

A particularly scenic part of the trail is located in the Bruce Peninsula area that follows the Escarpment from Wiarton to Tobermory, covering over 240 kilometres. This part of the Trail has the unique accomplishment of receiving the first "Dark Sky" designation in Canada. This Dark Sky status means less light pollution, more natural habitat conditions for animals, and more a more breathtaking view of the night sky. Hundreds of people travel to Lion's Head, Ontario each year to view stars not visible in many other parts of Southern Ontario.

It has been estimated that the direct economic benefits of recreation and tourism in the Greenbelt is over \$2.25 billion every year.

Being a part of the Greenbelt and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve is a great thing for the communities that surround it, however there is still some room for improvement. Much of the Bruce Trail is protected by Niagara Escarpment legislation, but according to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, fifty-two per cent of the Bruce Trail corridor is still vulnerable to development and over 109 species are on the threatened or endangered list in the Niagara Escarpment area alone.

To find out more about Ontario's Greenbelt, visit www.greenbelt.ca.

JUST A REMINDER!

Have you paid your membership dues?

We have been questioned why people are not receiving the latest version of The Rattler only to find out they had not renewed their membership. To avoid missing out on the latest Rattler news

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Ann Bard **We will miss you.**

Cape Chin Connection's Ann Bard passed away February 3, 2012. Ann immigrated to Canada in 1948, married Don Bard in 1952 and raised 5 children in Guelph. She was a stay at home Mom, cooking, sewing, cleaning and entertaining Don's business associates and her children's friends, but found time to volunteer with her church and community. She and Don bought Look About Lodge on the Bruce Peninsula in the late 1970's and ran it for 10 years before purchasing Cape Chin Connection Country Inn in 1988. They "restored the interior of the log home to recapture the romance of the pioneer era". Ann loved the Bruce, was an avid hiker and skier and supporter of both Bruce Peninsula and Bruce County Tourism, winning awards of excellence when they ran Look About Lodge.

After a day on the trail, whether it be hiking, skiing or snowshoeing, folks looked forward to Ann's



5 course dinners or wholesome lunches. Some guests stayed for the night enjoying the tranquil setting and unwinding in the Hot Tub. Ann was the founder of the Home-to-Home Bed and Breakfast Network (on the Peninsula). Many hikers from near and far use this service and will certainly miss the cozy setting of Cape Chin and Ann's delicious meals. Ann was a trained chef and baker and loved the work. According to a granddaughter, Ann loved food and truly enjoyed cooking for people. It was her way of telling

them she loved them. Her menu included locally raised elk, lamb, beef and fish from local waters.

The Bards actively supported the Bruce Trail. A blue side trail and the main trail currently cross their property. Ann also distributed our brochures and held fundraising dinners to support our Club and the Conservancy.

One year, along with other businesses, she won a Trillium Award to showcase the Cape Chin area. Ann had a passion for her community and worked hard to provide a service while preserving local history. She was a founding member of the Friends of Cabot Head Lighthouse whose mandate is to preserve and restore the old 'Light'.

Above all, she was a strong woman and tireless worker, who was proud of her family and their achievements. She enjoyed life, leaving all who knew her with lasting memories.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Baker



A DEDICATED TRAIL BUILDER

After a most pleasant and interesting afternoon chatting with Grant Ehrhardt we were left with the conviction that somehow -- and so often as we've discovered -- the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club manages to land squarely on its feet when prospecting for and choosing just the right person to head up any new development, or take over an already existing job when the need arises.

Such was the case with Grant Ehrhardt. For thirty-three years he had been a high school teacher primarily of Geography in the Fort Erie area. For many years in the 70's to mid 80's Grant had taken his grade 11 Environmental Geography classes to the Peninsula, backpacking, exploring and camping. He did the same with his wife Laine and their family. By the time they were ready to retire the Bruce Peninsula had become the inevitable choice and they bought property in Pleasant Harbour together with a family friend. While building it was destined that they should reconnoitre and discover any old trails in their immediate region and beyond and build snow trails in the surrounding area.

They all moved up in May 2000 and Grant reckons his apprenticeship in trail building had already begun by the time he met up, formally, with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

A year into his new life, Grant was invited to join the Peninsula Club as a Director at Large having already met up informally with such active members as Donna Baker and John Appleton. His love of map-making got him involved in helping to create a new 8-map format for the Day Hike Guide and it wasn't long before Grant was asked to take over trail development duties to lighten John Appleton's load as Trail Director. This was right up Grant's alley, not only keeping in mind his enthusiastic apprenticeship as he worked on his house and explored the trails that crisscrossed that area, but also as a result of having learnt much about trail building under the expert guidance of Chris Walker and Ross McLean as well as benefiting from the support and encouragement of John himself.

At this point in our narrative, we can't do better than quote some of Grant's own writing about his love of trail building:



"The most enjoyable aspects of trail development, by far (for me), would be the scouting and planning of routes, often on lands where no previous trail existed. Here one's creative instincts can be unleashed: to incorporate ... diverse features ... lookouts, boulders, caves, ridges, stream crossings, wetlands, various ferns and flora; using natural corridors as much as possible, turning and weaving through mature stands of trees; avoiding areas that are sensitive to erosion or with rare plant species; providing as safe a treadway as possible. Clearing ... construction ... final clean-up are a collaborative effort ... by a crew you have assembled, instructed and led. You can sense it when the volunteers are enjoying the social interaction ... physical demands ... satisfaction of building a new trail, and you feel a genuine desire to express your appreciation for their efforts."

"...after completion ... I greatly enjoyed ... blazing, installing signage ... final visit ... to be sure the route is ready for the upcoming inaugural hike ... like sprucing up your home ...for an open house visit by friends and neighbours ... eager to have them like it. It is then that I would experience an almost uncontrollable urge to make it my own section of trail, the sense of 'ownership' is so strong. Finally the day comes when the route is indeed opened ... no longer yours to nurture and coddle ... Perhaps a year or two later ... when revisiting ...it is like a reunion with an old friend; so many memories ... I can't help but smile."

A Dedicated Trail Blazer - continued

It seems criminal to shorten this lovely little piece but it is in the interest of including something else of Grant's; first, some reflections of his own from his PBTC biography, and second, from a piece he contributed to a special section in previous issue of the Owen Sound Sun Times.

"It still amazes me how the early builders ever opened up the Peninsula in the 1960's. Today we are merely 'tweaking' the corridors created by them and will add a section on the optimum route whenever it becomes possible through land acquisition or handshake permit. I would have to admit that the PBT has become (by my own choice) a rather 'consuming' part of my life, but when I really consider it, I wouldn't have it any other way. There are two important projects I hope to be part of before stepping down; the optimum route to link Rush Cove to Barrow Bay, thereby eliminating some nine km of road walking; and hopefully a return of the Trail in the Cabot Head area.

"We try to represent that portion of the population which not only values our natural treasures, but is committed to promoting their appreciation by means of providing places where people can access these gifts of nature ... by way of foot ... walking, hiking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. For this is how our First Nations and our pioneer ancestors experienced these lands which we now seek to save for our children. This is how the men and women first visualized and then worked tirelessly to create the Bruce Trail over 40 years ago, wanted it to be -- and their quest can be completed with our help."

In 2011, after sensing from physical limitations that it was time, Grant relinquished the role of Trail Development Director to the capable hands of Laurence Acland. Now assuming the role of Land Stewardship under the guidance of Don McIlraith, Grant hopes to continue volunteering with PBTC and enjoying the trails for years to come.

By Russell & Katharine Ferguson

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Letter to the Editor

As usual, I enjoyed reading my electronic copy of the Rattler. One item in the Winter 2011 issue particularly drew my attention: Susan Allen's Hiking Hints from my Happy Hairdresser. Susan's advice about hiking on roads is correct, and ought to be heeded.

However, there is something even better that we can do over the long term: Get the trail off roads altogether! A hiking trail does not belong on a road. Not only is it dangerous, but a road is most definitely not a Conservation Corridor. Walking along a road enables hikers to see nothing that they could not have seen from their car window.

While the Club has been doing its utmost to eliminate some of the longest, and most dangerous road

sections (notably Scenic Caves Rd and Bruce Rd #9 between Rush Cove and Barrow Bay), the Club's directors have steadfastly refused to even consider suggestions that the entire Trail should some day be off-road. This needs to change. Although some of these road sections may now be tolerable, continued development of cottages and permanent homes can only lead in future to more traffic conflicts and an increased sense that we are walking down a city street, rather than through a Conservation Corridor.

Let's clearly state that our long-term goal is a trail that is totally off-road, and then with hard work and persistence, make it happen!

*Dave Moule,
Trail Captain, Moore Street (Lion's Head) to McKay's Harbour*



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Then cross the border into Croatia for a week along the Dalmatian Coast. Hike along pristine pebble beaches, enjoy al fresco dining & swim in the Adriatic.

Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning

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Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound

For the first 500,000 years of our existence humans considered the earth's treasures and resources inexhaustible. In the past few decades we've learned the opposite. We now stand aghast at what we've done to our planet, and realize what may happen in a century or less if we continue on our present path. This series brings together individuals from government agencies, NGO's, as well as private conservationists to discuss where we are now and what we can do to preserve our natural habitats and conserve our resources.

March 1st Environmental Issues for Today:
Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

March 8th The Local Setting: Peter Middleton

March 15th Who Is Preserving The Land?

BALL brings together 3 key figures representing national, provincial and local agencies to present and discuss their organizations' roles in preserving the land.

Part One: Don Wilkes - Parks Canada
Beth Kummling - Bruce Trail Conservancy
Caroline Schultz - Ontario Nature

Part Two: Q&A with our panel of speakers.

March 22nd

BALL brings together 3 key figures representing national, provincial and local agencies to present and discuss their organizations roles in conserving the land.

Part One: Robert Patrick - Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment
John Cottrill - Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Tod Wright - Ducks Unlimited

Part Two: Q&A with our panel of speakers.

March 31st Political Action. Endangered Spaces. Endangered Species:
Albert Koehl, Senior Litigator, Ecojustice

What of the future?

Anne Bell, PhD. - Director of Research and Education, Ontario Nature

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

What is the Most interesting thing you almost stepped in on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format to:

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Tell us a story about it and maybe you will see it in the Rattler.



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