

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB



Winter has embraced Dufferin County bringing with it snow covered hills, bright afternoons and cold nights. While I appreciate the frosty days, my favorite time to enjoy winter is during a night hike. Venturing into the woods at night is both enchanting and demanding. As I step away from the road and onto the trail, the sounds of civilization quickly fade away. Everything is muffled by the snow and the woods seem eerily quiet. Moonlight filters through the bare branches, casting dramatic shadows across the path. Although quiet, the forest somehow feels alive — the wind whistles through the trees, evergreen branches creak under the weight of the snow, and animal tracks crisscross the trail, attesting to the unseen creatures who move beneath the surface. The darkness heightens every detail: the sharp scent of pine, the distant rustle of wind, the stars that seem to burn more brightly somehow. The most wonderful aspect of a winter night hike is the solitude - I have yet to encounter another soul on the trail. A winter night hike is not about speed or destination but about witnessing winter's beauty in its most quiet yet dramatic form.

The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club has an exciting lineup of holiday hikes! On December 27, lace up your boots for our annual Trot off the Turkey adventure. Then, kick off the New Year in the best way possible—with a series of invigorating hikes on January 1. There is something for everyone on these hikes - from a short 5 km hike to a 17 km challenge. Later in the month, we will be starting our winter hike series. Be sure to check out the hike schedule on our website to find something that is perfect for you.



- Lorraine Campbell, editor



Upcoming Hikes

January 1

Dufferin Hi-Land Annual New Year's Day Hike - Long

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 17 km

January 1

Dufferin Hi-Land Annual New Year's Day Hike - Medium

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 8.5 km

January 1

Dufferin Hi-Land Annual New Year's Day Hike - Short

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 5.6 km

January 3

Winter Hike Series #1 of 4

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 6.5 km

January 6

Alton Grange

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 4 km

January 13

Blackbank Challenge

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 4.4 km

January 17

Winter Hike Series #2 of 4

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 9.5 km

January 20

Scottsdale Farm/Duff Pit Side Trail

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 4.4 km

January 24

Dundas Valley Winter Hike

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 15 km

January 27


Oliver Creek Loop

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 5.2 km

January 31

Winter Hike Series #3 of 4

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 6 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!



Stuart Law and Friday hiker Shirley-Anne Brett on a hike on the Hilton Falls Side Trail on November 21st. The beaver activity was amazing! Our national symbol busy at work. .



A hiking group on the bridge traversing the Blackbank Creek. They hiked from 30 Sideroad to Prince of Wales in the fresh snow. The weather was cold but the camaraderie was warm!



Dec 18 hike from Mount Nemo to Twiss Road in the Iroquoia section. This photo is of us on top of the cliff at Mount Nemo. You can see for miles up there including Toronto which is about 50 kms away. The Niagara Escarpment is in the background .



Taking a break at the top of the escarpment at Dundas Peak. Stuart Law led the hike at Tews Falls through to Snake Road in Waterdown.

Happy Hiking!

From the Archives

Shape up or ship out - this was the heading on the front page of the fall 2001 edition of Hi-Land Views. With many of the executives having served 10 plus years, headed by President Kristin Farrier, perhaps the ability to generate new ideas with a fresh focus, building towards the future, had been exhausted. A quote from Kristin summarizes the state of the Dufferin Hi-Land Club: "The workload has grown, and we are all feeling the impact of too much to do and not enough time to do it all." BTC Executive Director Jacqui Winters felt the club could become a liability, causing risk to the BTC as a whole. One possible course of action would be to: a) Recruit board members from other clubs to run DHBTC temporarily until a new board was established. b) Split the DHBTC in two, one portion going to the Caledon Club and the other to Blue Mountain. Dufferin Hi-Land would cease to exist. Kristin Farrier summarized the state of the executive when she stated, "At the present time, we need a president, a vice president, [and a] club representative to the BTC. We could use a secretary, publicity director, fundraising director, membership director, assistant trail director and a hike director."



At the Club's 60th Anniversary Appreciation Lunch on November 16, 2025, two new awards were presented - the Ted Klich and Norm Wingrove Awards. In this edition of **From the Archives**, I thought I would share some background on these two individuals and the important role they played in the Dufferin Hi-Land Club. Ted Klich stated in the Hi-Land Views spring edition 2002, "This is my first newsletter message since becoming president under crisis circumstances." He went on to say he'd been a member of Dufferin Hi-Land Club since 1983, but had not participated in any club activities, so going from a non-active member to President was quite a leap. Ted met with each director and quickly assessed what needed to be done. An audit by the BTC showed several deficiencies: Landowner Relations, Membership, the Trail in general, and bridges and boardwalks that needed to be rebuilt. Under the direction of Trail Director Ron Yorke, plans were quickly put into action.

Ted determined the executive needed to meet every 1.5 months - or about 6 times a year - not semi-annually. Under Ted's leadership, excitement about the Dufferin Hi-Land Club began to grow, and new directors came on board. Being one of them, I approached Ted to offer my services as Hike Director. When he asked me what experience I had, I told him I had just finished the Blue Mountain E2E, and that I had hiked 12 km of the Dufferin section. That was the sum of my hiking experience. Ted could read character very well, and I suppose that's what got me the position.

From the Archives

Ted filled out the executive team with dedicated individuals such as:

- Vice President, David Fowler
- Webmaster and BTA Director Marion McGregor
- Publicity Director, Nancy Early
- Secretary-Treasurer, Georgina Shelton
- Landowner Relations Director (interim), David Hahn
- Trail Director, Earl Cowan
- Hike Director, Bryan Foley
- Newsletter Editor, Ron Yorke
- Land Steward Director, Ron Ritchie

Ted finished his introductory comments, outlining objectives for the coming year, to:

- increase the breadth and participation of our club membership,
- encourage volunteer participation and involvement in club activities,
- offer a wider variety of club hikes and social activities,
- maintain and improve our section of the Bruce Trail.

All were done and accomplished in exemplary fashion. There is a bench along Honeywood Ridge dedicated to his enormous contribution to the Dufferin Hi-land Club at a pivotal point in our history.

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From the Archives

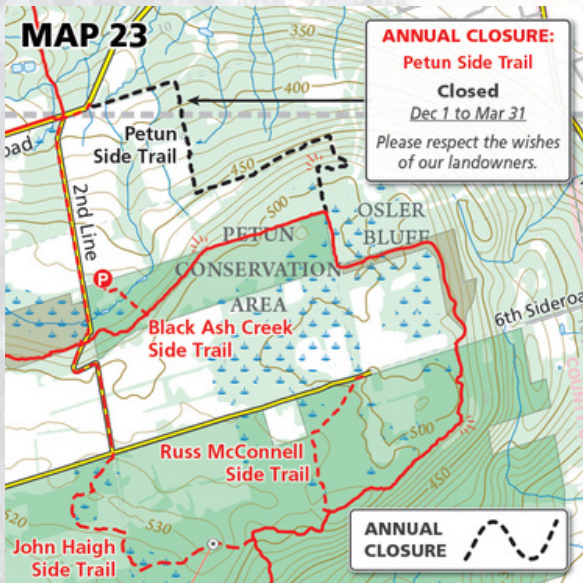
Hi-Land Views, August 1979: Among the 10 new members is Norman J. Wingrove's family. Norm became the club's first Vice President in August 1985, joining 3 other members of the executive: President Boris Swidersky, Club Directory Larry Haskell, and Secretary-Treasurer Grant Bell. I'm quite certain Norm was involved with the club and the trail right from 1979, most probably as a hiker and no doubt he showed up whenever work on the trail needed to be done. In the Hi-Land Views fall 1993 edition, he is listed as Trail Captain, Tweedybrook to Lavender, km 38.7 to 51.8.

Norm's involvement with the club preceded mine by 23 years. Occasionally, I would bump into him doing trail work or at AGMs. Mostly, he went about caring for the trail quietly, without fanfare, diligent as always. There is a plaque honouring his dedication and continuous contribution to the Dufferin Hi-Land Club on the bridge just west of 1st Line EHS access route, south of 30th Sideroad km. near km 52.4.

- Bryan Foley, Club Archivist
- As a footnote. I am endeavouring to complete the collection of guidebooks for the club archives. I need editions 2, 3, 4, 8, and 12. If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate those books to the archives, or in your travels check out bookshops, it would be helpful. Thank you.

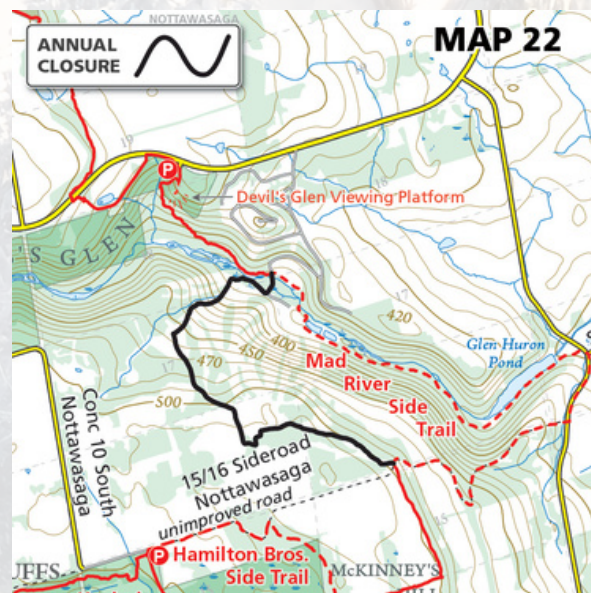


Trail Updates



Part of the Petun Side Trail, between Petun Conservation Area and County Road 19, is closed annually from December 1 through to March 31 at the request of the landowners.

At the request of the landowner, the main Bruce Trail is closed annually through Devil's Glen Country Club, November 30 to May 1. The alternative thoroughfare for thru-hiking during these months is the Mad River Side Trail.



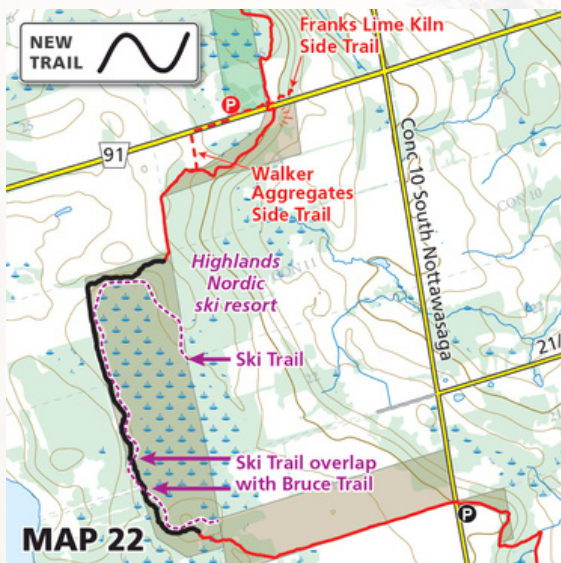
BTC's Balsam Wetlands Nature Reserve seasonally accommodates a nordic ski trail from the neighbouring Highlands Nordic cross-country ski resort (see map for reference). This ski trail parallels and occasionally crosses the main Bruce Trail through the property.

Winter users, please:

Follow the Bruce Trail blazes (trail markers) at all times.

Use caution in the two locations where the Bruce Trail crosses the ski trail and give skiers the right of way.

Do not walk or snowshoe on the groomed ski trail, under any circumstances.




Save the Date

Low-Barrier Trails

Presenter - Ali Schofield, Bruce Trail Conservancy


January 8, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) believes that everyone should have the opportunity to derive the benefits of spending time in nature via free public access to the Bruce Trail, and we aim to help more people do just that. In this webinar, Manager of Communications Ali Schofield will discuss the BTC's work with the accessibility experts at AccessNow and AccessOutdoors, and plans to identify existing Low-Barrier Trail (LBT) sections of the Bruce Trail and develop resources that will help explorers of various abilities find the right Bruce Trail experience for them. 

The Fascinating World of Ferns

Presenter - Rhiannon Carruthers

February 12, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.

Learn about these ancient plants, and how to identify the abundance of species that grow along the Bruce Trail & Niagara Escarpment. This webinar is suitable for anyone curious about ferns. 

2026 Bruce Trail Club Fundraiser at Orangeville Theatre


Tickets are now on sale to see *Common Ground* at Orangeville Theatre!

Full of wit, warmth and humour, *Common Ground* is a heartwarming comedy about love - both lost and found.

Theatre date: Wednesday February 4, 2026.

Cost is: \$35 per ticket.

To buy tickets call the Orangeville Theatre box office directly at (519) 942-3423. Please let them know you are purchasing tickets for this event for the Bruce Trail Club.

For more information click here. 



Town of Mono Winterfest 2026

X-COUNTRY SKIING, SKATING, SNOWSHOEING, HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES, BONFIRE, LIVE MUSIC, BBQ LUNCH COUNTER, SNOWFLAKE DRAW, COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOOTHS, INDOOR ACTIVITIES AND WINTERY FUN

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

12 P.M. - 4 P.M.

MONO COMMUNITY CENTRE
754483 MONO CENTRE RD,
MONO

Remembering Philip Gosling



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that Dr. Philip R. Gosling, Honourary President of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and last living co-founder of the Bruce Trail, has passed away at the age of 97.

Philip was the original trailblazer; a visionary with a goal over 900 kilometres long. In the early 1960s, his determination to secure the Bruce Trail took him door to door along the Niagara Escarpment, meeting with the first landowners to graciously allow the Trail to cross their properties. His efforts were instrumental,

gradually piecing together the passages that would eventually become Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath.

Our deepest condolences are shared with his beloved family and friends, the many volunteers and members whose lives he touched, and all who have been inspired by his indelible impact on nature in Ontario. It is a legacy that the Bruce Trail Conservancy is honoured to carry on together with our community of volunteers, donors, members, landowners, and partners.

Seeking Art for the 2027 Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar

Since its first publication in 1969, the Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar has showcased the work of artists in our community and celebrated the beauty of the Bruce Trail. As we continue this tradition, we invite submissions in a variety of artistic mediums that show us the unique landscapes, animals, plants, and places of cultural and natural heritage found along the Trail from Niagara to Tobermory.

All entrants will receive a complimentary 2027 Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar. Thirteen artworks will be chosen by our panel of judges for inclusion. Those artists whose work is selected will receive five complimentary copies of the calendar and a free one-year BTC membership for themselves or to give as a gift.

All profits from the sale of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Calendar support our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

To find out more and submit your artwork click here.



Volunteer Spotlight

Liz grew up on a farm in St. Catharines, where an uncle introduced her to hiking the Niagara section of the Bruce Trail. These early adventures sparked a deep appreciation for nature and a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. After completing secondary school, she became a Registered Nurse, and moved into occupational health, safety, and Human Resources before leaving the corporate world for self-employment.

An avid motorcyclist, Liz ran a business organizing motorcycle tours and authored three books illustrating how the same traits with which you master motorcycling can help you master anything. She is now pursuing a PhD in Canadian and Environmental History at York University.



When she joined the board of directors of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club, Liz discovered an ideal way to channel her concerns about biodiversity. As chair of the biodiversity committee, she works with BTC specialists to arrange invasive-species pull parties, monitor seed orchards, and coordinate the planting of native species. Her greatest priority on the board is educating both children and adults about the importance of protecting biodiversity and the environment.

If you want to find out more about the biodiversity committee and how you can become involved in this important initiative, please click here. 

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Become a Volunteer

The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club needs all sorts of people, people with energy and passion, open minds and willing hands. People who can help us realize our dream of building a ribbon of wilderness the length of the Niagara Escarpment that connects people to nature. Can you help us? How do you think you could assist us?

Here are just some of the possibilities.

- Publicity
- Sales
- Social Media
- Membership
- Hike Leader
- Trail Maintenance

Click here to find out more about volunteering with the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club.



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