

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #3 2020

The theme for my message this time is "collaboration." Over the last six months, your club has reached out to a large number of new friends on the Peninsula. The richness of our experience as members, and the value of the club to our local community, can only benefit. You will be reading about some of these new partnerships in this issue.

To give just a few examples:

* We have been working with local community groups to address problems caused by overcrowding/overuse of the trail. In some cases we are changing trail routes, building new parking areas, installing new signage, and eliminating some access points.

* I attended a workshop arranged by the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula to address tourist capacity issues. Our willingness to do whatever will help to improve problem areas was much appreciated by the mayor and council.



* We have continued to work on our relationships with local landowners, with a lot of success in terms of new handshakes and property purchase opportunities. Our trail route will continue to improve as a result.

* We have made a priority of deepening our partnership with the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation. Next year, we hope to offer conservation internships on the Bruce Trail properties to members of this community.

* We are developing new relationships with several local conservation volunteer groups. There is so much we can do together! Thanks to Marg Glendon in particular for opening these doors.

* We are working to make the trail even more interesting to local naturalists. Our plan to install a birding platform at Otter Lake is particularly exciting.

"No man is an island" wrote the English poet John Donne. Our club is so much stronger by working with all the local residents who share our objectives of conservation and healthy exercise.

John Grandy
President

****The Rattler Goes Electronic****

This will be the last edition of The Rattler with a print version.

See page 15 for an article discussing this change.

Members who would like to update their email address should contact the BTC office at info@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 0.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
 Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"March 7, 2021"

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Recent News on Trail Development

Peninsula Club is on a roll! Following our huge success in rerouting the trail off the road between Rush Cove and Barrow Bay, we have some other new developments which will improve your hiking experience.

Firstly, there has been a major breakthrough at Little Cove. The new owners of a property just to the north of Little Cove have very kindly given us a handshake to route the main trail across the rear of their land. This means that the current main trail route, which wanders through the Cornerstone Golf Club and ends up with 1 1/2 km of hiking along Little Cove Road, can be abandoned. Instead, the trail will follow a couple of old forest trails and then a driveway, ending up right at the entrance to Little Cove Provincial Park. This breakthrough is very timely, since due to overcrowding, National Park officials have begun to turn away people trying to walk in on Little Cove Road to get to the beach. There is supposed to be an exemption for Bruce Trail hikers, but it is still an annoyance. Now, this road-walking will no longer be necessary. This reroute will be open by the end of November.

Please note a few important facts about this reroute:

- * Dogs must be on leash in this section of trail.
- * There is no parking on the driveway leading from Little Cove Road onto our trail. If the parking lot at Little Cove is full, you can proceed to Dunks Bay Road and use the parking lot there.

* The privacy of the landowners who have kindly given us this handshake must be protected. Follow the blazes — do not trespass.

* Finally, during the winter months, our trail will be shared with a snowmobile club. Please exercise extreme caution if you are hiking at this time.

Speaking of Dunks Bay, we are working on a trail improvement in this area too. We have had problems with hikers wandering through the cemetery after leaving the parking area, which is offensive to local residents. And from here going south, some people walk along a private road leading to a number of cottages, instead of following the blazed trail. In order to address these very legitimate complaints, we have obtained permission from a long-term supporter of the Bruce Trail to route our trail further south, getting well away from both the cemetery and the private road. This reroute will take place in the spring.

Our final new handshake is with a generous landowner on Borchardt Road, just north of the Cape Chin Woods nature reserve that we acquired a couple of years ago. We are still waiting to obtain agreement for our trail route from the provincial government; once we have this, we will be able to remove our trail from about half of Borchardt Road.

Happy hiking!

John Grandy
Trail Development Director

Handshake Agreements

On the Bruce Peninsula we have some 30 handshake agreements with landowners permitting the Bruce Trail to cross their property.

These agreements reflect the history of the Bruce Trail. As the trail was being developed in the early 1960s, there was no budget for land securement. The trail corridors that connected existing public lands were entirely on private property. Simple handshake agreements with the landowners permitted access to spectacular escarpment features and allowed for trail continuity without extensive road detours.

Some 30 years later, Bruce Trail Conservancy attention shifted to securing our conservation corridor. Even so, today there are still more than 700 handshake agreements along our 900 km of trail.

I am happy to report that we recently secured three additional handshakes with property owners. These agreements with generous, supportive landowners will allow us to make significant trail improvements in several areas north of Lion's Head.

We thank all of our landowners for their kind support, and ask trail users to please respect all the lands that we are privileged to access — and perhaps encourage those less thoughtful users to do the same.

John Whitworth ***November 2020***

Launch of Birder Badges



PBTC is launching a series of birder badges.

So, whether you're an amateur ornithologist or you just love birds, there's a badge for you.

There are three levels of Birding Badge:

- *** Peninsula Bruce Trail 100 Birder badge (100 birds seen or heard in calendar year).
- *** Peninsula Bruce Trail 150 Ultra Birder badge (150 birds seen or heard, no time limit).
- *** Peninsula Bruce Trail 200 Elite Birder badge (200 birds seen or heard, no time limit).

To obtain these badges, approved bird sightings and identification must take place:

- ~ at a PBTC sanctioned event (e.g. spring birding hike);
- ~ on the main trail or side trails of the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail (Warton to Tobermory);
- ~ on PBTC land such as Cape Chin Woods, assuming legal/approved access;
- OR ~ at Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory or Peninsula Bird Count volunteering.

Participants must submit a birding log (as they would a hiking log) and acknowledge proper birder etiquette rules. We also request submission of five favorite photos. Birds can be identified by song or sight.

Plus, for those younger birders out there we have:

Peninsula Bruce Trail Junior Birder badge

The Junior Birder badge is available to those 12 years old and under.

To earn this badge junior birders must keep and submit a journal. Here are the requirements:



Junior Birder: a friendly, curious and cheerful chickadee

Size: approx. 2.25" x 3"

- <> Take a hike on any side trail or main trail on the Peninsula section of the Bruce Trail and keep a list of all the birds you see.
- <> Describe, draw or take a picture of something a bird was doing.
- <> Show an adult how you care for and use binoculars and record the date in the journal.
- <> Name and draw a picture of at least one bird. Label at least 10 bird body parts.
- <> Name at least one way to keep birds safe.
- <> Find out the date and location of the Next Christmas Bird Count nearest to you and write it in the journal.

Happy birding!



Enjoy this a sneak preview of the badges:

(A big thank you to Stuart Burgess who volunteered to provide the artwork for the badges. He also selected the bird species for each level, and we think he was spot on!)

We're hoping that COVID conditions will allow the Peninsula Club to offer its regular spring birding hike next year. This popular hike is a great opportunity to join with some experienced birders and start your list. In addition, we're considering a series of short birding hikes to some of the best places to see birds on the Peninsula section of the trail. Stay tuned....



100 Birder: a chipping sparrow who can be readily identified by its loud, trilling songs

Size: approx. 3" x 3"



200 Elite Birder: a pileated woodpecker
— a hard-working, determined bird

Size: approx. 3" x 2.75"



150 Ultra Birder: a red-tailed hawk that takes
initiative and has strong powers of observation

Size: approx. 3" x 3"



Good Birding Etiquette:

(selected from collection at <http://www.mindfulbirding.org/>)



1. Promote the welfare of birds, their homes and their environment.
Birdwatching should have no impact on the birds.
2. Be especially conscious of your actions around nesting and roosting birds, which are more sensitive to disturbance than at other times.
3. Do not play back recorded bird songs as this may cause the bird to leave duties, feeding, or its young to investigate, exposing its eggs and nests to predators.
4. Do not disturb your subject. If you are approaching birds, and they adopt an upright alarmed posture, try to lure you away or send up an alarm call, it is time to stop and allow them to settle back down.
5. Rare migrants or vagrants must not be harassed. If you discover one, consider the circumstances carefully before telling anyone.
6. No handling birds, eggs or animals. This is absolutely prohibited.
7. Refrain from using flash when photographing birds
8. Stay on BTC approved trails and property. We have express permission from landowners to hike on their property. Respect private property; do not trespass.
9. Wear appropriate attire for outdoor activities, as you would for hiking, including footwear, sunscreen, insect repellent and water for hydration.
10. Be a birding ambassador, promoting good relations with hikers, non-birders and the general public.
11. For led hikes, stay behind the leader, so when a bird is spotted, everyone can stop and get a chance to see the bird. If you spot a bird the leader has missed, let him or her know so everyone can see it.
When using someone else's field scope or binoculars, take a quick look at the bird, then move aside until everyone has taken a look. Then go back for a longer look. Offer to carry equipment if it is a long hike.
12. Bird quietly, walk slowly. Silence is golden.

Baby on the Bruce

Is 13 weeks too young to hike 13 km on the Bruce Trail? We found out this summer that this — and much more — is completely possible for a baby. Here's the story of how our daughter earned her Peninsula Bear Cub Badge at five months old.

In 1960, my grandmother bought a little cottage in Barrow Bay on the Bruce Peninsula, and my family has been enjoying our summers in the Bruce ever since. I first hiked the Barrow Bay to Lion's Head section of the Bruce Trail when I was 12 years old, with my mom, her friend and my two sisters. My mom is not an outdoorsy person, and I think this was her first-ever hike. Little did we know that we had embarked on a six-hour-plus journey through one of the most challenging sections of the Bruce! But we had fun, and hiking the trail became a favourite cottage activity.

Flash forward 26 years, and I had become an avid trail runner. My favourite place in the world to run is on the Bruce Trail from Barrow Bay to Lion's Head, and it became my regular route as I trained for the Tobermory Trail Marathon each year. I loved my little section of the Bruce.

It wasn't until I heard that the Bruce Trail Conservancy was purchasing 363 acres of land on the south side of Barrow Bay that it occurred to me that there was a group of people responsible for this little paradise that I loved so much, and that I should contribute.

I became a member, started making a monthly donation, and reached out to the Peninsula Club about volunteering. A few weeks later it just so happened that the trail captain position for my favourite section of the trail had opened up.

Longtime volunteer Kenn Lendrum was giving up his section, from Gunn Point to McKay's Harbour, in favour of a section closer to his home in Oakville. On July 14, 2019, Kenn graciously offered to take me out on a hike to show me the ropes of being a trail captain.

I grew to greatly admire him on that six-hour trek, grateful not only for his training, but also for the wonderful conversation. As Kenn told me about his memories on the trail with his children,

I was especially touched, because that very morning, my husband and I had learned that we were expecting our first child.

The six-hour trek that day would be our daughter Isla's first hike on the Bruce. She hiked it again a few months later in October for our fall maintenance hike, when I was five months pregnant. On March 15th — the eve of the pandemic — we welcomed her into a very strange new world, in which the Bruce Trail would become our refuge.

As I write this, Isla is seven months old and she has hiked 126.4 km on the Bruce Trail.

When the trail started re-opening, my husband Odin and I set off to do my maintenance hike, which is a 13 km round trip. Isla was 13 weeks old and weighed 13 lbs. She was her usual calm and easygoing self (we are so lucky!) and slept for probably half the journey.

(cont'd on page 7)



Isla is usually very happy to go on a hike.

... (cont'd from page 6)

By July, I was going a little stir-crazy in the house while Odin was at work (like many!), so I set a goal of hiking the Toronto section end-to-end. Since the beginning of July, Isla and I make the hour-long drive from our house in Toronto to the trail once or twice a week and do a five to six-hour hike. We are knocking off the 49.5 km section in small increments — having to go out-and-back to my car each time makes it 99 km — but we are now just over half-finished.

At the same time, we were fortunate to have a lot of time at our shared family cottage in Barrow Bay this summer. When I learned of the Peninsula Bear Cub Badge, we thought this would be a great motivation to get out and explore other sections of the trail that were new to us. And it was! We have been on more of the Bruce Trail this summer than all our other experiences combined. From Cape Chin to Cape Dundas, Odin, Isla and I have cherished this time together as a family.

For anyone with small children wondering if your kids are too young for outdoor adventures, I would strongly recommend taking your babies on the Bruce! We have also been able to get my four nieces and nephews (aged four to nine) out on the Bruce for their first time this summer. We hope that we are instilling in them a love of the outdoors, an active lifestyle, and an appreciation for contributing to a wonderful volunteer-run organization like the Bruce Trail Conservancy.



Cold weather doesn't keep us from the trails!

Baby on the Bruce (cont'd from page 7)

If you have a baby and you're thinking about a hike, here are eight things that I'd recommend:

<> Always follow good practice for trail safety and etiquette, just like you would without a baby. When Isla and I hike alone, I always text my husband a dropped pin and a screenshot of the map from the Bruce Trail app, as well as the time I plan to be back at the car. When the three of us go out, we send the same info to my mom.

<> Be prepared. I use a small running backpack and in addition to water, a snack, and a small first aid kit, I pack a diaper change and an extra set of clothes for Isla, just in case.



Isla's 13 km trek at 13 weeks from McKague Road to McKay's Harbour and back



Isla showing off her Peninsula Bear Cub Badge and her Bruce Trail Pledge pin

<> Get a good carrier. I have two, both of which I was able to buy used for a good price. The front carrier was great for when Isla was tiny. Now that she is bigger, we also have a backpack style carrier.

<> Take it slow and step carefully. I once almost tripped on a root while carrying Isla and that was all the reminder I needed that this wasn't a race.

<> Chat with your little one while you walk. I know she's too young to understand yet, but I talk with Isla about the trees and the animals and about the importance of ecosystems!

<> Start with shorter hikes and work your way up. Isla's first hike was at eight weeks and we only did about 1.5 km.

<> Look into your local club hikes and badges. Group hikes might be a better option if you're not comfortable on the trail on your own, and the badges are a fun way to celebrate your accomplishments.

<> If you're able, donate your time or money to ensure the trail is protected long enough for your children's grandchildren to enjoy!

by Leslie McBeth

The Mystery Tombstone

Surrounded with mystery in a secluded spot in the Oxenden Cemetery stands an old tombstone, that of Wm. Henry Preston. Henry died on September 26, 1882 and was buried in Oxenden Cemetery. The family had a tombstone erected in his memory. His wife, Mary Ann, eventually moved away from the area. When she died in July 1909, a memorial was found to have been engraved on the other side of her husband's tombstone. The memorial read: "IN MEMORY OF THE STRANGER WHO WAS MURDERED ON THE 19 CON OF KEPPEL, THURSDAY MAR. 25 1886." The family was so shocked and upset that they buried Mary Ann in Wiarthon Cemetery and had Henry's remains exhumed and laid beside her. The Preston family refused to take the tombstone to the Wiarthon Cemetery.

The question now is: Who was this stranger?

On March 25, 1886, on lot 4 in the Township of Keppel, 20th concession, Jas A. Bailey and an unnamed hired man perished in a house fire. According to the April 29, 1886 edition of the Markdale Standard, a post mortem examination was held and marks of violence were found on the bodies. Evidence showed that it was murder, and that the house had been set on fire to cover up the deed. The detective who was working the case had "succeeded in unravelling the mystery so far as to the confession of the one who [knew] the secret, and the arrest of the supposed guilty parties" who committed the crime. The news article stated that Bailey's murder was not for money "but through jealousy." (A love affair?) Our unknown stranger was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

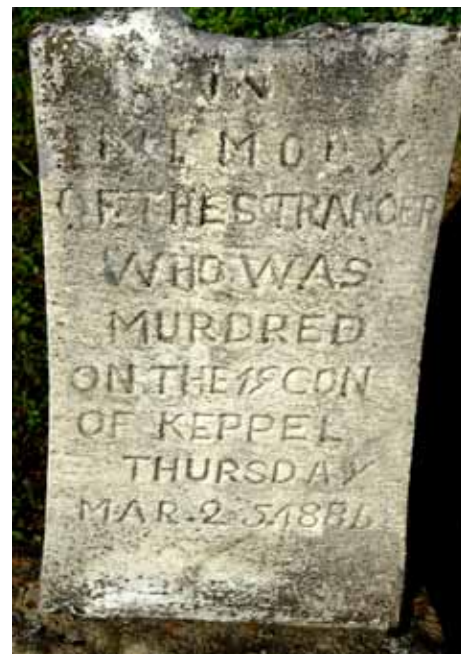
Every year hundreds of hikers pass through the hamlet of Oxenden. The trail takes them within a stone's throw of a cemetery that is home to a unique burial site. Even though Wm. Henry Preston's name appears on the one side of the tombstone, his remains are not there.

Directions to the Mystery Tombstone:

Sydenham section of the Bruce Trail: Follow Grey Road 1 west to the hamlet of Oxenden (166.5 km); turn left on Zion Church Road – Oxenden Cemetery; proceed to the far right, rear corner, near the bushes.

I'm gathering this and other stories to include in a book "100 FORGOTTEN SITES – along the Bruce Trail." For more information, you can contact me at andrew.camani@gmail.com.

Andrew Camani



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Conservation Matters

We did not plant additional specimen trees this fall; however, I'd like to give a special shout-out to Doug Miller for his dedication in caring for the trees planted in 2019 — which are doing well. Planning is underway to resume new planting in 2021.

Congratulations to ecologist Adam Brylowski at Bruce Trail Conservancy for his promotion to the position of Manager of Conservation and Trail. This new position reflects an increased emphasis on conservation.

Finally, I'd recommend David Attenborough's new film *A Life On Our Planet* (can be found on Netflix or Amazon Prime). At times poignant and even grim, he reflects on his life as a naturalist and the changes he has seen. He posits that dwindling wilderness and associated loss of biodiversity are leading indicators as to the health of our planet.

He does offer a glimmer of hope at the end of the film:

- <> restoration of the rain forest in Costa Rica
- <> regeneration of ocean fish stocks in protected areas
- <> zero population growth in societies such as Japan, "where all people are given a chance at a meaningful life"

... along with a few ideas to help:

- <> Eat less meat to preserve wilderness (plants require less farmland than livestock).
- <> Switch to solar energy before it's too late.

Conservation matters.

John Whitworth

~ ~

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Hiking News

The Peninsula Club held three hiking events this fall:

- * Harriet Nixon led a fall colour hike to the Coran.
- * Marg Glendon led an interpretive hike with Bob Gray, who shared his knowledge on how to identify tree species by autumn leaf colour.
- * Marg Glendon and Janna Chegahno organized the PBTC's most excellent Owl Prowl! We were honoured to have SON (Saugeen Ojibway Nation) Knowledge Holders Miptoon (Tony Chegahno) and Jarmo Jalava guide the owling walk on an unusually quiet night.

Thanks to the hike leaders, guides and participants for making these wonderful events possible.

Great Bruce Trail Scavenger Hunt

The Great Bruce Trail Scavenger Hunt was organized by the Peninsula Adventure Sports Association (PASA) in cooperation with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Tobermory Press and Tobermory Primary Place Daycare to raise funds for Tobermory's Primary Place Daycare. From October 3–18, participants were able to take part in the virtual scavenger hunt anywhere along the Bruce Trail. The event was not limited to the Wiarton to Tobermory trails; participants were encouraged to explore the trail closest to where they live and to stay within their social circles.



Bob Gray, the interpreter for the hike, identifying tree species by autumn leaf colour

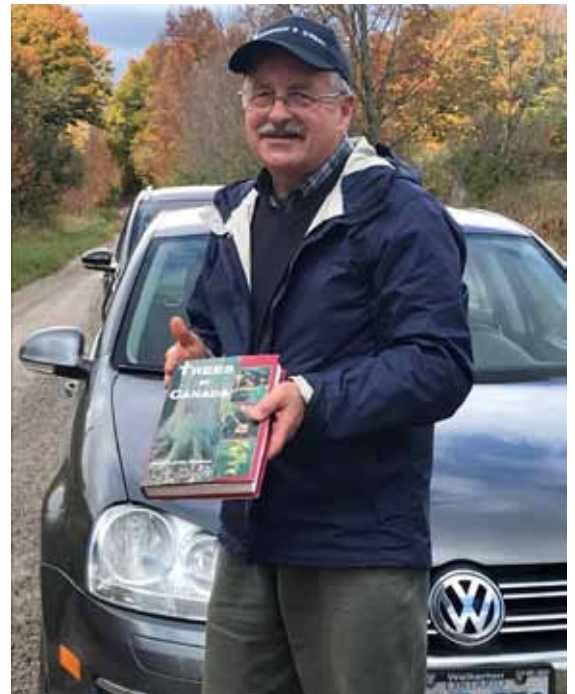


Thanks to: Tania Havelka of Dyers Bay for her wonderful Eastern Screech Owl photo.

Updated COVID-19 Hiking Guidelines

On November 18, BTC reduced the maximum group size for organized hikes to 10 participants and strongly recommended that hikers wear masks on their hikes. BTC-organized hikes continue to be limited to BTC members and their guests.

Several of the clubs have suspended their hiking programs. Things are sure to evolve over the coming months so be sure to keep your eyes on the BTC website and the hike calendar at <https://hikes.brucetrail.org> for up-to-date information on the fall and winter hiking program.



Happy Trails to Jeff and Sheila Buckingham

The Peninsula Club sends their best wishes to long-time volunteers Jeff and Sheila Buckingham as they leave the Peninsula for new adventures. They have been generous supporters and major activity organizers for the club. The paragraphs below highlight some of their contributions as expressed by various members of the club.

They were superstars in organizing the barbeque and food for the Spruce Up The Bruce gatherings and master chefs at the events. Sheila had experience running a catering business and her appetizers and creative dishes were always delicious. They always thought of every detail and were a pleasure for others to work with.

Sheila was for several years the events coordinator for the Club. She worked on the committee for the Outdoors Festival prior to taking over as its leader in 2012. She was always so much fun to work with and a really dedicated volunteer. Both her and Jeff had their Smart Serve certification so were often the ones serving up the wine and cheese at the hike festivals as well.

Jeff was instrumental in important trail reroutes. He managed to work with several landowners to allow the trail to cross their property, including the reroute through the Cornerstone Golf Course. He was one of those responsible for keeping the northern section of the trail off Highway 6 for the last 11 years. Many others were involved but it is doubtful it would have worked without Jeff. Jeff held the significant role of Trail Maintenance Director North since its inception, until his recent retirement from the role. He was instrumental in identifying a fabulously simple process for trail captains to access tools, paints, signs, etc. in a centrally-located shed.

Thank you, Jeff and Sheila, for all you have done for the club. Your many friends here will miss you and we wish you all the best in the years to come.

From the archives:

The summer 2014 issue of The Rattler highlighted the volunteer efforts of Jeff and Sheila. They were asked to recall their favourite memories of their involvement with the trail. Here are their stories:

Jeff's Story

I remember my first Bruce Trail membership card in '67 or '68 with Ray Lowe's signature on it. That being said, my involvement with the trail over the years has been minimal because of my other interests. I taught scuba diving for 20 years and came to the Bruce frequently, but only rarely for hiking. However, I was a trades manager for a large company for many years and that seems to have been a selling point when a new trail maintenance director was needed. John Greenhouse and John Appleton invited me over for a beer (or two) and I recall that they intimated that the position really required very little work, so I agreed, being somewhat under the influence. Then I found out that the term "very little work" was quite subjective. Since that time, I have enjoyed working with a great number of the wonderful Bruce Trail family of volunteers, and intend to continue as long as I'm useful.

Jeff Buckingham

(cont'd on page 13)



(Happy Trails cont'd from page 12)

Sheila's Story

While I am not able to recall the first time I was made aware of the Bruce Trail, I do remember my first work outing: Jeff and I accompanied John and Jane Greenhouse and Mike and Cheryl Marshall on a Spruce the Bruce overhaul of the Burnt Point Loop. John sported a backpack with a chainsaw that poured gasoline down his back throughout the day and Jane had blaze kits, bow saws and loppers. As John removed offending trees, the rest of us tidied up in general.

I, however, am not a fan of "skirt work" and elected to remove tree stump sections to the underbrush rather than sweep up the trail proper. I found it easiest to heave the logs over my head to transport them. Apparently Mike and Cheryl nicknamed me "the Amazon" that day. Who could resist continuing with an organization that calls playing outside "work?"

Now I assist Jeff with trail maintenance and help plan all the fun activities like barbecues and festivals. Parties and playtime??? Now there's a job for me!

Sheila Buckingham



Sheila & Jeff enjoying themselves with the Bruce Trail community



Meet Your New Club Secretary — Martha Clendinning

Martha Clendinning has joined the PBTC Board of Directors as secretary. We welcome Martha to her new role and extend our thanks to Brenda Langlois, who has done a great job as secretary from 2012-2020.

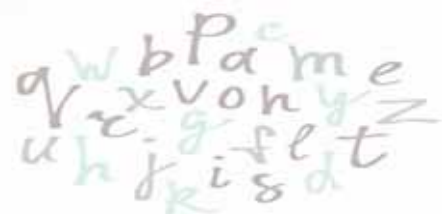
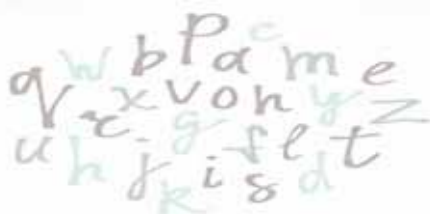
Martha, her husband Bob and their family have been trail captains with the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club since 2005. Martha reached north to the Peninsula Club to see if there was a volunteer role related to writing because there wasn't one open with the Sydenham Club. Martha is currently enrolled part-time, online, in the Technical Writer program at Algonquin College, Ottawa. She has a physical geography background and is also versed in Geographic Information Systems.

Martha began hiking the Bruce Trail at age three. Her parents and siblings would travel to the region to camp, hike and swim. Martha's most famous Bruce Trail story is that her family dog, a collie mix, got lost near Tobermory. After searching for days, the family headed south to Hope Bay to figure out what to do next with the search. After seven days of searching, the family sadly packed up to head home to London, Ontario. Just then, around the corner of the cottage they were renting, crawled a dirty, thin animal. It was the collie mix!

Her paws were sliced deep from exposed limestone. Hikers had reported seeing a similar dog on the Bruce Trail at the time of the search. It is believed that it followed the Bruce Trail back to Hope Bay!

It is the adventure that the Bruce Trail ignites, as well as the opportunity to share stories and form new friendships, that have inspired Martha (along with her border collie mix, Jegs) to join the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

Thank you, Martha, for taking on the important role of secretary.



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The Rattler Goes Electronic

* We're making a change to the distribution of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club newsletter, The Rattler. Starting in 2021, we will be eliminating paper copies and providing The Rattler to you electronically by email and via the club website at www.pbtc.ca . *

* If you have not provided an email address to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, or if your email address requires updating, please contact the BTC office at info@brucetrail.org or 1-800-665-4453 ext. 0 to update your email address. *

* Communication with our members is an important job for the club and the decision to eliminate the paper version of the newsletter was made after serious consideration by your board of directors. The change will allow us to save on rising distribution costs, and to adopt a more flexible format for the newsletter. *

We appreciate your support as we transition to a paperless newsletter.

* * * * *

Thank You Volunteers

We love our volunteers! To show our gratitude for all the work they do, the Peninsula Club organized a volunteer appreciation event to thank volunteers face-to-face. Red Bay Lodge generously offered to host the event that was to include lunch, music and a few words of recognition from the club executive. Unfortunately, after an initial delay due to the weather, the second wave of COVID had begun and the size of outdoor gatherings was restricted. The event had to be cancelled. We are looking forward to hosting an event next year and hopefully by then, no masks will be involved!

To commemorate the role of our volunteers in the re-opening of the Bruce Trail on June 2, 2020, the club created a special limited-edition Pandemic Badge. It's our way of saying thank you to the volunteers who work so hard to maintain the trail; protect and steward the properties we manage; establish and maintain strong relationships with our community, neighbours and landowners; and provide a great experience to those who hike the trail.



Christmas Bird Ornament Fundraiser 2020

Fused glass northern cardinals (about 4" crest to tail) are available for purchase. These have been made by Peninsula Bruce Trail Club volunteers.



Sales help support the preservation of bird habitat and protection of bird species at risk along the Peninsula Bruce Trail through education and conservation projects.

Online sales begin November 15th, 2020. Email your name and number of ornaments to: pbtcoutreach@gmail.com
Send payment for your order by e-transfer to: pbtctreasurer26@gmail.com

Sale price is \$20 (no tax).

Extra cost for shipping and handling (if needed) will be added.

Pick up your order:

in Tobermory at Verna's on December 12 between 10 and 11 a.m.

or

in Lion's Head at 8 Moore St. on December 11 between 10 and 11 a.m.

Special thanks to fused glass artist Susan Miller (Passionate Glass) for her support throughout this project.

**Sorry
Sold Out**

**Be sure to watch
for next year's
offering**



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

Fern and Orchid Badge Design Contests

Attention to all budding artists, those who like to draw or anyone who loves ferns and orchids. Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is holding a contest for the design of two new badges:

the Fern Badge and the Orchid Badge.

We plan to launch the new badges next year. The details are below.

You can enter a design for either or both of the badges.

1. Open to BTC Members, SON and Peninsula residents 16 years of age or older (see 3e for exclusions).
2. Contest starts Sept. 1, 2020 and ends Jan. 1, 2021. Judging will run from Jan. 1, 2021 to Feb. 1, 2021. Round 1 selection: hike team selects nine entries depending on number received. Round 2: panel of four judges makes final selection for first, second and third prizes.
3. Badge design criteria:
 - a) Badge must have a good and relevant title including topic word (that is, must contain the word "fern" for the Fern Badge and the word "orchid" for the Orchid Badge).
 - b) Graphics must have a clear, visible design large enough to be recognizable on a badge. (Badges are typically three inches in diameter.)
 - c) Design must be socially acceptable, and representative of the Bruce Trail in some way (i.e. not a snowmobile or mountain bike).
 - d) Entries will be accepted in PDF, JPEG or Word format.
 - e) Entries cannot be submitted by members of the executive, their immediate families, or the immediate families of any of the four judges.

For each badge, the following prizes will be awarded:

first prize is a Bruce Trail fleece or
new Bruce Trail Reference Guide (winner's choice),
and second and third prizes are Bruce Trail hats.
All other finalists will receive a Bruce Trail neck buff.

Please submit your entries to pbtgeneralinfo@gmail.com

Deadline for entry submissions is Jan. 1, 2021.

Winners will announced in Feb. 2021.

Good luck!



*Let the 50 varieties
of ferns and the
44 varieties of orchids
on the peninsula be
your inspiration*



And the Winner is — Peninsula Bruce Trail Club!

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, the Bruce Trail Conservancy hands out awards that recognize volunteers and supporters for extraordinary achievement for work on the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment.

At this year's AGM in October, the Peninsula Club won the Tom East Award for the Barrow Bay reroute and staircase. The Tom East Award is presented annually to the Bruce Trail Club completing the most significant trail project that places the trail on the Optimum Route, or adds a worthwhile new side trail. It is named after Dr. Tom East, one of the Bruce Trail's early pioneers and an active member until his death in 2012.

The Barrow Bay project has been described in past issues of *The Rattler*, but the highlights bear repeating:

(cont'd on page 19)



Tom Hall, PBTC Trail Maintenance Director (left), Joh Grandy, PBTC President (centre) and Doug Hill, master builder who volunteered to lead construction of the stairway (right) with the Tom East Award.



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Members and supporters worked for over 35 years to acquire eight new properties, some large and some small, that allowed the reroute.

The trail now features cliffs, spectacular lookouts, dense forests and is habitat to a long list of wildlife and rare species of flora and fauna. Previously, hikers had a seven km slog along Rush Cove Road, Scenic Caves Road and Bruce Road 9 to complete this section of the trail.

The trail includes a spectacular stairway, constructed on the face of the escarpment.

You can see the online awards presentation at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YDJBblim6M&feature=youtu.be>

Congratulations and thanks to all volunteers and supporters who made this recognition possible!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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DREAMING OF 2021

We are optimistic that we can return to offering you exciting hiking adventures in 2021!

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

We will notify you when we are ready to accept reservations for that particular trip. There is no obligation on your part, nor does it guarantee your spot(s). We will still be taking reservations on a first-come, first-served basis as we always have. However, it means that you will be notified right away that we are ready to begin taking reservations, and then you can decide if you wish to book or not.

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

**Dominica * Portugal * Japan * Ireland * Slovenia
Amalfi Coast (Italy) * Corfu (Greece)
Kenya * Provence & Cote d'Azur
Tour du Mont Blanc * Galapagos Islands**

IN THE MEANTIME...

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

1. [Follow us on Facebook.](#)

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

2. [Follow me on Instagram.](#)

Want to see amazing photos? Follow [@maddhiker](#) on Instagram. Maddhiker - that's me! Full disclosure - I sometimes also post pictures of my family and dogs.

3. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

Email us at info@letshike.com and ask to be put on our mailing list. You can unsubscribe any time, and we will never share your information with anyone.

Be safe. Be kind. Stay hopeful.

And we look forward to hiking with you again soon!



TICO # 50023501 & #50023502

We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail.
Send us your stories
to pbtrattler10@gmail.com
and we will share them in future issues of
The Rattler.
If you have any photos to include please send them
as a jpeg at highest resolution possible.

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