

Presidents Report to the 2026 AGM



Looking back over the last year and a bit, I believe the board has a lot to be proud of. Even though some are leaving, or have left, everyone should be very proud of their accomplishments. I have heard from a number of people that they think we have an excellent board, and I agree with that sentiment.

We are seeing, or will soon see, new faces on the board as of today, and each and every one of them has already proven their abilities, excitement, and dedication to the club. Those who are stepping away will remain active members, so we will still have a resource to draw on from time to time. I am happy to say we will be able to continue the great friendships we have built during their tenure. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and assistance in making the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club what it is today.

To the membership, we could not do this without your continued dedication and enthusiasm for the Bruce Trail Conservancy and the Dufferin Hi-Land Club. For that, I thank you all very much.

To the volunteers, what can I say? You are an amazing bunch, and I feel extremely grateful to have been part of the club and to have had your confidence in allowing me to fill the role of president. I have made many friends within the club over the years, and for that, I will always be very thankful.

You are all awesome and don't forget it!

We have seen the continuation of team creation and enhancements over the last term. The Biodiversity team continues to grow and do many amazing things; the Social Media team, headed up by Elizabeth Hawkins, is beginning to show why Elizabeth is the perfect person for the job; the communications team is humming along; the awards team, headed up by Marianne Dzuba, is doing an amazing job; and our community outreach/sales/swag team is showing how to find inroads into many new areas. I will let the individual reports speak on particulars, but I wanted to provide a brief synopsis of what each team is doing. Of course, there is a lot of overlap among these teams.

We continue to make innovative moves to further the club's community engagement, and our events are continuing to grow. A good example is the latest Bruce Trail Day. It was most definitely the most successful one we have had since I joined the board, with somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 people in attendance.

Trails are changing and being enhanced. In conjunction with this, new conservation initiatives continue to grow to both protect the land and enhance the hiking experience.

Club members will be seeing more and more innovative and new approaches to all facets of the club as we try to build a club board and volunteer base for future boards to build on.

Please do not hesitate to ask me questions if the reports or the Q&A period do not satisfy your inquiries.

Cheers,

Tom Thayer (He/Him)

President

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club