



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB

november 2025



Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter

A November hike in the Dufferin Hi-Lands invites you to embrace a melancholy beauty. Mornings are getting colder and it is time to start dressing in layers, pack a thermos, and savour the changes in nature before snow blankets the landscape. Whether you're exploring forest paths, enjoying the view from an outlook or challenging yourself on a switchback, November affords one last chance to appreciate the fleeting magic of late fall. The trails are beautiful during this time of year, but conditions can shift quickly with colder temperatures and shorter daylight hours. A hike that starts out sunny can quickly change as snow or rain moves in. Here are some practical reminders to make your adventure in the Dufferin Hi-Lands both safe and comfortable:

- **Dress in layers:** Start with moisture-wicking base layers, add insulation, and finish with a waterproof shell.
- **Watch the footing:** Fallen leaves can hide rocks, roots or slippery patches. Trekking poles will help with stability.
- **Wear icers:** Be sure to pack icers or crampons for added traction on slippery terrain.
- **Stay warm & fueled:** Pack a thermos with a hot drink, high-energy snacks, and keep moving to maintain body heat.
- **Check the forecast:** November weather can swing suddenly from crisp sunshine to wet snow. Be ready for both.
- **Gear essentials:** Gloves, hats, and waterproof boots are must-haves.



Upcoming Hikes

December 1

Meltwater and Paris Moraines

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 7 km

December 9

Hockley Valley - Tom East Loop

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 5.6 km

December 16

Hockley Valley - Dunby Rd./Cam Snell Side Trails

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 6.5 km

December 23

Mono Cliffs/Laidlaw and South Outlier Side Trails

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 5.6 km

December 27

Dufferin Hi-Land Annual Walk off the Turkey Hike

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 11 km

December 30

Island Lake Loop

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 8.5 km

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

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.



Biodiversity

Our Biodiversity Committee organized a Buckthorn Removal event on October 25 at Splitrock Narrows, under the expert guidance of BTC Ecologist Mara McHaffie. We demonstrated that not only do these events make a meaningful difference in the local ecosystem, they're also fun!

Common buckthorn is an aggressive invasive shrub that outcompetes native plants and threatens biodiversity. Removing it makes room for native plants and animals to thrive. With the help of enthusiastic and determined volunteers, we made significant progress at Splitrock. You could almost hear the cedars and surrounding native flora and fauna breathing a sigh of relief and gratitude for having their space back!

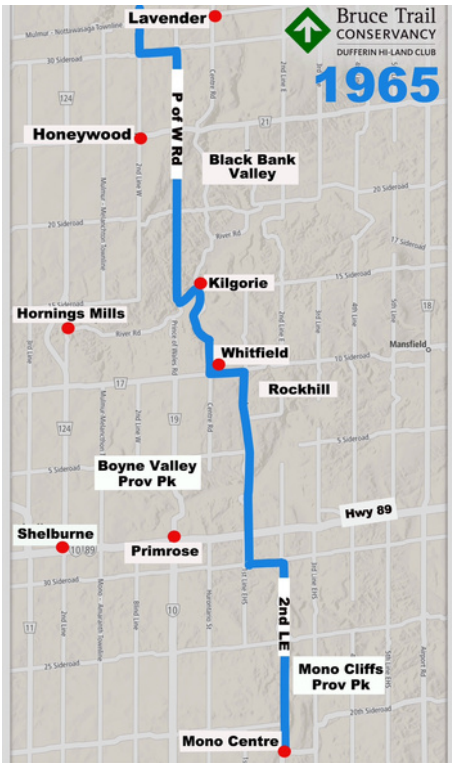


After the event a few volunteers stayed back to help Mara harvest Canada Rye and Virginia Rye seeds, two native grasses flourishing in Splitrock's meadow restoration site. Open sections of Splitrock were seeded with a variety of native meadow species in the fall of 2023. The ryes are often some of the first native grasses to establish in meadow restoration sites, and they act as a sort of 'cover crop', keeping the weeds at bay while some of the slower growing species take their time getting established. There was such an abundance of rye at this site this fall that we were able to collect some seed to use at other meadow restoration sites on BTC properties.

To learn more or volunteer for our Biodiversity initiatives, [click here.](#)



From the Archives



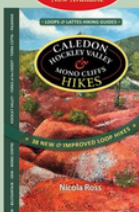
The Dufferin Hi-Land section of the Bruce Trail has seen remarkable changes since its establishment in 1965. In its earliest days, much of the route followed roadways, as shown on the map to the left. Over the decades, however, the trail has been transformed into a diverse and rewarding hiking experience. Today, it winds through valleys, crosses streams, climbs steep switchbacks, and stretches across open fields and forested landscapes. The modern route is illustrated on the 2025 map to the right.

This evolution—from simple road walking to a complex blend of terrain—reflects 60 years of dedication by volunteers. Through handshake agreements with local landowners and the generosity of private property owners who donated land, the trail steadily expanded. With each new parcel, directors carefully redesigned the path, weaving in fresh landscapes and creating the remarkable trail that hikers enjoy today.

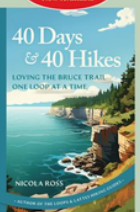
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The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has put forward a proposal to expand the size of Boyne Valley Provincial Park and permit hunting within its boundaries. Learn more and submit a comment on the proposed changes by using the QR code or clicking here.



Save the Date

We'll be at Orangeville

HOLLYFEST

A holiday artisan shopping experience

COME SEE US
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Inside at the Orangeville Fairgrounds -
247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

orangevillehollyfest.ca

Bruce Trail Club Fundraiser at Orangeville Theatre!

Common Ground

Pam is shocked when her husband leaves her a note telling her he's left her for another woman, She gets a call from Jake, a farmer (and the other woman's husband). He is bewildered by a similar note left for him. As the two spend time together, they realize they indeed have Common Ground.

Date: Wednesday February 4, 2026

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

Tales from the Trail



Stuart Law in the trees on a hike in the new BTC property in the Caledon section, Meltwater Moraine.



A beautiful fall hike with Stuart Law and Kerry Seong from the Scotsdale Farm to Terra Cotta.



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Awards, Awards



TED KLICH AWARD

In memory of Ted's exceptional tenure as Club President, this award recognizes individuals whose service and dedication over time have had a significant impact on the mission and success of the Club.



NORM WINGROVE AWARD

In memory of Norm's fifty years of exemplary volunteer service, the award recognizes individuals whose dedication and commitment, or specific achievement, during the current year, made a distinct impact on the mission and success of the club.



Recipients of the 5-year volunteer recognition award.

Deer Hunting Season and the Bruce Trail



From Monday November 3 to Friday November 7 and Monday December 1 to Friday December 7 inclusive deer hunting is allowed with landowner approval. Bow and cross-bow hunting season is from October 1st through to midnight December 31st.

This affects all sections of the Bruce Trail, but especially trails that fall in the area between Dufferin Road 21 north to the 30th sideroad, the Pine River Fishing area and the Ministry of Natural Resources property that the Pine River Valley Side Trail crosses.

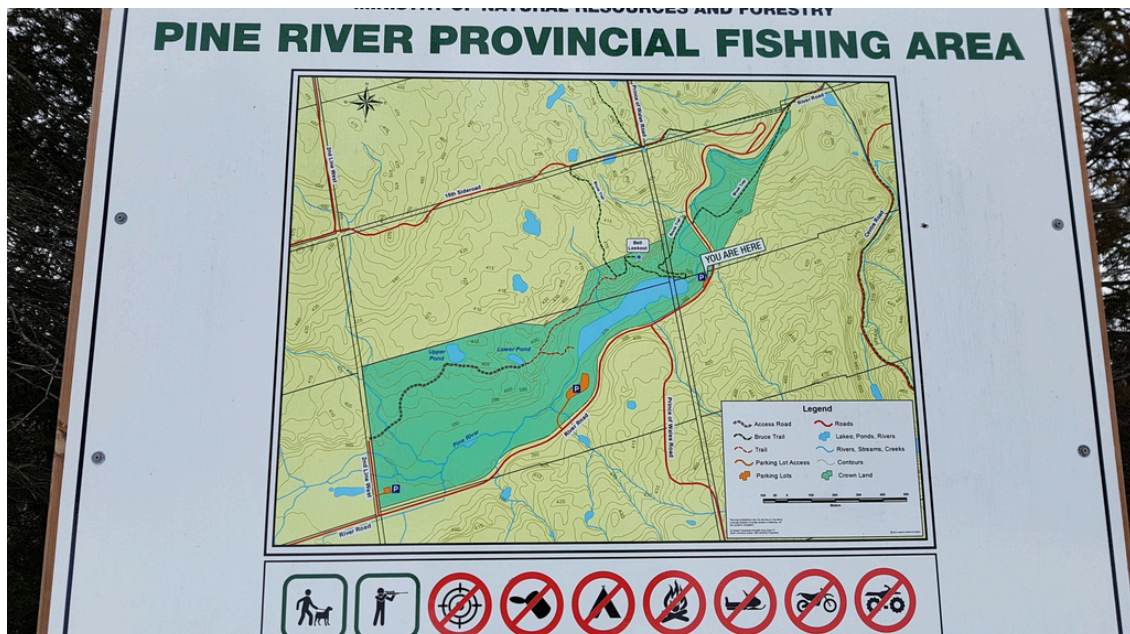
A large group making noise is pretty safe but solo hikers should avoid these spots or wear a safety vest and bright hat.

Hunting season 2025:

- controlled deer: November 3 and to midnight November 7
- controlled deer: December 1 to midnight December 5
- bow and cross-bow: October 1st to midnight December 31st

The Pine River Nature Reserve borders onto the Ministry of Natural Resources crown land where hunting is allowed. Additionally, part of the Pine River Valley Side Trail traverses the MNR property, so please be aware while hunting season is active.

Below is a map of the area. The area marked in green is crown land where hunting is allowed.



60th Anniversary Appreciation Lunch

On November 16, the Dufferin Hi-Land Club hosted an Appreciation Luncheon to honour the invaluable contributions of volunteers and landowners. The event took place at the Monora Park Pavilion and commenced with a silent auction, setting a lively tone for the day.



Guests then enjoyed a catered lunch, followed by a presentation from Carl Alexander, who recounted the club's history. He highlighted its transformation from a modest trail along rural roads in 1965 into today's extensive network traversing provincial parks, private properties, and Bruce Trail land.

Antoin Diamond of the Bruce Trail Conservancy provided further insight into this evolution, outlining the agreements with landowners and the generous land donations that have been instrumental in shaping the trail system.



The luncheon concluded with the presentation of awards recognizing exceptional volunteer service, underscoring the vital role of community support in sustaining and expanding the Dufferin Hi-Land Club.





The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club is currently seeking a treasurer for the Board of Directors. Responsibilities of the position include:

- Communicate with the Bruce Trail Conservancy accounting office the nature of all receipts received and disbursements.
- Review the Quick Book accounting records produced by the BTC accounting office for accuracy and prepare a Treasurer's report highlighting large receipts and disbursements to present to the Board.
- Make all cash deposits, including monies received from the sale of DHBTC products. Control the disbursements of all funds of the DHBTC, including expense reports and miscellaneous operating expenses.
- Maintain the cash box float used for sales at DHBTC events.
- Circulate, report and present the financial statement at the AGM.

For more information please contact: nominations@brucetrailclub.org




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