

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #1 2020

This is a revised note. It's amazing how much has changed since I penned the message a week ago. The Bruce Trail Conservancy has cancelled all hikes and recommends that Clubs defer their meetings and reduce any gatherings in the ongoing effort to "flatten the curve" of the spread of COVID-19. The Bruce Peninsula National Park is closed and that includes hiking.

We are cancelling the annual Spruce up the Bruce BBQ at Summer House Park, Miller Lake, and all PBTC trail work, work parties, and hikes are cancelled until May 9. For any events after May 9, check the website at www.pbtc.ca or the Facebook page at the end of April to confirm their status.

Our club is always adding new volunteers. Once the special conditions imposed by COVID-19 have passed, as they will, please consider joining us. We have openings for a Hike Director, Hike Leaders, Membership Coordinator and Member at Large (an opportunity to sit in and see what the Board is all about).

"Get the BLAZES off the Road" was a great success and we have funds to build the structure at Barrow Bay and another boardwalk later this year. Thanks to all those who supported the project; you will be given information about the official opening hike and maybe be offered a chance to remove blazes from the road when the reroute is ready. Then we will get the BLAZES off the road! Of course we are now not sure when the staircase will be completed, but look forward to a great announcement and event when that long awaited day finally arrives.

We have been asked by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to spread the word about a survey of wild pigs. Read the full story and see how you can participate in this citizen science project. There are other citizen science projects you can participate in. It is a great way to enhance your experience while walking and observing in the woods. Here is a link to the MNR blog: <https://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/citizen-science-apps/>

These virtual field guides often support citizen science. You just share what you see. Scientists, researchers and conservationists use the crowd-sourced data to look at climate change, track migration and monitor species at risk and sensitive ecosystems.

This is my last Rattler update as I will step down from the role of President this spring. It has been an honour to serve for five years and a pleasure working with the creative and supportive team on our Board.

Cheers, Walter
pbtcpresident@gmail.com

P.S. In May, don't forget to check out the trilliums on the loop trail from Cape Chin South - Carter Rd. to Smokey Head.



Trillium by Suzanne Dyke

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
 Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"August 7, 2020"

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Update on PBTC and COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, the PBTC has cancelled all events, hikes, and work parties up to and including May 9, 2020. This includes cancellation of the Spruce up the Bruce weekend, and the Annual General Meeting and barbeque at Summer House Park.

There is no hiking on the section of the trail within Bruce Peninsula National Park. Here is the Notice from Parks Canada: ***“Effective 12:01 a.m., Thursday, March 19, 2020, all lands within Bruce Peninsula National Park to the north and east of Highway 6 are now closed by Superintendent’s orders, including the Cyprus Lake and Grotto area, Halfway Log Dump, and Little Cove. This means all self-serve off-season camping and day-use offers at Cyprus Lake and backcountry campsites, all toilets, shelters, day-use facilities, the Bruce Trail within the park, and the Visitor Centre are not open.”***

We will update the PBTC website at www.PBTC.ca and the PBTC Facebook page by the end of April, or as the situation changes.



Leave No Trace. Pack it in. Pack it out.



This article is reprinted from The Blue Print, the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club with the permission of its author, Kelly-Leigh Thomas. It has been slightly edited. Although some of the references in the article are specific to the Blue Mountains Club, the message applies equally to the Peninsula Club.

The Blue Mountains chapter of the Bruce Trail enjoys hiking year round and when the snow tries to slow us down, we put on snowshoes and carry on. Following the Trail Users’ Code helps ensure that our trails are respected and nature preserved. Work groups clean our section of the Bruce Trail each spring and help to maintain the trails throughout the year, collecting garbage, clearing fallen trees, repainting blazes and rebuilding bridges.

While most hikers are familiar with the Leave no Trace and Pack it in Pack it out precept, many hikers have their own interpretation of these precepts. This article addresses some of the common misinterpretations.

Do banana peels, orange peels or apple cores belong on the trail? Some hikers defend tossing these items into the bush. “They are biodegradable, I’m feeding the squirrels and birds [wildlife].” Yes, fruits are biodegradable but is Mother Nature your compost heap? Of course not! Orange peels can take over six months to decompose and banana peels two years. Imagine how much garbage

our twice weekly hikes, often with 20 hikers on the trail, could produce if everyone shared this philosophy. Tossing these items out the car window has even bigger unforeseen consequences. Small animals like squirrels are drawn to this roadside garbage [and are] now exposed to the traffic and their predators. Down swoops a raptor, an owl or a hawk, to grab this squirrel. While eating their prey at the side of the road many raptors are hit and killed or badly injured by vehicles. We have all seen the carrion eaters, crows and turkey vultures in the middle of the road trying to feast on road kill. This unintended damage continues with us disposing of waste this way.

Now for the wildlife . . . We all know that habituating wildlife does them no favours. Touching juvenile wildlife may cause the adults to abandon them. Wildlife that lose their natural fear of humans and pets leave themselves vulnerable and exposed. Altering their behaviour by drawing them out of hiding in their natural habitat can leave wildlife victim to predators.

(cont’d on page 5)

Barrow Bay Staircase

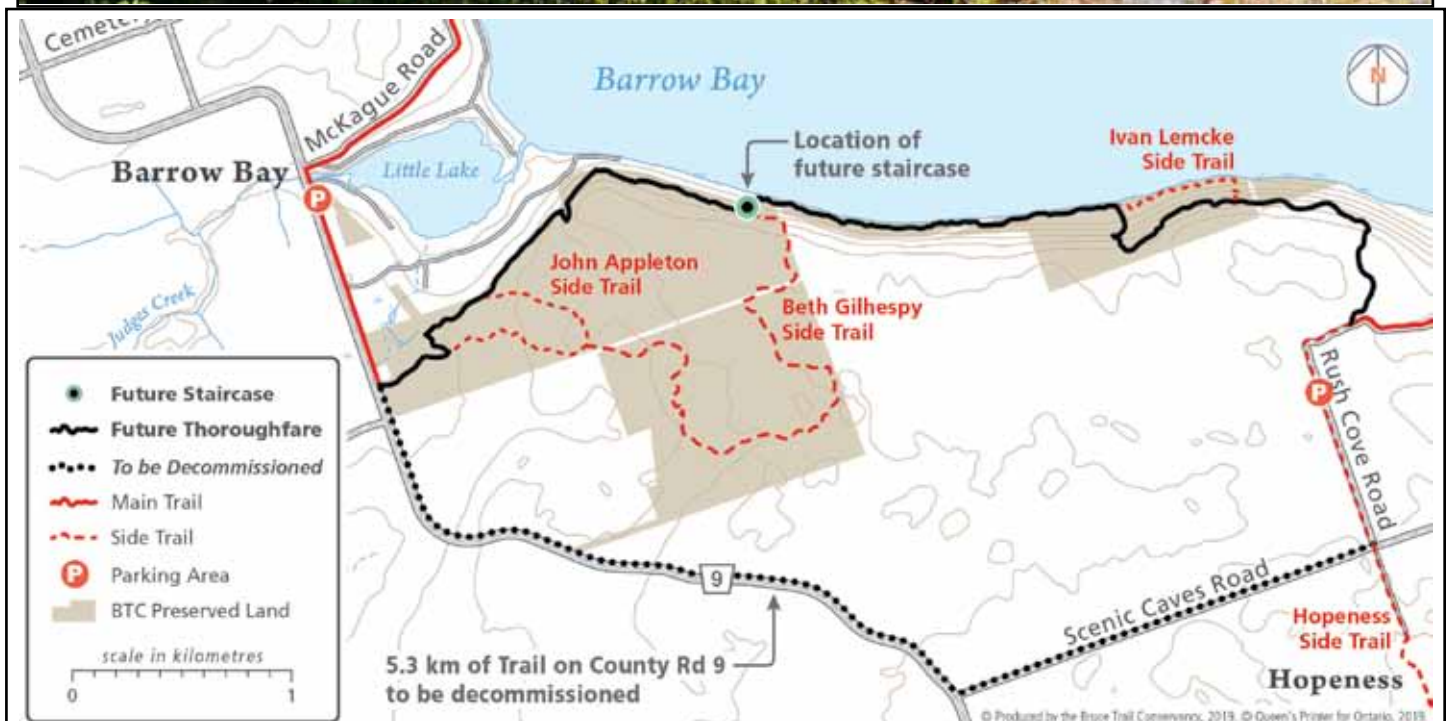
The Barrow Bay staircase fundraiser was a big success! Construction of the staircase will begin as soon as the situation regarding COVID-19 allows and the weather permits. We will let all members know when the project is complete and the rerouted trail is available.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the project. All donors will be invited to the work party to remove the first blazes from the highway.

All PBTC members will be invited to an inaugural hike that will travel the new route. We'll let you know the date for the hike once it has been scheduled.

Many thanks to our supporting members who have funded this activity and to the volunteers who will build the stairs.

**** To better understand just how long we've been waiting to complete this project, see the "From the Archives" article on page 5.**



From the Archives...

The following excerpt from the Fall 1994 issue of The Bruce Trail News (the precursor to today's Bruce Trail Magazine) shows just how long we've been waiting for the opportunity to connect the trail along the scarp edge to the trail on the shoreline below, removing over seven km of the main Trail from the roads. Finally, 26 years after this article was written, the reroute is taking place.

The Trail is Closed (from Bruce Trail News Fall 1994)

Due to construction of Bruce County Road #9 between Hope Bay and Barrow Bay, the Bruce Trail will be closed this summer between Rush Cove and Barrow Bay. Hiker safety and liability concerns necessitated this action. Supposedly, construction will be completed this year but in the meantime any End-to-End will require pontoons! The only consolation is that this seven kilometre section of the Trail was the dullest in the Peninsula; only masochistic End-to-Enders would choose it over the beauties of the scarp edge.

It is ironic that the Trail must be severed. Six months ago we were euphoric that the much-delayed purchase of [a property] would ensure the return of the Trail to the Optimum Route along Barrow Bay When I last heard, the matter was in the BTA lawyer's hands and there it sits...and sits. For the past half year I have seen no progress! Therefore, a 1994 End-to-End in the Peninsula will be impossible.

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Leave No Trace. Pack it in. Pack it out. (cont'd from page 3)

Feeding chippies, squirrels and seagulls may look cute but it leads them to associate people with food. They often become aggressive and persistent — climbing into open backpacks, tents, houses. Imagine a raccoon on your deck or in your garbage cans or in your home. They can carry rabies, a fatal virus transmissible to humans, and many carry a round worm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) that can infect people and pets causing ocular, skin and brain lesions. Stay away from raccoon excrement.

My new pet peeve, if you'll pardon the pun, is dog poop. While our club leaves our canines at home while hiking, we meet many hikers that have their

dogs on the trail. Excrement on the trail ranges from great big piles . . . to those little nicely tied plastic bags that adorn the side of the trail or even hang from a tree. This excrement is left behind by hikers that think dog poop is natural, biodegradable and not in need of packing it out. Plastic bags of dog poop can take over 30 years to "biodegrade." Dog excrement is not indigenous to the forest or our trails. Our domestic canine's stool can carry parasites [or] medications and parasiticides that do not exist in nature, again upsetting the natural balance for the wildlife on our trails. Hikers need to carry out their dog's poop!

Remember the Trail Users' Code when enjoying our trails.

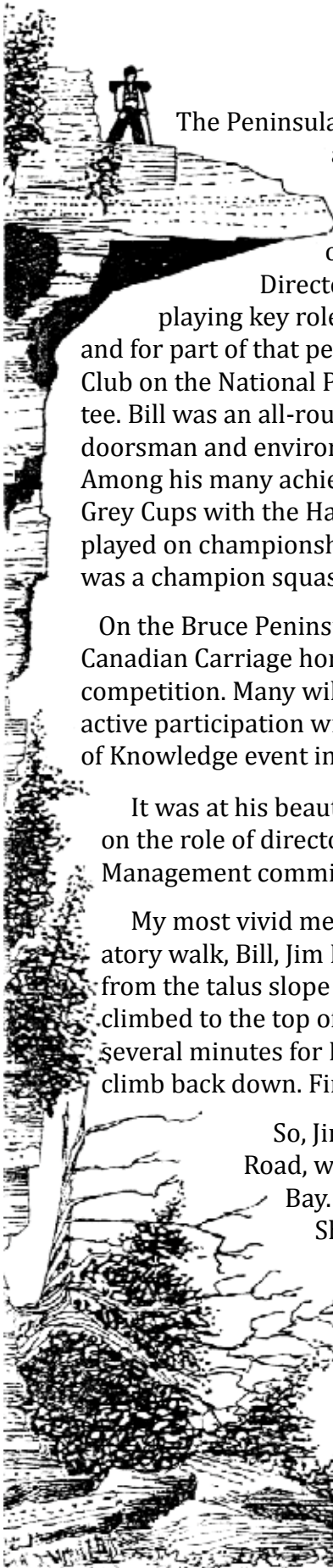
Leave the trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out all litter.

Where dogs are permitted, keep dogs on the leash and under control at all times.

Do not disturb wildlife and farm animals. Leave no Trace means just that!



REMEMBERING BILL GRAHAM



The Peninsula Club lost a dear friend and talented volunteer this past January. Bill Graham served on the PBTC Board of Directors from 2005 – 2017 playing key roles in Land Securement and for part of that period, representing the Club on the National Park Advisory Committee. Bill was an all-round sportsman, outdoorsman and environmentalist. Among his many achievements, he won two Grey Cups with the Hamilton Tiger Cats, played on championship hockey teams, and was a champion squash player.

On the Bruce Peninsula, he bred and raised Canadian Carriage horses for show and competition. Many will be aware of his very active participation with the annual Sources of Knowledge event in Tobermory.



It was at his beautiful cottage at Hobson's Harbour that I first got to know Bill. He had taken on the role of director of Land Securement for the PBTC and hosted meetings of our Land Management committee.

My most vivid memory of Bill was in the summer of 2009. Always eager to join an exploratory walk, Bill, Jim Kuellmer, Bill's yellow lab Angus and I went searching for a possible way up from the talus slope to the escarpment top, just south of Barrow Bay. At one promising site, Bill climbed to the top of a huge cedar tree which reached near the escarpment top. We all waited several minutes for Bill to decide what he would do next, because he said he was too afraid to climb back down. Finally, Bill took a daring leap to the top of the cliff. OMG!!

So, Jim and I had to convince Angus to follow us back to the car on Rush Cove Road, while Bill bush-wacked his way along the upper edge all the way to Barrow Bay. After dropping off Jim, Angus and I happily found Bill strolling along South Shore Road, about an hour after his leap of faith. Grateful for the lift (and no doubt to be alive), he had us drive to the Lion's Head Inn where he bought us a couple refreshing beers! Bill was a spritely 74 years of age at the time. What a guy!

A generous man with a great spirit, who was a joy to be around. We need more friends like him. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Submitted by Grant Ehrhardt

Poem for Dan Welsh

Dan Welsh was an avid hiker, completing several End-to-End hikes, who made many friends along the Bruce Trail. Dan passed away last November and his good friend, Cheryl Mitchell, wrote the poem below in his memory.



*Wish you were here
I wish to talk to you again and get a bear hug
I wish to witness your eyes tear up when we talk about sentimental things
I wish to race up the hills, push to the finish, shimmy across logs and put our feet in
Georgian Bay
I wish you could teach me more wild things about nature; I wish to experience more
forest spirits with you
I wish to marvel at the heat from the burrs, and the whispers from trees
I wish dinner at the diner and making our drums,
and you protecting me from mad dogs
I wish you could give me a caterpillar in the spring, that will turn into a butterfly
I wish we could host the full moon party at the farm,
I wish to win our most recent bet, and hike
our last section of the entire E2E together
I wish to hear your silly jokes and
your innermost thoughts
I wish my friend back
I wish all the laughter and the fights too
I wish all of it back
Because it's no good without you*



Events on the Trail

With the ramp-up of Bruce Trail hiking just around the corner, the Peninsula section will be seeing an increase in activity on two fronts in 2020: trail use by tourist day trippers and by participants in large organized events. With over 200 visitors per day on summer long weekends, areas such as Lion's Head Lookout and Devil's Monument have been transformed into social media sensations and desirable day tripping tourist destinations. The Peninsula section of the Trail is also seeing more use by large event organizers. We are tracking and looking at ways to mitigate day tripper impact to popular areas, and PBTC has created a Tracker Tool to record the names, dates and contact people for large events, and what the PBTC's involvement is for each of those. Some major events that have taken place on the Bruce Trail in past years include the Bruce Peninsula Gravel Grand Fondo fundraiser for Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association, Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race and the Tobermory Winter Carnival, just to name a few. Bruce Trail Conservancy policies outline that for any large event using the Trail, there are three potential levels of BTC involvement:

1. **None:** because BTC is not aware of the event beforehand — only after the fact.
2. **Decline:** The BTC prefers that this activity not take place. In many cases, the most we can do is to deny the event organizer permission to use the BTC logo. In these cases, PBTC will reach out to the event organizer to outline why the event should not use the Bruce Trail.
3. **Accept:** The BTC does not object to the activity. If the decision is to accept the event, the BTC's level of involvement may be categorized as 'approve', 'support' or 'participate.'

In an ideal world, event groups would share their intended use of the Trail well in advance of their events so that:

- * PBTC can alert the event coordinators of ecological sensitivities in the area such as nesting birds or snakes, species at risk or other natural/ecological concerns.
- * scheduled busy times can be shared with other hikers who may have planned to be using that section of the Trail that day.
- * there are no conflicts with Trail Maintenance events that may be taking place.
- * Trail Captains are able to do a sweep of their section to ensure no downed trees or obstructions will drive the crowds off the trail.
- * seasonal re-routes can be communicated.
- * as a courtesy, PBTC can give our landowners or other concerned citizens (who, for example, have had parking issues in the past) a heads-up that a group may be descending on their area. It is, however, the ultimate responsibility of the event organizers to obtain landowner approval for their events.

The Bruce Trail is maintained and developed by our valued volunteer base and relies on the generosity of donors, communities and landowners. PBTC encourages event organizers to look at corporate BTC memberships, to consider providing a portion of the proceeds to the BTC to support the Trail and/or to chip in through volunteer events and local BTC activities that help keep the Trail the natural treasure that it is.

Submitted by: Tamara Wilson, Vice President PBTC

see photos on page 9



Events on the Trail



Our very own Tom Hall, Trail Maintenance Director, and Laura Browne completing the Gravel Grand Fondo.



*The PBTC's display at the Gravel Grand Fondo.
The organizers kindly donated a tent to keep us out of the rain!*

Barrow Bay Hike and Draw

Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 (rain date if necessary)

Meeting Place: roadside parking on the east side of County Road 9 south of Barrow Bay, 2471 Bruce County Rd. 9, Lion's Head (latitude 44.951173, longitude -81.222705).

Google Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/MSJkw7QBkDyuH1N98> No west side parking allowed.

From Highway 6, go east on Barrow Bay Road, then turn north onto County Road 9 towards Barrow Bay. You will see the parking lot on the east side of #9 — no west side parking is permitted. From Lion's Head, go south on County Road 9 through Barrow Bay and past the South Shore Road to the roadside parking on the east side of #9.

Time: from 10 a.m. to about 3 p.m. Please meet between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m.

Distance of hike: about 5 km

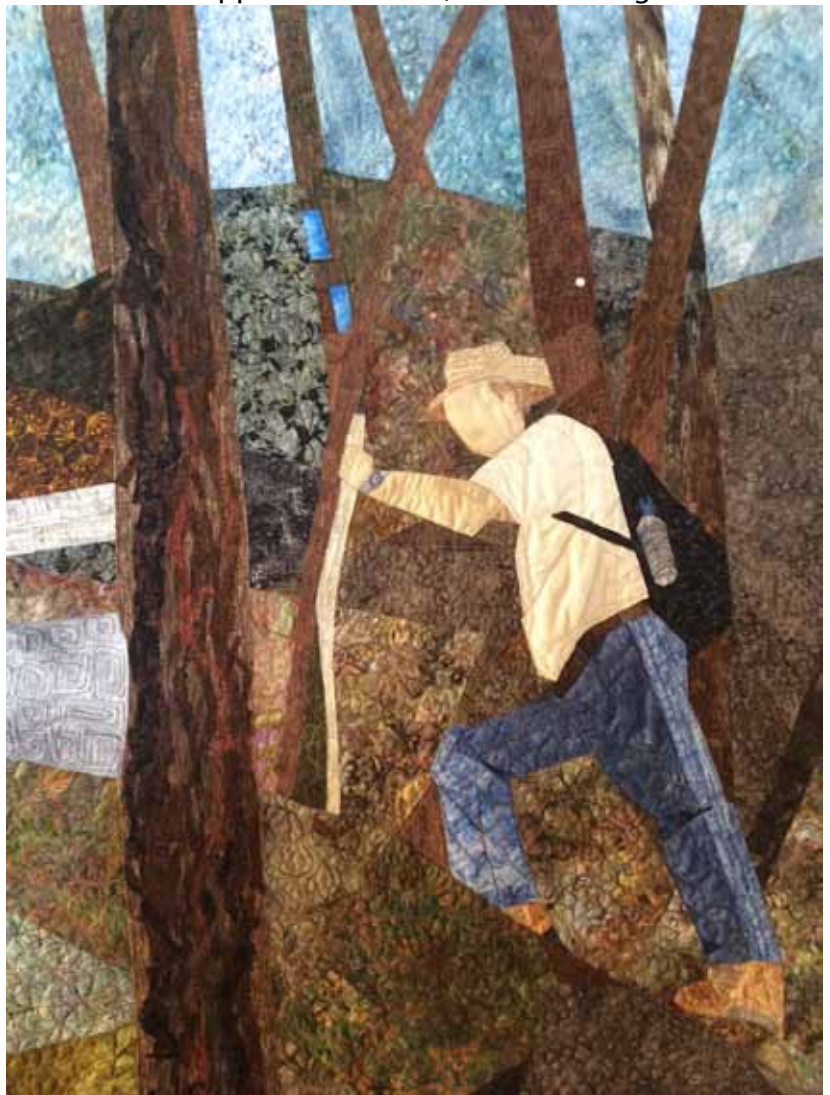
Description: The walk will be a reasonably easy line hike on the main trail mostly; we'll also explore a bit of the Beth Gilhespy Side Trail. Hiking boots and poles are recommended. Our path will take us above the cottages on South Shore Road and Little Lake, and we'll stop three or four times for sketching and lunch. The route provides a variety of rock and tree formations, meadow, possibly apple trees in bloom and a variety of forests to explore. As we are limiting the distance to 5 km, we will backtrack our path at the 2.5 km point. A walk is always a different experience in the opposite direction, so we'll have good opportunities to really appreciate the area.

Participants are asked to bring their own art materials, whether it be for drawing or painting, and a lunch. 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 to use your camera. This is mostly non-instructional but if it's helpful, we will provide drawing starters and support any and all drawing efforts. This event is designed for all artists at heart, to encourage the development of great observation skills as well as to provide a leisurely walk, sit and listen opportunity on the Peninsula Bruce Trail. This is not about the product — rather, it is about appreciating the amazing resource on our doorstep.

Participants are asked to preregister for this hike so that if weather becomes an issue, we can notify everyone and reschedule.

Contact Kristina at :

hikerKristina@yahoo.ca or the Hike and Draw page on my website:
www.kristinamaus.com
or Julie at heinrichsjulie@gmail.com



This amazing quilt of a Bruce Trail hiker was made by Anita Cunningham from a photo of her husband, Bob, hiking on the trail.

Birding Hike — Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

date and time: Wednesday May 20, 2020, 9 a.m.

Hello birders and want-to-be birders. It is still March, but not too early to start thinking of the spring migration and how we are going to welcome back our avian friends. Weather-wise this has been an unusual winter on the Bruce — not a whole lot of snow and temperatures that have been fairly mild. It has also been unusual in that we have had one solitary Carolina Wren visiting our feeder almost on a daily basis all winter long. Our bird book says he shouldn't be here but he must be a bit of a rebel. So if you happen to see our wren in the Lion's Head area do not confuse it as being a sign of spring. That season does not start until we see our first Brown Creepers and Kinglets.

You may remember we conducted a bit of a survey last year in terms of changing the location of our hike for this year. All who responded seemed up for that, so our plans are to share with you our favourite birding spot — Isaac Lake — plus one or two other locations if time permits. Unlike in previous years where we drove and walked at various locations near Dyer's Bay, this year we will leave our cars in the parking lot at the west end of Isaac Lake Road, use the washroom facilities (hopefully in place by May 20), and then explore the area on foot, walking somewhere between 3 and 5 km before returning to our cars to eat lunch and re-use the facilities. Our morning adventure should take us through grassland, woods and marshy areas where we hope to see herons, geese, ducks, cranes, rails, gulls, kingfishers, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, warblers, etc. Following lunch, and for those who still have time to carry on, we will drive south on Highway 6 to the Colpoys Bay area and BTC properties Vanishing Stream and Bull Homestead, where we will hope to see species at risk Bobolink and Meadowlark plus others. We may even get a chance to see how Vanishing Stream got its name. Our last stop will be at the pier at Colpoys Bay where we will check for ducks such as Bufflehead and Goldeneye, after which those of us who live north of Warton will proceed north on County Road 9, stopping only if we see anything interesting such as Great Egret, Bald Eagle, hawks or falcons.



Meeting Time and Place: Wednesday May 20 at 9 a.m. in the parking area at the west end of Isaac Lake Road — turn west off Highway 6 about 2 km south of Mar and follow the road west past a marshy area and through the woods until it stops.

Duration: You are free to leave the hike at any point but if you stick around until the end expect to be heading north (or south) to your place by about 2:30 or 3 p.m.

Bring clothing appropriate for the weather (no rain date is scheduled), good walking shoes or boots, water, snacks and your own lunch. 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



Birds, two at top of page and owl at left, paintings by Laura Banks

Dyer's Bay Geology Hike

Join geologists Norbert Woerns (P.Geo.) and Daryl Cowell (P.Geo.) for a hike exploring the geology in the area around Dyer's Bay.

Time and Date: 1 p.m., Saturday August 15, 2020

Distance: approximately 10 km (on foot portion); easy to moderate difficulty

Meeting Place: Meet at the Dyer's Bay Parking Lot (free parking; located immediately above the village on the north side of the road) by 1 p.m.

Description: At the parking lot we will start with a brief presentation on common local fossils. We will then consolidate into a minimum number of cars and travel south on Britain Lake Road (gravel). Stops will be made at a couple of significant karst features including a stream sink and collapsing pavement. Vehicles will be parked at the Bruce Trail pull-off. We will then hike the Lillie Side Trail to the Lillie Pothole — an excellent example of subglacial meltwater erosion. We return to Britain Lake Road and hike into the Dyer's Bay flow-erpot and take iron steps down to the shore. Features here include a stream cave, escarpment spring, the Devils Monument flowerpot, lower escarpment slopes and the Georgian Bay cobble beach shore.

Duration: approximately three hours

Registration and Contact: Please register with Marg Glendon at marg.glendon@gmail.com.

The hike is limited to 20 people.

Safety Corner:

Visiting Devil's Monument

One of the treasures of the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail is Devil's Monument. This incredible formation stands approximately 14 metres tall and was formed about 5,500 years ago.

The rock that forms Devil's Monument is unstable. The BTC Trail Users Code requires that hikers always hike along the marked route. This is especially important at Devil's Monument where visitors should take the stairway and access trail to the beach and never climb on the flowerpot. Proper running shoes or hiking boots are necessary because the trail is very rocky and slippery in spots.

The Peninsula Club is currently reviewing safety issues in the area near Devil's Monument. It is likely that changes will be made this spring and summer to the trail location in the area, creating a no trespassing zone around the monument itself. For your own safety, please stay on the trail and obey all posted signage.

More information on trail safety is available at the following link on the Bruce Trail Conservancy website

<https://brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/know-before-you-go/trail-safety>



Hike Leader Certification Course

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is offering an opportunity for members to become certified hike leaders. Hike Ontario's introductory hike leadership certification program takes candidates in one day from hiker to leader, ready to facilitate great outings for fellow hikers.

CONFIRMATION: We will contact all registered participants in May to confirm whether this course will proceed as planned or be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2020

Location: Halfway Log Dump, Bruce Peninsula National Park

Time: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Coffee and snacks available at 8:45 a.m.

What to Bring: Bring your own lunch and water bottle. Mid-afternoon snacks will be provided. Bring a backpack filled with the supplies you think you would require if you were leading a group hike.

Clothing: Layered clothing appropriate for the anticipated weather, and sturdy footwear. We will be outside throughout the day.

Cost: Course fee is \$60. PBTC will reimburse the cost of any member who completes the course and leads hikes that are listed with PBTC or on the BTC unified hike listing.

Pre-requisite: Safe Hiker Course or relevant experience. Relevant experience includes a minimum of five day-hikes within the past year.

Registration: Registration is open to PBTC members. Register by May 1, 2020 on Eventbrite at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/certified-hike-leader-060620-tobermory-tickets-94674001487>

Class size: Between 6 and 16 participants

Materials Provided: Course manual

Additional Fees: Parking and per person Park fee will be waived with registration.

For more information, contact Marg Glendon at marg.glendon@gmail.com



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Interested in Volunteering? We Need You!

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club needs you!

Without volunteers, there just wouldn't be a Bruce Trail.

Interested, but have some questions or concerns? Here are some common considerations:

?? **"I'm interested, but I am worried about time commitment."** You can offer to volunteer with a specific event, or choose a volunteer role that offers flexibility according to your schedule.

?? **"I have a specific interest/passion to share with the community."** Perhaps you have hobby or work experience which you would be happy to share with others. Let's highlight that with a talk, activity or hike!

?? **"Am I too old or young?"** Age is not a limit! Many of our volunteers have found time in retirement to volunteer in a variety of ways with our club, by facilitating displays, being an advocate for PBTC, and becoming involved in trail maintenance, sales, outreach or land stewardship. High school students (if under 18, will need a supervising adult) can accumulate high school community hours, which contribute toward their graduation requirement.

?? **"Family life is so busy!"** Consider helping with displays and group activities, or work with PBTC to create a PBTC family activity. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the connection to nature.

?? **"I am still working."** There are opportunities to volunteer from home.

There are a variety of opportunities at various levels of commitment for you to choose from.

If you're interested, get in touch with us at pbtccgeneralinfo@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed: PBTC Display Facilitators

Be a part of our PBTC Outreach efforts. We are looking for display facilitators for this summer. This is an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the Bruce Trail and Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. PBTC has been given an opportunity to set up an outdoor display and information table at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre in Tobermory every Wednesday (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in July and August. PBTC display materials and information will be prepared in advance for you to set up. The primary role of this volunteer is to engage with and educate tourists who want to learn more about the Bruce

Trail, especially our Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. The secondary role is to make members of the public aware of PBTC products and give them an opportunity to purchase memberships. If you would like a mentor, please let me know. I would like to create a volunteer roster, so you may choose which Wednesday(s) you would like to volunteer. We are hoping for a pair of volunteers to work together for each display.

If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Marg Glendon at marg.glendon@gmail.com



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

Wild Pigs in Ontario — we need your help!

Invasive wild pigs are non-native to North America and are considered the most damaging invasive species in the U.S. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has received a small number of reported sightings of wild pigs on the Bruce Peninsula.

To learn more about the number and locations of wild pigs in Ontario, MNR is collecting sightings from the public. If you have seen a wild pig, even if it was some time ago, please send an email reporting the sighting to wildpigs@ontario.ca.

MNR considers a wild pig to be any swine outside of a fence, including Eurasian wild boar, domestic pigs that have become feral, and hybrids of the two.

For more information, please see: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reporting-wild-pigs-ontario>

See the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) flyer on page 17

Here are some of the ways that invasive wild pigs pose a threat to Ontario:

- They destroy habitat for native wildlife and compete with native wildlife for food.
- They can prey on native plant and animal species, including species at risk.
- They can carry and transmit diseases, viruses, and parasites that may be contracted by native wildlife, farmed pigs, other livestock, and humans.
- They destroy agricultural crops and private property through rooting and trampling.
- They have extremely high reproductive rates — female wild pigs can breed as young as 6 months old and may have litters of up to 13 piglets annually.



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Bruce Trail Conservancy Citizen Science

The Citizen Science program aims to capture and document the diverse range of flora found on the Bruce Trail, from Niagara to Tobermory, by developing a database of species through the collaborative work of Bruce Trail volunteers. All volunteers need for this role is an interest in flora, in hiking the trail and a smart-phone (iPhone or Android device). If you are interested, please see the link below for more information: <https://brucetrail.org/pages/show/citizen-science>

WILD PIG (*Sus scrofa*)

Wild pigs are not native to the Americas, they originate from Europe and Asia. Eurasian wild boar were first introduced to Canada from Europe beginning in the 1980s as exotic livestock for meat.

The World Conservation Union identifies invasive wild pigs as among 100 of the "world's worst invasive alien species". With a high birth rate, few natural predators, and the ability to travel long distances and adapt to a variety of habitats, a small number of escaped animals have the potential to multiply rapidly.

Wild pigs are extremely adaptable and pose a serious threat to Ontario's natural environment, native species and agricultural industry.

HOW TO IDENTIFY WILD PIGS

The term "wild pig" refers to any pig "outside of a fence" and includes:

- domestic pigs that have become wild (or 'feral') and ownership cannot be determined
- Eurasian wild boar: and
- hybrids of domestic pigs and Eurasian wild boar

Wild pigs can exhibit many colour variations, ranging from very dark to light, and may have spots. Escaped domestic pigs can grow a dense undercoat to help them to survive cold winter climates.



Photo: Dr. Ryan Brook, University of Saskatchewan

Help us learn more about wild pigs in Ontario



Photo: Dr. Ryan Brook, University of Saskatchewan

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you see a wild pig or have information about a sighting, please report it to:

- iNaturalist Ontario Wild Pig Reporting webpage (www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-wild-pig-reporting) - download the app on a mobile device or register an account using a desktop computer, or
- MNRF's email account for reporting wild pigs: wildpigs@ontario.ca

If you believe you have seen a wild pig or signs of wild pig:

- Note the date, and time of the sighting
- Note the location (intersecting roads, landmarks or GPS coordinates)
- Take pictures or a video, if possible
- Note the number of pigs and whether piglets are present
- Identify whether this was an isolated sighting or whether the same individual has been seen multiple times

For more information on wild pigs in Ontario, visit: www.ontario.ca/wildpigs



PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB MERCHANDISE

Back by Popular Demand: "TAKE A HIKE" T-shirt

Who doesn't need a new T-shirt, especially one that is so much fun to wear! Help us promote health and well-being by encouraging people to hike! Raise awareness about the Bruce Trail Conservancy by wearing this popular "Take A Hike" T-shirt.

OUT WITH THE OLD!

We will be selling our old T-shirt stock at a reduced price.

Limited colours and sizes are available.

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club performance T-shirts: \$18 including tax

Take a Hike Shirts: \$15 including tax

While we had planned to sell the old T-shirt stock at the AGM we will now look for another opportunity to offer them at an additional 15% off.

Watch for further updates on the website.



IN WITH THE NEW!

Watch for exciting new colours in these popular, cotton "Take A Hike" T-shirts — Coming Soon!

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Or, motivate and encourage your group by wearing your "Take a Hike" team shirts!

Contact Marg @ marg.glendon@gmail.com to discuss details for group orders. No refunds, no returns.

Shop at selected Peninsula Shops throughout the summer for:

"TAKE A HIKE" magnets — Coming Soon!

"TAKE A HIKE" luggage/lap top/lunch box stickers

"I HIKED THE BRUCE TRAIL" interest badge

Reader's Haven in Tobermory carries much of the BTC inventory. Check out the display!

see page 19 for more merchandise



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The 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-colour maps covering all trails from Wiarion 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 advisories for Park visitors, including safety, parking, booking, and fees.

Just as for previous editions, the new booklet includes the following:

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

* To be available at a dozen outlets in the Peninsula this summer

~ ~

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LAST MINUTE?

If you prefer to wait until the last minute to plan a trip or if you're a spur of the moment kind of person, then add your name to one of our waitlists and we will contact you if/when an opening becomes available.

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[Corfu \(Greece\)](#) * [Provence & Cote d'Azur \(France\)](#)
[Slovenija](#) * [Tour du Mont Blanc](#)
[Galapagos Islands](#) * [Japan](#)



FORWARD THINKER?

Already dreaming of where you want to go hiking in 2021? If you have your heart set on a particular destination and want to book it immediately when it becomes available, ask to be put on our [INTERESTED LIST](#). We will notify you as soon as we are ready to accept reservations for this particular trip. There is no obligation on your part, nor does it guarantee your spot(s). We will still be taking reservations on a first-come, first-served basis as we always have. However, it means that you will be notified right away that we are ready to begin taking reservations, and then you can decide if you wish to book or not.

Dominica * **Portugal** * **Amalfi Coast (Italy)**
Corfu (Greece) * **Ireland**
Provence & Cote d'Azur (France)
Kenya * **Tour du Mont Blanc** * **Japan**
Galapagos Islands
Camino de Santiago (Spain)
Plus a NEW DESTINATION to be announced!

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Stay informed and involved with our e-newsletter, [Let's Hike](#). Published monthly, it's our way of staying in touch with you about exciting new trip announcements, hiking information and travel stories throughout the year. We promise that you will find our newsletters to be both interesting and entertaining and we also promise never to trade or share your contact information with any other organization.

Just email us at info@letshike.com.

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Did you know we have a referral program? Tell all your hiking friends what a great time you had on your trip with Comfortable Hiking Holidays, and if they have never travelled with us before and decide to book one of our trips, you will receive a \$100 discount on your next Comfortable Hiking Holiday. Since its launch in 2006, we have awarded over \$40,000 in Hiking Buddy Rewards! We admit, we love it when you rave about us!



TICO # 50023501

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club
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**We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail.
Send us your stories
to pbtrattler10@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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