# 2026 Community Outreach Report

During late 2025 and through 2026 to present, our Community Outreach continued to engage with local Dufferin organizations and events in our effort to promote better recognition of our club.

HIGHLIGHTS:

September 2025: we hosted our 2nd Annual Dufferin County Canadian Black Association “Learn To Hike” outing, held at the Boyne Valley Provincial Park,It was another successful hike with lots of laughter and learning.

October 2025: Our information booth was set up at Dufferin County’s first “Volunteer Recruitment Event” where we met new residents interested in volunteering their time to assist Dufferin organizations. Although we had only a few applications, we did speak with a number of people who now are more aware of the Conservancy and Dufferin Hi-Land BTC

November 2025: We secured table space at the Orangeville Citizen’s (LPC Media) first 2 day “Holly Fest” - a Christmas Craft and Gift Sale held at the Orangeville Fairgrounds Coliseum. We sold Bruce Trail Merchandise, handed out Dufferin Hi-Land trail information and met a lot of people who learned about the Bruce Trail!

December 2025 to April 2026 were quiet months

May 2026: We set up an information table at New Tecumseth’s (Alliston,ON) “Earth Fest” Day where Conservancy and Club information was handed out and many people were introduced to the Bruce Trail

June 2026: Once again our Information Table was set up at the annual Orangeville Senior’s Spring Fest where we engaged with active seniors about the health benefits of nature hiking. June also was our opportunity to engage with our local LGBTQIA community at Orangeville’s one day “Celebrate Your Awesome”. We sold Bruce Trail merchandise and talked with many visitors about the Conservancy. We invited Caledon Hills BTC to send volunteers to join us at the event, which they accepted.

July 2036: The Dufferin County Canadian Black Association chose to hold a summer hike rather than the Fall. It was another successful day with new and returning members who enjoyed our Nature led hike through Split Rock Narrows Nature Reserve.

August 2026: Through arrangements made with the Conservancy, we set up our unmanned information booth at Mountain Equipment Company (MEC) in Barrie ON, to promote the Bruce Trail to MEC customers and Bruce Trail members to MEC. On the final day we manned our booth and interacted with many MEC customers. Although we agreed not to sell our merchandise in their store, we were allowed to sell Memberships. We hope to develop future mutual events with MEC

September 2026: Dufferin County’s new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director hosted a Truth and Reconciliation Event at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne which allowed me to renew our connection with the County’s DEI Committee, after the previous Director left to accept a position with Peel Region.

We look forward to another year of encouraging Dufferin residents and community groups to join us in growing our club and the Conservancy!