

# The Rattler



## President's Message

ISSUE #3 2019

It's been a great season for the Peninsula Club. Susan Allen provided a successful End to End hike with bus support and the lands at the Cliffs of Barrow Bay were made accessible with the opening of the Beth Gillhespy Side Trail. Now all that remains to do at Barrow Bay is to obtain permission to build a staircase. Once the staircase is built we will be able to connect the new route which will take us off the road. Please consider supporting this activity by donating to our "Get the BLAZES off the Road" campaign which is intended to help fund the construction cost of the staircase. Look for further information in this edition of the Rattler; it will be a fun event.

Our Board continues to evolve with a few new faces and a few retiring, including me! We need to refresh the Board so please consider joining us at our next meeting in January so you can determine how your talents can fit in.

Ours is one of the nine Bruce Trail Conservancy clubs that look after the working end of the BTC Mission "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever." This means we have the active functions of trail building and maintenance, conservation, land management, hiking and communicating. Surely you have a talent in one of those fields that you can share with the community that uses the BTC lands and trails.

Take a look at the article by Ross McLean about why we build trails and you may be inspired to invite perfect strangers to walk in the countryside.



Hiking isn't just about getting to the other end. Thoughtful meandering or flower walks are a great way to reduce stress and see what's right in front of you. I always marvel at the various fungi that appear this time of year. Maybe you have knowledge in this area and wish to share your passion. That can be a speciality hike. We would like to increase the number of leader-led hikes that bring experienced enthusiasts together with interested people in the community.

Maybe you could volunteer to coordinate such a hike?  
Contact me for information on what would be involved.  
Please consider joining us on the management team.

**Walter Brewer President PBTC**  
pbtcpresident@gmail.com

**Peninsula Bruce Trail Club**

P.O. Box 1087,  
 Wiarton, ON  
 N0H 2T0  
[www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca)  
[pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)

**Bruce Trail Conservancy**

P.O. Box 857  
 Hamilton, ON  
 L8N 3N9  
[www.bruce-trail.org](http://www.bruce-trail.org)  
[info@bruce-trail.org](mailto:info@bruce-trail.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:  
[pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

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

**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](mailto:pbtcadvertising@gmail.com)

**Contents Issue #3, 2019**

President’s Message ..... pg. 1  
 High Water Levels and the Trail ..... pg. 3  
 Quest for Wonder - E. Wassermann ..... pg. 4  
 E. Wassermann(cont'd). + Rich Coons ..... pg. 5  
 Conservation News ..... pg. 6  
 We Need You, SERIOUSLY!! ..... pg. 7  
 Walter Brewer Side Trail ..... pg. 8  
 Snowshoe Hike ..... pg. 9  
 End 2 End Weekends ..... pg. 10  
 End 2 End Weekends (cont'd)..... pg. 11  
 Get the **BLAZES** off the Road !..... pg. 12  
 Why We Build Trails - Ken Ingram ..... pg. 13  
 Peninsula Club Celebrates Bruce Trail Day . pg. 14  
 Peninsula Club Celebrates Bruce Trail Day . pg. 15  
 Taking It Slow ..... pg. 16  
 Taking It Slow + Peninsula Hiking Log ..... pg. 17  
 Invasive Plant Awareness Platforms ..... pg. 18  
 Safety Corner ..... pg. 19



**\*\* 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 [pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@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.*

## High Water Levels and the Trail

Everyone is aware of the high water levels on Georgian Bay this year. What is the cause? Is it climate change? Is it a normal cyclical phenomenon? Is it man-made, the result of dams? Is it because of temperature changes or the result of increased rain and/or snowfall? There doesn't seem to be any consensus as to what is behind the high water levels.

What we do know, however, is that the Bruce Trail in the Peninsula section has been affected.

Early in the summer, Bruce Peninsula National Park closed a portion of the Burnt Point Loop Side Trail as part of it was flooded.

The trail heading toward Lion's Head from McKay's Harbour had been rerouted last year because it was under water. This year the reroute is under water. Hikers have forged their own way further inland.

The section of trail between the ladders south of Rush Cove was rerouted in the summer. Fortunately, the new landowner granted permission for the trail to cross on the top edge of the escarpment.

The Ivan Lemcke Side Trail has been closed since the middle of July. Newly installed boardwalks along the water's edge are covered with trees and debris from strong waves.

Just recently the Snake Boardwalk at Cape Croker has been closed. The northern portion of it has been floating in water all year, but with winter approaching, the safety risk has increased due to icing.

What will the future hold? Only time will tell.

Submitted by **Tom Hall**

Trail Maintenance Coordinator

\* \* \* \* \*

### Just how high is the water in Georgian Bay?

Environment and Climate Change Canada reports on the Great Lakes water levels. Their Monthly Water Level Bulletin for September 2019 shows that the monthly average water level for Lake Huron/Georgian Bay for September 2019 was 77 cm (about 30 inches) above the monthly average for September for the period 1918 to 2018. And the level at the beginning of October 2019 was 83 cm (about 33 inches) above the average for the beginning of October for the period 1918 to 2018.

Were you around in 1986? That was the year of the highest recorded water levels on Lake Huron/Georgian Bay. In September 1986, water levels were 10 cm (about 4 inches) higher than in September of this year. The lowest recorded water levels were in 1964, when the September water level was 152 cm (about 60 inches) lower than it was in September of this year.

You can find the Monthly Water Level Bulletin at: [https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/levelnews/2019/LEVELnews\\_10\\_2019\\_e.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/levelnews/2019/LEVELnews_10_2019_e.pdf)



## Quest for Wonder: Elaine Wassermann, Hike Leader

Elaine Wassermann has been leading the Peninsula Club's "Easy Walks"—low-key nature rambles throughout the Bruce Peninsula—since the early 2000s. Because of their leisurely pace, set to allow an appreciation of all the natural wonders, most easy walks were of one to two hours duration. Elaine had "regulars" but was always pleased when first-time visitors to the area or occasional vacationers joined her walks. She has always believed that each time we set foot on the Bruce Trail, in appreciation, we pay tribute to every volunteer who works or has worked to make these experiences possible.

She and her husband, Uwe, had camped at Cyprus Lake for years, and in 1987 purchased a property near Devil's Monument, which sloped down to the shoreline. They started personally building their beautiful log home in 1992 on weekends, commuting from their home in Georgetown. They spent the holidays there even though the house was not finished. Before moving up permanently in 2001, they hadn't had time to hike

but had become members of the local Club in order to meet people. They adopted a motto, "Work is not to interfere with social life!" Finally having time to explore their chosen retirement haven, a whole new world opened up to them. She and Uwe thought they must be Adam and Eve, "because this was the Garden of Eden." Their first hike from the Bruce Peninsula National Park to Halfway Log Dump was a stunning revelation. Over the next few years, the Peninsula Club hike leader broadened her appreciation for the inherent beauty of the peninsula and for the volunteers who still give of themselves to establish this UNESCO-recognized foot path along the Niagara Escarpment.

As they hiked, they availed themselves of walks with knowledgeable park naturalists, and of all local outdoor nature festivals. They were awed by the abundance of orchids, wildflowers, ferns, mosses, mushrooms, grasses, trees, birds, and butterflies in this unique environment, as well as the utter beauty of Georgian Bay along the rocky shore.

*(cont'd on page 5)*



(Quest for Wonder: Elaine Wassermann, *cont'd from page 4*)

Elaine was motivated to return to favourite places and to share the wonder of this beautiful piece of creation, where all five senses feed one's soul. Her favourite hiking spots were augmented by her friends' accumulated knowledge. She and Uwe were trail captains for eight kilometres of main trail north and south of Devil's Monument, as well as for the Minhinnick Side Trail, until a couple years ago. In her first winter living here, Elaine joined an exercise class and talked to a lot of people, and found that many did not hike. Eventually, they started asking her if she could take them on an easy hike—and "Easy Walks" was born.

With Uwe and friends, Elaine hiked the Peninsula, Sydenham and Beaver Valley sections. She finished Dufferin Hi-Land with friends last fall and plans to start Caledon next fall. These days, Elaine is especially busy. Life has intervened, and she is packing up her beloved peninsula home to move closer to family in Guelph. It is a wrenching time for her and Uwe in many ways, one that many of us will contemplate one day. But still, she says, "If it is nice outside—that's where I want to be. Outside all the time."

When asked about changes on the peninsula, Elaine replied that although it is busier with an increased number of visitors, she finds the essence remains much the same. She feels it is important for the municipality to set limitations on development to ensure everyone on the peninsula values what we have, and to retain its beauty.

We thank Elaine deeply for all her contributions to our Club, and wish her well for the future. Maybe now is a good time to bear in mind that the Peninsula Club needs more hike leaders (maybe to take over "Easy Walks"?) and is currently without a Hike Coordinator. If you have any interest and would like to talk about it,

please contact: [pbtgeneralinfo@gmail.com](mailto:pbtgeneralinfo@gmail.com)  
Help grow the quest for wonder.

*Submitted by  
Brenda Langlois*



## **An Exceptional Year for Volunteer Rich Coons**

Many of you have met Rich Coons — either on hikes, at AGMs, or more likely, during work parties where he has helped our club so often with his chainsawing and trail maintenance skills. Rich has outdone himself this year. He not only finished hiking all the side trails on the Peninsula, but also completed his end to end hike from Niagara to Tobermory. Congratulations on these amazing accomplishments, Rich, and many thanks for all your continued work on the trails!

*Submitted by Ulla Conrad*



## Conservation News

On October 28th, Doug Miller joined me at the “Bull Homestead” (km 5) in planting two Silver Maples as part of our Century of Trees project. Hopefully, we have done a better job of site location this year—we even dug a couple of test holes to ensure that the soil was reasonably dry. The trees will remain dormant over the winter and be regularly checked and cared for in their first growing season. For new (or forgetful) members, the original article on this topic is available. Go to: <https://www.pbtc.ca/rattler-archive> and open 2018 Issue #2.

### ***Environmental issues in the news:***

- Author Diana Beresford-Kroeger calculates that if each person on earth planted one tree a year for six years (48 billion globally), that would sequester enough CO<sub>2</sub> to halt global warming. (Waterloo Region Record, Oct. 27, 2019)
- A Globe & Mail article suggests that the key to fighting global warming is to plant three trillion trees. (“Worried About the Planet? Plant Trees” Sept. 28, 2019)
- Each year, eight million tons of plastic ends up in our oceans. (oceanconservancy.org)
- The federal governments put up \$15 million over 4 years to rescue the 50 Million Tree Program which was cut by the Ontario government. (cbc.ca)
- 30% of Blue Box recycling ends in landfill. (narcity.com, August 7, 2019)

***What can we do about it all?*** Reduce—start by buying fewer products packaged in single-use plastic (steel and aluminum are more likely to be reused). Stop buying bottled water. Encourage the provincial government to implement a deposit system on all packaging. Plant trees! Long-time member John Baker once said that he was buying vacant land and planting trees “because it’s the right thing to do.” Encourage the government to continue the 50 Million Tree Program. Finally, a question for the readers: do you think that as a conservation organization, BTC should be more of a voice/advocate on environmental issues? Please let us know.

### ***First Annual (?) Conservation Contest***

These bottle caps were washed ashore along one kilometre of shoreline during a recent storm at Sauble Beach.

Your mission is to guess how many caps are in the picture.

The prize for the first correct entry is, appropriately, a reusable water bottle! You may enter by sending your best guess to the Rattler editor. Alternatively, enter at the Peninsula Club AGM in May 2020.

Prize must be claimed at the AGM.

Conservation News  
(cont'd on pg 7)





Conservation News  
(cont'd from pg 6)

We are now planning tree plantings and other conservation actions for the new year. If you have questions or suggestions about conservation issues, BTC properties or invasive species, contact Bob Cunningham at: [robhcunningham@gmail.com](mailto:robhcunningham@gmail.com) or the author at: [ajwhitworth@rogers.com](mailto:ajwhitworth@rogers.com).

**Merry Christmas!**

*John Whitworth  
November 2019*



**We Need You ... Seriously!**

Currently, your PBTC Board of Directors is in need of a Hike Coordinator, an Archivist, and a Secretary. We meet four times per year on the peninsula and communicate mainly by email the rest of the time. I have been on the board for five years and have enjoyed the satisfaction I get from my work. And I have widened my circle of Bruce Trail friends, which is a great and lasting reward in itself. Please feel free to email me to arrange for an informal chat: Brenda Langlois, [brendalanglois57@gmail.com](mailto:brendalanglois57@gmail.com).

For the **Archivist** position, we would be happy to have someone who can enter our meeting minutes, our newsletter (The Rattler), and a few tidbits from the Bruce Trail magazine into the archives. Basically, this role consists of filing these electronically in the right place on the computer, and physically in the right cupboard. Sounds simple, but it is an important function because we honour our history and refer to it when finding solutions for the future. You would be welcome to attend meetings but it would not be strictly necessary.

As **Secretary**, you would be part of the board executive along with the President and Treasurer. You would work with the President and the board members to establish an agenda for the meetings,

record decisions made at the meetings in a Minutes format, and distribute these by email. Minutes could be taken by hand or directly onto a laptop, whichever works for you. In addition, you will: book meeting rooms; ensure members sign a Confidentiality Agreement once a year; maintain a simple contact list for board members; and supply a copy of the Club's Constitution to new members. Templates exist for all the documents mentioned above. As Secretary you would keep the ball rolling!

For the **Hike Coordinator** position, we need someone who feels that they know our trails fairly well and who would be interested in taking the Certified Hike Leader one-day training offered by Hike Ontario. (The Club will reimburse the fee.) We have several hike leaders who run their speciality hikes each year. The Hike Coordinator creates new hikes as appropriate; recruits other potential hike leaders; and enters the monthly hike information into BTC's new online Hike Schedule. The Club has a full End to End (E2E) hike once a year (generally two four-day weekends or four two-day weekends). The E2E has been under the purview of the Hike Coordinator alone but the Club is reviewing this arrangement. And of course, hiking is the heart and soul of the PBTC!

## Walter Brewer Side Trail

At the last meeting of the PBTC board for 2019, the Club unanimously voted to 'create' the Walter Brewer Side Trail by renaming the Forty Hills Side Trail west of White Bluff.

If you have been following the PBTC for the last 15-20 years, you may well appreciate the roles played and impact made by Walter, and fully understand why the Club has chosen to honour him. Chances are, many readers of The Rattler today know Walt as the Club's President, but not much beyond that.

Borrowing some words from the "Meet Walter Brewer" article by Marlene Rothenbury in the first issue of The Rattler in 2014, and adding a few of my own, let me help you better appreciate what Walter means to us, and how he was connected to the Forty Hills/White Bluff area in the first place.

Walter's home was, and remains, in the heart of Toronto. In the late 1990s as a Boy Scout leader, he brought his Venturers to the Bruce to hike and camp at Cape Croker. They also helped to construct the original Snake Boardwalk which opened in 1999. Later, at Cyprus Lake, Walt made a connection (as so many of us have) with Ross McLean of Guelph. In many ways Ross is the Bruce Trail godfather of that era. Ross persuaded Walt to join work parties and eventually serve as a trail captain in the White Bluff area, with friend Tom Gehrels, I believe.

Why would a man from TO come all the way to the Bruce to do trail maintenance when all the other sections were closer to home? In Walter's own words: "I found the northern part of the trail more appealing, for all the obvious reasons. I really enjoy the picturesque areas of the northern Bruce, the wonderful, sharing, and interesting people that populate that area." To me, Walter's words make perfect sense, as I have found the same to be true.



The first record of Walt in my files was in 2005 when the BTC bought a new property just north of White Bluff, and Walter and Tom agreed to take on a larger chunk of trail. In 2009, when there was a brief shortage of trail captains, the Club made a list of possible side trails which might be closed, and Forty Hills was one of them. I recall Walter arguing against closing Forty Hills because "it's really a nice trail." That probably saved it.

Good thing, I would say!

*(cont'd on page 9)*





# A Successful End to End – Congratulations to Hikers and Volunteers

A very successful, bus-supported End to End thanks to the many volunteers! The new format of hiking Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday once in the spring and again in the fall was well received as most participants had to travel several hours to join in. Congratulations to the volunteers that made it happen and to all those who completed their End to End hike. Job well done!



Share our journey in the photos below.



The Whole Gang



Weekend #1

Left : Friday

Right : Sunday

Below: Saturday



## Weekend # 2



Saturday



Sunday



### experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, to and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isa.

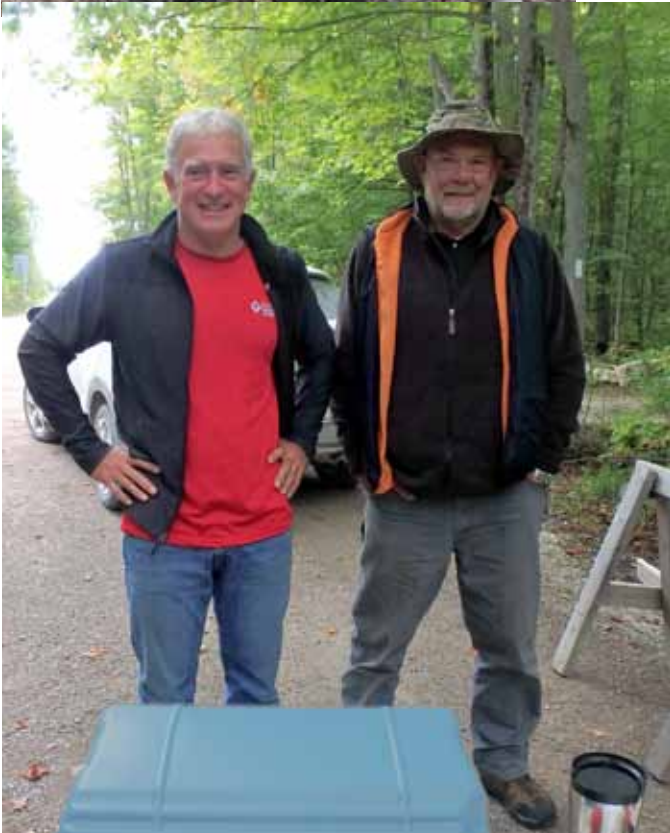


Phone: 1-709- 334-2208

Fax: 1-709- 334-3601

email: [brownrabbitcabins@nf.aibn.com](mailto:brownrabbitcabins@nf.aibn.com)

[www.brownrabbit.nl.ca](http://www.brownrabbit.nl.ca)



Monday

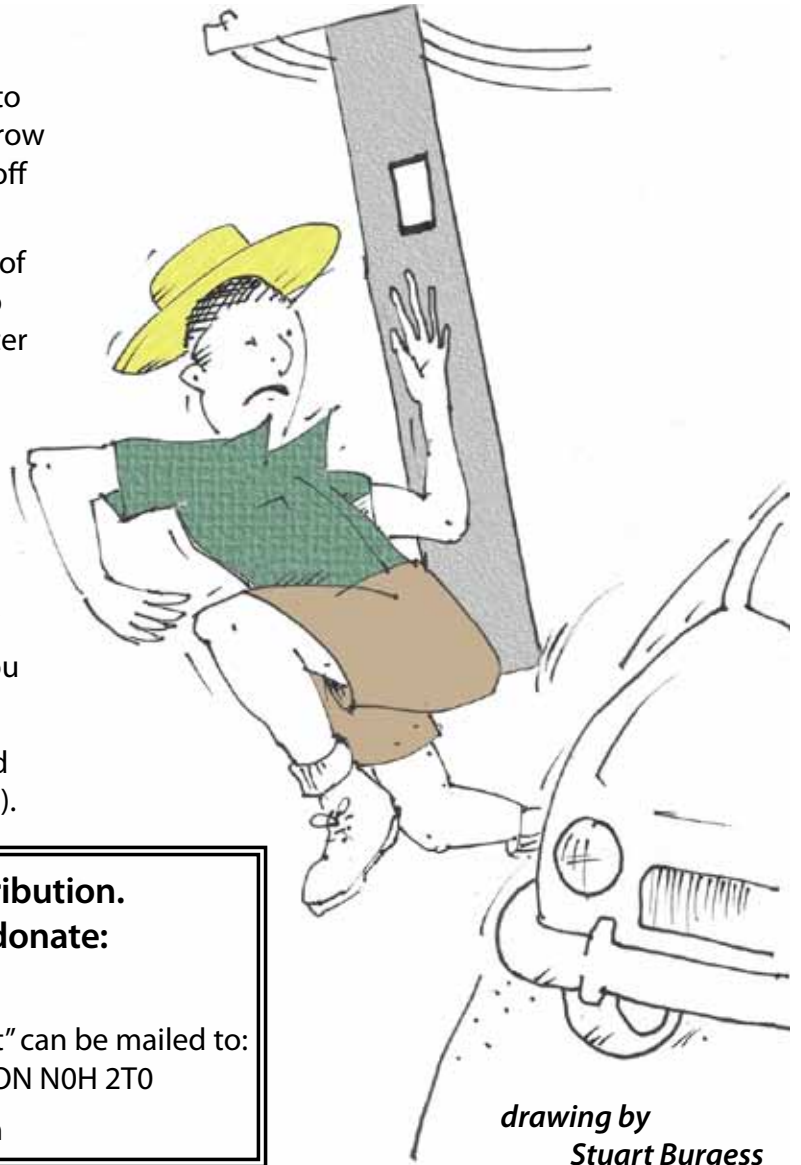
## Get the **BLAZES** off the Road!

Many of us have been waiting over ten years to get the trail off the roads from Rush Cove to Barrow Bay. Now the time has come to get the **BLAZES** off the road!

You are invited to help fund the construction of the staircase at the Cliffs of Barrow Bay. The map below shows the reroute that will be in place after the staircase has been completed.

A tax receipt will be provided for donations over \$10.00 and your name will be entered into the draw for the two first prizes, both of which will award you the honour of being the first to remove as many blazes as you want (one prize allowing you to start from one end of the road section and the other prize allowing you to start from the other end!)

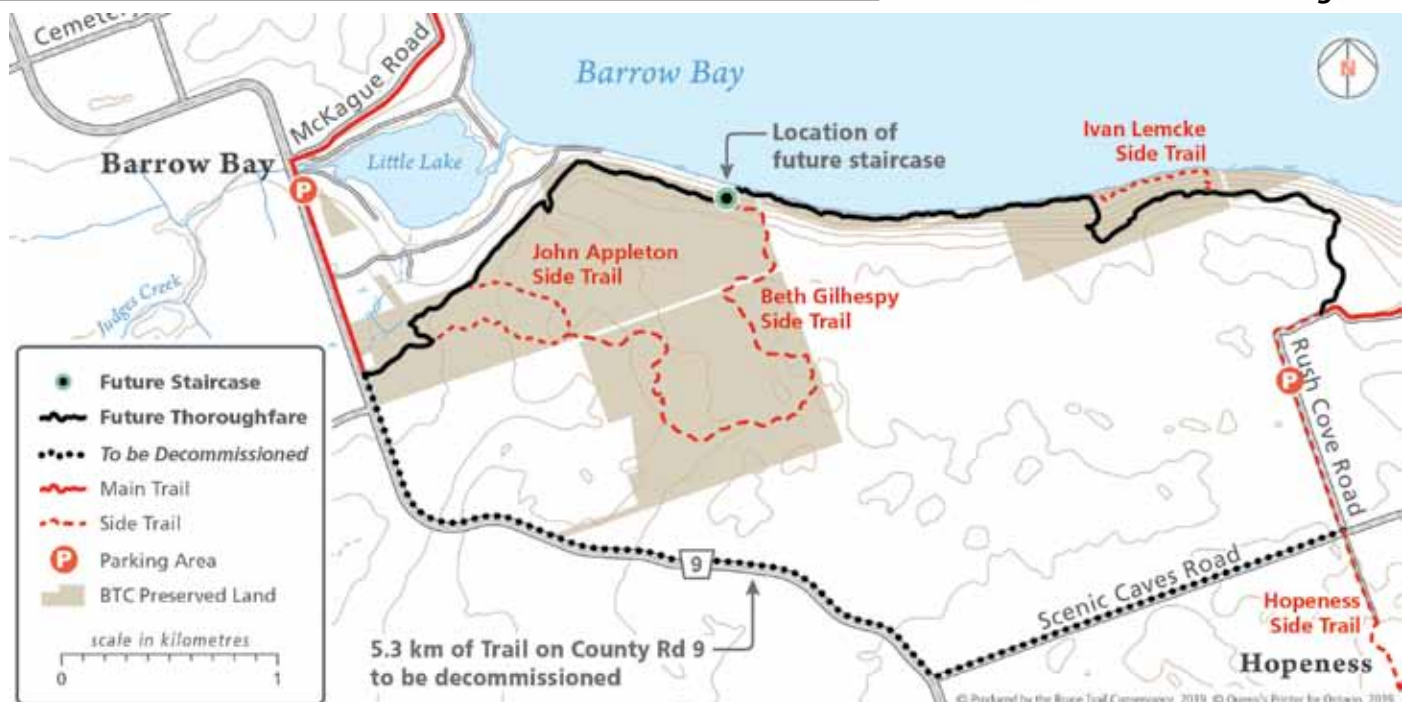
Winners will also have the opportunity to lead the official opening hike (whenever that may be).



*drawing by  
Stuart Burgess*

### Please help by making a contribution. There are two ways you can donate:

1. Cheques payable to :  
"Bruce Trail Conservancy – Staircase Project" can be mailed to:  
PBTC BLAZES, PO Box 1087 Warton, ON N0H 2T0
2. E-Transfers to: pbtctreasurer26@gmail.com





## Peninsula Club Celebrates Bruce Trail Day

On October 6, PBTC joined in Bruce Trail Day—the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s celebration of Canada’s oldest and longest public footpath.

Together with Bruce Peninsula National Park, PBTC offered a guided hike to the Grotto along forest trails and scenic cliff tops. The hike continued on to Overhanging Point for those interested in hiking a little further. PBTC volunteers were at a booth at the Head of Trails to provide information about the trail, volunteer opportunities with the Club, and the Club’s conservation work. It was a great opportunity for members and the public to learn about wildlife, plants, water, rock formation, and stewardship on the peninsula.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the event and especially to Marg and Owen Glendon for organizing this wonderful day and providing a great outreach opportunity for the Peninsula Club.



**BLUE HERON CRUISES**

Glass Bottom & Jet Boat Tours  
1-855-596-2999 [cruisetobermory.com](http://cruisetobermory.com)

**MOUNTAIN TROUT CAMP**

Your Hosts  
Ron & Kathie Parker

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

Phone: 519-795-7655  
Fax: 519-795-7655  
[info@mountaintroutcamp.com](mailto:info@mountaintroutcamp.com)  
[www.mountaintroutcamp.com](http://www.mountaintroutcamp.com)

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

## Peninsula Club Celebrates Bruce Trail Day



Centrally located overlooking Little Tub Harbour & Georgian Bay. Enjoy the fabulous sunsets in our fully licensed dining room & patio. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily!

20 tastefully decorated rooms, air-conditioned with individual climate control. Colour cable T.V., Free local calls, Wireless Internet, Complimentary Continental Breakfast, No Pets.

*Cottage rentals*

**Tobermory Princess Hotel**

34 Bay St. S., Tobermory, ON N0H 2R0

Phone: 519-596-8282 • Toll Free: 1-877-901-8282

[www.tobermoryprincesshotel.com](http://www.tobermoryprincesshotel.com)

TOBERMORY  
**PRINCESS HOTEL**  
CASUAL FINE DINING

DINING ROOM  
& PATIO

OPEN YEAR ROUND




*Blaq Bear*  
ECO ADVENTURE ROUTES

Local knowledge for your  
hiking adventure in Algoma.

705-649-2235      [www.blaqbear.ca](http://www.blaqbear.ca)

Registered by TICO ON # 50023383



Travel Industry Council of Ontario

## Taking It Slow

*Brigitte and her husband Davide completed the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail in September. That marked the culmination of their efforts over many years to hike the entire length of the Trail.*

If there is an award for the slowest completion of the Bruce Trail, I think we would be strong contenders. We started on May 21, 2001 in Queenston with our son Jonathan, then 11, and our daughter Victoria (Vicky), then 6 years old. We only hiked 4.2 kilometres. It was raining, and my husband fell into the mud when helping our daughter. We weren't off to a great start, but we persisted.

Our daughter was pretty much unwilling to walk for long distances, but as long as we were playing games, we were OK. Soon we started to ask other families or our children's friends to hike along with us. I kept a detailed log of our adventures, from my daughter being stung by a bee, horses charging at us in a field, plastic bags wrapped around feet to keep them from freezing in leaky boots during winter hikes, more people falling into mud, to more people with wet feet due to creek crossings or huge puddles. And not to forget mosquitoes! We had various problems with our car: We almost got stuck on a muddy road a few times, couldn't get up an icy hill and were slowly sliding back without any control. We couldn't start our car in Wiarton once and got a ride back to Oakville in a tow truck. In short—we had a blast! Not to mention the unforgettable vistas, especially of the blue clear water. Everyone who saw the photos thought we took them in the Caribbean.



Our son finished the Beaver Valley Section with us in 2007, by then 16 and ready for his own adventures. Our daughter hiked with us until 2012, also when she was 16, to the end of the Sydenham section. By then, both kids “out-hiked” us any day, especially since my husband had developed knee problems in 2004.

My husband and I kept at it, and we finished the trail on September 2, 2019. It was raining like it was on the very first hike, and the rocks were extremely slippery. Being in our 60s now, we had no desire to fall, and we didn't. We managed to finish the trail 18 years later!

*(cont'd on pg.17)*

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>



**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**

**Home Cooked Meals We Treat every one like family!**

---

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





(cont'd from page 16)

We would like to believe that our hikes have introduced our kids to an active life in nature. Our son has done hikes in different countries, winter camping, kayaking, surfing, but his passion is rock climbing, which he has been pursuing in both North and South America. Our daughter is presently living in Washington State, and every weekend, there are photos of another hike up another mountain.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers of the Bruce Trail Association who made the Bruce Trail experience possible for our family. It turned out to be one of the most formative experiences we shared.

*Submitted by*

*Brigitte Martin-Mendonca and Davide Mendonca*

### Peninsula Hiking Log

#### 2012

July 8 - 0 to 5.9 km  
 Aug.5 - 5.0 to 14.8  
 Aug.6 - 14.8 to 24.0  
 Oct. 5 - 24.0 to 33.6  
 Oct. 6 - 33.6 to 45.4

#### 2013

July 28 - 45.4 to 54.6  
 July 29 - 54.6 km (52.8 km on new map) to 62.6

#### 2014

Oct 10 - 62.6 to 70.5  
 Oct. 11 - 70.5 to 81.8

#### 2015

Aug. 1 - 70.5 to 81.8  
 Yes: We managed to hike the same section twice. It did look familiar.  
 Aug. 2 - 81.8 to 88.3

#### 2016

Aug. 12 - 87.7 to 98.7  
 Aug. 13 - 98.7 to 107.2  
 Aug. 14 - 107.2 to 111.4  
 Oct. 7 - 111.4 to 121.2  
 Oct. 8 - 121.2 to 129.3  
 Aug. 12 - 129.3 to 143.4  
 (We actually hiked this part in reverse, since we were told it would be easier to hike that way.)

#### 2017

Aug. 13 - 143.4 to 148.8

#### 2019

Sept. 1 - 148.8 to 160.0  
 (We hiked this part in reverse to avoid parking problems at the grotto.)  
 Sept. 2 - 160.0 to 167.4  
 WE MADE IT! Knees and feet were shot, but we got to the cairn!



<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

**The Bluffs Bed & Breakfast**

**Bill & Nancy Strang**

177 Isthmus Bay Road  
 Lion's Head, ON  
 N0H 1W0

Ph: 519-793-4576  
 Email: wstrang@rogers.com  
 www.bbcanada.com/9282.html

Hiking the trail doesn't mean you have to totally rough it.

**THE FITZ HOSTEL**

4 Mill Street, Lion's Head  
 519.793.3267 | thefitzhostel.com

# Invasive Plant Awareness Platforms

*This article is reproduced with the permission of Bruce Grey Woodlands Association. The Bruce Trail Club was a partner in the project and there are 20 stations on the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail. Keep your eyes open and you're sure to see one!*

After consultation with Craig Todd at Ontario MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) requesting assistance for ideas on a conservation project, Craig helped the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) decide on the promotion and construction of Invasive Plant Awareness platforms.

These platforms consist of a frame made from 2 X 6 cedar lumber and 4 X 4 posts harvested from a member's woodlot and milled with a Wood-Mizer sawmill. The platform is very sturdy and a cedar plank backer board holds the sign. We expect the platforms will last for many years.

BPSA has embarked on a lofty goal of supplying and installing 100 of these platforms across the Bruce Peninsula. To date, we have 34 platforms in place. We have partnered with the Town of South

Bruce Peninsula, The Bruce Trail, The Outdoor Education Centre in Wiarton and Bruce National Park. [Each platform] is simply a boot brush station with informative signage and costs less than \$400.00. So far we have received grants from Union Gas, The Gosling Foundation, The Helen McCrae Toronto Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Grey/Bruce.

The goal is to provide the hiking public a sign to inform them of invasive plants and a chance to brush off their boots before and after hiking a trail or walking through the woods. I would like to encourage woodlot owners and others who may have trails nearby to install platforms like these to inform the public about invasive plants.

*Jim Martell, BGWA Member*



## Safety Corner

Whenever you use the trail, it's important to be safe and to be prepared. The Bruce Trail website has safety information, including "10 Tips for Hiking Safely" on its website at:

<https://bruce-trail.org/pages/show/trail-safety>

And here are a couple of specific reminders for Peninsula Club members and volunteers:

### Winter on the Peninsula

Winter is a beautiful time to be on the trail. Just remember that during the winter, weather on the Bruce Peninsula can be extreme (whiteouts and road closures) and is known to change quickly.

Winter road parking along snow banks is dangerous and parking lots may not be cleared. Some backroads do not receive winter maintenance.

Heavy snowfall can make the Trail impassable for hikers. Crevices are snow covered and their danger is not obvious. The escarpment edge is treacherous and may be icy.

Please enjoy the trail safely this winter!

## Incident Reporting

We love our volunteers! You are the driving force that keeps the Club going and the Peninsula section of the trail in such great shape. As a volunteer, you should be aware of your own safety and any risks associated with the volunteer activity you are undertaking. Safety resources for volunteers are available at: <https://bruce-trail.org/pages/resources/volunteer-resources/health-safety>  
<https://bruce-trail.org/pages/resources/volunteer-resources/hike-leaders>

In the event that you injure yourself while volunteering or a member who is involved in an activity you have organized is injured, please inform a member of the Peninsula Club Board and fill out the **BTC incident report**. This should be completed for any incident which:

- occurs on or adjacent to the Bruce Trail, or
- occurs on BTC-managed property, or
- occurs at a BTC led or organized activity, or
- involves a volunteer who has an incident while on BTC business.

<> <> <> <> <> <> <>



**SUNTRAIL**  
SOURCE FOR  
**adventure.**

*Quality Outdoor Equipment  
and Clothing for the Hiker,  
Snowshoer & XC Skier*

**XC Ski & Snowshoe,  
Sales and Rental**

[www.suntrail.net](http://www.suntrail.net)  
[suntrail@amtelecom.net](mailto:suntrail@amtelecom.net)  
Hwy. #6, P.O. Box 29, Hepworth, ON N0H 1P0  
**Phone: 519-935-2478**

**Ask about 10% off, for BTC members**

<> <> <> <> <> <> <>



**CAPE CHIN**  
**BED & BREAKFAST**

*Cabins and Cottage*

519-795-7200  
[info@capechinbb.ca](mailto:info@capechinbb.ca)  
[www.capechinbb.ca](http://www.capechinbb.ca)  
314 Cape Chin North Road  
Lion's Head, ON N0H 1W0

*Just 0.5 km from the Bruce Trail*

**Your hosts - Teresa and Craig  
serve a delicious home cooked breakfast**

**OPEN ALL YEAR**  
*Spa Services - By appointment*  
*Kid and Pet Friendly*

Find us on ...   

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club  
P.O. Box 1087,  
Warton, ON N0H 2T0

We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail.  
Send us your stories  
to [pbtcrattler10@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Comfortable Hiking Holidays

*Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.*

Toll free 1 (866) 449-1908 • [info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) • [www.letshike.com](http://www.letshike.com)

### THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

April 26 to May 8, 2020

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 160km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, including many "extras" in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this famous trail.

**ALREADY HALFWAY SOLD THROUGH!**

### JAPAN – TOKYO TO KYOTO

October 4 to 18, 2020

Traditional customs intertwined with modern realities! Discover hiking trails from Tokyo to Kyoto, including treks in Kamikochi (Japanese Alps), on the slopes of Mt. Fuji & the Five Lakes District. Explore Matsumoto, Takayama, & Japan's first capital, Nara. Accommodations include western-style hotels & traditional Japanese ryokans.

**PEAK TIME FOR FALL COLOURS!**

### 2020 HIKING CALENDAR

August/September 2020

Email us at [info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) to receive the much-anticipated Comfortable Hiking Holidays annual Hiking Calendar, full of inspirational trips to entice you for months to come!

TICO # 50018498

