The Rattler Conservation

ISSUE #3 2018

President's Message

This report is a summary of many of the accomplishments your Club has achieved this year. Membership and volunteering is the heart and soul of this and all BTC clubs. Again this year membership grew as did volunteer support of the trail and the land around it. With your help we were able to support our Mission and provide additional funds to the BTC.

Scores of volunteers continued to support great programs for our Club. We have added Stewardship teams to manage the growing lands held in trust, in particular the Cape Dundas donated lands. Volunteers keep the trails in great condition and respond immediately to special maintenance projects which are often a result of severe weather which can block exposed and hard to get to areas along the escarpment. A total of about 1,700 hours have been logged so far this year.

A special stewardship project has been launched which aims to plant one hundred large, local species trees in prominent areas. This will be an annual event with a goal of planting at least one hundred trees by the Club's 100th anniversary (two per year). See the story inside.

This year two strong hike leaders have organized two end-to-end events which both take eight days to complete; a remarkable service to hikers who like escorted hikes. In addition, the Club arranged a unique trip to the Cup and Saucer area on Manitoulin Island. Another service to hikers is the Trail Angel shuttle (Uber of the North?).

With no fee other than a donation to the BTC, a network of volunteers book transportation to the trailhead for hikers who do not have vehicles or support to do this on their own (about 110 trips per year). Special concessions have been arranged between our Trail Angels and the Park. Thanks to both. Our web site supports do-it-yourself hikers with outlines of suggested plans for end-to-end hikes.

Of course the most exciting announcement this year was the partnership of the BTC with the National Park securing over eight kilometres of wonderful wilderness and lakeshore trail forever. Our Club extends its thanks to our BTC Board for its vision and the Park for its

commitment to protecting land.

Our Club also hosted a very successful BTC AGM at Evergreen Resort in Red Bay. Forty volunteers were involved, led by a great core team. The venue was great and the outings and workshops were diversified and compelling. The Peninsula Club hosts the AGM every nine years, so our chance to show off the Peninsula will now have to wait a while.

Our Trail Development team have been very active. Watch for exciting trail reroutes to be announced in time for next year (subject to approval!)

Walter Brewer, President PBTC



Waterfall - oil on canvas by Brian Wheeler (see page 15 for more info)

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

P.O. Box 1087, Wiarton, ON NOH 2T0 www.pbtc.ca pbtcrattler10@gmail.com

Bruce Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 857 Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9

www.brucetrail.org info@brucetrail.org

Telephone: 800-665-4453 Telephone: 905-628-8081

Fax: 905-529-6832

Newsletter Editors: Content : Kathryn Orr Barbara Reuber

Layout: Jan MacKie

Please send us your stories: pbtcrattler10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

"March 7, 2019"

Rattler Advertising Rates:

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

Contact: Barb Reuber

Email: pbtcadvertising@gmail.com

Contents Issue #3, 2018

President's Message	pg. ı
A Century of Trees - Update	pg. 3
Reflections of a Life Changing Hike	pg. 4
Reflections of a Life Changing Hike (cont'd).	pg. 5
Fall Haiku on the Bruce	pg. 6
Land Securement	pg. 7
Tales and Tails from the Trail	pg. 8
Tales and Tails from the Trail (cont'd)	pg. 9
Thanks Elaine + Happy Ending	pg. 10
Hiking Opportunities	pg. 11
BTC Annual General Meeting	pg. 12
BTC Annual General Meeting (cont'd)	pg. 13
PBTC Road Cleanup	pg. 15
Take It at Your Own Pace	pg. 16
Take It at Your Own Pace (cont'd)	pg. 17
Hiking in Mississagi Provincial Park	pg. 18
Hiking in Mississagi Provincial Park (cont'd)	pa. 19



Owl by Laura Banks

* * Sign Up * * For The Rattler Online

Why get the Rattler by email?

Rising Canada Post rates — help save our Club mailing costs

- save paper and reduce your carbon footprint
- get your Rattler days before your friends get their print version
- get full colour pictures
- just print what you need e.g. hike schedules

Contact us at pbtcrattler10@gmail.com and sign up now.

Reproduction of editorial or advertising material requires permission of the writer, photographer and/or publisher. Articles are published at the discretion of the editor and/or publisher, who reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and libel.

A Century of Trees - Update

You may have read about our century of specimen trees in the previous Rattler: https://www.pbtc.ca/rattler-archive

I am pleased to report that on October 23rd we were able to plant the first four trees

– all 10 to 12 foot tall Sugar Maples, on Bull Homestead & Vanishing Streams.

Both of these properties adjoin County Road 9 West of the village of Colpoy's Bay.

This after considerable research into native species, ideal locations, planting & care for these trees.

Thanks to J.D. at Everest Trees [everesttrees.com] for patiently answering our many questions.





Also, thanks to the roving Stew-Crew [Bob, Grant, Tony, John] as well as Land Steward Anita who all stepped up at the last minute to help with planting.

With Doug's help pre-digging the holes, planting was surprisingly easy.

Even the weather cooperated. We have secured sponsors for three of the first four trees. Plans are to place a small plaque at the base of each tree with year, species and a non-commercial message from the sponsor (e.g.: in memory of ...).

It's been fun & rewarding - let's do six more next year!

Finally a postscript to the original article: Napoleon's Trees are alive & well although threatened by road widenings [Google it!].

Reflections on a Life Changing Hike

Can you think of anything more invigorating than spending a whole day outside, enjoying the splendours of the beguiling Bruce Trail? How about five years enjoying those splendours? In October, 2018, the Limestone Ladies hiked into Tobermory, thus completing our end-to-end hike which began in October 2012.

We have had a year to reflect on the experience and I would like to offer the following observations on the Bruce Trail hiker's lifestyle, to those who might be considering an end-to-end.

First of all: prepare to fall in love with all the delights that await you. You will be enchanted by tiny wildflowers and rare orchids. Ancient gnarled cedars growing out of cracks on the cliff edge will charm you with their fierce desire to live. You will be smitten by vistas of turquoise water lapping at white cliffs. If you are lucky you may encounter a sandhill crane, a bald eagle, a waddling porcupine or even a rattlesnake. The Bruce Trail casts a wide net and you are sure to be captured!

People often quizzed us about the weather.

"Surely you don't hike in the rain!" they said. Of course we hiked in the rain! It's part of the deluxe package. If you have never hiked in the rain you have missed the delicious smells of damp moss and wet cedar. You don't get to see a massive cloud like an iron fist approaching over Georgian Bay or diamond rain drops sparkling from a spider's web. And you will not understand the deep satisfaction of accumulating mud all the way up to your knees. To be a fair weather hiker is to smell the flower but not taste the nectar!

A huge benefit of end-to-end hiking is the chance to enjoy the lesser-known but equally beautiful attractions of the trail. These days, the Grotto is overflowing with visitors and, sadly, no longer provides an opportunity to quietly contemplate the beauty of Georgian Bay. However, there are many other equally beautiful spots where you can enjoy panoramic views or sheltered coves, and have them to yourself. You just have to work a little bit to get there! We all know that people value things more if they have worked to attain them; your effort will reward you with deep satisfaction.





Since most of us live in cities, an end-to-end hike gives us the chance to acquaint ourselves with the charms and quirks of rural living. For example: the humble stile. I would bet that most urban folks don't even know what a stile is! But as a Bruce trail hiker, you will clamber over many of them, as you traverse fields kindly opened to hikers by local farmers. One of my favourite stiles was at Cape Chin. I was hiking that particular section by myself, and there was a stile which led into a field of cows. The cows thought I was more interesting than I really am, and clustered expectantly at the base of the stile, waiting for me to climb down. As I stared into a sea of brown eyes, I noticed that one of the cows was excessively large and muscular, with an unfriendly stare. That bull didn't want me to get too close to his ladies, and I grew a few gray hairs waiting for him to finally wander off. I braved the girls, who followed me across the field, snorting bovine breath down my neck as I hurried to the safety of the next stile.

It's not all about the physical trail. It's also about the people you will meet because of the trail.

Over the course of our five years, we met fellow hikers, dog-walkers, trail volunteers doing maintenance (thank you!), and a wide variety of folks who facilitated our experiences: local bed and breakfast owners, Trail Angels, the Crabby Cabbie, and helpful residents. Each of these people became part of our story and we appreciate their input. We are especially grateful to Marg and Owen Glendon from the Peninsula Club, who were waiting for us at the cairn in Tobermory and clapped and cheered as we took our last steps along the trail.

The hardest part of an end-to-end hike is what to do once it is over. There's a big gap to be filled when you no longer have days of hiking to plan for and anticipate. We know other groups who have turned around and immediately started hiking south again. You just don't want the good times to stop! In our case, we are contemplating several years of side trails. Anything that keeps those boots moving on down the trail!

Fran Turner of the Limestone Ladies

Fall Haiku on The Bruce

Many of you enjoy taking photos while out on the trails. I have learned to appreciate the simplicity and power of Haiku. These simple poems allow us to appreciate our experiences

in nature at an emotional level.

All of these poems came to me while out on the Peninsula Bruce Trails between Lion's Head and White Bluff.

Winding forest trail Sun pours through yellow orange leaves Crunching under foot

After the downpour Sun glistens on fall leaves Scent of pines

Cool running on snow Footsteps echo through cedars Deer leap across trail

Maple leaves falling Silently on pine needles Crow sharply cawing

Apples fall from tree Beside old square log cabin Porcupine runs by

Leaves changing colour Complete stillness in forest Mist settling in

Emerging from forest Cedars forming green landscape One bright red maple

Heavy fall rain Following moist forest trail Feet sinking

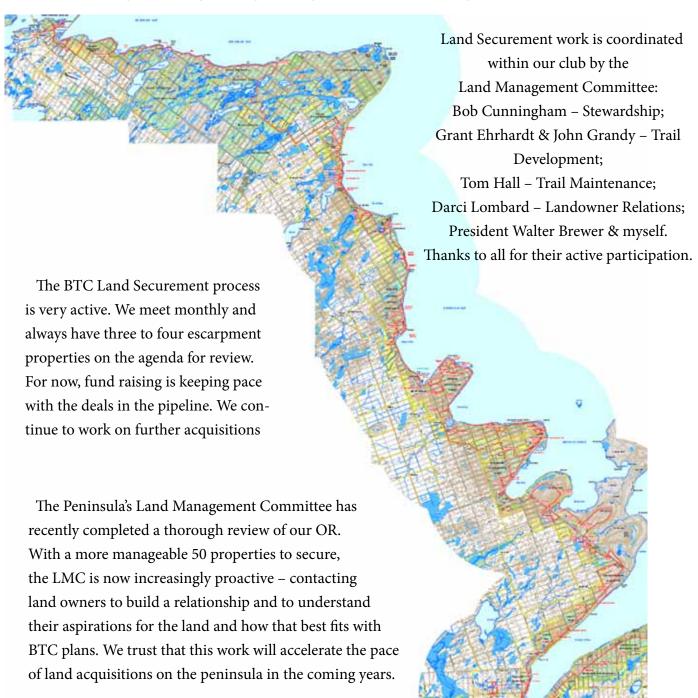
The next time you are out on the trail, I invite you to bring a pencil and small notepad with you!

Rob Straby

Land Securement

The Land Securement role is two-fold: first as club appointee to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's securement process; secondly, to progress the Peninsula's portion of the BTC mission of securing a conservation corridor containing the Bruce Trail's Optimum [practical] Route [OR].

Exploitation of escarpment lands began a century before the idea of BT was even conceived. The Optimum Route is easy - it's the practical part where things get complex and sometimes contentious: out-wait an unsupportive landowner or go around; go through a village or avoid it; build a large staircase or seek an easier route



John Whitworth - November 2018

Tales and Tails from the Trail

Submitted by L. Browne

Tale #1

While on a trail maintenance trip with my favourite chainsaw team, we met a man walking along the trail. It turns out that he was John B from the Iroquoia Club who had been shuttled that morning by Kathy, one of our PBTC Trail Angels. After introducing myself, I asked how the shuttle went. He said, "Oh, I fell in love with Kathy!"

The story then unfolds. John had been listening to CBC's "The Sunday Edition with Michael Enright" in his car, and there was an interesting

conversation going on. Then Kathy showed up, and he reluctantly turned off the radio to get ready to be shuttled. He popped into her car, and much to his delight, Kathy was also listening to the same program! He was one happy hiker!

I followed up with Kathy. She said, "It was wonderful. Two strangers quietly travelling and listening to the radio. We were comfortable in our silence together. It was great!!"

Tale #2

A family of three – parents and teen daughter - was doing a one-night backpack trip. They were dropped off where the trail crosses Cape Chin South Rd and they planned to hike south to Reed's Dump to spend the night. PBTC Trail Angel Tom finished his drop off, and while driving away, he heard a thud and thought that he had run over a stick on the road.

He then drove all the way to Ferndale to fill up with gas. As he was filling up, Tom got a phone call from

the Dad asking if he had left the camera in the car. Checking inside the car, no camera was to be found.

However, when Tom got out to pay for gas, he noticed the camera lodged on the roof rack! He phoned, told Dad the camera had been found, drove back to Cape Chin South, and then ran along the trail to deliver the camera to its rightful owner. Subaru roof racks should be advertising their camera-adherence ability!



Tale #3

PBTC Trail Angel Kathy had been on a shuttle to Devil's Monument. In the middle of the Borchardt Road parking lot, she and her passengers found the remnants of a fire still smoldering away. She and her hikers doused the fire with water and scattered the remnants so copy-cats would not start another fire. Unfortunately, no left-over weinies and marshmallows were to be had.

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

Tale #4

This next story falls into the 'tail' category. I was again out with my favourite saw team and sawyer Rich, after bending over to do up his chaps, said, "I think I split my pants." Walking behind him, I could discern no tear in the chaps. However, at the end of the day, when the chaps came off, I realized that Rich must have felt a little cold air on his hind-quarters. He had, indeed, split the bum out of his regular pants.

Tale #5

And to keep the tails wagging . . . while out on a recon hike, we discovered a long piece of flagging tape tied to a tree quite high up. Thinking that it had no purpose, we maneuvered a boost-up to retrieve said

tape. On it was written a pair of names and a date.

Wondering why, but thinking no more of it, we tucked it in our garbage bags and headed out. It was then that we discovered the used condom shoved into the rocks of the Devil's Monument stairs! Aha! The lights went on.





Tale #6

On another chainsaw hike, we discovered a new type of blazing. This is what one would call a 'top end' hike.

Thanks Elaine for another great season of wonderful hikes.



A Hike that Thankfully has a Happy Ending

On Wednesday, October 24th at approximately 8:15 pm a lost hiker posted a photograph on the Bruce Trail Facebook page with a comment asking if anybody can help her to tell the police where she is. The photo was the last she had taken before losing the white trail blazes. Apparently the hiker had trouble finding her location on a map on her phone and had trouble communicating with police.

Rich Moccia, a volunteer who regularly inspects and maintains the trail, recognized the rocks and the water in the photograph and knew the location. He advised the hiker to avoid walking around because there are many crevasses and drops. Other group members asked if she was alone (she was) and what supplies she had (a flashlight, no compass or whistle) but her cell phone battery was fully charged.

Rich called the Wiarton OPP, which organized a search party. Rich stayed on the line with police as they searched.

At about 9:30 p.m. the hiker posted that she could hear the searchers calling her. At 10:30 p.m. Rich posted that the hiker and search party were hiking out but it would be slow due to darkness and the terrain.

The hiker later advised that she had been lost for about three hours and she was grateful for the swift response to her Facebook post. She was not injured. Rich later quoted, "It's a gorgeous area to be hiking but not one to be taken lightly.

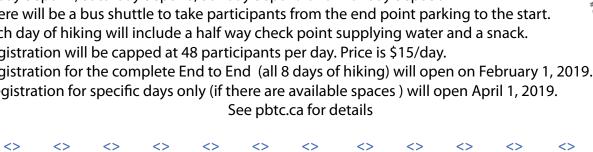
Regarding taking the time to help the hiker, he stated, "It's the least one hiker can do for another hiker so I was happy to spend the time".

Well done Rich!

2019 Peninsula section End to End hike.

self directed over two weekendsof four days each.

Friday May 31, Saturday June 1, Sunday June 2 and Monday June 3 Friday Sept 27, Saturday Sept 28, Sunday Sept 29 and Monday Sept 30 There will be a bus shuttle to take participants from the end point parking to the start. Each day of hiking will include a half way check point supplying water and a snack. Registration will be capped at 48 participants per day. Price is \$15/day. Registration for the complete End to End (all 8 days of hiking) will open on February 1, 2019. Registration for specific days only (if there are available spaces) will open April 1, 2019. See pbtc.ca for details



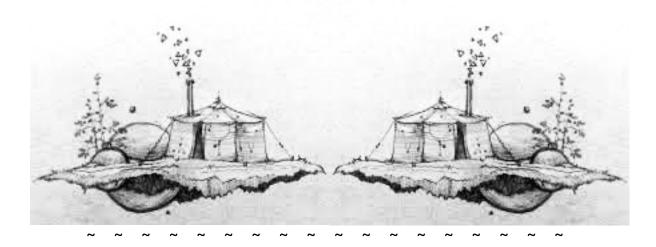


Wednesday, December 5, 10:00 am Meet: 534 Gould St., Wiarton Distance: 8 km, 2 hours Terrain: Easy – a few hills Pace: Medium

MUST pre-register with Hike Leader Harriet Nixon 519-534-0426 or harrietnixon@bmts.com

COME PLAY WITH US!

Friday, January 25, 2019, 3:00 pm until Sunday, January 27, 12:00 noon, ten members of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club and the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club will be yurt camping in yurts #92 and #90 at MacGregor Point Provincial Park just South of Port Elgin. They invite you to come and play with them. They will be hiking, snow shoeing, skiing and skating. A Day Parking Pass is in effect.



BTC Annual General Meeting

The Peninsula Club hosted the BTC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sept. 21 to 23, 2018 at the homey Evergreen Resort in Red Bay, with great views of Lake Huron. Many members opted to book accommodation at the resort which has cabins and camping sites. The weather was very windy the first night but the rest of the weekend was sunny and agreeable.

On the Friday night, friends from the various clubs were able to catch up at the wine and cheese social. Many had a first look at over 100 tempting items on display for the Silent Auction, from TFC soccer tickets to baskets of local chocolate treats. During the evening, two local outdoor adventurer guides: Zane Davies, Explorer's Tread, and Scott Parent, Fathom Paddle Guiding, gave a captivating presentation entitled "Crossing Georgian Bay on Foot," detailing their own trek in March of 2015.

The attendance was very good for the weekend, reaching 169 members who attended the business meeting on Saturday morning. Walter Brewer, PBTC President, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. Further greetings were provided by Mayor Milt McIver, Municipality of North Bruce Peninsula: Tom Friesen, President of Hike Ontario; and John Festarini, Acting Superintendent of Bruce Peninsula National Park. The meeting was presided by Warren Bell, the BTC Board Chair, and Beth Gilhespy, BTC CEO. They provided the members a great recap of the accomplishments

of the past year and a comprehensive financial overview. The Presidents of the various clubs made brief reports and presented donation cheques to the BTC. A tasty breakfast bar was available throughout the morning.

After the quick lunch provided, members attended the organized afternoon activity of their choice: a boat tour of the Fishing Islands, a Rural Rocks hike, a guided tour of Petrel Pt. Nature Reserve, a talk by Peter Middleton, a kayak tour of Berford Lake, a combined tour of the McIver Wetland and Bill Baker Environmental Hike, a photography workshop, or a combined mushroom i.d. and Citizen Science Guided Hike at Jones Bluff, or a First Nations craft workshop. There was something for everyone and all events were enjoyed enthusiastically.

(cont'd on page 13)



FOODLAND

Fresh food, Friendly neighbours

Rick & Marlene Peacock General Delivery
Owners and friendly neighbours Tobermory, ON
N0H 2R0

(T) 519-596-2380

Rick.Peacock@sobeys.com

(F) 519-596-2582

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

FOBBA www.cedarholmebb.com Inspected & Rated cedarholmebandb@bmts.com



(cont'd from page 12)

Members gathered in the late afternoon, perhaps enjoying a Neustadt beer on tap, while awaiting the formal dinner of roast chicken or stuffed whitefish, very nicely presented by the resort staff. After coffee and dessert, the BTC awards presentation commenced. Awards and recipients will be listed in the next issue of the Bruce Trail magazine.

On the Sunday, several guided hikes of various lengths were led through the Ron Gatis property in the hamlet of Colpoy's Bay with a spectacular view

of Georgian Bay. Some Hallowe'en candy and crisp fall apples awaited the hikers. Walter Brewer was on hand to give out the Lloyd Smith Walking Stick and the George Willis Family Trophy.

The planning committee of Marg and Owen Glendon, Jane Greenhouse, Lloyd Hayward, Darci Lombard and myself, had been working with Jackie Randle of BTC for several months. They should all be pleased with their work as the weekend was deemed a great success.



Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

Toll free 1 (866) 449-1908 • info@letshike.com • www.letshike.com

NORTHERN LIGHTS NORWAY

February 13 to 23, 2019

A full itinerary of adventures like cross-country skiing, dogsledding & snowmobiling plus Mother Nature's lightshow the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). Home base is Tromso - one of THE best places in the world to see the

Northern Lights!

Also visit the capital, Oslo, for some cultural exploration, including the Nobel Peace Centre.

Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.

MACHU PICCHU, PERU

September 13 to 25, 2019

Explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range. Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps!

NO CAMPING – ALL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE IN HOTELS AND LODGES

ICELAND

August 17 to 27, 2019

The land of the midnight sun!

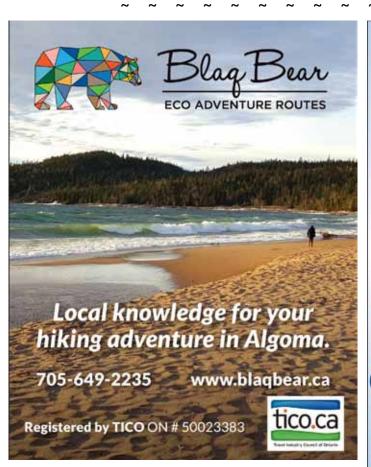
Trek on volcanic terrain, marvel at the view atop Iceland's "Grand Canyon", stand at the edge of the most powerful waterfall in all Europe & relax in the soothing thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. From Reykjavik to the northern fishing village of Husavik, explore the most dramatic landscape anywhere.

JAPAN

October 6 to 20, 2019

An intriguing destination offering a mix of traditional customs intertwined with modern realities. Its history and culture are always at the forefront - from a soak in a hot spring to touring ancient Shinto shrines & dining in yukatas. Discover the beautiful hiking trails from Tokyo to Kyoto, including Kamikochi, the slopes of the iconic Mt. Fuji, and Takayama. Accommodations include western-style hotels & traditional Japanese ryokans, and the vibrant fall colours are at their peak in October.

TICO # 50018498





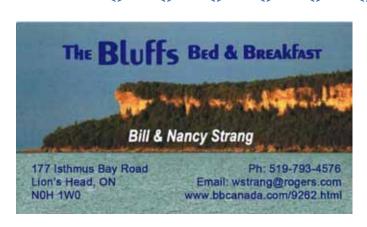


We never know what will be found during the PBTC road cleanup of Hwy 6 at Dyer's Bay Road. (Barry was NOT injured while taking the picture or doing the cleanup).



Cover Artwork

"The Waterfall - Colpoy's Village", 20in. by 16in., oil on canvas, painted in 2011 by Brian Wheeler, who has had a cottage in the village for over 40 years, and who is a member of the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists (BPSA). [It is my understanding that the site was used in the past to operate a grist mill, then a saw mill, and also to generate electricity for lighting in local buildings. Some of the sites history is recorded on stone benches placed where Colpoy's Creek crosses Kribs Road. The Creek continues to provide fish spawning habitat.]





<>

Take It At Your Own Pace

As a Trail Angel for the Peninsula Club, I hear so many wonderful stories and snippets from hikers about their adventures on the Bruce Trail. Each brings either a tear to my eye, inspires me, makes me break into a hearty chuckle, or sometimes all of the above, and at the same time! One of the storytelling hikers has given me permission to share part of her story with you.

In late August, I received a request to do a shuttle from Halfway Log Dump to Crane Lake Road. It was a cool, wet morning when Sandi arrived at our meeting point. I was surprised to see that Sandi was wearing a cast (carefully wrapped with a plastic bag). She had fallen the day before, injuring her hand. However, she continued her hike and visited the emergency clinic at the local hospital that night. Yes, the Lion's Head doctor had told her that her hiking would have to take a break for awhile. Since she had broken two small bones in her hand, it needed time to heal. However, she replied, "What? I can't, I only have two more days of hiking left! Just bandage it up and cushion it. I am going to do this!"

So, here she was, ready to hike. I quickly considered the scenario. She was smiling. Yes, she still intended on hiking this section (most technical of the trail), had a carefully thought out hiking support technique to get through the day, and reassured me that she would turn back if the day became too difficult. She was beaming and full of life, and her words resonated, "After all, I'm almost there, and it's so close. It's been two years! I will just take it more slowly". Two days later, I again shuttled Sandi to the final hiking section from Little Cove to the northern Terminus in Tobermory. Still sporting her hiking cast and brandishing one of the broadest smiles ever. Sandi said, "I am almost there. I can't believe it. I am going to finish this! I just have to take it at my own pace."

Sandi did finish hiking the entire Bruce Trail that day and said, "I was exhausted, exhilarated and over the moon! I have never done anything like this before." Sandi explained that hiking on the Bruce Trail is more than just a hike.

(cont'd on page 17)





A Word of Thanks

The Rattler Team wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to Julie Heinrichs for her years of work as an editor of the Rattler - We will miss you on the team Julie.

Barbara Reuber is joining the team and Susan Allen continues to be a support.

Also - a vote of thanks to the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists' members for their ongoing submissions of works that enhance the Rattler.



(cont'd from page 16)

<>

She became more deeply aware of her relationship with "Bruce" as she entered the Peninsula Section, it was a real transition for her. She believes that people are seeking a sisterhood, camaraderie, a non-judgemental and accepting community which they can belong to. The Bruce Trail "Family" has been just that! Canada is not Sandi's home of origin, and sometimes she has struggled to feel "at home" here. Joining the Bruce Trail community has opened this door and made her feel "Canadian", in a way nothing else has been able to do.

"It's hard being away from Bruce", says Sandi. In fact, when she was hiking on another trail, which intersected with the Bruce Trail, she felt quite emotional. "It felt like I was meeting up with an old friend." I asked her what her message would be for others who are considering hiking the entire Bruce Trail. "Do it! Never underestimate yourself! You may feel intimidated at first, but stick to it. Anything is possible, given time. Take it at your own pace! This isn't The Bruce Trail, it's Our Bruce Trail."

Submitted by: Sandi Wilcox, Bruce Trail Hiker and Marg Glendon, PBTC Trail Angel





Home Cooked Meals

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK YEAR ROUND

8am-8pm July & Aug. • 8am-7pm rest of the year

Famous for our Homemade Soups, Quesidillas, Wraps, Innovative Specials, Homemade Burgers

Senior and Kids Menus
We Treat every one like family!

2 Blocks from the Beach and Bruce Trail
78 Main St., Lion's Head 519-793-4224

Hiking in Mississagi Provincial Park

In my biased opinion, nothing beats hiking the Bruce Trail. Yet, it is good to leave the Peninsula occasionally, or so I'm told by friends. When Nancy and Barry Ince came back from Mississagi Provincial Park with wonderful stories of their outing. it was time to strap the kayak to the roof of the car, and head North. The park is located about 30 minutes north of Elliott Lake. Taking the ferry from Tobermory, it takes about 6 hours to reach the destination, versus 7 hours if driving all the way. We opted for the latter, and broke up the drive by stopping at the Port Severn Locks (where modern yachts and boats are guided through the centuryold, hand-cranked lock system), Parry Sound with it's interesting harbour, the beautiful French River, and the Fire Watchtower in Elliott Lake with it's breath-taking views.

We had a great time exploring the provincial park. The campground is small and quiet with about 60 campsites and canoe rentals. The hiking trails provide a wide variety in degree of difficulty and length of trail: everything from the Semiwite Creek Trail and Flack Lake Nature Trail which take about 30 minutes, to the difficult 22 km McKenzie Trail (it is recommended to take 2 days for this trail). The Helenbar Trail is of intermediate difficulty and 7 km long, and has a spectacular lookout. The Semiwite Lake Trail is 12 km, and rated as difficult - justifiably so, as we found out. The terrain is naturally challenging and we came across numerous large trees blocking the trail. But this just made it more fun, and we took several relaxing

WOUNTAIN TROUT CAMP

Your Hosts
Ron & Kathie Parker

Gillies Lake
60 Daly's Rd RR#1
Miller Lake, Ontario
NOH 120

Www.mountaintroutcamp.com
www.mountaintroutcamp.com

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

swim breaks (sandy beaches). Part of this trail is also heavily used by moose - pile upon pile of droppings! On all our hikes we heard loons call, saw bald eagles, impossibly large pine trees, and many beaver ponds. Bring swim gear on any of these hikes - the many clear, cool, deep lakes are just too inviting.

The night sky with it's absence of light pollution was awe-inspiring. We spent hours looking up at the Milky Way with our binoculars.

If you are looking for a true vacation without long days of driving, or hassle at airports, this might just be it!

Ulla Conrad



View of Semiwite Lake



Kayaking in the early morning











Lookout from Helenbar Trail



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

We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail.

Send us your stories

to pbtcrattler10@gmail.com

and we will share them in future issues of

The Rattler.

If you have any photos to include please send them
as a jpeg at highest resolution possible.

