

ISSUE #2 2016

President's Message

It's been a great spring and early summer for hiking the northern Bruce Trail. The trail was spruced up early, but the SUTB work day was a wash out! However, the accomplishments are many. The trail is in great shape and with the help of Landowners around Little Cove and especially Jeff Corner at the Tobermory Golf Course, the trail has been taken off Highway 6 and rerouted. Please walk with silence and care while crossing the golf course.

The incredibly dedicated workers of the "Order of the Muddy Boot" have completed the rebuilding of the Snake Boardwalk at Cape Croker Camp. This year, as with the last two, a core team of dedicated workers helped by many occasional helpers came out in June/July and removed and replaced about 900 feet of boardwalk to finish the project. Well done!

There are two major land acquisitions underway which will add more opportunities for our very active Stewardship team. The property at Colpoy's Bay has been named "Vanishing Stream" for obvious reasons. This land affords a great view of the karst geology and it takes about a 1,000 feet of trail off road. The property around Otter Lake is the subject of an ongoing fund raiser and I am sure with lots of local help it will be purchased; please consider helping to secure this wonderful place. This will also mean we need more Land Stewards; please think about volunteering to help look after the BTC managed lands along the trail.

A special word about Bob Light who died in 2015. He was a volunteer in the south and then, along with his many community roles around the Peninsula, he helped our club for ten years often joking he would be Secretary for life. Bob has left generous gifts to his favourite charities and the BTC is fortunate to have been included, a measure of his commitment to these organizations. (See the full story in this issue of the BTC Magazine).

Board members are working with BTC staff to organize some special events for 2017 - our 50th Anniversary! Please be a part of this by contributing relics, memorabilia or stories about the early days of the Peninsula Club. We plan special articles in The Rattler and a new look to our WEB pages. There will be a celebration June 10 in Tobermory and you are invited!

At the Annual General Meeting your Board was elected and after a few portfolio changes we have most positions filled! There is always room for additional helpers; we are structuring most of the areas as teams so no one person is saddled with all the work. You are welcome to attend any meeting of the Board, see how it works and consider joining us. There are always projects that can use additional help.

Don't forget to participate in the Side Trail Challenge and join in some of the guided hikes organized by our dedicated Hike Coordinator.

Walter Brewer, President, PBTC



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

"November 7, 2016"

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: Mike Marshall

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Recycled Teak Root on The Bruce Trail????

One cold snowy March morning several years ago we ventured off to the Garden Show in downtown Toronto. Wandering through gardens with beautiful colours of summer we came upon a unique bench and just had to take it home. This teak bench is a one piece root from Indonesia.

When we moved to Lion's Head a few years later we wanted the bench to sit close to the shore where we could go to sit and enjoy the ever-changing views of Georgian Bay. The movers grunted and groaned but it was eventually delivered to its allotted spot near our new home with comments from the movers that they would NEVER move it again.

The Trail now crosses our property in perpetuity very near the bench and we never cease to be amazed at the reaction of hikers as they come down the steps from the escarpment and turn north onto our property. Most hikers walk by the bench and do a double take, out come the cell phones, selfies are taken and some even cautiously venture to sit and enjoy the views we find so precious.

While benches are not a normal part of the Trail we find it very satisfying to see people taking an interest in it and enjoying the views we find so precious. So the next time you are walking the Trail north past the Williams Caves just continue a few metres further, walk down the steps and enjoy our bench.

Please wave as you go by.



Anita and Bob Cunningham

Snake Boardwalk Replacement, Cape Croker Completed July 2016

Funded by the The Hamlin Family Foundation, RBC Blue Water Foundation, the estates of two families and the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

For the last three years a work party of 6-8 stalwarts and many occasional helpers worked weekly in June and July ripping up and replacing the old boardwalk. This is strenuous, muddy, hard work yet many folks come back each week because they found the work and sense of achievement to be fun!

The Snake Boardwalk at Neyaashiinigmiing (Cape Croker) is over 3,000 feet long (the longest single boardwalk on the Bruce Trail) and it provides a great experience for the walking public. It was built between 1997-9 by the members of the Chippewas of Nawash Nation and was funded by four BTC clubs.

The boardwalk had aged, deteriorated, become slippery and slanted so the Peninsula Club decided to repair it. A core team lead by the Trail Captain, Alan Bobo and directed by Zane Davies, owner of "Treadscape" met weekly through 2014 and completed over 1,300 feet of restoration. The team reformed in 2015 and 2016 lead by Tom Hall and Laura Browne who were encouraged by additional rounds of funding from RBC Blue Water Foundation and donations from the estates of two families close to the project.

We named the volunteers members of the "Order of the Muddy Boot" for obvious reasons.



A core team of 6-8 helpers came out to almost every work party often assisted by other volunteers. The work was doubled because they had to pull up boards and old material, remove nails and then lay down new a new boardwalk.

The project was honoured by the BTC with the Phillip Gosling Award for "clearly demonstrated excellence in improving an existing Trail section, with particular focus on addressing environmental impacts."

Try to get out and walk the rebuilt boardwalk and as you enjoy the beaver dam, the view of Sydney Bay, the white egrets and numerous plants. Please think of the members of the Order of the Muddy Boot and the hours spent providing hikers with access to this wonderful area.

Special thanks to the The Chippewas of Nawash First Nation for permitting the Bruce Trail to be routed though the Neyaashiinigmiing Reserve which is the home of the Snake Boardwalk.

Walter Brewer

Below: Members of the "Order of Muddy Boots" relaxing.



2016 Spruce up the Bruce and AGM

All hands were on deck for a variety of work projects that were scheduled to take place during the day of May 14, 2016 Spruce up the Bruce.

However, the volunteers were met with fierce winds and rain turning to snow which in the end postponed plans that had included side logging at Barrow Bay and chain sawing on Malcolm Bluff.

However, despite the elements the team of hardy souls assigned to the trail building and cleanup of the Vanishing Stream property were willing to give it a go. Ponchos flying in the wind, vision blinded by the pelting precipitation and freezing hands and feet did not dampen the spirit but did eventually bring the work party to an early knock off.

Thanks to all those that made it out that day and to the trail captains that had managed their spring trail inspection and maintenance previously. Good Work! Later that afternoon a crowd of approximately 65 enjoyed a warm fire and good companionship at Summerhouse Park on Miller Lake. At the Thank You BBQ the tables were loaded with salads and desserts and nobody could complain that there wasn't enough to eat.

Well fed, the group were attentive during the business portion of the evening and enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the past year, awarding the John Appleton Porcupine award to Rich Moccia and recognizing a long-time supporter of the club, Ross McLean.

Check the 2017 Spring Rattler for the next date and hope to see you at this fun filled event.



Left to right: Walter Brewer, John Whitworth & Ross McLean

Taking a Moment to Remember our PBTC Friends Chris Jeffries and Bob McKay

Box 2 Tobermory. This was PBTC's mailing address for years but if you went to the Tobermory Post office and asked who was assigned Box 2 it was not PBTC. It was Chris Jefferies.

Chris and her husband Jeff built their cottage in Tobermory in the 60s and they would come there whenever they could before moving, full time, in the 90s. Chris loved the outdoors, hiking, biking, swimming, scuba diving, ice diving and winter snow shoeing to name just a fewof the activities she was involved with. She even, in her 80's, tried a zip line.

One day at the post office, as they knew she was involved with the PBTC, staff asked Chris what to do with PBTC mail? Ever resourceful she said "put it in my box and I'll take care of it". Thus Box 2 became PBTC's official mailing address and Chris became the Corresponding Secretary. As we "newbies" were voted onto the Board of Directors she kept us informed of PBTC's history.

I met Chris when we bought our Tobermory cottage in 1987, and what a fount of information she was. One weekend she came over as pleased as punch to say she heard that John had agreed to be on PBTC executive. It was Chris who had suggested John's name to the nominating committee. Thus, through Chris, we became more and more involved with PBTC.

She and Jeff looked after the section of trail from Emmet Lake to Storm Haven. When Jeff became invalid and they could no longer cope with this rugged section, Chris came over and didn't ask but "gave" us the "gift" of taking over stewardship of "the best section of the trail."But she did not retire from trail maintenance; shebecame steward of an easier section, the Cairn to Dunks Bay(with help from friends.) When, in her late 70s, this was too much she persuaded Murray Addison to "help" her with the Burnt Point Loop.

Chris loved the trail and was a great supporter of the idea of keeping this "ribbon of wilderness" for future generations. She would give BTC memberships for birthday and Christmas gifts. She was one of the best purchasers of PBTC merchandise, always the first to buy new items such as "take a hike" tee shirts and puzzles. She dropped by often to buy magnets or note cards for hostess gifts.

Chris died on March 4th, 2016 and we lost a long standing member and supportor of BTC. Our address of Box 2, Tobermory is no more.

RIP Chris, we miss you.

By Jane Greenhouse

Bob McKay

12 August, 1950 to 9 November, 2015

Bob began on our Executive as a Director at Large in 2009 but seemed to move into the Newsletter Editor position sometime later that year. In 2012 he moved on from the position for family reasons.

Bob assisted in trail maintenance. He took a chain saw course in 2009 and assisted in the Little Cove Reroute. He was also Trail Captain for sections of the trail.

In 2009 Bob and his wife Margaret shared Trail Captain responsibilities for Laird Side Trail and Halfway Log Dump to Stormhaven with Jacqui Wakefield and Judi McLeod. In 2011 Bob shared the Trail Captain duties with Scott Parker.

Bob was a very forward thinking gentleman - willing to try home solar energy early on in that transformation. He was well versed in the digital world and much more advanced in much of the digital software than most of his peers.

<>

The Peninsula Club was fortunate to have his skills available to us as we modernized and restructured our newsletter production product and process.

Bob passed away from ALS at his home in Kapaskasing.



<>

Letter of thanks

Thank you so much for the very kind words about my father that appeared in Issue #1 2016 on page 15. It is interesting that a photo of the Community Center at Hopeness is on the same page. Our cottage at Rush Cove was not too far from here and this was the beginning of one of my dad's favorite hikes. Very often during the Spring we would park here and wander off down the road into the Hope Bay Forest to check things out after a long cold winter. The variety of wildflowers, ferns, trees, birds etc. was fascinating set amidst old coral reefs and potholes. Our final treat was sitting on the edge of the cliff looking out on Hope Bay and Cape Croker watching the turkey vultures as they rode the thermals.

Thanks to the Bruce Trail, the Ontario government and many more people like my dad these places are now protected for generations to come.



Best wishes. Bill E. Cannon

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Nominating Committee

We are looking for volunteers to fill unique and rewarding positions on our Board of Directors for 2017 - 2018.

For more information contact pbtcgeneralinfo@gmail.com

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DO YOU HAVE ANY PBTC KEEPSAKES?

Your treasures and recorded memories will be preserved in the archives, with the possibility of some being used for anniversary displays, online celebrations, and/or The Rattler. We also welcome photographs, particularly from the 1960s and 1970s, to add to the archives for use in displays, publications or promotions, preferably accompanied by identification details such as photographer, year, place, people, and activity if applicable.

Contact pbtcgeneralinfo@gmail.com



Be sure to visit

the Wiarton Public Library during the month of September and view the display of Bruce Trail art and memorabilia.

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Hike and Sketch



On May 9, 2016 a group of thirteen artists hiked along the White Bluff trail section of the Bruce Trail just north of Lion's Head. The temperature was cool but the enthusiasm was high and we soon warmed up. We stopped at regular intervals to capture the spring ephemerals, varied terrain and beautiful views in our sketchbooks. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the outing.

If you are interested in joining us for the next hike and draw it is in Colpoys Bay on Monday, September 12, 2016. See the details of the outing in the hiking schedule of this issue. (pg.10)





10		드	Invitation to All Hiker/Sketchers	r/Sketchers
Date and Time	Leader	Kms	Kms Meeting Place	Features and Details
Monday, September 12, Kristina Maus	Kristina Maus		Parking lot just north of	The Vanishing Stream Nature Reserve is located in the
2016	and		Colpoy's Bay off of	village of Colpoy's Bay and the Bruce Trail is rerouted
10:00 am to about 2 pm Julie Heinrichs	Julie Heinrichs		County Road 9, at the	through it. The property looks like a simple field from the
(Raindate to be			junction of Martha Street,	unction of Martha Street, road, but an up-close exploration reveals glacier-carved rock
determined by weather,		-	km 5.8, Map 35 Wiarton,	km 5.8, Map 35 Wiarton, features and sinkholes, as well as habitat for grassland birds.
some day in the same		ţ.	Peninsula Section Bruce	Peninsula Section Bruce Building ruins, a mill race and a vanishing stream should
week, notification to			Trail.	provide a variety of painting sites. We can add a visit to the
those who have				public dock, which has a fine view of the escarpment, or an
registered for the hike)				explore of the trail a bit to the north, should people like to
				stretch their legs a bit more, or continue drawing longer.

 Participants are asked to bring their own art materials, whether it be drawing or painting.

* A small cushion or a folding stool is vital.

* No drawing experience is required, just a willingness to put pencil or pen or brush to paper, or bring your camera.

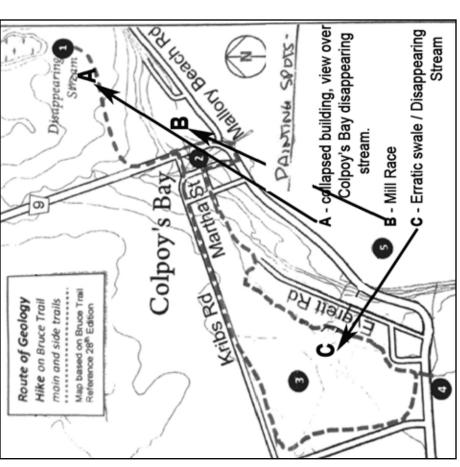
* This is mostly non-instructional but if you wish, Julie and Kristina will provide drawing starters and support any and all drawing efforts. This event is designed to encourage the development of great observation skills as well as providing a leisurely tour of the Trail!

Pack a Lunch and Snacks.

Please pre-register for this hike so that if the weather is inclement, we can contact you via email or phone regarding a reschedule some day the same week.

For more information feel free to contact: Kristina Maus: 519-270-9062 or hikerKristina@yahoo.ca or www.kristinamaus.com

Julie Heinrichs: cedargrovefarmlh@hotmail.com



This is a series of loop hikes to include all our Side Trails. The hikes cover a variety of terrains and are offered in a selection of formats, lengths and degrees of difficulty. A few include a section of Main Trail to create the loop. Peninsula Blue Series 2016

Date and Time	Leader Special Information	Kms	Meeting Place	Features and Details
Tuesday, Sept 20,		0.1		\Box
2016 10:00am		4 O.	Jacksolls Cove Road	italis. Moderate.
	Bridget Rosser and		Km 86.2 Map 38	Whippoorwill / Forty Hills / Alan Fowler /
	Doug Sloan		Richardson Parking	Reeds Dump / White Bluff Side Trail Loop
Sunday Oct 2 2016	BRUCE TRAIL DAY HIKE		Lot Forty Hills Road	Lot Forty Hills Road (Includes some Main Trail) A variety of
10.00am	Meet at Richardson parking	11.0		terrains including cliffs, a beach and open
5	lot. Bring lunch.			fields. Strenuous.
	No dogs please.			



Date: Wednesday, December 7th. 10:00 am Meet: 534 Gould St. Wiarton

A 9 km, 2 1/2 hour hike around the perimeter of Wiarton, followed by a Pot Luck lunch at the Hike Leader's home.

Terrain: Moderate, a few hills

Pace: Medium

RSVP to Hike Leader Harriet Nixon: harrietnixon@bmts.com 519-534-0426



Peninsula Blue Sidetrail Series

The challenge started January 1, 2016. Nine hikers set themselves an aggressive schedule and on August 28 they reached their goal of completing all the blue trails in the Peninsula Club section.

Congratulations to Glenda Collings (pictured) receiving the Bear Badge from Bridget Rosser, on behalf of David Royston, Brenda West, Cathie Kitchen, Janny Wallbank, Marty Vert, Cathy Crukley, Arthur Last and Paula Carson.

Bruce Trail HIKE-A-THON

2016 Let's Hike!

The Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon is a month long fundraising event supporting the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and this year the Hike-a-thon event will take place during October (1st to 31st).

* Participants set a personal hiking goal, seek sponsorship from friends and family and then hike the Bruce Trail throughout the month of October.

* The Hike-a-thon gives you the opportunity to help preserve and protect the Bruce Trail with each kilometre you hike. You can hike as much or as little as you want.

* You can hike by yourself, with a buddy, friends and/or family.

Or you can also join the public hikes offered by any of the Bruce Trail Clubs along the trail.

* Registration opens August 1st, 2016 and the fundraising event is open to anyone,
Bruce Trail members and non-members alike.

Check out the Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon web site for more information and to register your participation

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March 5 to 17, 2017

In Chile, visit penguins on Isla Magdalena, then journey south to the heart of Torres Del Paine NP for magnificent views of the central lakes and the Paine's Horns, a stunning hike on the shores of Grey Lake to witness the icebergs floating in the water, and the famed hike up to "The Towers".

In Argentina, travel to El Chalten & El Calafate for hikes in Los Glaciares NP, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Hike over to view Mt. Fitz Roy and visit Perito Moreno Glacier. This exciting adventure concludes in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires.

THE "CAMINO". SPAIN

May 1 to 13, 2017

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 152km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, including many "extras" in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this famous trail.

IRELAND

June 7 to 17, 2017

With more shades of green than you can imagine, the **Emerald Isle** lives up to its deserving reputation. From historical Dublin to picturesque Killarney & parts in between, we will take you hiking through some of the most sought-after scenery the country has to offer - and we'll even make a few pub stops along the way!

AMALFI COAST, ITALY

April 17 to 29, 2017

Italy never fails to captures the hearts (and stomachs) of its visitors, and the Amalfi Coast lives up to that reputation - towns perched impossibly on mountainsides, one of the most famous stretches of coastline in the world, sapphire-blue water in every direction, an infamous volcano and some of the finest Limoncello anywhere. Come hike in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and on the posh island of Capri.

CORFU. GREECE

May 15 to 27, 2017

This Greek island is the perfect combination of European flare & tranquil sea-side living. Hike to the heavens to visit holy monasteries and trek in shade of ancient olive groves. We promise - you will never tire of the deep, deep blue of the sea that surrounds you. Opa!

SAVE ALMOST \$300 IN 2017!

KENYA

July 9 to 21, 2017

Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too!
Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsmen in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?

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STEW CREW at work or play????

Most Tuesdays between Spring and Fall, weather permitting, the STEW CREW are out inspecting our 60+ managed properties on The Bruce. As you can see from the smiles on our faces this is not all hard work. We have a great deal of fun doing what we are doing. Please also note BTC continues to acquire local properties (recently Vanishing Stream, Johnson and likely Otter Lake) so we need more stewardship volunteers. Minimum requirements are to visit your property twice a year, file one formal report and look for issues off trail such as ATV encroachment, fires and camping, encroachment by neighbours, spread of invasive species and to report on topics that might interest you such as birds, animals, ferns,

orchids, plants, etc. A management plan is created by the BTC ecologists for every one of our properties and this gives guidance on property-specific issues. Obviously entry to the elite STEW CREW team requires a larger commitment but promises even greater rewards.

If you would like to join our happy stewardship team in any capacity or if you have any questions about stewardship, contact me at the coordinates below.

Bob Cunningham, PBTC Land Stewardship Director (519) 793-3286 rhcunningham@rogers.com



Left to right: Don McIlraith, John Brodhagen, Tony Barton, Bob Cunningham, Grant Ehrhardt

CEDARHOLME Bed & Breakfast and Cottages On the Bruce Trail • Steps to the Beach Lynn and John McCurdy 108 Beech Street, Hope Bay South Bruce Peninsula, ON NOH 2TO 519-534-3705 www.cedarholmebb.com cedarholmebandb@bmts.com

Profile

Jan MacKie and Jim Kuellmer

By Carol Chitovas

The road leading to Rush Cove is comprised of ups and downs and rough turns, just as it was, figuratively speaking, when Jan MacKie and Jim Kuellmer travelled it. Between them, they carried an abundance of skills, talents, courage and dedication on the journey. These attributes have helped them successfully create a shelter and new life on the Peninsula. Beyond that, these two have contributed to the betterment of the community at large, including the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Travel has been an integral part of Jan and Jim's lives. In fact, the two first met each other while in Europe: Jim had come from Chicago, and Jan from Toronto. Over the years, the two have travelled extensively, including completing two overland trips from Europe through Iran and Afghanistan to India. According to Jan, travel has been the best education they have had. Travel has shaped who they are.

From their home base of Toronto, where the couple spent 30 years, Jan and Jim took their two sons on many camping trips. One favourite spot was Cape Croker. It was there that they were introduced to and hiked the Bruce Trail. Enamored by the escarpment, they discovered by chance a 55-acre lot for sale in Rush Cove in 1988. They bought it, especially attracted because the escarpment ran through the property.

In 2005, after the loss of their son in addition to the loss of Jan's father, the couple decided to leave Toronto and start life anew on their property on the Peninsula. Jim retired from his job as a carpenter, and put his skills to work building a house for them, while Jan continued to work in Toronto until 2007, when the house was finally completed.

The two attended the dedication of the Chris Walker Nature Reserve for the purchase of which they had given a donation in their son, Galen's name – poignant to them because Galen, who had recently died in an accident, had especially loved that tract. It was at that event that Jan and Jim were introduced to and became interested in joining the Peninsula club.



Jan, a self-described "dabbler", ran an integrated outdoor art garden play programme at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She is a published author. She also built and sewed costumes for major theatre productions—among them, "The Phantom of the Opera", "The Lion King" and "Miss Saigon". She continues to create costumes now for musical productions at Bruce Peninsula District School. Her workroom is filled with an eclectic assortment of fabrics and materials, some of which were collected on travels to places such as Thailand and Bali. As an artist, she makes amulets and spirit houses. Both she and Jim are members of the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists, participating in the annual Studio Tour along with their younger son, Neal, a glassworker. Jim produces wooden turned bowls and kitchen utensils. His woodworking talent is evident inside their one-of-a-kind home. There are many beautiful wooden shelves and unique decorative touches. The interior has incorporated the elements and beauty of the exterior wood and stone surroundings.

The Bruce Trail's Barrow Bay Side Trail was created, winding through Jim and Jan's property. Jim is a Land Steward for the Rush Cove Side Trail, keeping close "eyes on the property". Constantly gathering volunteers and resources, he has helped to keep out unwanted motorized intruders. He is also a trained sawyer, assisting work crews when able. Jan, having "dabbled" on the computer program "InDesign" (hoping to publish a book about her grandfather), has put her skills to work doing layout for The Rattler publication since 2013.

(cont'd on page 15)



View from Rush Cove - photo by Jan MacKie

(cont'd from page 14)

Both Ian and Iim are dedicated to the preservation of the environment and are very committed to working with children towards this goal. They are members of BPEG (Bruce Peninsula Environmental Group). Their home is totally offgrid. They grow and conserve many vegetables and apples. Their property is covered with apple trees and gardens. With the help of Judy MacLeod, Ian worked with local schools to produce and distribute the "Toward Zero Waste Calendar". She also volunteers in classrooms. Iim is a member of the municipal waste diversion committee. He built a compost unit with the help of grade 7 and 8 students, supervises it, and also helps with gardens at the local school.

Passionate about communities, Jim and Jan work towards improving them. Jim emphasizes, for

example, the importance of having a public trail such as the Rush Cove Side Trail, so that everyone can experience the beauty of the escarpment as well as have access to the water. Jan is vicepresident and founding director of Triluma Living Collaborative. This is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating an urban village in Toronto made up of accessible commercial and residential units, community gardens and art studios and a collaboratively run café/gallery. There, adults with disabilities would live alongside artists and others who contribute to the village, perhaps by providing recreational programming or by helping to run the café in exchange for rent. This is a model that could be transferrable to other locations, too.

Courage, commitment and perseverance will, no doubt, continue to travel with Jan and Jim on their iournev.





Peninsula Bruce Trail Club - 2016 Annual Birding Walk

For the first year in recent history Marlene and Ray Rothenbury were not leading our May hike. They have moved away to the Kingston area and asked us, Anita and Bob Cunningham, to take their place. We have huge shoes to fill!

There were 12 of us this year and the weather cooperated with a beautiful sunny, cool May 11 but the birds were somewhat less than cooperative. Our hopes to smash the Rothenbury record of 64 species were themselves smashed due to what appears to have been a late migration this year. However, despite the shortage of birds this year, our intrepid team did manage to ring up 59 species. While 60 was always Ray's "magic number", Bob was heard muttering that we couldn't even find the ubiquitous house sparrow to reach that level. But our group of knowledgeable birders persevered and found the only two bluebirds in the area, a couple of lonely warblers and the bird of the day, a single lonely Black-billed Cuckoo perched high atop a leafless tree looking unsuccessfully for a mate.

As usual we followed the "Rothenbury route", carpooling from the Dyer's Bay parking area down



Northern Flicker





Indigo Bunting

to the dock where Bill Hansen and Don Douma had their scopes set up to help us identify various waterbirds. From there we headed off for short hikes at Britain Lake Road, Bartley Drive, Lindsay Rd. 40, Crane Lake, Warder Ranch and then the ponds and wetland on Dyer's Bay Rd. We had a short break for lunch at the Warder Ranch and were very disappointed to find the secret stash of asparagus had decided to wait for warmer weather.

The following is our official list of sightings and hearings. Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Mallard, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneve, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Black-billed Cuckoo, Rubythroated Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink,



American Redstart

cont'd from page 16

Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch.

Thanks to all the birders who came out this year and contributed their eyes and ears to our excellent adventure. If you couldn't join us this year but have even a slight interest in our avian friends then why not put Wednesday May 10, 2017 on your calendar.



American Goldfinch

It's a lot of fun and there is NO EXPERTISE REQUIRED!!

Anita and Bob Cunningham





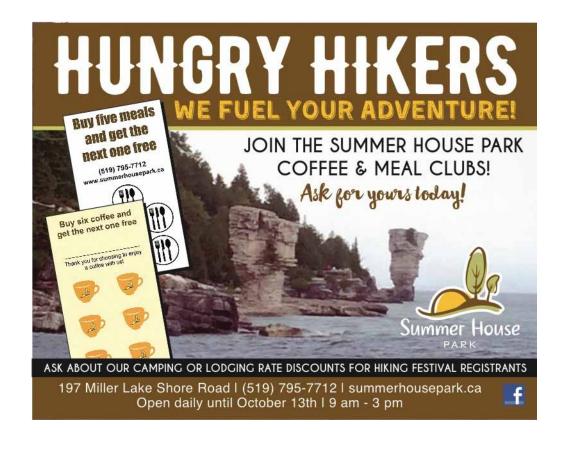




Spring Road Clean-up Team



Spring Road Clean up Crew south of Dyer's Bay led by Barry & Nancy Ince



Support for Otter Lake Trails

The Isthmus Bay Property Owners Association presents a cheque to Walter Brewer, Peninsula Bruce Trail Club President, for \$500.00 to help with the purchase of property at Otter Lake for trails. One of the Association's objectives is "the preservation of the natural environment" of the area and the Bruce Trail is utilized by many of our members.

Presenting the cheque is IBPOA President Kathy Burns and Secretary Patti Hellyer. The IBPOA donates to local, non-profit organizations every year to contribute to the community.

Pictured from left to right: Patti Hellyer, Walter Brewer, Kathy Burns



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Drinking Water Refill Stations

Water Bottle refill stations have been installed to encourage everyone to carry their own refillable water bottle in order to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles that are adding significantly to the plastic pollution in our environment.

The refill stations at Tobermory and Lion's Head have been installed by the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula with the support of the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group.

The water in these stations is municipally treated, safe for drinking.

There are also two stations with safe drinking water at the Bruce Peninsula National Park

Bottles can also be refilled for a minimal cost at:

Peacock's Foodland in Tobermory & Scott's Home Hardware in Lion's Head

Let's work together to maintain a clean environment.











MINUTE PLASTIC FRAGMENTS TOXIFY BIRDS AND MARINE LIFE FOR 700 YEARS



Peninsula Bruce Trail Club P.O. Box 1087, Wiarton, ON NOH 2T0

Do you have an interesting web page or Facebook page you think our readers would like to see? Send us the link to pbtcrattler10@gmail.com

