

# The Rattler



ISSUE #1 2014

## President's Message

By now you must be looking forward to the end of a long winter – and, like me, anxious to get back on the Bruce. I am just back from a trip to the peninsula for our PBTC Board meeting. It was a cold (-29), clear sunny day. There is at least one metre of snow in the bush, with snowbanks along the roads well over two metres in many places. On snowshoes, we had to keep ducking low branches, on what in summer is a well-trimmed trail. The good news is that there is minimal damage on our properties – the ice and heavy snow was south of the Bruce.

*See you on the trail!*

*John Whitworth, March 2014*

Preparations are well underway for what will hopefully be the biggest, best Spruce Up the Bruce / Annual General Meeting event ever. Plans include trail inspections and work parties during the day Saturday, followed by dinner and a new and improved AGM presentation. On Sunday, there are two hiking options for you. Details are inside – please plan to join us. (See page 9 + 11)  
As outgoing President, this will be my last Rattler column. It's been a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic group of volunteers and I thank everyone for their dedication and support.



*"Quietly Meandering" by Julie Heinrichs*

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Any articles or stories of interest?  
 Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:  
**"August 7, 2014"**

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### \* \* Sign Up \* \*

### For The Rattler Online

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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: [www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca)

## A CELEBRATION OF FIFTY YEARS

In 2013, the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. The keynote speaker at its dinner was Jack Morgan, a long-time volunteer with both the local club and the BTC. His words rang strongly, especially in their recognition of the key themes of volunteers, landowners, enthusiasm and community.

With Jack's permission I present excerpts from his speech. I have omitted names which might be recognized only by Beaver Valley members, but I invite all of you to look at the Beaver Valley Club's website which contains the full speech.

*Ross McLean*

And here we are – celebrating those 50 successful years – years of trail building and trail maintenance, of organizing hikes and going on hikes, of securing land and stewarding it and of all the other things we have done as [a]... Bruce Trail Club through those years.

Celebrating 50 years as a club is celebrating two groups of people – the volunteers who with their enthusiasm and their dedication make it happen, and the landowners who with their enthusiasm and generosity allow it to happen. Without those two groups – nothing. As the Romans might have put it, they are the sine qua non.

I like words, some words in particular. The word "enthusiasm" is one of them. It derives from "en" and "theos" and means literally "from or with God". Now I won't pretend to be a religious person, but I've always liked the spiritual possibilities in that word, the suggestion that people do things "enthusiastically" for reasons that are often beyond themselves. They see the beauty and joy in what is in great part unselfish activity – in doing things that benefit a larger cosmos than the one circumscribed only by themselves.

In our 50 years I think that collectively we have done that. It is probably the secret of our success. It began with the enthusiasm and audacity even of the first planners and doers, ... – people who had the vision and the tenacity and energy necessary to realize it. It continued with the efforts of many people down through the years

... Together we have built and we continue to maintain our kilometres of main and side trail. Each year [we] – volunteers – do what has to be done to ensure that the trail and the activities that support and enhance it continue to provide happy and healthy activities for our friends and neighbours and the strangers who come to visit. We are a community.

We are joined by ... landowners who give us permission to use their land for our trail. As an honourable community we exchange only handshakes.

We continue to acquire land as we attempt to secure in perpetuity the larger conservation corridor. To date our club has successfully secured [many] parcels, and we provide the volunteer stewards to look after the land.

Together, we plan; we organize; we negotiate; we communicate; we work; we hike; we have parties. We are a community. And we are 50 years old.

*Jack Morgan*

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## Meet Walter Brewer

### *Vice President - Trail Maintenance Director Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Appointee to Bruce Trail Conservancy Board*

Walter, as of this year, and last, holds three.... yes 3.... jobs with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. Imagine the emails!! Whenever I meet Walt on one of the PBTC events, or just plain hikes, my impression of him is a man with a sense of capable calm about him. Walt's soft spoken, engaged way of interacting with everyone he meets doesn't often relay the many interests and passions of the man.

I never, ever get the sense that he is overworked or overwhelmed by his responsibilities to our club. And our club is just one part of Walt's many interests and responsibilities to his community and his family. Before looking deeper into the man, Walt Brewer, I'll share the biography I asked him to write for you. Later in this profile, we can read and see photos of his many treks to distant lands, as he continues his love of hiking and travel.

"My involvement with the Bruce Trail started when I was a leader in a Toronto Boy Scout group in the mid 1990's. I was looking for places to take the youth group to experience nature and some challenge. As the group matured and advanced to Venturers they took up rock climbing and self directed camping. This group stayed at Cape Croker and as a work share arrangement cleared some trails and assisted with the construction of the Snake Boardwalk.

I found the northern part of the trail more appealing for all the obvious reasons and I made connection with Ross McLean, who was hosting a "get to know the Bruce weekend" at Cyprus Lake Park. After that Ross, as is his way, encouraged me to take on some work projects with Chris Walker and I ended up a Trail Captain at White Bluff and a work party volunteer.

Since I live in Toronto my visits to the Bruce are limited to the time I spend camping or, more recently "couch surfing" - that is staying with friends on the Bruce. I really enjoy the picturesque areas of the northern Bruce and wonderful sharing and interesting people that populate that area.

Recently I took over the organization of trail maintenance and the Vice Presidency. Involvement with the club and the central BTC organization is a great way to spend retirement and give back to others while enjoying nature."

I know Walter personally as an avid hiker and bushwacker of the Bruce Peninsula backcountry. Over the years a small band of trekkers have gathered to explore historic and potentially new trails on the peninsula. Any good excuse will send us off on a quest to find this lake, or that logging road, or the natural spring someone mentioned somewhere, sometime. These adventure days usually end with dog tired hikers relaxing, sipping our favourite beverage, and sharing supper at basecamp on Gillies Lake. Walt has been a core member of this group of intrepids for as long as I can remember. He is also an avid "shooter" ... by that I mean Walt is a very accomplished photographer. Camera in hand, he has captured our adventures in shots that would qualify for any photo contest. See some of his travel shots later.

Walt lives in Toronto full time, yet you will see him present and participating at almost every event, hike or meeting the PBTC organizes. When John Appleton retired in 2009 as Trail Director, it was obvious his role would need to be filled by not just one person, or even two people, but four people were required to fully manage the many main and side trails that make up the Peninsula Club, plus Trail Development. The Trail Director role was now a three person committee consisting of Walt as coordinator and manager, and two Trail Directors to manage all of the trail sections, one for the South area which is currently vacant, although Lloyd Hayward has continued to step up and help - many Thank You's Lloyd; and one for the North area, very capably managed by Jeff Buckingham for many years. The concept has proven very effective although there is much work to be done. And the committee is still growing. A new position has been created - Chain Saw Coordinator, filled by Steve Jones, who takes on this role this year. Lawrence Ackland rounds out the team as a creative, explorer managing New Trail Development.

Walter oversees 109 sections from Warton to Tobermory with about 70 individuals and families acting as Trail Captains for an average of 1.65 sections each. Up until this year, Walt has also coordinated the 30+ sawyers for call-out work. Any heavy maintenance on our trails that requires a chain saw must be done by a certified and trained chain saw operator. Up until this year, he has coordinated this work.

The role of Trail Maintenance Coordinator is complex. All mandatory external audits must be recorded and acted upon. The mandatory Trail Captains' reports must be organized, received, and recorded, from

*Meet Walter Brewer - cont'd from page 4*

every single Trail Captain, with estimates of time spent. Each Trail Captain is required to check and report their section 2X a year.

The goal is 100% participation – last year the participation rate was 100% Spring and 97% Fall. Special work parties are also coordinated after major storm events, hard winters (this year will certainly produce much deadfall and debris), and the PBTC signature trail event, Spruce up the Bruce, May 10 and 11 this year!

The Peninsula network of trails is long, beautiful, and rugged. There is much work to be done every year so that the club can continue to enjoy accolades and

compliments about our exceptionally well groomed trails. Volunteers are always welcome. Trail work is fun! It gets a person outside in the fresh air doing exercise that results in tangible work that makes you proud and satisfied you've contributed. The friendships built and comraderie enjoyed is the icing on the cake. If you like the outdoors, give Walt a call and join the trail gang.

I have told you a little about the work Walk Brewer, our Trail Maintenance Coordinator does. We best save the other two roles for another day, another story.

To finish, let's read about several of Walt's trekking adventures and enjoy his photography.

*Submitted by Marlene Rothenbury, Gillies Lake*

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*Travel has always been one of my goals and I started to look afar for new areas to visit; here are a few thoughts on some places I have been. I found the southern Dolomite region great because you could land and visit Venice then get to the villages near the mountains easily; after that it was a bus ride to a*

*trail head or a gondola. The thing that amazed me was the number of people visiting the high plateaus armed with cell phones. The Milford Trek in southern New Zealand is known for the rain and waterfalls – I walked the 5 day route in full sunshine! All my days were not always sunny – after five nice days on the Inca trail we walked up to*

*the Sun Gate at 4:00 PM in a cloud of rain! However, the air cleared in the morning and the site was spectacular. Going through Northern India and then setting off from Kathmandu for a walk on the route to the Everest Base Camp last year was spectacular and challenging event. As many know I was not able to get beyond 4,000 meters due to failing energy caused by a blood disorder; I stayed behind the hiking group at a lodge owned by monastery where I was able to see Everest daily. That route is very busy and demanding due to cold and altitude. I feel my favourite location is in Canada. Hiking with a club that works out of Calgary (Skyline Hikers) is a great experience because you get to go out each year with a lot of the same people and walk to different locations in the Banff National Park area. Wilderness camping and route hiking to passes and peaks is special when it is within your own country – I plan to return this summer!*

*Walter Brewer*

*Left: Milford Sound, New Zealand*

*More images of my travels cont'd on page 7*





## THREE MORE PIECES OF THE OPTIMUM ROUTE

In December, 2013, the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club learned of the donation of three properties from the estate of Bruce Krug. Each is located along the scarp edge between High Dump and Cabot Head in the northern Bruce Peninsula, and each has long been mapped as optimum route.

Indeed, until 1980 (when loss of handshake agreements on nearby properties necessitated a reroute), the Bruce Trail crossed these lands. Ever since then, it has been the hope to return the Trail to this route. With the Krug donations we are another step closer to realizing this dream.

The *Owen Sound Sun-Times* reported that “the broad interests, deep appreciation of the local area and concern for the future by the well-known Krug family in Chesley will live on thanks to generous bequests made to a number of organizations and charities by the late Bruce A. Krug.”

Bruce was the last surviving member of the once prominent Krug furniture manufacturing family in Chesley. For more than a century between 1886 and 1987, the Krug Bros. furniture manufacturing business was the lifeblood of Chesley and much of both the factory’s and the town’s history are intertwined. At its peak, the Krug factory, sawmill and bush properties employed more than 600 people and several Chesley and area families had two and three generations of family members employed there. Much to the Krug brothers’ disappointment and sadness, the factory closed in 1987, just one year following the company’s centennial year of operations.

Both Bruce and Howard were accomplished naturalists. In the 1960s, Bruce and his brother Howard were two of the early pioneer builders of the Bruce Trail in the northern section of the Peninsula; they would lead volunteers from Chesley, driving north on weekends to work on the Trail.

They were considered leaders in reforestation in Bruce and Grey counties, and in 1997, the Kinghurst Tract, 600 acres of old growth forest, was donated to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) in order that the land would be left in perpetuity as a nature reserve for the people of Ontario.

In a tribute to his widespread environmental consciousness, in 2007 Bruce received the BTC’s Calypso Orchid Environmental Award.

Now, the estate of the late Bruce Krug is being distributed to organizations and charities as a lasting tribute to the love and support the Krug family showed throughout their lifetime to their community. The donation of these three properties will remain forever as a testament to the Krug’s contributions to the Bruce Trail.

*Ross McLean, January 2014*



*Walter at  
Machu Picchu,  
Peru*



*Rocky Mountains  
British Columbia*

## A TRAIL PIONEER

*The following article was previously printed in The Rattler, Issue 1, 2011*

We spoke with Ron Gatis on one of those bitter cold but exhilarating days towards the end of January, not long after a large group of us had snowshoed on the Gatis farm above Colpoys Bay. We felt privileged to catch sight of a pair of swans swimming peacefully at the foot of the cliff as though winter were not happening around them.

Ron's hiking history goes back a long way. His novice hike took place in the Appalachians, many years ago, with an experienced group; his own hiking gear (boots, clothing, backpack) he soon discovered to be far from adequate. A couple of days into the hike he admitted to a sympathetic ear that he was wiped out and wanted to be transported back to base. "Hey," he was told, "these guys are all Americans, you're a Canadian, you can't let Canada down this way!" He continued, saw it through, and has been hiking ever since; Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Australia.

Ron's own family had put down roots for him in Colpoys Bay, although his graduation from Ryerson in 1953 took him for a number of years into work for the CBC as a cameraman, in other parts of Southern Ontario. In 1957, his mother who had been born and lived all her life in the village, took over responsibility for the old family store there, and Ron came up to help on the farm whenever his rather sporadic workload allowed.

In 1963 Ron read in a Toronto newspaper an article about a projected hiking trail from Niagara to Tobermory and was fired by the idea. However, looking closely at the plans, he realized that the portion of the trail between Wiarton and Tobermory would go right through the family property, and he drew his mother's attention to this. Her response? She thought it was a great idea! Their own growing enthusiasm led Ron and his wife Sheila to move up to the Peninsula themselves, back to Colpoys Bay, in 1964. Sheila became involved in the local community as a teacher in the High School in Wiarton; Ron, following his own determination to be in on the planning and implementing of the trail project in this area, discussed it endlessly and thoroughly with many local people. On the one hand, some, like Phil Gosling, were eager to arrange meetings for interested folk from Wiarton to Tobermory. Three clubs were originally proposed for the Peninsula: Upper, Middle and Lower; Ron joined a group to work on the plan for the route from Colpoys Bay to Cape Croker. On the other hand, many landowners in the region were up in arms about the whole thing, and the trail's advance was put on hold for quite a while. There was an element of touch-and-go before events began to pick up.



*"PBTC landowner and volunteer, Ron Gatis. Join us this Mother's Day in celebration of Ron's great contributions to the PBTC and to hike with him and learn more about his property at Colpoy's Bay."*

The early proposal for three clubs was gradually transformed into the decision for a single entity, ultimately to become the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. Other clubs began to take an interest in what was going on, and with the help of the Meaford Club Ron and others hosted an AGM. Ron became a member of the executive of the new club because of his keen involvement, and for quite a number of years he was its unofficial president.

Then in 1967, Centennial Year, when the entire trail officially opened (though far from finished), an important event took place which gave a great boost to the group up in the Peninsula who had been working so hard. A trek was set up for the Duke of Edinburgh Outers, from Tobermory to Owen Sound. This hiking group brought together people from all over the British Commonwealth, and it was organized and hosted by the local trail workers: Jack Johnstone and his wife Shirley, Sid Pierce, and others. Ken McKay and Ron looked after transportation of all the gear, packing up after the campers left for the next leg of the trek and being there at day's end for their arrival.

In all the time since these early, heady days, Ron's interest in the trail, his involvement and efforts of its behalf, have never waned. Yet over the years, alongside hiking, Ron has kept space in his life for other interests, for tennis, and for singing in a long established community choir. But it is perhaps hiking, above all, which has allowed a poetic vein to emerge. His ultimate vision of the Bruce Trail as a string of pearls linking properties together all the way from Niagara to Tobermory has pretty well been realized. And, yes, he personally has put enormously steadfast work into it; but those years, he says, have given him back tenfold.

*Russell & Katherine Ferguson*



## **Spruce up the Bruce/Annual General Meeting/Mother's Day Hike Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11, 2014**

### ***"Spruce up the Bruce" helpers wanted and appreciated!***

Come and join our dedicated group of volunteers who keep the trails clear and the BTC managed land secure. Our trail workers come in all sizes and abilities. During the weekend of "Spruce up the Bruce" you are invited to participate in the diverse and rewarding activities that keep our section the jewel in the crown of the Bruce Trail. Contact us at: trailreportsbtpc@gmail.com or Walt.g.brewer @sympatico.ca for job details and we will get back to you.



### **Annual General Meeting Saturday, May 10, 2014**

We are planning a fun event around the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday evening.

In order to help you stay up to date and participate, we are going to announce details and post the AGM reports on our webpage at [www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca) in April.

Your executive is working to make this a meaningful event so please join us on May 10 at Summer House, Miller Lake.

BBQ at 4:00 – 6:00 pm and AGM 6:30 – 7:15 pm. Meet your executive at 7:15 pm

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided but you should bring your favourite beverage. If you can bring a great spring salad or dessert it would be much appreciated. Please make every effort to attend as this has proven to be a popular event and a great opportunity to meet old friends, make new acquaintances.

There will be a wrap up of SUTB activities and a BBQ dinner before the AGM meeting. All are welcome.

*Contact us at Walt.g.brewer @sympatico.ca for details and we will get back to you.*

### **Landowner Appreciation Hike - Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 2014 1:30 pm - Meet at Ron's Barn, Colpoy's Bay**

We are always so grateful to private landowners who allow us the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of their property. It is even more of a treat to have the chance to hike alongside a property owner on their land! This Mother's Day we are fortunate to have Ron Gatis join us for a hike at Colpoy's Bay to share with us the special places and history of his property. Ron is a well-know landowner and has been a dedicated volunteer with our club for many years. Please join us to hike with Ron for an 'insider's' look at his property and to take the opportunity to celebrate Ron's dedication and generosity toward the Bruce Trail.

We will be starting with fabulous views over Colpoy's Bay, then following the path as it takes us through an old orchard, then into the woods where traditionally there is a wonderful display of trilliums. We will visit the disappearing stream where the underground drainage from the wetland to the north is visible and audible through a large crack in the dolostone bedrock and see some not regularly visited sights along the way. The hike will be approximately 4 km long and take 2-3 hours. Wear sturdy footwear and bring water. Meet at the parking spot by Ron's barn the "P" on the Bruce Trail map (BT Guidebook, 27th edition, map 35) at 1:30 pm. *Contact Susan Allen 519- 534-5898 or susan\_allen@sympatico.ca*

Ron (and his wife Sheila) are well known to members of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club and have dedicated many years of their life to preserving and protecting the beauty of the Peninsula and the Bruce Trail.

### Hike Leadership Course

This is a fun, interactive and educational one day course for people wanting to lead hikes. The morning is spent in the classroom learning techniques and in the afternoon you practice your new skills on the trail. The course is to be held this spring in Owen Sound. The cost of \$75/per person will be reimbursed by the club after you have helped with two Peninsula hikes. Contact Susan Allen 519 534 5898 susan\_allen@sympatico.ca for more information.

#### **2014 Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Easy Walks - Contact: Elaine Wasserman 519-795-7407**

Date/Time	Hike Name	Where to Meet	DOD	KM	Hike Details
Wed. May 7 11:00 a.m.	Hope Bay Nature Reserve Provincial Park	From County Road 9, turn East on Hopeness Road and South on Cathedral Road	Easy	Approx. 3 km	A profusion of Trout Lilies, Red and White Trilliums, Violets, possibly Hepatica and Spring Beauty. In the past, we have seen Blue Cohosh, Cut-leaved Tooth Wort, False Mitrewort, Squirrel Corn, Dutchman's Breeches, Virginia Waterleaf in abundance.
Wed. May 28 11:00 a.m.	FON Alvar and Crane River	Parking on West side of Hwy. 6, just North of Dyer's Bay Road	Easy	Approx. 2 km	The Alvar features rare Lakeside Daisies, Dwarf Lake Irises, Polygala, Seneca Snake Root and Starry False Solomon Seal. At Crane River rest spot, Nodding Trilliums, Bulblet, Maiden Hair Spleen Wort Ferns.
Wed. June 4 11:00 a.m.	Bard Side Trail Loop	Hwy. 6 to Lindsay Road 5. Left on East Road, right on Cape Chin North Road. Watch for white blazes on the right and park where blazes turn right, past the Cape Chin Connection sign.	Easy	Approx. 3 km	This is a lovely loop, partly along the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay. White Polygala are abundant here.
Wed. July 9 10:00 a.m.	Showy Ladyslippers and Petrel Point	Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery on Cemetery Road off Hwy. 6	Easy	Approx. 2 km	First walking into the ANSI-protected cemetery bog, we will continue at Petrel Point where Round-leaved and Slender-leaved Sundew, Bog Orchid, Lobelia, Loesel's Twayblade, Cotton Grass, Indian Plantain, Rue and Sweet Gale can be observed off the Boardwalk.
Wed. July 23 10:00 a.m.	Singing Sands Amble	Parking lot at Singing Sands National Park, Dorcas Bay Road, West off Hwy. 6	Easy	Approx. 3 km	First walking the Boardwalk, we will see a profusion of Pitcher Plants, also Sticky Tofieldia, Lobelia, possibly Rose Pogonia and Grass Pinks. Then along a woody walkway: Hill's Thistle, Pipsissewa, Purple Fringed Orchid. Returning along Lake Huron: Calamint, Sundews, Bladderwort and Butterwort.
Wed. August 13 10:00 a.m.	White Bluff Nature Reserve	From Hwy. 6, East on Lindsay Road 5, North on East Road, then East on Cape Chin South Road. At the first T junction, turn left and at the 2nd junction, turn right.	East	Approx. 4 km	A pleasant loop along an old logging road, then along the Georgian Bay shore. On our way back, through a wooded area, we should see Rattlesnake Plantain and Indian Pipe.
Wed, Sept. 17 10:00 a.m.	Jackson's Cove Lookout	Bruce County Road 9, East on Hopeness Road. Turn right on Jackson's Cove Road and park at the top of the hill.	Moderate	Approx. 5 km	First walking along the Escarpment, we loop back through deciduous forest where Christmas, Crested Shield, Holly and Marginal Ferns are a delight.
Wed. Oct. 15 11:00 a.m.	Devil's Monument and Minihnick Side Trail	From Hwy. 6, turn East on Lindsay Road 5. Turn North on East Road, East on Cape Chin North Road and follow it to Borchardt Road at the top of the Escarpment. Park at the end of Borchardt Road.	Strenuous	Approx. 8 km	A lovely walk along the Escarpment. Lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through forest.

## HIKE - Sunday, May 11, 2014 Cape Dundas - 10:30 a.m.

The Cape Dundas loop is one of the highlights of the Trail on the Bruce. One of its builders and its first Trail Captain was Sandra Purchase. When Sandra succumbed to cancer several years ago, her family and friends decided to hold an annual hike on this section, to celebrate both the beauty of the land and the memory of Sandra. Meet at the parking area at the east end of Scenic Caves Road. Note the starting time: it is later than usual so that participants from the south can come north in the morning. Bring a snack to enjoy at the water's edge. Length: 6 km Degree of Difficulty: Moderate  
 Leaders: Tove Fynbo and Ross McLean



## 2014 Peninsula Club End to End of the Beaver Valley Section - Bruce Trail Reference Ed 27

Moderate Terrain and Medium Pace

contact Susan Allen 519 534 5898 or susan\_allen@sympatico.ca

Date	Distance km	Start - End Points @ kms re: BT Reference Ed 27	Description of Meeting Location (end point of day's hike)	Hi-Lites of the Day
Tues Apr 29 9:45 am	13.8	0 - 13.8	Off Road Parking - west side of 6th Line - north of Grey Rd 119	Views of Nottawasaga Bay from top of Georgian Peaks Ski Club, Len Gertler Memorial Loree Forest, small inland flowerpot
Tues May 6 9:45 am	14.1	13.8 - 27.9	Parking Lot - 100 m south of where the main Trail crosses the 10th Line on the east side	Fields, streams, woodlot, historic Old Mail Road, summit of Metcalfe Rock with view of Mill Creek Valley, Metcalfe Crevice Side Trail
Tues May 13 9:45 am	14.2	27.9 - 42.1	Old Baldy Conservation Area - enter parking lot from Sideroad 78	Stream, fields, ravine, Pinnacle Rock, McCluskey's Rock
Tues May 20 9:45 am	14.1	42.1 - 56.2	Eugenia Falls Conservation Area	Excellent views, Old Baldy, Falling Water section, large dolostone blocks, hydro electric penstocks and surge towers, Eugenia Falls, Cuckoo Valley
Tues May 27 9:45 am	13.9	56.2 - 70.1	Johnston's Sideroad Parking Lot	Breathtaking views of the Beaver Valley from a "kame", upland meadow, stone ford over Rock Mills Creek, Hogg's Falls
Tues June 3 9:45 am	11.3	70.1-81.4	Off Road Parking - on Sideroad 7A, at the top of the hill, behind the ski lifts	Fields, hardwood forest, boardwalks, traverse long slope into farm land, pine plantation, sunken pioneer cart track, stone ford, reverting meadow full of wild fruit trees and long views down the valley
Tues June 10 9:45 am	11.6	81.4 - 93.0	John Muir Epping Lookout enter from the Eric Winkler Pkwy, 300 m north of 19 Sideroad	Hardwood forest with numerous crevices and interesting rock formations
Tues June 17 9:45 am	14.5	93.0 - 107.5	Roadside Parking on the shoulder of Euphrasia - St Vincent Townline	Historic Old Mail Road, Hart's Tongue Fern
Tues June 24 9:45 am	6.3	107.5 - 113.8	Blantyre - off road parking on the east side of Grey Road 12 just south of trail crossing	Crossing the height of land that separates the Beaver River Valley and the Bighead River Valley, walking fern, Anthea's Waterfall LUNCH AT THE WALTER'S FALLS INN

**2014 Peninsula Bruce Trail Club End-to-End  
Reference Bruce Trail Guide Edition 27 Contact: Nancy Ince 519-793-6550**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Meeting Points</b>	<b>Where to Meet</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>KM</b>	<b>Features</b>
Aug. 30, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 36-Point 22.9	North from Warton on County Rd. 9 then turn East on Purple Valley Road to stop sign. Turn North on Purple Valley Rd. to McIver Rd. Turn East on McIver Rd. to Boundary Rd. South on Boundary Rd. to curve with roadside parking at Crooked Toe Rd.	Medium Pace/ Strenuous Terrain	22.9	Spiral Staircase and the ruins of The Corran, great views of Colpoys Bay. We will see Whitcloud, Hay, and Griffith Islands.
Aug. 31, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 37 - Point 43.1	Follow County Road 9 to signs indicating Hope Bay. Turn East on Beech St. to Water St. Turn North on Water St. to the end. Large parking area on the left.	Medium Pace/ Strenuous Terrain	20.2	Hike through Cape Croker Campground with a very strenuous climb to the top of the Escarpment. Good views of Cape Croker and Sydney Bay.
Sept. 1, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 37 - Point 60.0	Follow County Road 9 then East on Scenic Caves Rd. Turn North onto Rush Cove Rd. come to a large parking area on your left.	Medium Pace/ Strenuous Terrain	16.9	Beautiful lookouts with an area of intriguing crevices, as well as an alvar.
Sept. 6, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 37 - Point 60.0	Meet at the Rush Cove Rd. parking area. We will carpool to Lion's Head. <b>We will be hiking north to south today.</b>	Medium Pace/ Strenuous Terrain	20.3	Glacial Potholes, Lion's Head Lookout, and McKay's Harbour.
Sept. 7, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 38 - Point 80.3	Meet at the McCurdy parking lot on Moore St. in Lion's Head. We will carpool to Point 98.1 on Cape Chin South Rd. <b>We will be hiking north to south today.</b>	Medium Pace/ Strenuous Terrain	17.8	Forest, Georgian Bay shoreline, and more lookouts over Georgian Bay.
Sept. 13, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 40 - Point 119.7	From Hwy. 6, turn East onto Dyers's Bay Rd. Turn North onto Crane Lake Rd. to Lindsay Rd. 40. Follow Lindsay Rd. 40 East to roadside parking area.	Medium Pace/ Very Strenuous Terrain	21.6	Excellent lookouts, forest, Devil's Monument, plus an abandoned quarry and an alvar.
Sept. 14, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 41 - Point 141.6	From Hwy. 6, turn East onto Emmett Lake Rd. Follow this road to Y, turn left on Halfway Dump Rd. and on to the end at large parking lot. National Park fees apply.	Medium Pace/ Very Strenuous Terrain	21.9	We will be entering Bruce Peninsula National Park at Crane Lake and be in area with no access to water for 7 km. Extremely rugged and remote landscape.
Sept. 20, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 42 - Point 158.6	From Hwy. 6, turn East onto Little Cove Rd. Come along Little Cove Rd. to parking area on your right.	Medium Pace/ Very Strenuous Terrain	17	The Grotto, Overhanging Point, Sinkhole Side Trail and beautiful lookouts along the way.
Sept. 21, 2014 8:30 a.m.	Map 42 - Point 166.0	Meet at the Tobermory Chamber of Commerce parking lot in Tobermory. This is on the East side of Hwy. 6 in Tobermory.	Medium Pace/ Very Strenuous Terrain	7.4 to Cairn	Forest, Georgian Bay shoreline, and our final destination - The Cairn in Tobermory.
<p><b>This will be a challenging End-to-End. The pace will be medium to brisk, and the terrain will be strenuous to very strenuous. Expect difficult footing and/or steep slopes on major portions of this section. There will be no checkpoints or dropout points along the way. Meeting time is 8:30 a.m. and we will carpool to the start point. As this is a Peninsula Bruce Trail Club fund raising event, we are asking for a donation of \$100.00. Our goal is to raise funds to prevent the loss of private lands currently for sale along the Bruce Trail's conservation corridor, and to protect and maintain in perpetuity the unique natural diversity of the Niagara Escarpment on behalf of everyone in Ontario. Upon completion, a Peninsula End-to-End Badge will be awarded. Please confirm that you are attending by emailing Nancy Ince at nancyince@gmail.com. Early accommodation reservations are recommended. Be aware that some hotels/motels, as well as some restaurants, in the Bruce Peninsula area close following Labour Day. No dogs please.</b></p>					

## Birding Hike - Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2014 **Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place and Directions:**

Municipal Parking Area at the top of Dyer's Bay Hill.

From Hwy. 6, turn East onto Dyer's Bay Road to the "T" junction stop sign.

Continue right on Dyer's Bay Road (paved). Stay on the paved road at the top of the hill.

A large sign will direct you to the Municipal Parking Lot on the left.

We will carpool from there.

**Duration:** Easy walking. This is a drive and walk tour of approximately 10km.

We will drive to 5 or 6 prime birding spots in the area, including Warder Ranch on Crane Lake Road. At each spot, we will park and walk slowly, looking for sightings. We then return to our cars and proceed to the next spot.

**We usually finish about 2:30 p.m.**

Bring clothing appropriate for the weather, good walking shoes, water, snacks, and lunch. We usually eat lunch at the Warder Ranch. Bring binoculars if you have them; scopes are welcome too!

**See you there!**

**Leaders: Ray and Marlene Rothenbury – 519-795-7483 or mrothenbury@gmail.com**

## Don't miss out!

\*Receive all the news from the Peninsula Club and the BTC

\*Notices, hike schedules, upcoming events, call for work parties are all sent out in Peninsula Club's enotes 'Rattling on'.

This is an occasional publication a few times a year in between Rattler Issues.

Here's how to sign up: Sign in to [www.Bruce Trail.org](http://www.Bruce Trail.org)

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## BRIAR'S BRUCE TRAIL ADVENTURES

Our golden retriever Briar has been hiking the Bruce Trail since she was six months old. As she closes in on the ripe old age of 13, I've been recalling her adventurous treks along the Peninsula Trails.

Briar owns a blue backpack purchased just for her. It has reflector stripes, expandable pockets and padded straps for comfort. While the pack was intended for dog biscuits, dog water, a collapsible bowl and perhaps a small towel, it became clear that she had no intention of traveling in style or of sharing the burden. Consequently, the biscuits, and the bowl were stuffed into my pack, also blue, and I had to share my water.

Although Briar's Bruce Trail Adventures have been many, there are three that stand out: The Steel Staircase, The Canine-Porcupine Shuffle and Pup as Park Greeter.

### The Steel Staircase

Most of the stiles and staircases erected to assist hikers in navigating steep cliffs and obstacles like fences are too high for Briar to manoeuvre. Because of this, I typically check the Trail Guide for any mention of them before venturing out with her. For one thing, I do not care to strangle myself on her leash; for another, 72 pounds of squirrely dog is far too much for me to carry.

Unfortunately, the day I took Briar for a hike to Cape Croker was not typical. At barely ten degrees, it was a blustery April day. The limestone boulders were greased up by several days of rain and spring run-off. After hiking the Jones Bluff loop, we passed the Cape Croker Camp office where a young native man greeted us and delivered a warning. "The cliffs are still very slippery so be careful," he said. "A man slipped and twisted his ankle the other day." I wasn't sure that I wanted to hear that exactly but Briar and I rambled on through several empty tent sites and onto the Snake Trail Boardwalk. At the end of the boardwalk, the planks emptied into a dense forest of pine and birch. It felt very primeval here. The wide trunks of several trees, completely uprooted and pitched onto the forest floor, were plastered with furry mosses and lichens. Remnants of holly and ostrich ferns hid among the rocks.

The climb up the escarpment seemed to baffle Briar. She retreated, gazed up at the tumble of boulders, glanced around, paused and finally pitched herself straight up. I watched her peering at me with crimped ears falling over her expectant, smiling face. "Now it's your turn!" she seemed to be saying. Needless to say, I did not leap but eventually I crawled up and we arrived at the bottom of a steel staircase. Now I was the baffled one. "Out!" I commanded as Briar placed her paw on the first rung. "Out!" Now I really wanted to climb that staircase, enticed by visions of a spectacular lookout above. As Briar wandered off to explore tombstone-shaped monuments chiseled into the limestone cliff base, I decided to go for it, bounding up the rungs. Hesitating, I took a glance back – no dog. Completing the ascent I turned around and there, less than ten rungs from the top was Briar, frozen to the spot. She was crouched down with one of her hind legs trembling on the narrow step, the other dangling in mid-air between the rungs. She was whimpering and couldn't seem to mobilize her body at all.

A bolt of fear crackled through me but I knew I had to act quickly and I knew I had no choice but to encourage her to turn around and climb back down the staircase. I decided to act as if I was very brave



*cont'd from page 14*

and very capable erasing an immediate image of toppling headfirst together down the escarpment. I attached the leash to her collar and leaned over to place her dangling paw on the top of what looked to me then like an endless stack of spokes. Somehow I got her large body turned around, my heart pounding. Moving down two steps I leaned back adjusted my own weight and acted as if I was going to head down. It worked! She pulled her head out of the space between the stairs and shifted herself ever so slightly. I pulled back on the leash to compensate for the forward thrust and we headed down in slow motion, rung by rung. I was both shocked and touched by the how much Briar trusted me as I raised her front paws and put them down on the step below. Five steps from the base of the ladder, I knew that we were going to make it. At the bottom of the staircase, I sank down to the ground with my arm around Briar. She was panting heavily; her ears laid back and her mouth open. She lay down for a nano-second, then popped back up, grinning and all gung-ho. It occurred to me then that dogs are not only forgiving, they don't brood. They don't remorse about the past and they don't worry about the future. Briar knows how to let go and live in the moment. And another thing – sometimes I think of that journey down the steel staircase and suspect that we were not alone.

### **The Canine-Porcupine Shuffle**

I happened on the Whippoorwill Side Trail where the path crosses a bucolic meadow and proceeds along a farm road parallel to a lush stream. Briar trotted on ahead, assuming the task of trail master with her nose to the ground. She was a dog on the job but always returning to check up on her apprentice. If I hiked fifteen kilometres, Briar hiked at least thirty. One distinct disadvantage to playing second fiddle to canine hiking companions is their propensity for rolling in carcasses and dung. When the fetid odour comes wafting back it seems only fair that I go first. Still there is something endearing about the way she keeps an eye on me.

Most golden retrievers love to play – with humans, with other dogs, with tennis balls. They are good-natured buddies and assume that everyone wants to be their friend too. On the day in question, as we

headed up to the Forty Hills Briar suddenly stopped, her tail wagging furiously. I had the leash in my hand about to secure it. But I was too late - Briar bounded off into the tall grasses and by the time I reached her, she was standing face to face with a fresh ball of quills. She peered at me from under those golden lashes as if to say, "Look, mommy, something to play with!" Ears perked and tail at attention, she started to dance, a cross between the Polka and the Macarena. Apparently the porcupine did not want to play – after a brief shuffle to the right, it stood its ground.

Though she showed no signs of aggression, neither barking nor growling, Briar made a forward lunge and I became a screaming banshee leaping in from the left, jumping up and down, flailing my arms, and swinging that leash around like a lasso. It must have been a spectacle – a crazed woman having a fit in the middle of the bush. It's a wonder the poor porcupine didn't go into cardiac arrest.

My antics had zero effect. The assault took place very quickly. Briar was body-pierced by a porcupine. A shocked yelp and she was by my side, with about a dozen quills sticking out of her snout and several piercing her paws. After a ten-second survey of my options – hike back to the car and head for the vet or barrel on hoping I run into someone (The dog has quills in her in her paws – what are you going to do, carry her?), I opted for a third. I grabbed her by the collar, attached the leash, tied it to a tree well back of the dance floor and proceeded to pull those stingers out by hand. It must have been a young porcupine. No pliers required (and I didn't have a pair anyhow), I slid my thumb and pointer finger down the quill, grabbed the weapon and gave it a swift yank. I completed the process at least twelve times. Nose done, the paws followed.

Surprisingly, Briar did not budge. She trusted me implicitly and as soon as I released her, the porcupine having ambled away, she headed for the Forty Hills on a mad dash to outwit the multitude of pesky mosquitoes swelling up from the damp wetland. Briar was only six years old then and she has never tried to play with a porcupine since.

*Briar's Adventures - Pup as Park Greeter  
cont'd on page 19*

## FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SYDENHAM BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

In the 1960s, when the Bruce Trail was being created on the ground, two special characteristics defined its identity. Firstly, it was organized not at a central level but in local areas in a series of clubs through which individual members could make their own contributions to their community. Secondly, the work was completed not by paid employees but by volunteers who gave of their time because of a commitment to the concept of a hiking trail by which the uniqueness of the Niagara Escarpment could be publicized and shared with the people of Ontario.

Right from the outset came the realization that volunteers from the larger clubs would have to be of assistance to those located in less-populated areas.

For example, in 1972 the Caledon Hills Club began its annual spring work weekend in the Bruce Peninsula to assist the Lion's Head Club. In 1978, when the local group had shrunk to one active member, Caledon Hills adopted the local functions of this club.

This assistance to the north continued in the 1980s when four southern clubs took on trail maintenance responsibilities for the entire Bruce Peninsula.

During this time some major trail improvements were made, such as the loop around Gun Point. Even when the local Peninsula Club was resurrected, many volunteers from the south continued as trail captains.

This year a neighbouring club is seeking similar assistance. Sydenham is one of our smallest clubs in terms of membership, but its length of Main Trail is the greatest of all clubs. Under the leadership of their Trail Director, Ron Savage, they have an active trail development team for building new Trail (as demonstrated by their frequent winning of the Tom East Award over the past decade.)

What they lack however is the number of volunteers for

trail captain positions, required to keep all of their main and side trails in excellent condition.

On the weekend of May 31 and June 1, 2014, volunteer trail workers from across the BTC will tackle this situation. They will be organized into work groups under an experienced leader, and each group will handle a specific section.

"Rookies" are most welcome. We also plan an optional Saturday evening celebratory dinner at a unique local restaurant, and for those interested, free camping will be available. We hope that most volunteers will stay for two days, but if that is not possible, you are welcome to join us for one.

We ask that all volunteers register in advance (so that efficient work teams can be organized). Simply email the volunteer coordinator for this project:

**Ross McLean**

**519-821-0243**

**[jmclean@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jmclean@uoguelph.ca)**

**...or call or email if you have any questions.**

In mid-May, all participants will be given information as to meeting place and time, their leader, team responsibilities and necessary tools (if you have them).

We hope you can join us on the Trail for this weekend in order to help us achieve the quality of Trail we all wish. I look forward to hearing from you.

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The Board for 2014-15 requires the following positions:

- a) Recording Secretary
- b) Assistant Sales Director

The Club also requires:

- a) Trail Captains
- b) Trail Work Party Volunteers

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**Suddenly at his residence Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
Ron Smith of Wiarton in his 82nd year.**

"It was with great sadness that the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club learned of Ron's passing. Ron was a valued Trail Captain for our club. We are able to maintain the 160 km of main trail and 106 km of side trail only through the work performed by our trail captain volunteers. Twice a year, they visit their section to refresh blazes and trim back branches. However, Ron took these responsibilities one step further. He literally lived on his section, half way between Wiarton Willie and the stairs to the Corran. Ron's proximity meant being a Trail Captain was personal. When people visit the Bluewater Park, Ron's section is often where they hike the Peninsula Bruce Trail for the first time and Ron made sure they saw it at its best. Without fanfare Ron picked up litter, opened up parking spaces, cleared the access point of snow and the treadway of trees blown down in the wind. The quiet ownership, hard work and deep concern Ron showed was recognized and appreciated. He will be remembered fondly."

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## KENYA

July 6 to 18, 2014

Have you always wanted to go on a safari but can't see yourself sitting in a jeep all day long, day after day? For active travellers like ourselves, a **walking** safari is the perfect way to get to know Kenya - it really lets us get up close & personal with the animals - and there are A LOT of animals to be seen. Plus in addition to the wildlife, there is the natural beauty of the land and the proud heritage of its tribes; we have included many little extras as part of our program so that you will have a complete Kenyan experience.

As animal lovers, walking amongst giraffes and zebras is a big draw but we felt that the trip should encompass the culture as well. So we added a lecture by the tour owner (who is from the Kikuyu tribe), a visit to a weaving cooperative, visits to Masai homesteads, a visit to a local elementary school, a visit to a local market (not a tourist market but a regular market where locals would shop), and a tour of a tea plantation.

Our safari takes you to 3 different parts of the country, each with its own very comfortable accommodations, ranging from cottage-type rooms at the Aberdares Country Club to a luxury tented camp in the Masai Mara. Most interesting is the night we spend at The Ark. The Ark is a unique hotel deep in the Aberdares NP & it was designed for game viewing. Its large windows overlook a floodlit watering hole which gives us the opportunity to have the animals come to us instead of the other way around. Some guests stay up all night watching the elephants, buffalo and hyenas outside their bedroom windows.

We are very proud of the program we have put together and this trip has easily become one of our favourites of the year. Take **a walk on the wild side** with us this July. Oh and in case you were wondering, July is one of the coolest months of the year in Kenya!

## Pup as Park Greeter

In her boundless enthusiasm for hiking, Briar seems to fancy herself as a sort of Bruce Trail Tour Guide. This was supremely evident during her Crane Lake adventure and it began as soon as we arrived at the gateway to the Bruce Peninsula National Park. While most of our treks were devoid of human encounters, we arrived to discover three vehicles already stationed there. A foursome of 20-somethings had just arrived. The trunk and all four doors of their SUV flung open, they were spreading their gear on the ground to organize it for the hike. As soon as I opened the back door to my car, leash in hand, Briar bolted over and leapt into their back seat where she proceeded to make herself comfortable. Luckily, she was not covered in black muck or green bog slime. She then jumped out of the car and began to bolt in circles, in and out of the trees around the parking area. It was as if some force inside her had increased to a level she could no longer tolerate and it erupted, propelling her forward like a racehorse shooting out of the gate. It occurred to me that maybe she too felt exasperated by city life, the many hours on a tether touring concrete sidewalks and the many days waiting for the fence in the back yard to fall down.

Of course, her antics elicited laughs from the onlookers and she took complete advantage of this. Deaf to my commands, she began to perform the "lean and lament" where she ran up to each human, stood sideways, and leaned her entire body up against their legs. Tilting her head upward, she emitted the most pathetic lamentations, a cross between a moan and a suppressed wail. These dramatic gestures, something akin to a dog embrace, resulted in sympathetic coos and caresses. Briar has no shame – she has learned to elicit these responses from almost any human being, acquaintance or complete stranger.

I finally got her attention and we proceeded through the low-lying, rich wetlands - a subterranean-like topography dotted with puddles and organic mud. Briar waded right through, flinging herself into and out of the marl deposits. At times she flashed me a look of utter astonishment as she sunk in past her haunches. Despite the fact that she now sported hip waders of the caked muck variety, she pushed on. It wasn't long before I spied small groups of sauntering

teenagers returning from a trek to High Dump. The irony of the "SLOW" signs erected by the Snowmobile Association was not lost on me.

Now in an ideal world, when you beckon a dog to "Come!" or "Front!" your dear pet stops what he or she is doing and races to your side. On the contrary, Briar typically operates according to the principle of delayed obedience. When I call her, she gets suspicious. Why is there something you don't want me to see around here? Another dog perhaps or a human or something to eat? She looks behind her, then to the right, then to the left, ears and nose on high alert. Only when she is firmly convinced that there is nothing more interesting going on does she respond.

Well, those teens were exhausted and disheveled. They were barely moving and didn't have a chance. Briar saw this and immediately engaged in her pup as park greeter role. Repeating the lean and lament, she plastered their bare legs with mud, tattooing their skin with black paw prints. I was surprised at their response. With only one exception, they smiled. Several patted her head and rubbed her ears, delighted with her enthusiastic greeting.

At the end of the day, I opened the back door to my car and Briar leapt onto her blanketed throne in the back seat where she proceeded to preen herself, tearing off bits of mud-encrusted fur and spitting them onto the floor. Has she challenged me? Yes. But Briar will be 13 next May. As demonstrated this summer, she no longer has the strength to navigate boulders or hike long distances. We have experienced many Bruce Trail adventures together and I will miss my favourite hiking companion.

*Kathy Berg*

*November 12, 2013.*

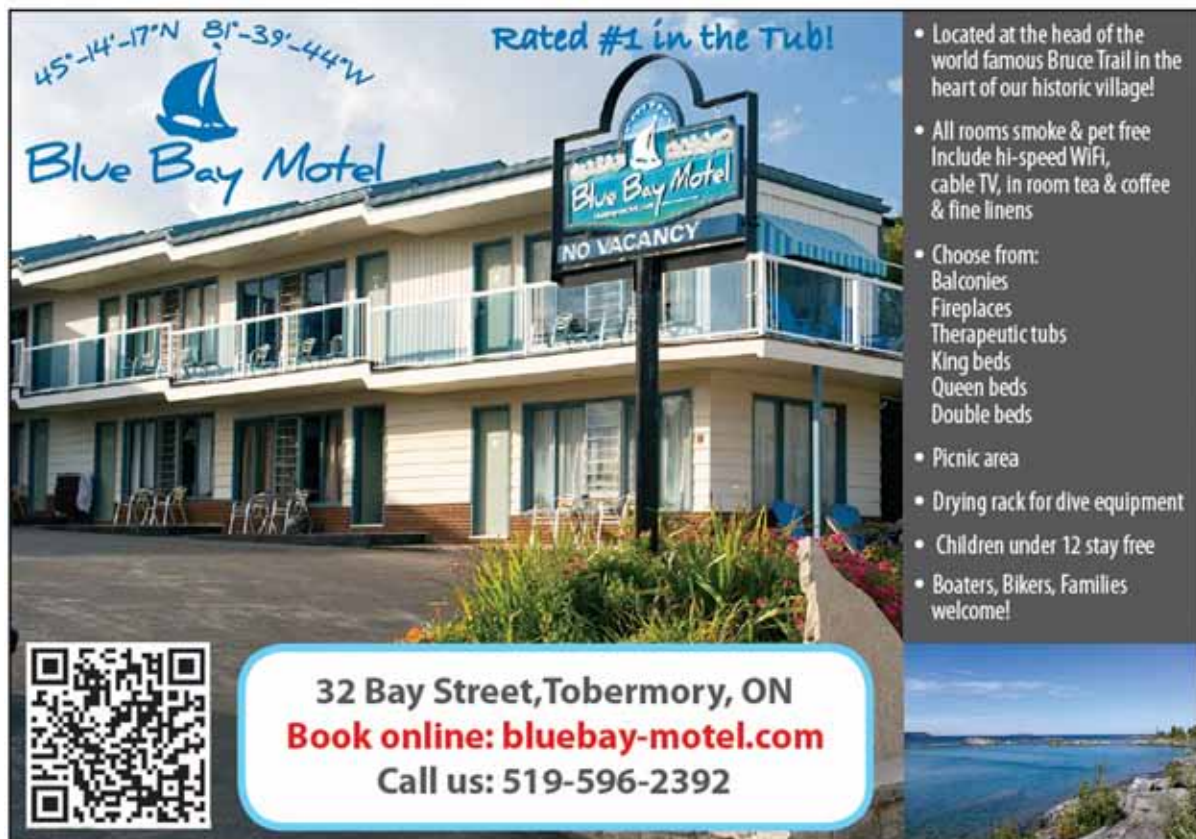


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