

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #1 2019

Although it is winter and most of the field work by our volunteers has stopped, we still plan. This year will provide exciting new trail reroutes that will knock your boots off! The first is at Dunks Bay where a 100 meter reroute to the edge of the lake has unveiled a marvelous geological formation.

The purchase of nearly 400 acres of forest at Barrow Bay will complete the dream of taking about 7 km of trail off roads. No more hour-long treks down County Road 9! This land will provide the connection to BTC lands along the shore and down to Cape Dundas -

a days' worth of hiking in a near wilderness environment. This reroute will take place during the spring and summer and a great deal of trail enhancement will occur. You can be a part of history and help the work parties. Contact Tom Hall at trailreportsbptc@gmail.com about the schedule; a lot of the work should be on Spruce Up the Bruce day (SUTB). You can help to secure the land by donating to the campaign for Barrow Bay Cliffs Nature Reserve (you can donate online at <https://brucetrail.org/donations/donate> by clicking on Barrow Bay Cliffs & Kemble Ridge Nature Reserves).

Speaking of SUTB, it's May 11 and it returns to Miller Lake – thanks to Summer House for hosting us again! See the announcements and plan on clearing trail in the morning and then joining us for a pot luck dinner (we provide the hamburgers and sausages) followed by our Annual Meeting.

One of the results of our planning is our involvement in the Bruce Trail Conservancy common hike database. This service will roll out this year and it will provide hikers with information on the location of the leader-lead hikes provided by all the participating Clubs. This database, combined with the resources provided on our web site (www.pbtc.ca) like E2E suggestions, map sources and/or the Loop Guide should allow hikers to experience the spectacular Bruce Peninsula trail. Hike Leaders and a Hike Coordinator are required this year. Please contact me if you feel you would like to volunteer for either of these activities.

With the acquisition of the forest at Barrow Bay, our stewardship responsibility increases 10% to 70 properties, 37 parcels, 44 Land Stewards and 4,023 acres. Your membership supports the creation of management plans and the ongoing inspection of all these lands. Thank you and please continue to support our Club as it manages conserved lands and provides an exciting trail which allows people to experience this magnificent land.



White Bluff by Suzanne Dyke
[Http://Suzanne-Dyke.wix.com/portfolio](http://Suzanne-Dyke.wix.com/portfolio)

Walter Brewer
President PBTC

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pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

"August 7, 2019"

Rattler Advertising Rates:

| | Per issue: | Yearly: |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | | (3 issues) |
| Business card: | \$25 | \$65 |
| 1/4 page: | \$55 | \$150 |
| 1/2 page: | \$85 | \$240 |
| Full Page: | \$140 | \$390 |
| Back Half Page: | \$110 | \$310 |

Contact: Barbara Reuber

Email: pbtcadvertising@gmail.com

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*** * Sign Up * ***

For The Rattler Online

Why get the Rattler by email?

Rising Canada Post rates — help save our Club mailing costs

- save paper and reduce your carbon footprint
- get your Rattler days before your friends get their print version
- get full colour pictures
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Introducing Barrow Bay Cliffs



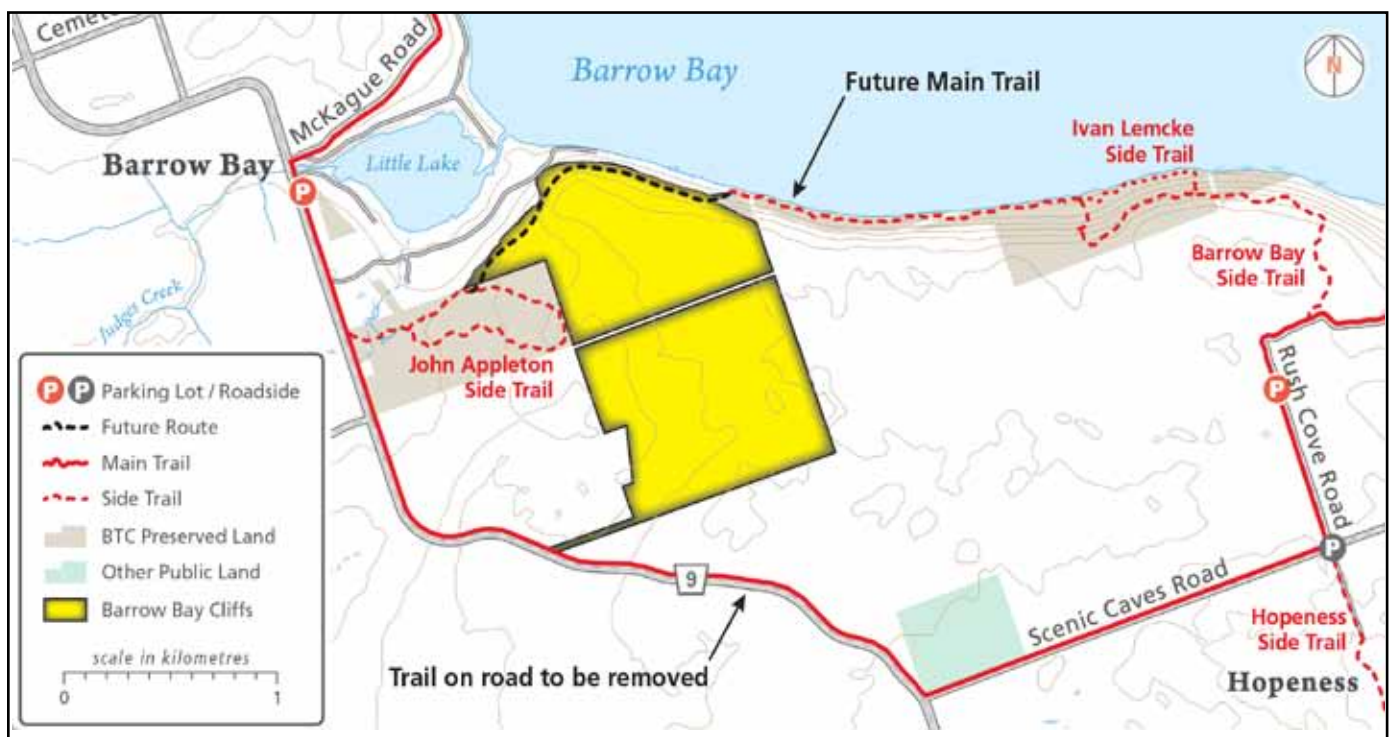
We are pleased to announce an exciting new property acquisition: 370 acres along the cliff tops of Barrow Bay south shore. Along with previous purchases, this property is key to removing 7 km of trail from area roads. Assuming a successful fundraising campaign, the transaction will close in March 2019. Trail Development Director John Grandy will then be busy finalizing the route, and organizing work parties to clear and blaze this new trail. A small structure will also be required.

I hope that we can count on your support both financially and in the opening of this new trail.

Contact the Bruce Trail Conservancy at <https://brucetrail.org/donations/donate> to donate for “Barrow Bay Cliffs.”

Watch for work party details on the Peninsula Club website at www.PBTC.ca.

John Whitworth - February 2019



LAND STEWARDSHIP – HELP WANTED

It is winter and usually a quiet time for the Peninsula Club's Land Stewardship team but this year is not exactly the norm. Perhaps you could call this Stewardship Climate Change! In any event, a number of exciting land acquisitions are in the works and could potentially happen this spring and summer. Unfortunately my list of potential Land Stewards has decreased to almost zero so I am putting out a call for help. Hopefully the following will give you some idea of what land stewardship is all about.

What is Land Stewardship anyway?

Over the course of time BTC and its partners have acquired over 4,000 acres of property on the Bruce Peninsula north of Wiarton. And that number is growing rapidly. The acquisition of these properties brings some ownership and management responsibilities to the Conservancy that are above and beyond the normal building and maintenance of trails. These responsibilities become the role of a Land Steward.

What does a Land Steward do?

When a property is acquired the BTC ecologists complete a detailed property plan which includes anything worth knowing about the property. This plan will include purchase information, maps, flora, fauna, invasive species, geology and recommendations on any work that might be needed on the property. The Land Steward is responsible for monitoring the property keeping in mind the recommendations in the property plan and correcting small issues such as picking up garbage, looking for encroachments and completing a verbal or email report in the spring and an online report in the fall. Each report is meant to confirm that you have been to the property at least twice each year, have dealt with whatever small issues you found and have enlisted help from the Land Stewardship Director to tackle projects you cannot handle alone. And while the trail is a handy way to see some of your property you will probably need to go off trail to explore it in any detail.

What expertise is a Land Steward expected to have?

If you can read and write, have at least one eye and/or one ear and can walk, you are qualified to be a Land Steward. You are essentially a caretaker for the property and need to be able to report on what you see and/

or hear. If you have an interest in plants or birds or geology then that's a bonus but the bottom line is you just need to be able to report on interesting stuff (good or bad) you observe on your property.

What types of issues am I likely to encounter?

The most common types of problems have to do with encroachments onto the property. You may find garbage or yard waste dumped by the neighbours, ATV tracks, logging of trees, trees debarked, fire pits etc. Occasionally you may encounter folks in the act of abusing the property. If you are comfortable approaching them, then do so politely but DO NOT put yourself in any danger. Photos, license plate number and a good written description of the problem and its exact location are enough for the Land Stewardship Director to initiate some action including obtaining appropriate signage and tracking down neighbours through municipal records.

Is stewardship simply about tracking problems?

Absolutely not! In fact the vast majority of your visits will be for a wonderful walk in the woods and meadows of your property listening to the birds, stealthily approaching wildlife such as fox, deer, porcupines, coyotes, beavers, and looking at the trees and plants. Some orchids and ferns exist nowhere else in Ontario other than on our very own Peninsula. It is also worth noting that scientists are now proving that communing with nature is a great benefit to an individual's mental and physical health.

I don't live on the Bruce Peninsula.

Can I still be a Land Steward?

In a word "YES". As long as you are prepared to spend a few hours twice a year, generally in the late spring and early fall, then you should have no problem fulfilling the expectations of the job.

So what are you waiting for?

Why aren't you a Land Steward already?

If you want to explore this further please contact me:

By phone (519) 793-3286

Or by email robhcunningham@gmail.com

Bob Cunningham

PBTC Land Stewardship Director.

Presenting the new Peninsula Club Rack Card

Working on the new rack card was great fun and distraction during this stormy winter.

The pictures on the front highlight that hiking is an adventure not just in summer, but in every season.

The back of the card focuses on the fragility of the Peninsula's fauna and flora, as well as on the importance of donations, memberships, and volunteering.

The blazes and symbols are a basic introduction to hiking on the Bruce Trail for people who are new to it.

Grant Ehrhardt and Susan Allen gave much-appreciated input, and Jan Mackie's generously given time and expertise pulled it all together in this beautiful layout.

Thanks to all!

Submitted by Ulla Conrad



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
Peninsula Club

Rugged and fragile; stark and beautiful;
remote and inviting – the Peninsula trail



www.pbtc.ca

www.brucetrail.org

Join the Peninsula Club and experience the Niagara Escarpment's rugged beauty and spectacular lookouts, cobble beaches, wetlands, globally rare alvars, ancient cedars, and a variety of plant and animal species, some of which are declining in numbers, or endangered.

Help protect this ribbon of wilderness by considering donating, volunteering, or becoming a member. Your membership fee counts as a charitable donation.

Memberships, donations, and sales of maps largely fund the Bruce Trail. Volunteers work as trail captains and land stewards to preserve the future of this conservation corridor.

To ensure a positive hiking experience, please **come prepared**.

*Consult maps *Follow the blazed trail.

*Wear sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate clothing,
*Bring food and water.

For Hiker's Code of Conduct, visit www.brucetrail.org

Follow the Blazes

MAIN TRAIL BLAZES



SIDE TRAIL BLAZES



Using the Trail



Camp only at designated campsites. See brucetrail.org or Bruce Trail Reference Guide for listings





President's Choice Loop Hike Boundary Bluffs

Beaver Baffle, Ancient Cedars, Daffodils, Panoramic View

I experienced this trail in the spring with the Trail Captain John Grandy and again in the fall and was impressed with the beauty, variety and exercise all packed into a less than two-hour, 5 kilometer loop. It is written up in the BTC Reference Hike Guide 28 (pg 36-2) as strenuous with glorious views from the bottom and top of the escarpment. Now that should alert you that it is not just a walk on the edge of field, but also a great work out which, of course, rewards the hiker with panoramic views.

What appeals to me (other than the bear noted in the guide) is the display of daffodils in spring and the colourful view over Sydney Bay and Purple Valley in the fall. As we learned in the Settlement Hike at the Tobermory Festival, sometimes the only evidence of pioneer settlements are the plants and shrubs that continue to thrive. Try to see the field full of yellow this spring. Starting from the Pitt SR parking lot continue down the hill to the beaver pond where you will notice a Beaver Baffle. This is a water management program of our stewardship team intended to stop the extension of the trail flooding from the dam. Basically a culvert and a secure inlet, it has kept the flood in check in past years.

The gentle ascent of the escarpment takes you past an information station that points out the ancient cedars, with a little scrambling you are on top – feast on the view! Hook up with the Hart's Tongue ST and then the Main trail down a sturdy steel staircase and then a slippery-when-wet descent to the Cape Croker Park where you will find the Boundary Bluffs ST trailhead that takes you back around the field with a great view of what you accomplished.

We would like to share your ideas of a great hike. Please send in a write up and we will feature it in the President's Choice section (I get to choose – so it's my choice).

*Thanks and have fun.
Walter*



Beaver Baffle on Pond on Boundary Bluffs Hike

Field of Daffodils on Boundary Bluffs Hike



BRUCE TRAIL on the BRUCE PENINSULA

This is the new name of the former 'FAVOURITE LOOP HIKES' booklet.

The latest edition is expanded to 24-pages, with 7 full-coloured maps covering all trails from Wiarton to Tobermory.

As a guide for both seasoned hikers and tourist visitors alike, it features 25 popular LOOP HIKES up to the National Park boundary.

Each LOOP HIKE is briefly described and indicates access point, length, and difficulty rating.

Double Map 7 depicts the trails in the National Park and provides important information and advisories for Park visitors, including safety, parking, booking, and fees.

As with the previous edition, the booklets include the following:

- * Emergency phone numbers
- * Safety tips
- * Trail Users' Code
- * Contact info for BTC and PBTC

BRUCE TRAIL on the BRUCE PENINSULA will be available late spring 2019, at a dozen outlets on the Peninsula

Cape Croker Boardwalk Hike and Draw

Wednesday, May 8, 2019



Rain date: weather dependent

Meeting Place:

Meet at the entrance to the Cape Croker, Chippewas of Nawash First Nation 27 Park.

Bruce Trail Maps: Cape Croker km 31.8, Main Trail.

Address for your GPS: 112 Park Rd, Warton, ON N0H 2T0.

Google Maps Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/T3miyt38vFL2>

We will park in Cape Croker at the base of the escarpment. The park is off season, so in the past fees have been waived.

Time: 10:00 am to about 3:00 pm. Please meet between 9:30 am and 9:45 am.

Distance: About 4 km.

Description: The walking will be easy as the terrain is reasonably flat. We will be walking and sketching in the Cape Croker Park off park roads and exploring the reconstructed boardwalk along the shore of Sydney Bay, ending at the base of the escarpment. If time and energy permit, there is an option to check out the wild daffodils that grow on the slopes of the nearby Boundary Bluff property, at the end of the formal trek.

Participants are asked to bring their own art materials, whether it be drawing or painting. A small cushion or a folding stool to sit on is vital. No drawing experience is required, just a willingness to put pencil or pen or brush to paper, or bring your camera. This is mostly non-instructional but if you wish, we will provide drawing starters and will support any and all drawing efforts. This event is designed to encourage the development of great observation skills as well as providing a leisurely walk on the Peninsula Bruce Trail.

Participants are asked to preregister for this hike.

Contact Kristina at hikerKristina@yahoo.ca

or the Hike and Draw page on my website:

www.kristinamaus.com

or Julie at heinrichsjulie@gmail.com



Bridget and Doug's Spring 2019 Peninsula Hike Series

Join us for seven (7) days starting on May 4 and ending on June 16.

Hike dates are May 4, 5, 18, 19 and 20 (Victoria Day) and June 15 and 16.
The series will hike from Wiarton to High Dump.

This is a very challenging end-to-end suitable for experienced hikers.
The "Degree of Difficulty" is strenuous.

You should be able to hike 20kms in all weather conditions.

Expect difficult / rocky / slippery footing and steep climbs on some portions of this section.
Bring lunch and water and dress for the weather.

You are expected to participate in the car shuttle and hike with the group.
Do not bring dogs.

Please be aware that some hotels/motels/campgrounds as well as some restaurants in
the Bruce Peninsula area may not be open before the Victoria Day weekend.

It is best to make your accommodation arrangements early.

Register soon to Bridget at peninsulae2e@gmail.com.

This is a small group hike, numbers are limited.

If you have to cancel your spot, please let me know promptly so another hiker can take it.
When your registration is confirmed, you will receive the hike schedule and meeting times.
Map directions and meeting locations are taken from the Bruce Trail Reference Edition 28.

All GPS references are current.

Approximate hikes are:

Day 1: Jones and Sydney Bluffs

Day 2: Purple Valley

Day 3: Hope Bay Forest and Rush Cove

Day 4: Barrow Bay and Lions Head

Day 5: Cape Chin

Day 6: High Dump

Day 7: Dyer's Bay



Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration and signing in.





EASY NATURE RAMBLES with the Peninsula Club

2019 SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL



| DATE | TIME | NAME WHERE TO MEET | DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY | LENGTH | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------------|----------|---|----------------------------|--------|---|
| Tuesday May 7 | 11:00 AM | Hope Bay Nature Reserve From County Rd 9, turn east on Hopeness Rd and south on Cathedral Rd. Go to end. | Easy | 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 Toothwort, False Mitrewort, Squirrel Corn, Dutchman's Breechs and Virginia Waterleaf in abundance. contact Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407 |
| Tuesday June 4 | 10:00 AM | FON Alvar and Crane River Parking on west side of Hwy 6, just north of Dyer's Bay Rd. | Easy | 2 km | The alvar features rare Lakeside Daisies, Dwarf Lake Iris, Polygala, Seneca Snakeroot and Starry False Solomon's Seal. At the Crane River rest stop there are Nodding Trilliums, Bulbet and Maidenhair Spleenwort Ferns. contact Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407 |
| Tuesday July 2 | 10:00 AM | Cemetery Road and Petrel Point Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery, east from Hwy 6 on Cemetery Rd. | Easy | 2 km | Our first stop is the ANSI-protected cemetery bog where we will be treated to a display of Showy Lady Slippers. On to Petrel Point where Round-leaved and Slender-leaved Sundew, Bog Orchid, Lobelia, Loesel's Twayblade, Cotton Grass, Indian Plantain, Rue and Sweetgale can be observed from the boardwalk. contact Mike Marshall 519 596 8290 |
| Tuesday July 16 | 10:00 AM | Singing Sands Amble Parking lot at Singing Sands National Park, Dorcas Bay Road, west from Hwy 6 Paid Parking in place | Easy | 3 km | While walking the boardwalk we will see a profusion of Pitcher Plants, also Sticky Tofieldia, Lobelia and possibly Rose Pagonia, Grass Pinks and Spotted Coral Root. Then along the woody walkway there are Hill's Thistle, Pipsissewa, and Purple Fringed Orchid. Returning along Lake Huron we may see Calamint, Sundews, Bladderwort and Butterwort. contact Mike Marshall 519 596 8290 |
| Tuesday August 6 | 10:00 AM | White Bluff Nature Reserve From Hwy 6 turn east on Lindsay Rd 5, north on East Rd, east on Cape Chin Rd South. At first T-junctions turn left and at the 2nd junction turn right | Easy | 4 km | A pleasant loop out along an old logging road and returning by the scenic Georgian Bay shore. On our way back we should see Rattlesnake Plantain, Indian Pipe, Spotted Knapweed and Star Thistle. contact Elaine Wasserman 519 795 7407 |



UNIFIED HIKE LISTING

Exciting news for the 2019 hiking season!
The nine clubs of the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be combining their hiking schedules in a Unified Hike Listing.

This innovative, online calendar will share hike information which can be searched by BTC club, date, and keys words relating to leader, distance, difficulty and destination.

Using this exciting tool, hikers can do one stop shopping across the entire Trail.

Information will follow on Facebook and the website in the spring.



Peninsula End to End Hike

series needs YOU at a half way check point
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
TO DISTRIBUTE WATER AND SNACKS
AND CHEER ON THE PARTICIPANTS

Friday, May 31
Cape Croker Camp entrance
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Saturday, June 1
End of Crawford Road in Purple Valley
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday, June 2
End of McKague Road, Barrow Bay
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Monday, June 3
Jackson's Cove
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT pbtcpenpal@gmail.com

Birding Hike – Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019, Time 9:00 a.m.



Painting by Laura Banks

Wow, this winter on the Bruce has been wild. We were softened up by a mild December but since then the roads seem to have been closed more than they have been open and event cancellations have become the norm.

However, we are guessing things might improve in time for the birds to decide to move north in May.

*So please reserve May 22, 2019
as our day to welcome them back.*

The details for our annual birding hike have not changed from past years but here is a refresher:

Meeting Place: Municipal parking area at the top of Dyer's Bay hill. From highway 6 turn east onto Dyer's Bay Road. Stay on paved road towards Dyer's Bay and at the top of the hill a large sign will direct you to the municipal parking area on left. We will carpool from there.

Duration: Easy Walking. This is a drive, stop and walk tour of approximately 10 km. We plan to visit 5 or 6 prime birding spots in the area and expect to finish about 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. although it is perfectly acceptable to leave early if you have better things to do. To limit the number of cars we will carpool as much as possible.

Bring clothing appropriate for the weather (no rain date is scheduled), good walking shoes or boots, water, snacks and lunch. We will eat lunch at the Warder Ranch. Binoculars, scopes, cameras and your favourite field guide are helpful and welcome.

Please note, you do not need to reserve a spot
- just showing up at the allotted time and place is good enough to qualify.

If you have any questions please contact Anita or Bob Cunningham at (519) 793-3286
or robhcunningham@gmail.com.

Enjoy the rest of your winter!

Anita and Bob

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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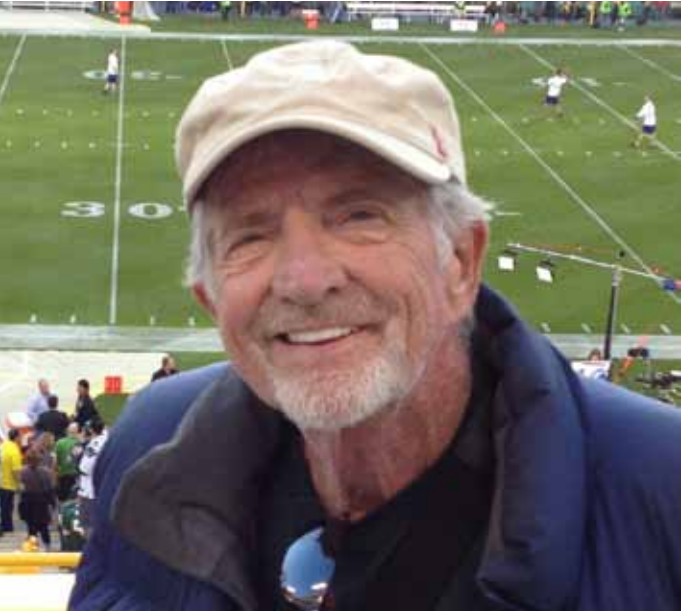
FOBBA
Inspected & Rated

Remembering Jim Lombard

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is lucky to have many members and volunteers who are long-standing contributors to the life on the peninsula. It is with great sadness that we reflect on the passing of one such member, Jim Lombard.

Jim moved to Miller Lake in 1971 to help his wife Sharon and in-laws operate the family business, Summer House Park. Jim dedicated over forty years of his life as owner and operator of Summer House Park, building a destination that provided wonderful memories for generations of families.

Jim and Sharon loved hiking the trail in the fall after the busy summer season was over. Summer House Park is a special place for members of the Peninsula Club as it hosts our Spruce Up the Bruce celebration and Annual General Meeting. Summer House Park has always been a favorite lunch stop for the Stew Crew, our intrepid team of Land Stewardship volunteers, who remember Jim greeting them with a big smile and a friendly welcome.



The PBTC extends its sincere condolences to Jim's wife Sharon and his daughter, our own Darci Lombard. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and members of the Peninsula Club.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank You Trail Angel Volunteers!

For the past two years, the PBTC has offered a Trail Angel service to help hikers without transportation get to the trails. Unfortunately, the service is not continuing this year but we want to extend a great thank you to Coordinator Laura Browne, and all the dedicated drivers, who received no remuneration for time or fuel, primarily Laura Browne, Kathy Burns, Pete Elliot, Grant Erhardt, Marg & Owen Glendon, Tom Hall, Lloyd & Mary Hayward, and Steve Jones. The sum of \$6,000.00 from Trail Angel donations will be forwarded from PBTC to BTC for the Tyas land acquisition and associated costs.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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Krafla Volcanic Region, Iceland

Why ICELAND is a MUST in 2019

Viking explorers got it right – Iceland is truly a spectacular place to visit! Although we didn't discover this amazing destination as early as the Vikings did, we can tell you that since 2006 it has been one of our most popular trips!

1. **IT'S BEAUTIFUL** – We cannot stress enough how gorgeous the hiking is here. Our program offers such a variety of sights and experiences, from majestic waterfalls and geysers, to snow-capped mountains and soothing thermal pools.

2. **IT'S UNSPOILED** – Tourism is booming, but for the most part, we have the trails all to ourselves! That's because we get off the beaten path and get into areas that bus tours do not venture to.

#3. **IT'S SAFE** – Iceland is considered one of the safest countries in the world. You can walk around Reykjavik in the middle of the night – which is actually pretty cool because we visit during the midnight sun – and feel completely safe. To emphasize – it's not uncommon to see mothers leaving babies in strollers outside a store, while they go in to shop!

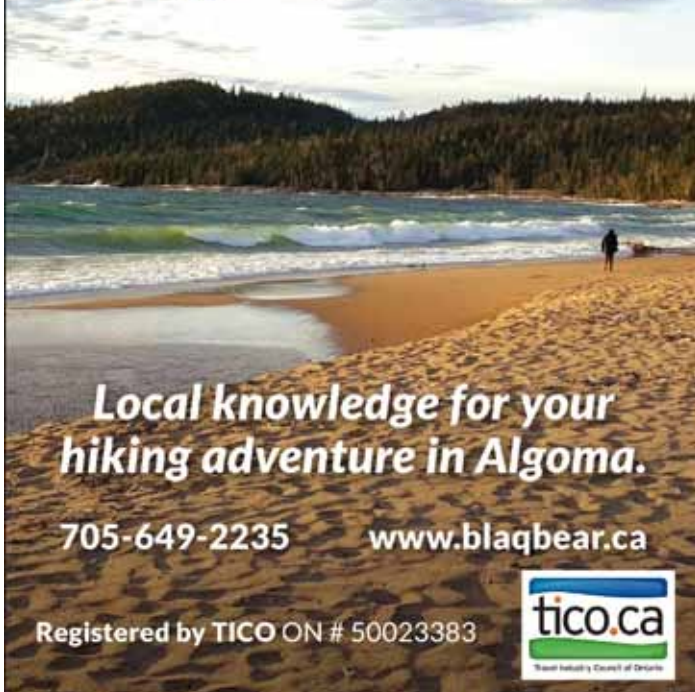
#4. **IT'S DIFFERENT** – The geography and sites are unique, but the people and culture is very different as well. The majority of locals still believe in elves! And they don't take themselves too seriously – Google Reykjavik Mayor Jon Gnarr.

#5. **DEALS!** – There's no denying that this is not the most affordable hiking destination, but the deals on airfare these days are truly spectacular!

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Land Securement Update

Exciting news from the Land Securement process:

The updated BTC strategic plan (which is really a strategy implementation plan, the strategy itself is little changed), calls for securement of the entire trail over the next 20 years. For the Peninsula, this translates into securing about 3 properties each year.

I am pleased to announce that in addition to the Barrow Bay Cliffs property, we have already secured 2 additional properties this year! We have received a small but important donation south of Lion's Head; in addition, we have reached agreement to purchase a property further north. Details will be announced as the deals finalize.

Two additional properties of interest are commercially listed for sale – these are situations that we ask the BTC head office to deal with directly. Discussions are also underway with several other key landowners.

In addition, we are better organizing our securement efforts to be in regular contact with ALL targeted landowners.

*John Whitworth
March 2019*



A Challenge for Younger Hikers – Peninsula Bear Cub Badge

The Bear Cub Badge is earned by Bruce Trail “bruins” up to age 16 years. (The badge’s smaller proportions make it a better fit for sewing onto kid sized hats or backpacks). The badge will be awarded after completion of 4 Side Trail Loops. Use your imagination as these Side Trail Loops can include stand-alone Blue Loops or loops created by combining the Main Trail with a Side Trail.

Actual Badge size 1.75” x 1.75”

Here’s how to obtain your badge after you’ve completed the hikes:

- **Canada** – send \$5.00 with a stamped, self addressed envelope as well as your name, email address and a written summary of your hike series to the address below.
- **U.S.A.** - send \$5.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and a self addressed envelope as well as your name, email address & a written summary of your hike series to the address below.



Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Attn. Badge Box 1087, Wiarton, ON, N0H 2T0

We look forward to reading the summary of your adventures.

Information on this and other badges is available on the PBTC website at: <https://www.pbtc.ca/badges>

The Bluffs Bed & Breakfast

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Proactive Conservation

Often, BTC conservation lands are left to heal themselves. Sometimes, however, Mother Nature needs a helping hand to restore lands to their natural state. The following is a truly inspiring story, from another organization near Guelph Ontario, of an intervention intended to restore forest lands:

After years of careful planning, the project began by removing an old dam, allowing Marden Creek to flow into the Speed River. The resulting mudflats were recovered by sedges, grasses & wildflowers, and banks were stabilized with native trees and shrubs. Farm fields were planted with a variety of young trees in order to establish continuous forest cover. Natural succession and active control of invasive species (phragmites; buckthorn; scots pine) are also part of the restoration project. Cultural artifacts have been preserved in place.

The project covers 40 hectares of land owned by the Jesuits, permanently protected by a conservation easement. This will ensure that a diverse, mature forest may develop. The future forest will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and be a place for ecological learning and spiritual contemplation.

This land and trails are open for public enjoyment, courtesy of the Jesuit Center.
 If you go: Exit Guelph on Victoria Road north of Woodlawn Road, heading North to the Speed River bridge. This tract of land begins at the North West corner of the bridge, heading West to Highway Six.
 Parking is available either side of the bridge. (On the South side of the bridge other trails head West into the city or East to Guelph Lake).
 For further information see www.oldgrowthforest.ca.

What is an old-growth forest?

We envision this as an expanse of large old trees. In fact it is a complex multi-layered environment with trees of varying age & size. Super-canopy trees poke through the canopy. The canopy is composed of mature trees that shelter the underside. Below these layers are shrubs & young saplings. On the forest floor are ferns, wild flowers, mosses, seedlings, fungi and seedlings. Still lower is the layer of organic litter that enriches the soil with nutrients. Dead standing trees are also an important part of the ecosystem providing nesting & feeding habitats.

The old-growth forests of southern Ontario were more diverse than most forests seen today, with a greater variety of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and mosses. These supported many animal, insect and microbial species.

(cont'd on page 17)



Tip from Kathie – Book your hiking agenda early for your lodgings to avoid disappointment



*“Something as complex as an old-growth forest cannot simply be installed.
Our hope is that we can start by sowing the seeds of something big.”*

(cont'd from page 16)

Our club has recently been discussing the need for more action-oriented conservation to supplement our successful Land Stewardship program. The Century Trees project is a small example of this. Also this spring, plans are in place to plant a screen of trees along the south side of our Vanishing Streams property in order to provide wildlife habitat and enhance the wilderness hiking experience in this area. In addition, we plan to revisit our Mallory Beach

properties with BTC ecologists (10 years after securement) to assess whether active remediation is required.

If you are interested in participating, watch our website for details. If you have questions about other BTC properties on the peninsula or invasive species, contact Bob Cunningham robhcunningham@gmail.com or the author ajwhitworth@rogers.com

John Whitworth, March 2019





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Bruce Trail Collage



This beautiful collage was given to me by my very creative and thoughtful friend, Helen Sluis.

Helen collected leaves, driftwood, seed pods, and assorted objects during our many hikes, and assembled them into this stunning piece of art.

It holds an abundance of precious memories and reflects my passion for the trail- Thank you, Helen!

Ulla Conrad

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SPRUCE UP THE BRUCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, MAY 11

Saturday, May 11 will be our popular Spruce Up the Bruce event.

This event is an opportunity for our Trail Captains and Land Stewards to provide a "first of the season" maintenance and tune-up to our club's trails and managed lands.

Helpers and extra volunteers are always welcome! If you are a first time volunteer you may contact us at trailreportsbptc@gmail.com

As is our tradition, we will also hold our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 11.

Our AGM will be held at Summer House Park, Miller Lake.

The event will feature a BBQ starting at 4:00 pm and finishing around 6:00 pm.

The AGM will run from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm after which you may chat with our club's executive. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided and you should think of bringing your preferred beverage.

It would help out if you could bring a favourite salad or dessert!

We would like to extend an invitation for the BBQ to all our generous landowners hosting trail on their property. We hope you can join us for the afternoon and AGM so we can all personally thank you for your continued generosity.


Summer House Park
197 Miller Lake Shore Road, Miller Lake
519-795-7712

Stop at the park front gates for direction to the Recreation Hall and parking areas



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Coming soon!



NEW 2019 PBTC Club tshirts!

Check the PBTC website and Facebook for information for sale locations and upcoming promotions!



Hiking the trail doesn't mean you have to totally rough it.



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**We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail.
Send us your stories
to pbtcrattler10@gmail.com
and we will share them in future issues of
The Rattler.
If you have any photos to include please send them
as a jpeg at highest resolution possible.**



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