

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #2 2020

"Lockdown" is not a word I would use to describe the many activities of our club over the last few months! Following a brief, depressing period during which the entire Bruce Trail was shut down, the club has been a hive of activity. The entire trail is now reopened, with the exception of Neyaashiinigaaming (Cape Croker), which our friends in the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation are keeping closed for the time being. A main trail reroute has been completed that avoids the closed area; please use it.

The big achievement of the last few months has been, of course, the completion of the staircase at Barrow Bay, permitting us to reroute nearly seven km of trail off road and onto land the Bruce Trail Conservancy has protected. Doug Hill and Tom Hall led the volunteer teams that completed this extraordinary feat — all while following the provincial COVID guidelines. Please join me in thanking them for their very hard work.

Our hiking program has been revived, thanks to Barbara Reuber and our volunteer hike leaders. With the new integrated hike listing, members of all nine Bruce Trail clubs can participate in our hikes, and we can participate in those of the other clubs. One of the results of the COVID pandemic has been that Canadians have been vacationing at home, rather than travelling abroad. This has led to a huge increase in traffic on the Peninsula this summer. There have been many challenges for our club, for the National Park and for local communities in managing these throngs of people. Our stewardship volunteers, led by Bob Cunningham and Mark Schantz, have been kept busy, as has trail director Tom Hall. The worst affected areas have been Lion's Head and Devil's Monument. We have worked hard to be good neighbours with the residents of Moore Street and Borchardt Road. You can help by avoiding these areas on busy weekends. Plans are in the works

to improve trail access for serious hikers in both locations.

A host of new community engagement opportunities for our club are being developed, largely thanks to Tamara Wilson, Marg Glendon and Janna Chegahno. You will hear more about these in the coming months. It is so important for Peninsula Club to be well grounded in the community and to support local recreational and conservation activities.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of our active volunteers — too many to list — for their contributions. This is an amazing club and I am proud to be a part of it. Thanks also to my good friend, retiring President Walter Brewer, for having left it in such good shape.

Happy hiking!
John Grandy



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Volunteers Keep the Trail in Shape During COVID-19

Land stewardship and trail maintenance are two of the “nuts and bolts” volunteer activities that make it possible for everyone to enjoy the Bruce Trail. Spring is a key time for volunteers. Land stewards check the condition of their properties and submit spring monitoring reports. Trail captains prepare their respective sections of the trail for hikers — dealing with the damage of the past winter and conducting routine maintenance. And of course, there is the annual Spruce Up the Bruce weekend where work parties and sawyers are busy with projects and major tree removal.

This year was particularly challenging with the cancellation of all trail maintenance activities on March 16 and ultimately the closure of the trail from March 27–May 15 due to COVID-19. The Spruce Up the Bruce weekend and barbeque had to be cancelled, to the disappointment of many.

But when the trail reopened, our volunteers kicked in with their usual enthusiasm and, notwithstanding the flourishing poison ivy and the mosquitoes and biting flies that come at the end of May, they whipped the trail into great shape for all to enjoy. One busy day in July saw three chainsaw crews in action, an orientation hike for a new trail captain, and others at work as well. The Stew Crew, a team of five intrepid explorers that visit each of the properties we manage on the Peninsula, has at least partially resumed their activities. All this while respecting the need for social distancing.

Thanks to these and all our volunteers supporting PBTC communications, outreach, membership, land owners and conservation, for allowing us to get out and enjoy the trail despite these challenging times.



Photos

Upper right: Chainsaw taking a break with a great view

Lower right: Lloyd Hayward, sprucing up the steps

Left: John Hill, Josh Hazzard and Tom Hall work hard on trail improvement activities.

A Biology Student, A Camera and a New Love for Otter Lake

If you had asked me in January of 2020 how many bird species I thought existed on the Northern Saugeen Peninsula, I might have guessed anywhere between 20-30. My knowledge of the diversity of bird species was very limited. Even today, the more I learn, the more I realize how little I know. I used to think every little bird I saw was either a common sparrow or a chickadee, with a few other species sprinkled in. It wasn't until COVID, early morning family walks (first on Cape Chin North Road, then onto the Bruce Trail once it re-opened), and a family camera purchase, that I was able to capture detailed photos of birds, changing my perspective on the matter.

My adventure started one early May morning when our family went for a walk down our local dirt road to test out the new camera. I tried to photograph every bird that would stay still long enough for a shot. Capturing good photos of birds was not easy! When we got home, I went through the photos to identify the species in each picture. On this walk alone, we found approximately 25 species. Our hike was my big "aha" moment — I realized there were many more species than I ever imagined living in my own neighbourhood. With work delayed due to COVID, I spent my days hiking, and sitting at locations such as Otter Lake, watching for new species. At the beginning of my quest, I was finding up to 10 new species daily.

As a biology student in my final year at McMaster University, wildlife and conservation are of significant interest to me. Through my hiking and observing, I realized that I had a large knowledge gap on the subject. Historically, I liked birds, spending a couple of hours every week volunteering at the Hamilton Aviary beside my university. Once I started investigating birds that I observed locally, I wanted to catalogue them all to see how many I could identify before returning to work. Within a few weeks I was close to a total of 100 species. I was outside with the camera daily, continually changing my route trying to find additional species.

One day my mom joined me on an excursion to Otter Lake. We sat in the sun for a couple hours, waving away deer flies and baking in the sun before calling it a day with no luck — just the usual feathered friends. On the return trip home along the Otter Lake Side Trail, we looked up to the tree-tops of the maple forest and in plain sight was an indigo bunting. Neither of us had seen an indigo bunting before, and



even though we had just spent hours in the hot sun, with swarming bugs, that one find made the wait worthwhile. Another bird to add to the list!

I started learning new information about the habits of these birds, and times that they were most active. One day after it rained, I was curious to see who would be out. I went for a walk on the main trail by our house, and to my surprise, I found around seven new species of warblers in one hour. I didn't think there were that many in the area, but there were warblers hopping in the trees everywhere. Events such as this only increased my interest and my desire to keep searching.

On another occasion at Otter Lake, I was sitting, quietly watching for birds when I was alarmed by a screeching noise directly behind me. I was alone and cautious of the local wildlife so I quickly decided to wrap up my day. As I left, I was startled by the sound again, and to my surprise, I found a bird about the size of a robin screeching underneath some thick brush beside me -- it was a catbird. I now understood the name!

On another day, I was sitting quietly at Otter Lake when suddenly a giant bird flew in front of me. I scrambled to get the camera out but thought I had missed my chance as it flew away. To my surprise, the bird perched on a tree in the distance directly in front of me. It was an osprey. I had never seen an osprey before, nor did I think they existed in Ontario, but there it was.

(cont'd on pg. 5)

(cont'd from pg. 4)

As a child on summer visits to my grandparents in British Columbia, I had seen their large nests on the huge hydro transmission lines, but never had I seen an osprey in real life. It was massive, magnificent, and amazing. I sat there for an hour just watching it through the lens, albeit hoping it might fly closer so I could capture the encounter with a better picture.

Through my new-found learning about birds, my experiences, and the hours I spent at Otter Lake, my love for this portion of the Bruce Trail grew. The diversity of the birds in this small area is amazing. I did not know places like this even existed. One of my favourite memories is walking up to Otter Lake and hearing a call in the tree beside me that sounded mechanical — like some sort of robot. That was my introduction to the Otter Lake bobolinks and they became one of my favourite birds, often accompanying me during my hikes. My time at Otter Lake made me realize the importance of conservation efforts, and the significance of keeping sections of the Bruce Trail such as this in pristine condition, away from harmful human impacts. Otter Lake is home to so many species, and they need to be protected.



Above: Brown Thrasher

Below: Rose-breasted Grosbeak



***Photos
Left:
White crowned
Sparrow
Below:
Eastern Phoebe***



My “Birdwatching Tech”

We bought a Power shot SX70-HS by Canon for the specific purpose of identifying bird species and other animals at a distance. It is crazy that a camera was able to completely change my perspective and teach me so much about wildlife. It is amazing how close a shot we were able to get of the birds, and the detail we could make out which proved very helpful in identifying the different species. This camera is an alternative to more expensive DSLR cameras. The quality is not as fine, but it is lightweight and easy to transport on hikes, and the resolution is still great. The 64X zoom on the camera is its biggest feature, as even small birds at a distance can be identified. The camera is able to connect to a phone through Bluetooth allowing for easy export of photos. To catalogue the species, I used a Canon Ivy portable printer, which also connects to a phone through Bluetooth. The photos are 2”x 3” and have a sticky back that allow you to easily insert them into a cataloguing book of your choice.

Olivia Wilson

Opening New Trail at Barrow Bay

If you're a hiker, or just a love to be out in nature, there is a new trail at Barrow Bay that adds to the places where you can enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Peninsula. The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club (PBTC) officially opened this new section of the Bruce Trail on June 27. The trail features cliffs, spectacular lookouts, dense forests, and is habitat to a long list of wildlife and rare species of flora and fauna.

Members and supporters of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) have been working for 35 years to make this piece of the Bruce Trail a reality. In 2019, the BTC purchased a 370 acre parcel of land just south of Lion's Head and created the Barrow Bay Cliffs Nature Reserve, which allowed the effort to come to fruition. Previously, hikers had to endure

tedious hiking along Rush Cove Road, Scenic Caves Road and Bruce Road 9 to complete this section of the Bruce Trail. The new trail makes it possible to take seven kilometers of trail off the road.

The trail was the result of a long effort of raising funds, acquiring land, building the trail and finally putting in a staircase to provide access from the scarp edge to the shoreline below.

The photos of construction of the stairway show how challenging the work was. Not only did volunteers have to carry all of the materials to the site, but the team of master builders doing the construction had to deal with daunting terrain. The result is spectacular, with a wonderful resting spot in the middle of the stairway.



Barrow Bay Construction:

Barrow Bay staircase construction led by builders Doug Hill, John Hill and Josh Hazard.

Other volunteers on the job were Tom Hall, Laura Browne, Lloyd Hayward, John Grandy, Brian Taylor, Susan Allen, Dale Avis and Joe Lehmann



New Trail at Barrow Bay (cont'd)

It was made possible by the support of members of the BTC, donations, and many hours of volunteer effort. Thanks to the those who made donations to our "Get the Blazes Off the Road" contest for funding the stairway.

The club celebrated the trail opening on June 27. Several members came to share in a chance to see the new stairway and walk the trail, all the while maintaining social distancing.

Now that the trail is complete, volunteers from the PBTC will act as stewards of the Barrow Bay Cliffs Nature Reserve and maintain the trail for everyone's use.

The new trail entrance is just south of Barrow Bay. Parking is available in the Bruce Trail parking lot near South Shore Road (please respect the local community and do not park on the west side of Bruce Road 9)

More Construction photos



Winner of the "Get the Blazes Off the Road" contest removes a blaze from the old route along the road.



John Whitworth and Grant Ehrhardt, two of the volunteers responsible for acquiring the land and rerouting the trail, at the Barrow Bay trail opening.

Opening Day of New Barrow Bay Trail



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Volunteering – Starting Them Young!

Emerson helped his mother, a volunteer trail captain, as she walked the trail and painted a bunch of blazes. Here are a few words from Emerson's mother, Jaucelynn Toth, about Emerson's experiences as one of PBTC's youngest volunteers:

Emerson loves to hike and gets a special joy out of pointing out each blaze we pass on the trail. Having the opportunity to paint blazes himself has allowed him to have a greater appreciation for the trail and the hard work of numerous volunteers that goes into maintaining it.



* * * * *

Coming Soon...

The Great Bruce Trail Scavenger Hunt 2020. We can't give too much away just yet. But, in September, look for more details about the "Great Bruce Trail Scavenger Hunt" on our PBTC website and Facebook page. Here is a clue: it's a new partnership with Peninsula Adventure Sports Association.

* * * * *

Invasive Species Removal



In June, PBTC volunteers Tom, Marg and Barb pulled garlic mustard at Cape Croker Park as part of an initiative of the Neyasshi-nigmiing Species at Risk and Youth Mental Health program. Garlic mustard is an invasive herb native to Europe. It was brought to North America in the early 1800s for use as an edible herb.

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Picking Up The Bundles

Edward (Eli) George, also known as Waasekom Niin, began paddling on July 5, 2020 from Kettle Point area and travelled through the Saugeen Ojibway Nation traditional territory along the Lake Huron shore and around Georgian Bay to Collingwood.

His journey, Picking Up the Bundles, was to raise awareness about First Nation and Indigenous issues that are important to him.

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is eager to learn more about the history and culture of the SON. The club has begun taking steps towards building a meaningful relationship that will include sharing knowledge, promoting SON's history and culture along the trail, and sharing in the responsibilities of caring for the lands and waters.

The PBTC welcomed the opportunity to meet Waasekom and his land support team, to hear his stories, and to wish him well on his journey.



Additional information regarding Waasekom's journey can be found here: <https://saugeentimes.com/a-canoe-journey-has-launched-in-s.../>

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PBTC Organized Hiking Resumes

The Peninsula Club is gradually restarting its organized hiking program. The club had to cancel its spring birding hike, hike and draw and end-to-end summer hike series when the trail was closed in March. After restrictions eased, the club offered four summer loop hikes. The hikes saw happy groups of hikers enjoying the trail on beautiful summer days. Thanks to volunteer hike leaders John Grandy, Tamara Wilson and Harriet Nixon.



The hiking team is working on a full hike program for next summer and will be offering a hike or two this fall.

Keep your eyes on the unified hike list on the BTC website to see any hikes that are available.

To register, go to the unified hike list at <https://hikes.brucetrail.org>

Lightning Strikes! – Apologies for the Delay
The Rattler editors apologize for the lateness of this issue – missing the September 1 date. Lightning fried parts of the off-grid system of Jan Mackie, our layout volunteer, affecting her computer

Stay tuned!



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Hiking During COVID-19

After weeks without visitors and the closure of tourist facilities, the Bruce Peninsula and sections of the Bruce Trail are busier than ever. To keep us all safer and healthier, please keep these measures in mind when hiking during COVID-19.

Plan Ahead

- * Check what is open by visiting the BTC trail changes page.
- * Be prepared to change your destination if you find the trail or trailhead busy.
- * Respect parking restrictions. If you find that a parking area is full, drive to another parking area that has space available.
- * Schedule your visit to avoid times of high use.

Practice Physical Distancing

- * Keep six feet (two metres) apart from anyone not in your “social bubble” of up to 10 people.
- * Move aside to allow others to pass.
- * Walk or hike for shorter spans of time.

Practice No-Trace Hiking

- * Pack out everything you bring on your hike.
- * Bury human waste away from the trail.

BTC has developed guidelines for hikers joining group hikes with PBTC and all other Bruce Trail clubs. These guidelines are available at <https://brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/hike-schedule#guidelines>. We continue to monitor the guidance provided by Canada’s and Ontario’s public health officers with respect to COVID-19. Our hiking program and our guidelines to hikers may need to change as this guidance changes.

Dario the “Bruin” and the Bear Cub Badge

The Bear Cub badge is earned by Bruce Trail “bruins” who are up to 16 years of age. The badge will be awarded after completion of four side trail loops. These side trail loops can include stand-alone blue loops or loops created by combining the main trail with a side trail.

Thanks to the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club I was able to share a memorable and meaningful event with my grandson, my youngest daughter and Winnie, the little Shiba Inu. Together we hiked the four looped side trail hikes on the Peninsula to earn Dario the Bear Cub badge. Before I tell you about the hikes he completed let me share some pertinent background. This kid is seven. He is not a hiker. Given a list of 10 things to do on a free day, he would not choose hiking. When not in school, or involved in extracurricular activities, Dario would rather be exercising his fingers on the iPad, if you know what I mean. Not hiking. I live on the Peninsula and I like to hike, so when Dario was sent to me for a week I was ready with the “carrot.” I told him about the Bear Cub badge and how much fun it would be to do four hikes. In the end, he would receive a great badge with a Bear on it, so cool, his mom could sew it on his cap. He was suspicious at first. After all, I am the grandmother who sneaks sweet potatoes, spinach and sometimes beets into chocolate brownies. I told him the president of the PBTC would deliver the badge to him and shake his hand. I lied, just a little, but he smiled and I knew I had him, he was into it, he liked the idea. Maybe it was the appeal of the bear — it represents something wild, adventurous, exciting. Goodness knows I certainly feel all those emotions when a black bear crosses my property up here on the Peninsula! We set out the next day, a Sunday, on our first hike — Dario, Auntie Tina, Winnie the dog and me, Grambo. We began at the Cottrill Lake Side Trail and looped to the main trail via the Anne Clayton Roberts Side Trail. At the main trail we headed north to the other end of the Anne Clayton Roberts Side Trail, to Britain Lake Road, and south to the Bruce Trail parking lot, about 4.5 km in total. Along the way we taught Dario to watch for and identify poison ivy and to follow the blue and then the white blazes. We ate a snack on my favourite rock ledge overlooking the bay — Cape Chin to the south, Cabot Head to the north. And we poured water on our heads to cool down. We finished day one with an ice cream in Lion’s Head and a swim at our favourite beach.



The next day, hike number two began at Rush Cove Side Trail. We parked the car in the Bruce Trail parking lot, took a photo and headed south. This lovely side trail meanders through the woods and is comfy on the feet due to packed earth and needles. Dario was up ahead watching for the blazes and skipping faster than I was hiking. That’s what seven-year-olds do when they are high on life — they skip — it’s adorable. Dario learned an important hiking life lesson that day; he who leads the hike gets cobwebs in the face! When the side trail met the main trail we headed north to loop back to the car after a refreshing dip in Georgian Bay. Not the longest hike, about 3.8 km, but a great day, so much fun! Dario even found a perfectly intact snake skin as we headed back to the car. On day three of Dario’s visit to Dyers Bay, we took a break from scheduled hikes, although we did hike on the main Bruce Trail from the visitor parking lot to the Grotto and our swimming destination. I stayed on the rocks with Winnie the Shiba and watched Auntie Tina and Dario swim in the very, very cold water from rock to rock. We finished off that day with dinner and a brew on the patio at the Tobermory Brewing Company, a perfect end to a perfect day. *(cont’d on pg 13)*

(cont'd from pg 12) Hike number three will be an indelible memory for Dario, not because it was a perfect day, rather it was the opposite, a really challenging experience. The weather was extremely hot and Dario had begun to question how many more hikes to complete for the Bear Cub badge. We told him he was half way there, easy peasy (again I lied). We parked the car on Cape Chin Road across from the side trail sign and headed off to conquer the third looped hike: the Otter Lake Side Trail. It was hot and buggy, overgrown and not pleasant. We poured water on Dario's head to cool him down. When we got to Borchardt Road to head back to the car, a two km stretch on the hot dusty road, we had to dig deep to finish the hike. I felt so sorry for sweaty little Dario and Winnie with her thick Shiba coat. Hiking the road on a stinking hot July day is a challenge, even for seasoned hikers. You do it because you have to, but you don't enjoy it. You certainly don't feel like skipping. But, the little guy did it — he was awesome! Suffice to say the journey home was subdued; we were tired, grumpy and needed "me" time on our iPads.

The next day Dario's mom, sister Sophie and Auntie Naomi arrived in Dyers Bay to spend a few days and take Dario home. Hike number four was a family hike beginning at the Bruce Trail parking lot on Britain Lake Road, south on the Minhinnick Side Trail to Devil's Monument Side Trail to the beach where no one was brave enough to go in the frigid water. We continued south on the main trail to Bourchardt Rd. and then north on the Minhinnick Side Trail to return to the car. This is such a lovely hike as the trail meanders through woods, along the edge of the escarpment and down to the Devil's Monument which is such an interesting flowerpot formation.

So that was it, four looped side trail hikes, completed to earn Dario the Bear Cub badge. All of the hikes were between 4 and 6.5 km, just doable for a beginner hiker to experience a sense of achievement, the awe, the beauty and the challenge of Bruce Trail hiking.

Thank you again Peninsula Bruce Trail Club for this opportunity and for hopefully igniting a passion that will lead to a lifetime of hikes, adventures and interacting with nature.

***Grambo, aka Kathy Brouse
Dyers Bay, Ont.***

Thanks to Dario Mungo, Tina Fance and Winnie the Shiba.



Your New Peninsula Club Board of Directors

The PBTC annual general meeting was a very different affair this year! A Zoom conference call was organized for May 30 and Board members and approximately 30 other members took part. Although the traditional BBQ potluck-social was missed, it was business as usual for the meeting portion with out-going President Walter Brewer presiding over the meeting with his usual informative and photo-filled slide show.

Here are your Board members for 2020-2021:

President: John Grandy (& Trail Development Director, rep to BTC's Land Acquisition Committee)

Vice-President: Tamara Wilson

Treasurer: Hanne Fynbo

Representative to BTC Board: John Whitworth

Past-President: Walter Brewer

Communications Team Leader: Barb Reuber

Hike Team: Marg Glendon, Barb Reuber, Tamara Wilson

Land Owner Relations: Darci Lombard

Land Stewardship Director: Bob Cunningham

Land Steward Assistant Director: Mark Shantz

Members-at-large: Janna Chegahno & Brenda Langlois

Membership & Outreach Coordinator (& co-Rep to Tobermory Chamber of Commerce): Marg Glendon

Sales Director: Grant Ehrhardt

Trail Maintenance Coordinator: Tom Hall

Trail Maintenance Director North: Jeff Buckingham

Trail Maintenance Director South: Lloyd Hayward

Secretary, Archivist, and Volunteer Coordinator positions are currently vacant.

Currently non-voting Board members (a new type of board position):

Friends of Bruce District Parks, Advisor: Ann Miller

Parks Advisory Committee Rep & co-Rep to Tobermory C of C: Owen Glendon

Social Media Coordinator: Susan Allen

Words of introduction from our three new members...

Tamara Wilson was travelling abroad when we had our AGM 2019, so it seemed like a good time now to hear a few words from her. Having served on the board for most of the year as member-at-large, Tamara Wilson is now VP. She will be mentored on the board for the next year to prepare for the role of president at the next AGM. Tamara did her first E2E in 2011 with John Whitworth and Walter Brewer as hike leaders. In 2012, she and her husband bought land by Devil's Monument, built a home and retired here as full time residents in 2017. They took over trail captain duties from the Wassermans in 2017. They look after the main trail from Borchardt Road to Britain Lake Road and several side trails: Minhinnick, Lillie Family, Lillie Pothole, and Devil's Monument. She worked on hiking other sections of the trail from 2011 to 2019, finally completing the entire Bruce Trail from Queenston to Tobermory in 2019. They have two daughters: an RN who works in Orillia and a biology student at McMaster.



Words of introduction from our three new members (cont'd)

Janna Chegahno is a member of the Chippewas of Nawash community and currently the Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park. After attending a recent board meeting, Janna agreed to accept a position as Member-at-large. Marg Glendon previously met with Janna in regard to a hike leader course. She found Janna to be a “positive, collaborative and knowledgeable person.” Janna notes that in working within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Traditional Territory that it is customary to deal with both communities of the SON: the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, (also known as Cape Croker or Neyaashiinigmiing); and the Saugeen First Nation. The board looks forward to a new perspective.



Mark Shantz: Grant Ehrhardt was the person who got Mark involved as a volunteer. The Lillie property at Dyers Bay had just been donated to the BTC and a land steward was required. He and his wife, Anna, live relatively close to Dyers Bay so after a walk through the property with Grant and Don and Joan McIlwraith, they decided to take on land steward responsibilities for that property. Stew Crew adventures started in Spring 2017.

Grant (there's that name again), who had been a neighbour of theirs in the Pleasant Harbour area, approached Mark and told him about this crazy group of guys who met on Tuesday mornings for a bit of serious work generously mixed with fun and frivolity. Mark had his baptism by fire on May 9, 2017 and it seemed he was just goofy enough to fit in with the Crew. His wife and he bought their place on Donald Road, Pleasant Harbour as a cottage in early 2008 and moved to their little piece of paradise full time in late 2014. They have hiked the BT for many years, were members of the Caledon Hills BTC when they lived in Kitchener and joined the PBTC when they bought their place on the Bruce. Mark is also a trail captain for the section from Halfway Log Dump parking to Stormhaven overnight area.



Marg Glendon (pictured at right) has always been an active explorer of hiking, canoeing and camping. Hiking has been at the heart of her relationships with family, friends and community. Like life, hiking is about putting one foot in front of the other, appreciating the journey and companions you meet along the way. For many years, she camped and hiked with her sons on the Bruce Peninsula. In 2015, she and her husband Owen retired to Tobermory. Their life started together with a hike on the trail and a visit to Tobermory, so it was fitting they retired to where it all began for them. Marg has been a BTC member since 2016, and enjoys being trail captain, with Owen, for the eight km from Little Cove to the Northern Terminus. She also previously shuttled hikers as a trail angel, helped to plan the 2017 BTC AGM and assists Grant with PBTC Sales. She is looking forward to her new role in membership and outreach, as well as being a member of the hike planning team. The Bruce Peninsula community provides a rich natural classroom for unique, daily learning experiences. Learning about the natural world continues to provide interest, wonder and comfort for her. She believes that PBTC is creating opportunities for people to directly participate in caring for, and hike on the Bruce Trail. This nurtures individual benefits as well as creates a sense of community.



From the Archives....

Ross McLean was a writer who captured the stories of the people and history of the Bruce Trail.
The excerpt below is taken from:

TRAIL MEMORIES IN THE BRUCE PENINSULA

More than 30 Years of Recollections Of
Working Towards The Dream

by Ross McLean, March 2011 (reproduced with permission)

More than three decades ago I personally discovered the Bruce Peninsula and its Trail. It began with the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club which had adopted the Lion's Head Club when its membership shrunk to one local member, Ilse Hanel. As she grew older she could no longer look after its trail maintenance and needed assistance.

I came north with the Caledon Hills Trail Director Ernie Painter and a team of volunteers for a late May weekend. We camped at Hope Bay and much of our work focused on the Reed's Dump area which had recently been trashed by a spring bush party. I discovered both the beauty of the Bruce but also the volunteer help that was necessary to preserve the Trail. I was hooked by the challenge and the opportunity.

The 1980s saw the reorganization of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, formed from the three former clubs, Lower Bruce, Lion's Head, and Peninsula, each of which had become essentially inactive. For much of this decade the local group was dormant; there were no meetings, no activities and no newsletter. Trail maintenance responsibilities had to be divided among four southern clubs: Iroquoia, Toronto, Caledon and Blue Mountains. It was also a period where the Trail came under fierce local attack because of the threats of Niagara Escarpment Commission land-use controls. Yet towards the end of this period, a revival had begun: Fred Binding from Waterloo took over leadership and we saw significant reroutes such as at Gun Point. The acquisition program began in earnest as "The Bruce Trail Project" and early purchases included treasures such as Devil's Monument and White Bluff. In 1987 the Bruce Peninsula National Park was created, thus helping to guarantee the Trail route at the "tip o' the Bruce." *(cont'd on pg 17)*



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

A Tribute to Ross McLean (based in part on an article in the Fall 2020 Caledon Comment)

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club pioneer Ross McLean passed away at the end of May. Ross started as a member of the Bruce Trail Association in the 1970s. Over the years, Ross received many awards for his volunteer work. Twice he was named an Honorary (Life) Member of the BTA/ BTC — once in 1997 for his effort in revitalizing the Peninsula Club, and again in 2012 for his work with the Caledon Hills Club. He is a past president of the PBTC and an Honorary Life-time Member of the Peninsula Club.



Ross McLean (in red jacket) winter hiking with a friend

Here are some memories from PBTC Past President and board member Walter Brewer:

I always felt Ross was a legend. I met him at a “get to know the National Park” weekend where he led hikes for newbies and explained the geology of the escarpment and the meaning of having a trail open to the public. Shortly afterwards he took me for a walk on “his” section of White Bluff and as we looked over Georgian Bay, he said he could turn over the trail captain job to me as he was only babysitting and he felt it was the most beautiful section of the peninsula. He got another volunteer!

Well that got me started. I then joined a few of his work parties. Ross was a general who acquired volunteers and set out work days with 30 to 50 people starting at various sections on the soon-to-be new trail. They all completed on time and with so many helpers the work was never a burden. Sometimes we would end up at Ted’s Range Road Diner en masse. Thanking volunteers and encouraging them to continue helping was his technique.

Ross and Chris Walker traveled the trail, often staying at the properties of Bruce Trail volunteers. They carried a scroll of 1:10,000 survey maps and like a Torah, it was carried into the kitchen and rolled out to the appropriate section. One or both of them usually knew the names of all the landowners along the optimum route they were studying, and that night plans would be made to talk to some of the people along the route seeking a handshake agreement to cross their property. Ross advocated for club reps to walk the land

they felt was needed and to know as many of the landowners as possible. This approach has resulted in many great re-routes, like Cape Dundas. Ross will be missed, as will his leadership.

The donation of the Cape Dundas Nature Reserve in the Peninsula section is a testament to the significant impacts of Ross’s efforts. In early November 2016 Ross received an email from David and Nancy Pease, landowners of about 200 acres at Cape Dundas. The email read: “Because you were our first contact with the Bruce Trail Association so many years ago I want you to be the first to know our thinking. There is little doubt in our minds that the Cape Dundas property is a very special place and it is our wish that it remain so for as long as possible. We would like to donate this property to the Bruce Trail [Conservancy]. While we could sell the property, receiving significant financial returns, this would only result in the eventual destruction of this jewel on the Bruce.” The landowners credited Ross’s friendship with them over the years as a key factor in their donation.

Ross made many friendships during his years of volunteering. Ross would tell you that it had been a great forty years. It was not only the beauty of the land, but also the volunteer spirit and friendship of the people with whom he has worked. Ross embodied the true spirit of volunteerism over the past four decades.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
(cont’d from g.16) In 1993, after another collapse of leadership, the local club was resurrected again by volunteers from the south. Since then we have seen a steady growth in support, especially within the Bruce Peninsula community. Today the PBTC is one of the stronger Bruce Trail clubs, with a steadily growing membership. It leads all clubs in the percentage of active volunteers, with approximately 100 trail captains and assistants, and a large number of land stewards. In the past fifteen years it has won the Tom East Award for quality trail improvements more than any other club. Recent acquisitions have included significant escarpment properties such as Rush Cove (the Chris Walker Nature Reserve) and Malcolm Bluff Shores. Its main and side trails make it the longest of any of the nine Bruce Trail clubs.

PBTC Supports the Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Dept.



Hanna Fynbo, PBTC treasurer, puts the cheque in the mail!



The Peninsula Club donated \$500 toward the purchase of a Utility Terrain Vehicle for the Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Department — a full-service fire department that protects lives through fire prevention, education, planning and emergency response.

Closure of Moore Street Side Trail

The Moore Street Side Trail has been permanently closed. This action was taken by the property owners in consideration of issues related to environmental impacts and the safety of visitors and residents. Each year the Moore Street Side Trail has experienced a large increase in visitors, resulting in over capacity on the trail and congestion on the street.

You can continue to access the Bruce Trail on the Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve via the main trail, the Warder Side Trail and the Cemetery Road Side Trail.



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Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Needs YOU!

You are one of those exceptional people who are not afraid of numbers! Perhaps you have a background in bookkeeping or banking. Maybe you have even heard of the SAGE accounting system. If so, we would love you to consider volunteering to be our club treasurer.

Our treasurer does the following:

- * makes entries to the Sage 300 online accounting system (free training will be provided)
- * prepares cheques for payables
- * collects receivables
- * makes bank deposits and prepares monthly bank reconciliations
- * prepares HST report to be sent to Bruce Trail Conservancy quarterly
- * prepares financial statements and reports for board meetings
- * prepares and presents the annual budget
- * attends online meetings of BTC club treasurers

As treasurer, you will be a member of the club's executive and will be involved in all important decisions affecting the club.

We hope to hear from you! Please get in touch with John Grandy, PBTC president, at johncgrandy@gmail.com or by phone at (416) 704-9138.

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If you have your heart set on a particular destination and want to book it as soon as it becomes available and safe to do so, ask to be put on our [INTERESTED LIST](#).

We will notify you when we are ready to accept reservations for that 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.

We are working on modified terms & conditions in the short term to allow for more flexibility, so that you can confidently book a holiday.

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IN THE MEANTIME...

We would love to keep you engaged until we can travel again. Here are 3 easy ways to keep in touch that would benefit us both:

1. Follow us on Facebook.

We post daily on topics such as hiking tips & tricks, travel information, gear reviews, trip announcements and so much more. Plus we're pretty entertaining 😊

2. Please tell your friends about us!

You can even earn travel rewards.

3. If you've travelled with us, please write a review on our Facebook page.

Nothing we like more than satisfied hikers!



Be safe. Be kind. Stay hopeful.

And we look forward to hiking with you again soon!



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
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If you have any photos to include please send them
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