

The Rattler

ISSUE #3 2012



Boulder Beach - Halfway Log Dump by Michelle Hogan, Dyer's Bay

President's Message

There are many reasons to be a member of the BTC. For me personally, these include having a chance to give something back as a volunteer in appreciation of the fine trail I have enjoyed hiking (the trail is one hundred percent built and maintained by volunteers) and the friendships made poring over a map or working on the trail. Another reason is the conservation-oriented mission of the BTC.

Yet, each year, we lose almost 20% of our members – and gain 20% new members! Your directors are interested in doing a better job of reaching out to, engaging and

retaining our new members each year. We plan to contact our lapsed members to understand where we might do a better job of this. Meanwhile, if you wish to get more involved please contact Bridget Rosser, our Volunteer Co-ordinator, and if you have any membership concerns or ideas, please contact either Rob Straby or myself. I recently had some feedback from our dedicated Rattler committee – namely that they don't get any feedback from you! So, if there is something you'd like to see, or not see, in your newsletter, please let us know at pbtcraattler10@gmail.com.

In the last Rattler I raised the topic of Optimum Route (OR). To recap, OR is the Bruce Trail optimum "practical" route largely along the escarpment from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. I am writing this just after the severe weather of "super-storm" Sandy. If you haven't yet done so, see an amazing video of the storm at Bruce Peninsula National Park grotto: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0okh6dxfgs&feature=youtu.be>

This fall, peninsula regulars saw lake levels at near record lows. Earlier in the year we saw news footage of receding ice in the Arctic. All this makes me wonder if there really is some truth to the global warming issue. [Intuitively, it makes sense to me that burning a significant amount of fossil fuels over the last century, which took millions of years to accumulate, might have an effect on our climate].

The BTC mission is to secure a conservation corridor containing the OR. Currently the OR is 50% secured, thanks to park-lands along the OR as well as the work of the BTC, which has so far acquired 9,000 acres of land for conservation along the OR. Securing the OR will require purchase of over 30,000 additional acres. While some acquisitions are existing woodlands, many of our purchases are made to preserve lands from development. Other lands (including our Bull Homestead property) are reforested by BTC volunteers with advice from our staff ecologists. Trees are an important carbon-capture force of nature. So, your support of the BTC and its' conservation mission, plays at least a small role in the fight against global warming.

Recently, the BTC announced a goal of securing 5,000 additional acres during the five year 50th anniversary celebration period. (The 50th anniversary is a fuzzy target – being the five year period from organization to opening of the trail).

For details, please refer to: <http://brucetrail.org/pages/land-conservation/50th-anniversary-milestones-project>

Enjoy the winter and Happy Holidays!

John Whitworth, President

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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: www.pbtc.ca

THE ACCIDENTAL ARCHIVIST



John Greenhouse making sense of the Archives

There are jokes about being elected to club positions when you are absent from the meeting, but I became a reluctant PBTC archivist at the 2011 AGM while very much in attendance. As \$%#@* Chair of the Nominating Committee no less!

It is the understood duty of the past President of the club to assemble, with a small committee, a slate of candidates for the new executive. Restocking the executive with younger and enthusiastic members is an important and even critical task. Volunteer organizations like ours are quite fragile by nature and can easily be disassembled through a lack of renewal. We have seen the PBTC dissolve itself in the early 90's and we don't want to see it again. So the nominating committee has to seek out and match new people to vacant positions, try to gauge their level of interest and enthusiasm, and then start twisting arms. In April of 2011 our committee had done a good job of filling the slate, with one exception. Donna Baker had resigned as archivist and we had no replacement. Irritated by the blank space on our nominating sheet, and perhaps also wanting to stay loosely in touch with the PBTC which has been a wonderful part of our life on the Bruce, I stuck my own name in as the nominations closed. How hard, after all, could it be? Jane and I have storage space in the garage. After a year or two of accepting materials and filing them in boxes I could hand them all over to some more eager curator.

For almost a year I ignored the job completely. Donna and I talked about getting together, but there was (on my part) no urgency. When we finally did, the volume of stuff came as something of a surprise but it was neatly filed in boxes and binders and did not seem too threatening.

We went through them and discarded close to a quarter of the materials, loaded the remainder in my car, and I brought them home. The garage, on second thought, did not seem a good place to store paper materials because there is no control of humidity. So the boxes and binders were moved to my office, and I am writing this today surrounded by them, largely untouched.

And then came the call from the Rattler editors for a substantial archival input for this edition. My first impulse, of course, was to call Ross McLean and tell him to do it from memory, which he could. If ever there was a real archivist of this club it would be Ross. His books and articles over the years have told our story with detail and flair and I highly recommend them to you. On the other hand, we have gone to that well so often that it seemed both lazy and inconsiderate. So in what follows I have started with a historic summary of the club and its archives extracted from an email Ross sent me a few months ago. From there I have dipped almost randomly into the boxes surrounding me to find photos, statistics, minutes, letters, old Rattlers, etc., that I hope will give you some sense of our history and the commitment of so many people that shaped it.

Now ... there has got to be a better archivist out there somewhere. Call anytime, night or day, 519-596-2081.

John P. Greenhouse

Acc. Archivist cont'd on page 10

Peninsula Bruce Trail 9th Annual Hiking Festival

When something ain't broke, general wisdom is to avoid trying to fix it. But sometimes temptation to tweak or try something new gets too strong to resist and thus this year, we saw a few exciting changes in the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's 9th Annual Hiking Festival.

First, I don't know if you're like me, but if I have been running around all week or driving up the peninsula all afternoon to get to an event and you put me in a comfy seat in a theatre and dim the lights, I'm going to be struggling to stay awake. Having seen some serious nodding in previous years no matter how excellent the speaker, we wondered what we could offer on a Friday night that might be a little more interactive or dynamic.

We live in a town full of characters and we hear all kinds of crazy tales about the trails, so it seemed a good plan to combine those two ingredients and let ordinary folks tell stories about our extraordinary natural resources – and some other resources besides!

In a pub-like setting where listeners' ears could be somewhat lubricated, a number of friends of the trail regaled us with history, comedy and organizational tragedy – as exemplified by the recounting of a multi-departmental monumentally ridiculous rescue carried out this past spring. No fewer than a half dozen agencies spent over 8 hours and over \$50,000 to remove a slightly injured hiker from a spot where local teams could have extracted her in less than an hour at virtually no cost to the taxpayer.

And we heard from a local man who spends much of his waking time outdoors but who managed to linger beyond nightfall and become hopelessly lost in the forest. He was only a few hundred metres from complete safety, but in the inky darkness, was very unsafe indeed. And there were tales of beavers and rattlesnakes and memories of great people who helped to bring us together on the Bruce Trail through their pioneering efforts. In all, a very personally moving and entertaining evening! There was plenty of hike-friendly karma surrounding us

on Saturday morning. Members of the festival committee agree that we can't claim any personal responsibility, but as it poured rain for two hours on Saturday, the 29th in Lion's Head, we enjoyed beautiful clear skies and comfortable temperatures all day in Tobermory – not a full hour away!

And that allowed all of our 106 registrants to fully enjoy the great range of activities available to them in this year's festival activity schedule. The morning started with some tried and true options: a bird hike with Parks Canada's Ethan Meleg and a great one-way walk from Little Cove to town. But this year also featured some very new options, including never-before "wild west" walks (west of highway 6 on Park and private lands) and a competitive footrace on the Burnt Point Loop, immediately adjacent to the Parks Canada Visitors Centre. This race was co-sponsored by PASA (Peninsula Adventure Sport Association) and brought out 19 competitors - many representing a very different demographic from our regular festival guests. Most were local and most were under 40 years of age. We hope to continue to engage these participants and bring them into the Bruce Trail fold. Our trail membership could use a boost in the younger category and our tougher trail sections could certainly use some more spry Captains as the years progress!

The afternoon remained beautiful, allowing a brave gang to negotiate the boulders along the beach between Halfway Log Dump and Bootlegger's Cave. Another group followed Ethan Meleg on a 25th Anniversary tour of park accomplishments at the Cyprus Lake area. And a further number explored more "west side" properties, tree identification and a Singing Sands guided flora and fauna walk.

Saturday evening wine and cheese has always been well-attended, so we thought we'd best not mess with that. But we did arrange for the evening's speaker, Bob Day, and local legend Wilmer Nadjiwon to be on hand to discuss their recently published books during the social hour.



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cont'd from page 4

And the evening presentation began with an introduction to a very special couple, John and Sue Lillie, who have recently arranged for their extensive escarpment-edge property to be donated to the Bruce Trail, thus preserving a large piece of optimum route forever. This happened after tremendous amounts of work and with the assistance of a cross-border "friends" group who have arranged for favourable tax outcomes for people wishing to donate properties outside of the countries in which they are citizens. As the Lillies are Americans (as are several of their friends who have also donated lands and hundreds of hours of volunteer work to the trail) this organization's assistance, and that of the BTC staff couldn't have come at a better time. Also personally honoured were Ann and Clayton Roberts who are perhaps the oldest and certainly the longest-serving trail maintenance volunteers on the Peninsula.

Bob Day, former Park Superintendant, then took the audience through the history of the forming of the National Parks; no mean feat in a community deeply divided by concerns about how the region and economy might be affected. Many personal insights coloured his telling of that interesting piece of peninsula history.

Sunday provided an opportunity for guests to access the brand new Lillie trail and the newly named Ann and Clayton Roberts Side Trail. As well, the 'Michiganders' donated lands were acknowledged as hikers ultimately headed out to the Devil's Monument.

The weather wasn't as beautiful as on Saturday, but it remained pleasant enough to enjoy a good walk. Happily, there were some new faces out for this "Bruce Trail Day" outing, and ideally we will see a bit of membership growth. The Sunday Bruce Trail Day's aim is to increase membership, and our hiking festival weekend is our annual club fundraiser. Both events looked to have been successful in their mandates and most importantly, over



John and Sue Lillie - donors recognized on the Sunday hike and the Saturday night celebration.

100 people came out to celebrate and enjoy the wonderful resources that we share on our Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail. We hope you'll join us next year!

Here's a heads-up for the volunteers reading this account. There is always room for new faces on the Festival Committee. We welcome anyone with some good positive energy, a willingness to do some work and heck, new ideas are a good thing too! As a special incentive, each year, our committee members and volunteers participate in a chip-in event (so as not to cut into the funds raised by the event) and throw a deluxe meal on the Sunday evening of this weekend, and it is always a fabulous night out. The Sunday supper is usually fully subscribed before the festival events are even ready for registration. Join us next year and help us shape another great Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Hiking Festival!

Sheila Buckingham

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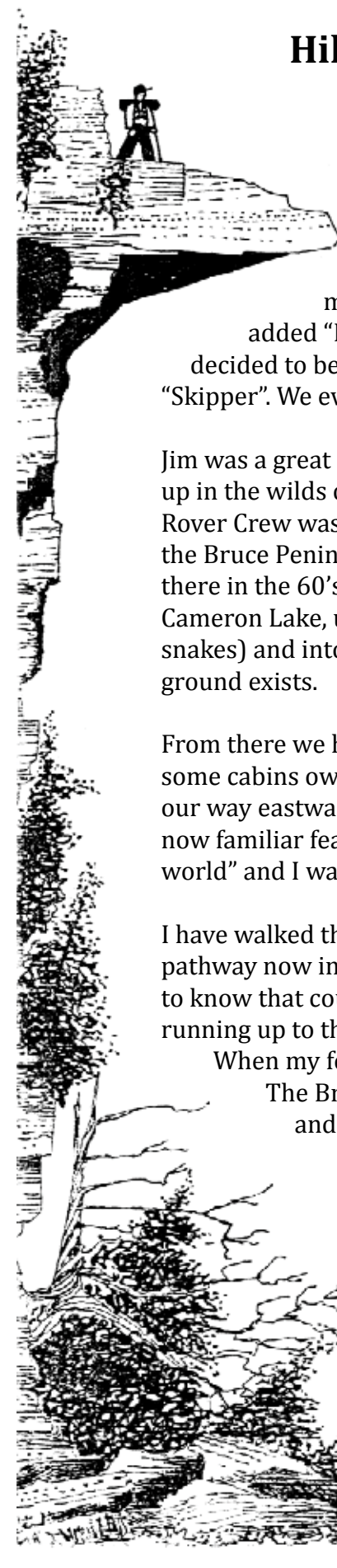
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Hiker's Tale

Blazing the Bruce Trail..."way back then"



Growing up in the village of Waterdown (on the Bruce Trail), I spent lots of time outdoors exploring and hiking and rambling: I am still doing it! It was natural for me to become part of the Scouting movement, working my way from Cub to Scout to "Queen Scout" with the added "Bushman's Thong". Great times! In High School myself and a few friends decided to begin a Rover Crew and we recruited a local Scouter, Jim Lemon, to be our "Skipper". We even built a shack on his property to hold our meetings (i.e. hang out).

Jim was a great mentor person. He also at that time owned a cottage on Cameron Lake up in the wilds of the Bruce Peninsula. Jim was also friends with Ray Lowes and so our Rover Crew was invited to do some preparation for a trail Ray had dreamed up to follow the Bruce Peninsula from Queenston to Tobermory. So on a warm weekend in May back there in the 60's we loaded canoes and headed up to the Bruce. First of all padding through Cameron Lake, up the little creek (my remembrance was absolutely full of black water snakes) and into Cyprus Lake where we set up camp roughly where the present campground exists.

From there we hiked to the Georgian Bay shore, following a very rough trail that led to some cabins owned by a doctor (I believe the foundations are still there). Then we worked our way eastward, blazing our white patches on trees and rocks, past the grotto and other now familiar features. At that time to a 15 year old, it felt like we were at the "end of the world" and I was swept away by the beauty of it all.

I have walked that section many times since then. I find it intriguing that the rough pathway now in high summer season is a well travelled highway almost: but I am happy to know that countless others still share the excitement of the deep blue of Georgian Bay running up to the high limestone cliffs with all their intriguing caves and crevices.

When my feet hit the trail a part of me is still that wide-eyed 15 year old!

The Bruce Trail keeps me young: Ray's dream has been a reality for decades and it is great to know that one of the best hiking trails in the world is accessible for me literally in my back yard.

Keep up the great work, Bruce Trailers!

Ted Creen,
currently Director of Huron Feathers Centre, Sauble Beach

Explore the Historic Region of South West France



Châteaux, grottos, quaint villages, truffle orchards, ancient pathways, limestone plateaux, market towns and stunning scenery are all waiting for you in the Dordogne region of South West France. This area is renowned for its prehistoric roots and gastronomic delights!

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We take you off the beaten track and explore tracks and trails many tourists don't take the time to visit. Meander down ancient chemins, past vineyards, stone bories, palombiers, ancient lavoirs and pigeonniers.

Brantome, the Venice of the Perigord, is a stunning small town on the

river Dronne with its famous Abbey with reputedly the oldest bell tower in France. Visitors are always blown away by the picturesque setting. Our walk passes by old moulins, sleepy hamlets, limestone caves, woodland paths before taking lunch at a riverside restaurant. A gourmet meal for just 14€ in such beautiful surroundings!

Sorges is world renowned for its much sought after truffles and with our walk taking you along the ancient Pilgrim path of Saint Jacques de Compostelle it will take you back in time. We cover just a small portion of this famous path, passing through truffle orchards, giving you just a taste of what this pilgrimage offers. Excideuil is a historic market town with a fantastic chateau standing proudly over the Perigord countryside. A visit to the morning market can be spent browsing, sampling local produce and why not pop into one of the local boulangeries and treat yourself to an indulgent patisserie! followed by a walk around the historic "enchanted rocks" and caves, well off the tourist trail.

Jumilhac Le Grand is home to a simply majestic chateau that towers over the river Isle. Even to this day you can go gold panning in the river bed. The walks around here cover some amazing scenery and pass through time lost hamlets with pottagers growing local produce and hives producing honey.

St Jean de Cole, voted one of the prettiest villages in France, has everyone entranced. Its medieval streets, cobbled stone bridge, moulin and chateau make it simply stunning. All our visitors fall in love with this magical little village. The walk from Thiviers to St Jean de Cole is along the "voie verte" past long forgotten railway stations.

This is all just a little taste of what this fabulous corner of France can offer you on your visit to France.

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Jeanette Rogers



The Bruce Peninsula's Friendship Trail



Northern Bruce Peninsula's Mayor Milt McIver at the opening of the Friendship Trail

On Sept. 29 the Third Bruce Trail Friendship Trail was opened at Lion's Head. Partnering with The Cotswold Way in Southern England, our Trail from Lion's Head to McKay's Harbour has been designated an International Friendship Trail where our trail now contains signage matching the Cotswold Way Trail and a section of the Cotswold Way in turn contains signage from The Bruce Trail. The intent of

the program is to raise awareness of and support for public footpaths around the world. Other sections of the Bruce Trail have partnered with the Lebanon Mountain Trail and the Jeju Olle Trail in Korea.

The Cotswold Way is an ancient footpath in Southern England through beautiful rolling hills, escarpment lands and picturesque villages between Chipping Campden and Bath



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UNIQUE PENINSULA, UNIQUE CHALLENGES

There is little doubt that the Peninsula Club (PBTC) and Trail section are unique within a transforming BTC. You are likely aware that Peninsula Section is home to the wildest and most remote areas, boasting many of the most spectacular natural features of the entire Trail. We still claim the greatest combined length of main Trail and side trails. We manage by far the greatest share of BTC-owned and managed lands by a single club. You might have missed hearing that PBTC benefits from the highest percent of ACTIVE membership (to volunteer in some capacity) of all 9 clubs. Yet, what is particularly unique (to me), is the fact that a great number of those who volunteer in PBTC are NOT PERMANENT LOCAL RESIDENTS! Some are summer residents who own or rent cottages or camp, but many just visit occasionally, often just to perform their chosen duty for the Club.

A quick scan of my lists of active Peninsula volunteers reveals that:

- Over 50% of the 60+ TRAIL CAPTAINS, who diligently maintain our trails are NON-LOCAL RESIDENTS;
- Over 50 % of our 30+ LAND STEWARDS, who help manage over 50 properties for BTC and the province are also non-local residents;
- In the current BOARD OF DIRECTORS for PBTC, one in three do NOT reside in the Peninsula.

There are a number of factors to account for why we differ so much from the other 8 clubs:

A. The Bruce Peninsula has a small permanent population base – under 10,000 unless you include Sauble Beach and Southampton – and of course part of the Wiarton area is situated in the Sydenham BTC section.

B. It is difficult to get enough local residents involved with the Trail. We are rather overwhelmed with busy volunteer organizations here. Others may take the Trail for granted or simply do not appreciate the economic or environmental value of the BTC within the local setting. But that is slowly improving.

C. Like the currently active PBTC members who have moved or retired to reside in the Bruce, many who stay or visit here between May and October, and experience the Trail, are smitten by its appeal and decide they want to contribute in some way to its enhancement. A few of them follow through and volunteer.

D. In recent years a number of prominent local retirees who provided much leadership over the past 15 years, have completed their 'tour of duty' with the PBTC board and begun a well-earned second retirement. Several of them have been succeeded by very capable non-resident personnel.

The PBTC has enjoyed many of its strongest years in the past decade. The executive has been expanded to many new, important positions that have improved communication, volunteer co-ordination, public relations, sales, technology, in addition to traditional trail maintenance and land stewardship. So what is needed to sustain our success?

- It is important to continue to seek out and attract local residents, whether recently arrived or 'home-bred', to be able to maintain a strong connection and understanding of the peninsula community. They are needed to provide support to those that come from afar to volunteer. This local element cannot be overstated.
- It is vital to continue to attract talented, dedicated, non-resident volunteers, to not only supplement local personnel but to provide strength and leadership. There was once a period when a fledgling Peninsula club was kept afloat primarily by volunteers from other clubs. It will always be a key element.

As BTC has recently evolved to become a significant land conservancy in Ontario, the need for volunteer help will only continue to grow. In the Peninsula, the unique blend of local and 'import' content must continue to come together with a common goal to keep the northernmost club healthy and the envy of the other eight.

If you read this and appreciate that it is a call to a worthy endeavour, (just read the mission statement of BTC), consider becoming more actively involved, or speak to someone you know who might donate their skills to the club. There is such an array of niches for people to fit into today, whether indoor or outdoor, technical or manual, and usually on your own schedule.

Hopefully you will come out and join our great team!

Grant Ehrhardt



The PBTC and its Archives

(Extracted from an email from Ross McLean to the archivist in mid 2012)

The key date is 1993. Before that time, the PBTC was essentially dormant and to my knowledge the club archives which you hold contain nothing about the years from 1967 to 1993. Head office has a few archival notes which I have seen but the record is not continuous.

Remember that there were three clubs at the beginning, and amalgamation took place about 1980 because of their collapse/inactivity. The Lower Bruce Club (Warton to Hope Bay) was "run" by Ron Gatis, but I have never seen any paper records. To my knowledge, there was never an AGM, a newsletter nor any elections. The Lion's Head Club was formed by Alan Fowler about 1964, but he died about 1972. He built the section north from Hope Bay to Dyer's Bay almost totally by himself. Again, I have seen few paper records except some early correspondence regarding the founding of that club. To my knowledge, again, there was never an AGM, a newsletter, or any elections. By the late 1970's, membership had shrunk to one person, Ilse Hanel, and when she could not continue because of age, Caledon Hills took over that club's functions. Ilse, at least, could be called a de facto President of the Lion's Head club in the 1970's.

Before 1993

Ross's email explains why we do not have twice the number of archive boxes on my office floor; detailed club records go back only 20 of the nearly 45 years of its existence. While recording and filing does not seem to be a hallmark of the first 25 years, the clubs clearly functioned. They cut and maintained trails, built membership from 27 in 1968 to 147 in 1988 and 240 in 1993, hosted the BTA AGM in 1990 and some few written traces of their tenure do indeed remain in the club archives. Some examples ...

Newsletters

The earliest newsletter in our archives comes from the spring of 1968. Probably written by Shirley Johnstone who was Secretary (her husband J.P. was President), the newsletter consists of 2 mimeographed pages. It lists D.E. Firestine as VP and George Trigger, Lloyd Smith and Tom Adams as members of the board.

The next archived newsletter is a July 1988 edition of The Peninsula News, with a masthead that proclaims it the "Occasional Newsletter of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club". Madelaine Coates was the editor, Ron Gatis was President of the club, and Kay McLellan, Secretary/Treasurer. All other Executive positions are listed as vacant. A second issue appeared in November 1988, no further progress having been made on the Executive.

A one page newsletter, no masthead, appears from Spring 1992 written by President Fred Binding, then the final Peninsula News in the Spring of 1993. Eight of the ten main headings in this issue list Ross McLean as author or co-author. In the summer of 1993 the first Rattler appeared.

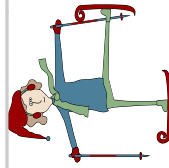
The Peninsula Club (Tobermory to Dyer's Bay) had as Presidents, Alfie Adams, Shirley Johnstone and J.P. Johnstone (there may have been others.). No documentation from this period is in our archives and I have seen little documentation at Rasberry House except for some notes on the founding.

About 1980, the three clubs amalgamated into the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. I have seen one reference that Shirley was the nominal President, but again, there were apparently no documented meetings, no AGM and no elections. The Fred Binding interval (1986 to 1991 approximately) is a similar story. Fred was a unique individual; he took over when there was a vacuum...without an election...and then by 1991 was burned out. Perhaps because of conflicts with head office, he did not hand over his papers from that period. There was a newsletter for a brief time, and some activities, even though there were no elections.

Fred quit suddenly, and there were no succession plans. Only in the winter of 1993 was a members' meeting organized (held in Guelph) which reconstituted the club. From there you have records in the archives.

The vacuum in the archives from the founding to 1993 demonstrates why *an organized historical record should be kept* (editor's italics).

cont'd on page 12



PBTC Hiking Schedule Winter 2012-2013

| Date and Time | Hike Name | Where to Meet | Details |
|---|--|--|---|
| Thursday December 6 10:00 am | Urban Hike Wiarton Perimeter | Tim Horton - Wiarton | Combined Peninsula and Sydenham Club Hike. Leashed dogs welcome. Optional lunch at Tim Horton afterwards. Contact Harriet Nixon (519) 534-0426 or harrietonix@bmts.com |
| Friday January 25, Saturday January 26 & Sunday January 27. | Visit the club members that are Yurting in MacGregor Provincial Park | McGregor Provincial Park is located 5 km south of Port Elgin. West of Hwy 21 on Lake Huron YURTS #46 and #48 | Event co-ordinator Harriet Nixon (519) 534-0426 reports that eleven Sydenham BTC and Peninsula BTC members will be yurt camping at MacGregor Provincial Park, just south of Port Elgin from Friday 2:00 pm till 12:00 noon on Sunday. You are invited to visit with them and ski, snowshoe, hike and skate. A day parking fee is required. |
| Sunday, February 17 10:00 am | Winter Wonderland Snow Shoe Hike Lion's Head | McCurdy Drive Parking lot off Moore St in Lion's Head | Family Day Weekend A Peninsula Club favourite. This lovely 4.1 km loop travels through an upland forest and includes the Main Trail and Warder Side Trail. Lunch to follow. |
| Sunday, March 10 10:00 am | Winter Wonderland Snow Shoe Hike Sawmill Trails | Sawmill Trails, Hepworth 1 km east of Suntrail on Hwy 6 Note \$5.00 admittance charge | Explore the blazed snow shoe trails that criss-cross the ski trails through this rolling terrain that is sheltered by hardwood and evergreen stands. Cleared parking, heated hut and portable toilet. Lunch to follow. |

We love winter but driving can be challenging. If you are attending any of these activities please phone 519 534 5898 or email susan_allen@sympatico.ca so that we can expect you. Cancellations will be posted on the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Facebook page.

The President's Report, July 14, 1980. I came across one pre-1993 Executive report in the archives, written by President Alan Stacey in July of 1980 on BTA letterhead. It appears to be a report to BTA head office rather than part of the minutes of a meeting. It details, on four typed pages, his actions on behalf of the club from July 10 to 14. Stan and Kay McClellan, and Gord Fenton, are mentioned and appear to be club officers in some capacity. Incidentally, Stacey and Fenton were also BTA President and Trail Director at that time. Some excerpts ...

-decided to request Lindsay Township for continuation of use of public unopened road/shore allowances for possible re-routes esp. in Little Cove/Driftwood Cove areas. Agreed to post warning signs ... warning hikers of landowners closures with any re-route information penciled in by local club/rangers. Mr _____ (Cabot Head) still adamant re closure (personal visit to Kay).

-dropped off written list on 3 closures to Cyprus Lake main-gate staff with special comment that southbound hikers should retrace trail back to Cyprus to avoid trespass around Cabot Head (from High Dump area).

-Visit to Ken and Jean Ramsay, Dyers Bay Store. Hurting from drop in trail useage. Upset by request to post closure map. Mr. Ramsay most impressed by calibre of hikers tho' troubles with ill-prepared groups.

-discussions indicated that a Mr. _____ of Gillies Lake area has provoked most of the recent trail closures and was continuing to approach cottagers (no "hate" letter copies could be obtained, however).

-OPP T. Bell informed us of a hiker falling from Cape Chin Bluffs recently (are they still trespassing there?)

-total miles travelled: 200

Plus ça change ...!

Club Presidents

Combining Ross's history with the archival records, the club Presidents over the years have been as follows. Dates and names pre-1993 are less certain.

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| 2012- | John Whitworth | The <u>apparent</u> Presidency of earlier years is |
| 2009-2012: | Don McIlraith | something like this: |
| 2007-2009: | John Greenhouse | 1989-1993 Fred Binding |
| 2006-2007: | Jack Organ/ Grace Telfer | 1987-88 Ron Gatis |
| 2004-2006: | Mal Williams | 1980-1986 Shirley Johnstone |
| 2001-2004: | Grace Telfer | <u>Lower Bruce Club</u> 1967 – 1980 Ron Gatis |
| 1998-2001 | Donna Baker | <u>Lions Head Club</u> 1967-1972 Alan Fowler |
| 1995-1998 | Don Irish | 1972-1980 Ilse Hanel |
| 1994-1995 | Jim Wadleigh | <u>Peninsula Club</u> 1967-1968 J.P. Johnstone |
| 1993-1994 | Keith McAllister | |

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The Revival of the Club, 1993

The first formal meeting of the group that set out to revive the club in 1993 appears from the records to have been held on March 3rd at Keith McAllister's house in Kitchener. Present, besides Keith, were Ross McLean, Charles Whitlock, Ed Doadt, Darrell Mongeon, Jim Wadleigh, Carole Bell, Laura Klager, Sue Brown, Stan Litch, Joan Bowman, Stephen Sims, Wanda Ferguson, Andrew Svenson, John Cann and Cal Klager. Fred Binding who had single-handedly overseen the club for seven years, tabled a letter of resignation. The minutes show that the new group agreed to redirect club mail from Raspberry House to a PO box in Guelph. They called an AGM for June 20th. They appointed a nominating committee to establish an Executive, opened a bank account in Guelph and requested that Raspberry House transfer funds held by them to that account. They started the Rattler. They offered free Peninsula Club membership to 16 of the 20 existing trail captains.

For the first 5 years of the new regime executive mainly met in the Kitchener/Guelph area, but after 1998 the minutes show that meetings move to the Peninsula. When Donna Baker became President in October 1998, she suggested that if we were a Peninsula Club, we should plan to meet there so the first of the peninsula meetings was held at Ted Roberts' Colpoy's Bay cottage on Nov. 14, 1998. John & Judy Appleton had moved to the Peninsula in 1998, followed by Donna & John Baker in the summer of 1999. By 2003 the Executive had grown to the point that meetings were usually held in public places.

We certainly owe a lot to those 1993 gatherers at the McAllister home. They took the initiative to put the Peninsula Club on a sound footing and laid the

foundation for our success today. And ... they did it largely while living several hundred kilometres away from the Peninsula.

Trivia

- Our first brochure was published in 2000.
- Elizabeth Luggan Litch designed our first End- to-End badge in 2000.

Why "The Rattler"? (Excerpted from issue #1)

- The rare Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake is found only on the Bruce Peninsula
- Rattlesnake plantain is a small orchid found on the Bruce Peninsula
- Rattlesnake Fern is the largest of the grape ferns and one of the species found on the Bruce Peninsula
- Two popular 18th century English magazines were "The Rambler" and "The Tatler" which included "accounts of gallantry, pleasure and entertainment". Likewise The Rattler
- The Oxford English Dictionary defines a 'rattler' as a 'remarkable specimen of anything.' 'Nuff said

Premature Elation

"**Barrow Bay to Rush Cove: we're back**" screamed the headline of an article by Bob Bartlett in the first Rattler, summer of 1993. "After the BTA chasing a key property for years the new owners (Dobsons) have agreed to sell ... allows us to connect the 2400-m Deal property to the south with the shore road allowance to Little Lake to the north". Sadly Bob, like many Land Securement Directors to follow, was not about to consummate this strategic arrangement. It fell to President Keith McAllister in issue #2 to break the news that the Dobson deal had fallen through, citing "lack of communication between the BTA and our club". Bill Graham and his LS team may finally close the Rush-Barrow gap in 2013.

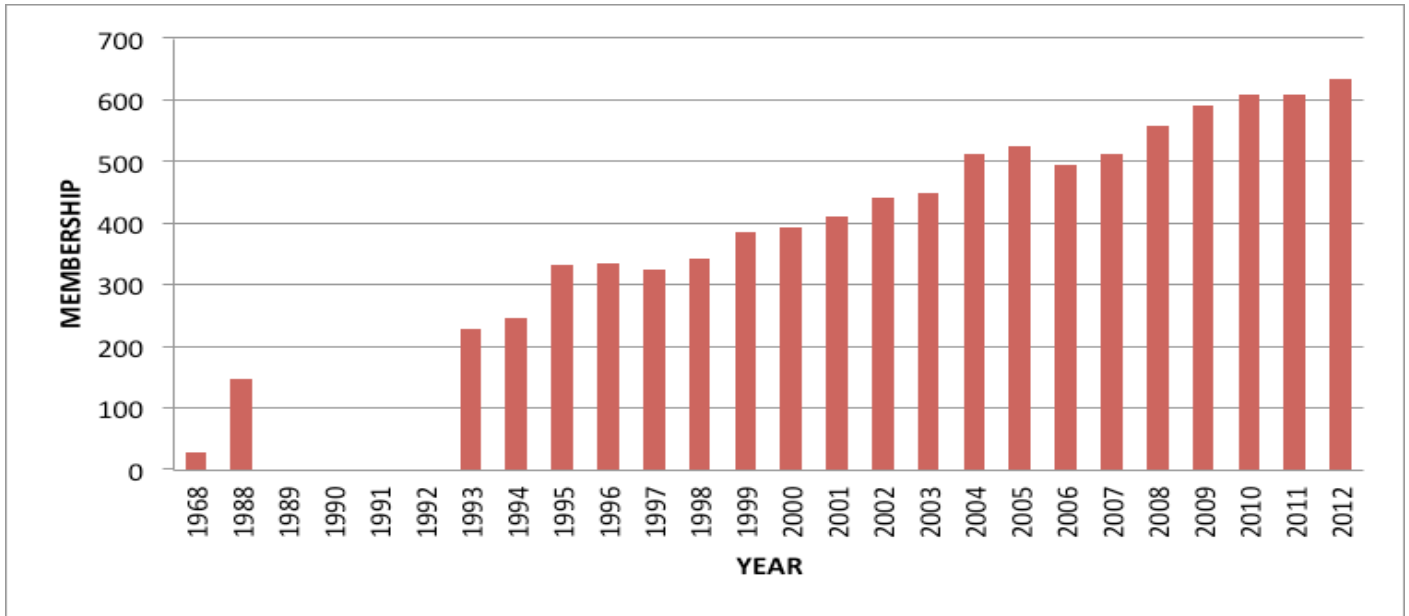


Photo from the Archives - Building the Snake River Boardwalk - Mayor of South Bruce, Don Richards, Dave Moule, Chief Akiwenzie, Donna Baker, Club president, Nathan Keeshig, Cape Croker Park superintendent, Hamish Duthie, ?, children

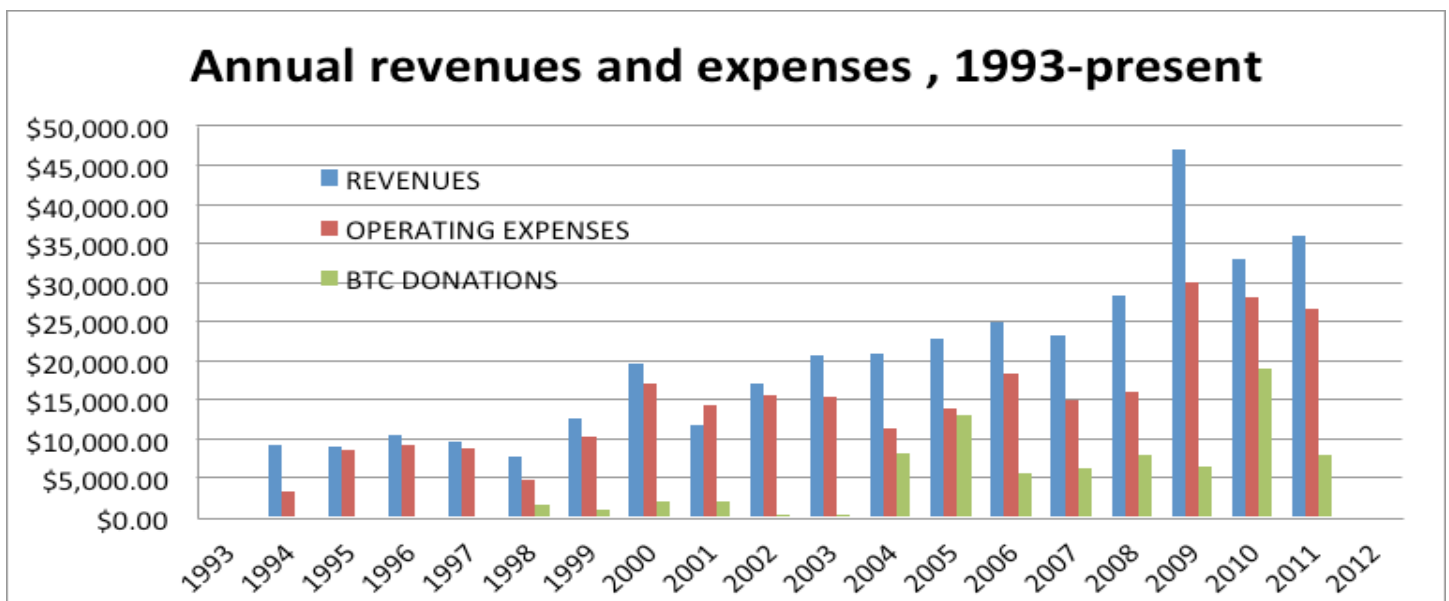
Some Statistics

The archives have a wealth of information that can be mined (to use a current term) to document the Club's growth over the years since 1993. The graphs below show some of these indicators.

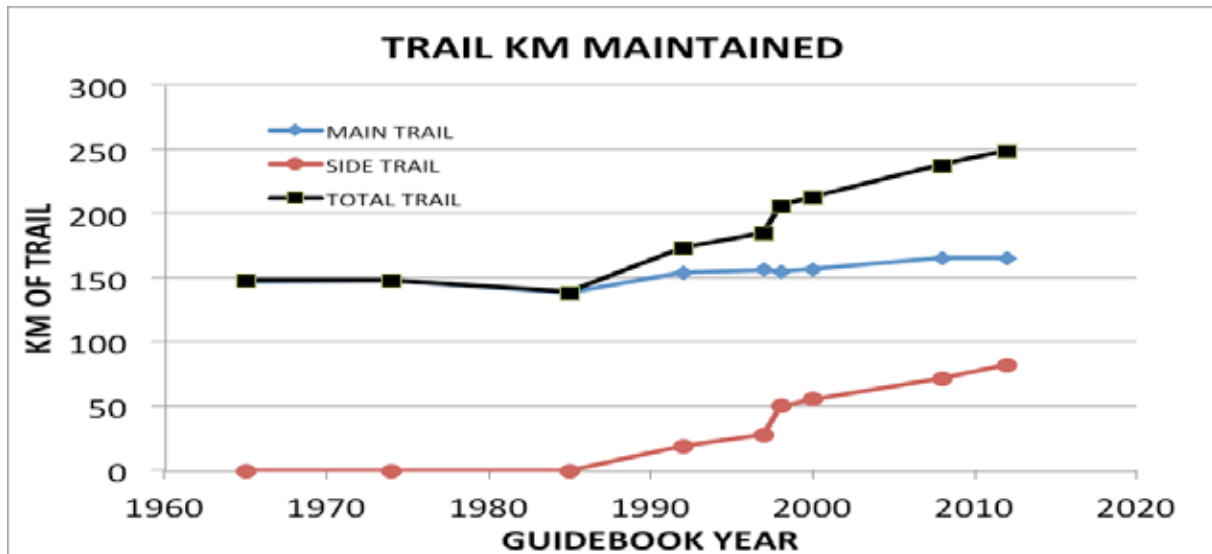
Club Membership. Early membership data are hard to come by from the club files but we do have two pre 1993 numbers, for 1968 and 1988. From 1993 these data are available in most of the annual reports, and if not stated explicitly they can be reasonable estimated from the membership revenue on the financial statements which was based on a set amount per member. Club membership is notoriously fluid, with as much as 10 percent turnover in any given month. Nevertheless, our membership has grown steadily at an average rate of about 6% over the past 19 years. Note the chart is not linear on the far left.



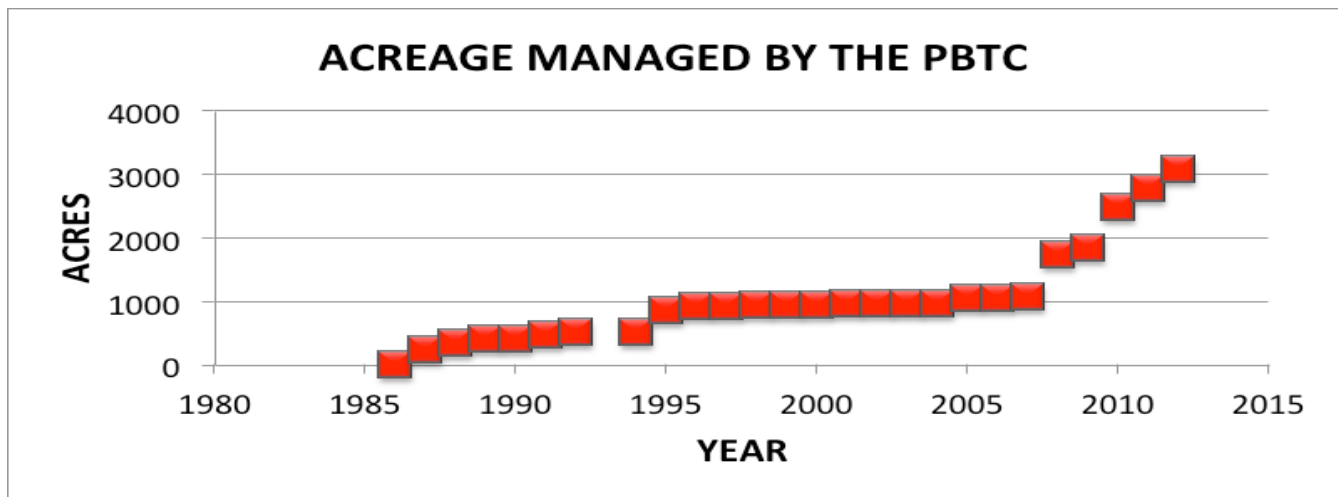
Club Budgets Club expenses and revenues for each fiscal year can be found in the annual reports. Like membership they have increased steadily as shown below. The blue bars (on the left) show annual income, the red (central) bars are total expenses less donations made to the BTC, and the green (right) bars show the BTC donations. Note the anomalies of 2000-2001 and 2009-2010 where the larger than usual income in the BTC AGM (2000, 2009) was handed over to the BTC in the following year. We see that the era of serious club fundraising began in 2004. Overall, if the operating costs and donations are added together, there is a slight excess of revenues over expenses which accounts for the club's healthy financial position.



Trail Maintenance The guidebooks allow one to excerpt the trail distances through time. The archives don't hold all volumes but enough to put together the next graph. Side trails were not a feature of the guidebooks prior to the early 90s but they account for roughly 30% of our trail maintenance duties today.



Land Management Of all the tasks facing the volunteer workforce of the PBTC, land management is probably the one that has grown the most over recent years. These numbers include all lands stewarded by the club, including properties owned by BTC and Ontario Heritage Trust (to convert to hectares, the correct unit of area, divide by 2.5). Note that the acreage has almost tripled since 2007. If that trend were to continue the volunteer base would be strained.



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SAY IT WITH GRACE



On an afternoon not so long ago we were fortunate to visit with Grace Telfer, to ply her with questions about her long time involvement with the Bruce Trail, and much more. Grace, like many other people who end up in the peninsula with an already established love and experience of the trail, Grace also had -- again a common factor -- a most interesting and unusual career, not yet entirely given over to the pleasures of retirement.

Grace and George, with their three sons, were no strangers to hiking and camping when they purchased a property in the Tobermory region in 1981. Here they camped while George, a good carpenter, gradually built the house to which they would eventually move permanently, in July 1999.

Grace had already hiked the entire Peninsula section of the Trail by this time, with a friend, doing it piecemeal; and when she wrote a letter of appreciation about the whole experience to Joan Bowman she received a very enthusiastic reply. Not surprisingly, Grace joined the Bruce Trail Association and started hiking regularly in the fall of '99, often with Donna Baker, at that time club President.

Donna is not one to let go by a good prospect when she sees one, and enquired whether Grace would agree to become a Director at Large; by the next hike, the enquiry had been raised a few notches -- "We really need a Vice President!" Nothing could be firmly settled until the AGM took place; then Grace was duly elected, and served two terms as Vice President, until Donna moved on to Past President. Grace now became President, with Mal Williams as Vice two years later.

After Grace had served three years as President, she served a further two as Past President and then took over Sales -- organizing supplies of maps, hats, badges, and so on. And there is more: after Sales, during the last four

years Grace has served on the Park Advisory Committee, and with the Ontario Hike Leaders course completed, leads hikes as well. Her own favourite hiking accomplishment? Finishing the Bruce Trail end-to-end, in 2010: another piecemeal achievement, over a period of four years, as opportunity came up.

And there is yet more: she and her husband George have been Trail Captains for the section of trail from Little Cove to Tobermory for a period of eight years. "Trail Captain" may sound glamorous and important to those who are discovering the trail for the first time, but it does indeed make their introduction to the trail the thing of delight that it should be - and keeps them coming back! Trail Captains are those dedicated folk who constantly check their section of trail, clearing winter's detritus in spring, chopping up and removing fallen trees, refreshing the white or blue blazes...the work goes on.

George has also been the advertising sales person for *The Rattler*, for about three years, thereby maintaining the health and welfare of our club's own chronicler.

Now all this time we've been looking only at Grace's involvement in the Bruce Trail as though there might not be another life going along beside it! Not so -- from her earliest working years Grace has been involved in education, with twenty years as an educational assistant in the Waterloo Region Board of Education. Her experience ranges from the purchasing of text books on math, science, reading, writing and spelling, to shipping classroom necessities to schools for special needs in Kuwait and Egypt.

From 1984 for fourteen years she was a teacher recruiter of Canadian, American and United Kingdom special education teachers, for English language special education schools in both Kuwait and Egypt, involving many visits of her own to these countries; to Kuwait eight times, and Egypt (Cairo) four times. In all these schools, Grace spent time in the classrooms observing the teachers and students in order to select teachers best suited to the schools' needs. She also prepared and presented workshops on special education topics at seminars in Kuwait.

And where has all this left the Bruce Trail? Front and centre in its own very special way, of course. You have only to mention the Trail in the most casual conversation, to find Grace's eyes lighting up, her smile widening. The number of people her own enthusiasm has sparked, has challenged, has shoved onto the trail, must be enormous, and those of us who share her delight in hiking feel our own commitment to be reinforced whenever we have a chance to chat with her. Peninsula Bruce Trail Club has been most fortunate in being graced with Grace.

Russell & Katherine Ferguson

More photos from the Archives



Sun Times article - 1997 - celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Bruce Trail in a parade in Warton



Volunteers enjoying an a party at Dyer's Bay after a "Spruce up the Bruce" day - 1996 or 7



Sign celebrating the opening of the Snake Trail Boardwalk - May 1999

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Trail Maintenance – Chain Saw Operators



One the most exciting volunteer roles is that of chainsaw operator or helper. We currently have a list of over 35 trained sawyers who have taken the time to be trained and who volunteer to help when work parties are called for new trails or when trees have fallen across the trail.

- Most of the certified chainsaw operators are also Trail Captains and as such they volunteer twice, once to manage their section and to help with tree removal. That is part of the deal, the BTC provides a two day safety course and access to the safety equipment and saws in exchange for help up and down the trail and with about 265 KM of trail we have a lot trees to deal with each year.
- This year we would like to set up local teams with leaders in the north and the south who can call upon a list of potential volunteers. You will hear more of this through E-mail and at SUTB / AGM in May.

For now this is big thanks to those who have been trained and have helped with clearing the trail this year. And especially in November when we sent out teams to clear up after hurricane Sandy.

Volunteering – that’s what the Bruce trail Conservancy is all about! If anyone wishes to join this group as a certified sawyer or as a helper please contact us at: trailreportsbtc@gmail.com

Walter Brewer, Maintenance Co-ordinator

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CORFU, GREECE

May 12 to 25, 2013

This Greek island is the perfect combination of European flare and 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!

IRELAND

June 11 to 21, 2013

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!

ICELAND

July 30 to August 9, 2013

The land of the midnight sun!
Trek on volcanic terrain, marvel at the view atop Iceland's "Grand Canyon", stand at the edge of the most powerful waterfall in all Europe & relax in the soothing thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. From Reykjavik to the northern fishing village of Husavik, explore the most dramatic landscape anywhere.

SLOVENIJA & CROATIA

August 25 to September 7, 2013

First, discover the fairy-tale setting of Slovenija with its Julian Alps & medieval castles. Hike behind the thundering Slap Pericnik waterfall, up the challenging but rewarding Mt. Triglav & around glacier-fed Lake Bohinj. Then cross the border into Croatia for a week along the Dalmatian Coast. Hike along pristine pebble beaches, enjoy al fresco dining & swim in the Adriatic.

TURKEY

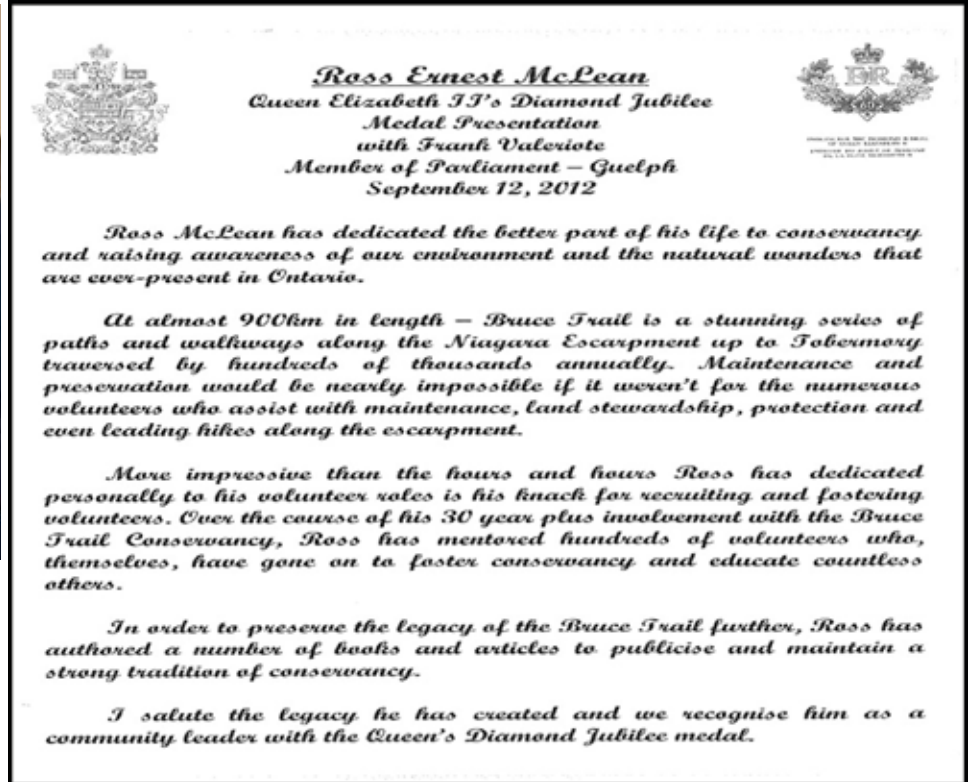
October 20 to 31, 2013

Hike in Cappadocia with its secret frescoed churches, underground cities and volcanic tuff sculpted into fairy chimneys. Visit ancient ruins, shop the bazaars of Istanbul and take a history lesson through time. Steeped in tradition and a masterpiece of nature, Turkey will impress you.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentation



Ross McLean receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his community service, from Frank Valeriote, MPP Guelph



* * * * *

Trail Maintenance – Trail Captains

The largest and most active group of volunteers in the club are the Trail Captains (TCs). We have 166 KM of Main Trail and about 96 KM of Side Trail which is divided up among about 85 Trail Captains (two people may be counted as a TC for a section). These people often walk "their" trail frequently tossing away deadfall and cutting back overgrowth in the summer. A TC is required to complete a report on the condition of the trail a minimum of two times a year; often we get short updates on issues or additional work that has been done. The reports are very important to the BTC overall management team as they are required to support our insurance coverage.

Some of the Peninsula's attraction is the remoteness and ruggedness of the trail, particularly in the National Park. Being a TC in the Park is a special experience, the TC knows that thousands of Park users, not all hikers, will use the trail and therefore it must be kept up to the highest of standards. Special thanks are extended to these TCs as there are some very remote sections along the coast from High Dump.

This year we have experienced a large turn over of TCs and at the time of writing we have openings for new TCs in several locations (mostly north of Lion's Head). If you feel it is time to join this group of volunteers you will be welcomed, trained and provided with access to tools and equipment required to do the job.

For further information on the responsibilities check out our WEB site at: http://www.pbtc.ca/trail-work_howto.html
To request a section of trail to look after contact the Trail Coordinator at: trailreportsbptc@gmail.com



Send us your favorite photo taken on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format.

What is the Most interesting thing you almost stepped in on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format to:

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Tell us a story about it and maybe you will see it in the Rattler.



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