

# Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter

## April 2026



As spring settles in and temperatures rise, the forest begins to sound different. On mild evenings, few things are as delightful as sitting beside a pond and listening to the booming chorus of peeper frogs. You can hear their calls along the edges of beaver ponds or even in the shallow pools formed by spring rains along the Bruce Trail. These temporary wetlands become nurseries for frog eggs and developing tadpoles. Though the tiny frogs often stay hidden among the marshes, you can't miss the sound as they call out for mates. Anyone walking the Bruce Trail at dusk can enjoy this lively spring chorus, as frogs announce the start of a new generation.

Only weeks ago, the woods were fairly quiet. Now, dozens of migratory bird species are returning or passing through on their journey north. The friendly chirps of robins, the honking of Canada geese, and the sharp caws of ravens fill the air. Birds rely on calls and songs for many reasons: to stay connected during long flights, to establish leaders as they migrate, and for year-round residents, defend territories or alert their mates to danger. As you explore the trail this spring, take a moment to appreciate how the soundscape shifts with the season.

May will be a busy month at the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. Members who are ready for a challenge and try the End-to-End hike, scheduled for May 9 and 10. This difficult hike covers the entire Dufferin Hi-Land section over two days. At the end of the month, Lynda Bloom will be leading a geology hike at Split Rock Narrows, and the Seven Rivers hike series will kick-off. Weekly Tuesday hikes will continue to offer a variety of excursions throughout the Dufferin Hi-Lands. Our Biodiversity Team will be busy with garlic mustard pulls and milkweed plantings. Be sure to preregister for any hikes that catch your interest.

Lorraine Campbell,  
Editor



# Upcoming Hikes

May 5

## **Lavender to Black Bank Shuttle Hike**

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 8.2 km

May 9, 10

## **Dufferin Hi-Land Two Day End-to-End Hike**

- Pace - Fast
- Distance - 23 - 30 km/day

May 12

## **Spring Wildflowers and Trees - Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve**

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 4 km

May 14

## **Pine River Tree Planting**

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 3 km

May 19

## **Primrose Loop Side Trail to Murphy's Pinnacle**

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 7 km

May 26

## **Forks of the Credit Loop from Willoughby Road**

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 9 km

May 30

## **Seven Rivers Hike Badge Series - Hike 1**

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 11.9 km

May 30

## **Split Rock Narrows Geology Hike**

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 5 km

Hikes are led by experienced leaders from the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. You must pre-register. Check the website for more information about dates, times and meeting locations.



# Tales from the Trail

It is always great to hear hiking tales from our members. Let us know about all your adventures on the trail. Don't forget to send pictures!



A DHBTC hike at Scotsdale Farm on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. I was very excited to spot a Hepatica wildflower because it is my first wildflower of the season! Hepatica (also known as Liverleaf or Liverwort) is a, small, early-blooming, hardy perennial wildflower native to North American, European, and Asian woodlands. Appearing in early spring (March-April), its flowers in shades of white, pink, blue, or purple open on sunny days, typically growing 4-9 inches tall in shade-covered, well-drained soil.

As always, our hike was a wonderful day in nature with good friends.

Stuart Law,  
DHBTC Hike Director



## Bruce Trail Day - October 4, 2026

Save the date for the Bruce Trail's biggest celebration of the year.

Join us on October 4 for Bruce Trail Day. The Dufferin Hi-Land Club will be marking the occasion with a musical hike through the Split Rock Narrows. The day will be filled with activities for all ages, including a children's sing-along, biodiversity hikes, delicious food, and performances by local musicians. It's shaping up to be a memorable celebration, and no pre-registration is required.



## Dufferin End-to-End May 9, 10

Have you been waiting for winter to end so you can push yourself on an exceptional two day hilly hike? Here is your opportunity to shine!

Registration is open for this hike that will earn you the Red Trillium Badge upon completing the Dufferin section of the Bruce Trail in two days, May 9 and 10, 2026. Join us for a fun weekend of hills and valleys. Soon you'll be ticking off those kilometres as you make your way through the Boyne Valley, Kilgorie, Honeywood Ridge, Black Bank and Lavender.



For more information: [DHBTC 2 Day End-to-End](#) 4

## Protect Yourself from Tick Bites this Summer

Make sure you know how to protect yourself, pets, and your loved ones when you head out on an adventure. The most effective way to prevent Lyme and other tick-borne diseases is to prevent tick bites.

Learn how to avoid bites from blacklegged ticks, which may carry anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan virus and/or Lyme disease. Lyme disease is spread to humans through the bite of an infected Blacklegged Tick. Health officials are seeing an increase in the number of cases in the province each year. This is partly due to an increase and expansion of Blacklegged Tick populations to new areas of the province.



To find out more information:

Ontario Parks: [Tick Information Blog @ OntarioParks](#)

Ontario.ca: [Tick-borne Diseases @ Ontario.ca](#)

Ontario.ca: [Protect Yourself from Tick Bites This Summer @ Ontario.ca Newsroom](#)

## Bruce Trail Hike-a-Thon

Registration is now open for the Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon 2026! Join the fun as an individual or team in support of the BTC's Trail Development and Maintenance Endowment Fund, which ensures the Trail will be stewarded for years to come. Plus, all donations towards this year's Hike-a-thon will be matched, meaning that participants will be making double the impact for the Trail they love.

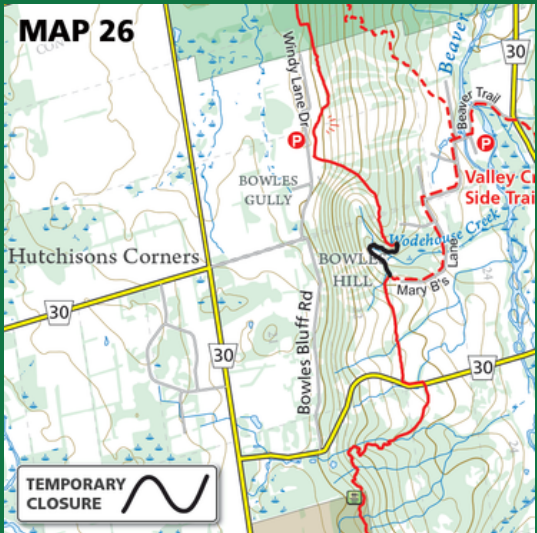
Hikers of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate and earn a special Bruce Trail Hike-a-thon 2026 badge. There are also amazing prizes to be won, including:

- A two-night stay for two at Hockley Valley Resort with breakfast
- A one-night stay for two at Blue Mountain Resort with a complimentary round of golf
- Dinner for two at a Vintage Hotel property
- A work of art inspired by the Bruce Trail by Krista McMillan
- Over \$600 in swag from the BTC and Baffin
- BTC Store Gift Cards

[Learn more and register here.](#)

# Trail Closures

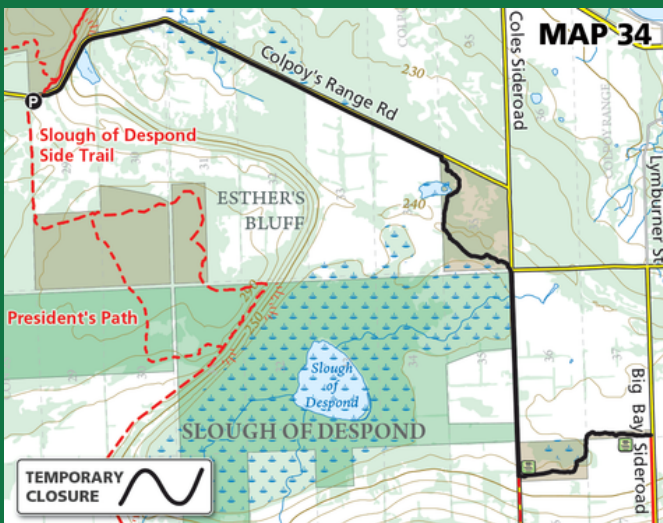
This spring has brought significant rainfall and many sections of the Bruce Trail are flooded. Please check the Bruce Trail app for trail closures before setting out.



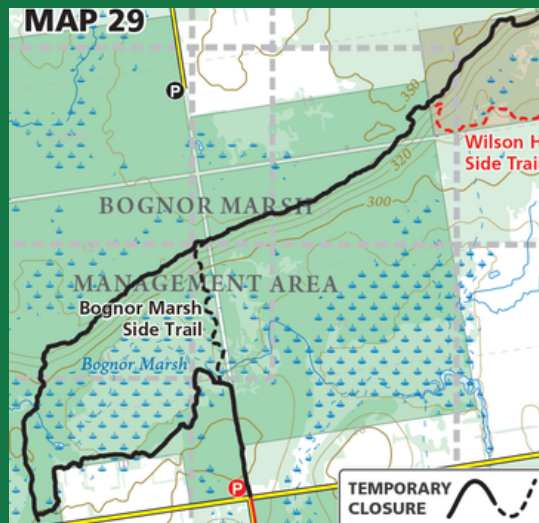
The main Bruce Trail at Wodehouse Creek at the Beaver Valley Ski Club is temporarily closed due to spring flooding.



The main Bruce Trail in Eugene between North Street and the Beaver River is temporarily closed due to spring flooding.



The main Bruce Trail in the Slough of Despond area is temporarily closed due to flooding until further notice.



All trails within Bognor Marsh Management Area (including the main Bruce Trail and the Bognor Marsh Side Trail) and the main Bruce Trail in Silent Valley Nature Reserve, are closed due to flooding until further notice.

# Biodiversity

Spring is here and plants of all species will be poking their heads through the soil. Our Biodiversity Committee has organized events to encourage the growth of native species and restoring habitat by helping remove non-native invasive species in some areas and planting seedlings and saplings in others. You can make a difference, connect with nature, and contribute to conservation work by volunteering at one of these events by responding to the relevant link or email.

## Upcoming Events

May 9, 2026: [Spring Bioblitz Caledon Hills](#)

May 14, 2026: [Pine River parking lot natural restoration. Volunteers needed.](#)



May 14, 2026: Milkweed seedling planting; Periwinkle removal.

May 15, 2026: Garlic Mustard removal with ODSS students

May 25, 2026: Garlic Mustard removal with ODSS students. Volunteers needed - contact [biodiversity@dufferinbrucetrailclub.org](mailto:biodiversity@dufferinbrucetrailclub.org)

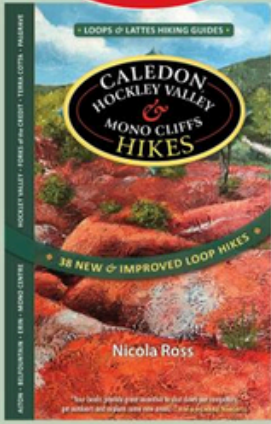
June 6, 2026: [American Chestnut Trees Management Volunteers needed.](#)

June 6, 2026: [Spring Bioblitz Beaver Valley.](#)

• LOOPS & LATTES HIKING GUIDES •

## Satisfy your Hiking Craving

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Now Available



**Caledon, Hockley Valley & Mono Cliffs Hikes: Loops & Lattes**

The newest and 7th installment in the Loops & Lattes Hiking Guide series.

- Brand new loops
- Improved versions of existing hikes
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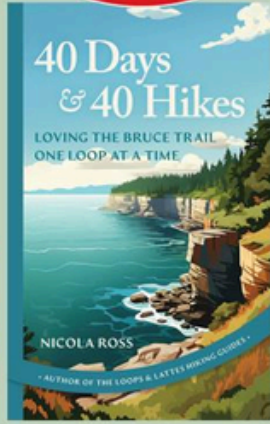
Walk the Bruce Trail your way

**40 Days & 40 Hikes: Loving the Bruce Trail One Loop at a Time**

A travelogue in the style of *Wild* and *The Salt Path*, without the drama!

Follow Nicola's journey along her beloved Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory.

NEW RELEASE  
Now Available

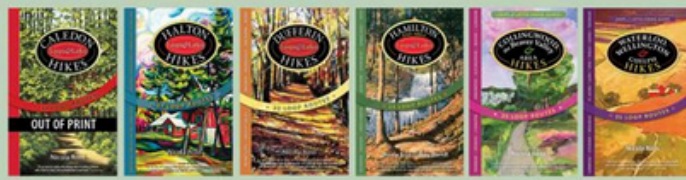


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## The BTC is Rainbow Registered!

After a thorough process, the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club has officially been recognized through Canada's Queer Chamber of Commerce's (CQCC) national accreditation program. The CQCC is a non-profit organization representing a coalition of 2SLGBTQIA+ owned and supported businesses that have partnered with Tourism HR Canada to initiate the Rainbow Registered Accreditation Program for 2SLGBTQIA+ friendly businesses and organizations in Canada.



Earning this accreditation means that the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club has met the high set of standards set by the CQCC to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The accreditation program grants a time-limited recognition to businesses and organizations for demonstrating compliance with the quality standard.

Through being Rainbow Registered, the BTC can continue to foster strong relationships with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, focusing on creating an inclusive and welcoming space.

You can add the BTC Pride Badge to your hiking gear to indicate your support for inclusivity. The badge is FREE but supplies are limited so fill out the form at [BTC PRIDE](#) to request your badge from the Bruce Trail Conservancy.



# Crazy Cat Challenge



If you have been looking for a crazy, new challenge, this is it!

If you are up for a challenge, Ontario's newest 200 mile run will take you along a beautiful course through the Blue Mountains, Dufferin Hi-Land and Caledon Hills sections of the Bruce Trail. There will be plenty of technical sections and climbing to satisfy the most demanding trail runner. These are spectacular trails through fields, forests, gravel roads and always, hills, hills and more hills.

## THE COURSE:

- 200 Miler - Starts in the Blue Mountains, runs through the Dufferin Hi-Land, and turns at Glen Haffy into the Caledon Hills. (Approx. 7,500m /24,000ft elevation.)
- 100 Miler (point-to-point): Begins at Glen Haffy in Caledon Hills, runs through the Dufferin Hi-Land section and finishes in the Blue Mountains. (Approx. 3,700m /12,000ft elevation.)

For more information and to register: [Crazy Cat Adventures](#)

# Bruce Trail Photo Contest

The 2026 Bruce Trail Conservancy Photo Contest is now open. This year's theme, *Colours of the Bruce Trail*, celebrates the Trail in all its vibrant beauty. From the bright spots on a salamander's back to the soft ombrés of blooming orchids, show us the hues along the Trail that bring you joy.

You can submit your photos via our website for a chance to win one of three prizes:

- Grand Prize - \$250 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership
- First Runner Up - \$100 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership
- Second Runner Up - \$50 BTC Store Gift Card + a One-Year BTC Membership



For more information, click here.





# We are looking for volunteers!

Opportunities include:

- Hike Leaders
- Trail Maintenance & Trail Angels
- Publicity & Community Events
- Marketing, Social Media & Content Creation
- Communications Support
- Merchandising & Branding
- Tech Support (WordPress / web design)
- Sales & Sponsorships
- Conservation, Ecology & Governance expertise

🗨️ Curious? Reach out and tell us how you'd like to get involved. The trail exists because of volunteers, and we'd love to welcome you.



## Join us for a Hike!

Visit us on social media:  
**#dufferinland**



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For prices and information contact Isabella and Bill

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