

Spring 2019

Editor: Carl Tafel

Ice, Ice, Baby. And Spring (Maybe).

I don't want to seem like Forrest Grump, so I won't complain about how long and often miserable this winter has been. Nor will I complain about the recent snowfall which came after a tantalizing, but brief, glimpse of spring. Actually, it's beautiful out now, and a little easier to walk around with the snow cover. And an apology is perhaps owed for suggesting in the last newsletter that folks get outdoors and enjoy the winter, since there were many days when it was understandable you might prefer to remain indoors. And when a list of possible footwear was provided, I probably should have added skates, as the trails have never been so icy, and for so long. Much credit should go to our heroic hike leaders who braved the elements and trail conditions these last four months.

Instead, let's celebrate the advent of spring. The transition between seasons is a beautiful time of year in Dufferin, when one can seemingly enjoy three seasons over the course of a hike. Vestiges of winter remain long into spring depending on the tree cover and shade; it can feel almost like summer when hiking across the fields on a sunny day; and the carpet of ferns and wildflowers emerging in the budding deciduous forests herald a sure spring sign.

So, for the most part, this newsletter will look ahead, not just to the warmer weather and joy of spending more time outdoors, but to our Club's two major hiking events, our upcoming AGM, and, as always, a terrific hike schedule.

C.T.

SAVE THE DATE: DUFFERIN HI-LAND AGM SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2019

Shelburne Library, 201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne Ont. Coffee and treats at 9:30 am., meeting starts at 10.

This is a great opportunity to meet (and perhaps thank) our previous Board, learn what has been accomplished over the past year and vote in the new Board – our nominees are a fine mix of grizzled veterans and wide-eyed newcomers. Here is the list of nominees: **Carl Alexander, Les Babbage, Helen Bailey, Peter Blackmere, Brenda Carling, Brian Cornfield, Susan Ford, Tony Hopkins, Cathy Krar, Pauline Lloyd, Carl Tafel, Tom Thayer, Glenys Williams, Bob Slack.** There will also be a motion requiring a bylaw change to change our fiscal year end from Dec. 31 to June 30 effective June 30/2019 which will need to be ratified at the AGM.



Deer emerging from their wintering grounds in the Boyne Valley Park.

Saturday and Sunday, May 11-12, 2019: Dufferin Hi-Land Two Day End-to-End

Join us for two days of hiking the hills of Dufferin County and enjoying the spring flowers and earning your Red Trillium Badge. The hike distance is approx 28 km per day, with checkpoints providing refreshments and assistance along the way.

Saturday, June 15, 2019: Dufferin Hi-Land 1 Day End-to-End

Can you hike 56 kilometers in a day? Come and experience the beauty of the Dufferin Hi-Land section, earn your White Trillium Badge, plus experience the best of Dufferin County hospitality at our checkpoints. The bus leaves at 6:30 am. from the Mono Community Centre parking lot in Mono Centre.

For on line registration details for both events, please visit <https://dufferinbrucetrailclub.org/#News>

Splitrock Narrows News

by Susan Ford

Young families will be interested in a new initiative in Dufferin which provides a short interactive hike for youngsters grades 3-5. The **Treasure Hike**, featured at our very own Splitrock Narrows property, will feature ten nature images carved by Club Treasurer Peter Blackmere and attached to trees along the trail. Youngsters can earn a "take a hike" badge by completing an online form on our website by describing the ten images. Just for fun, we will also identify the ten trees the nature images are attached to. It is the interactive nature of this hike that will attract participants. Going forward, we have a number of other interactive initiatives including a Scavenger Hike and GPS Orienteering Hike to promote the Dufferin section.



Due to the popularity of this wonderful BTC owned property, the parking corral will be widened when conditions allow this spring.

Hike Director's Report

by Les Babbage

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the snow will have melted and we will be able to get out for some serious spring hiking. The winter was again a little strange with few opportunities to strap on our snowshoes until the end of February. The lack of snow did not, however, deter our Winter Badge participants who turned out for our two moonlight and two day hikes with icers attached and enthusiasm pumped up as they explored some of the highlights of our section. Numbers this year ranged from twenty-five to forty hikers on each event. Twenty completed all four hikes and claimed their Winter Badge.

We have a busy spring planned with two major events, the Two Day End-to-End on the weekend of May 11-12 and the One Day End-to-End on Saturday, June 15. Carol Foley and her team of volunteers are busy planning transportation, renting porta-potties and selecting recipes for the best checkpoints on the trail! Event and registration information can be found on the Dufferin Hi-Land website front page or under Hikes>Special Event and Challenge Hikes.

Other highlights of our Spring/Summer weekend hike schedule include the return of the Spring Wildflower hike and the Quadzilla and Changing Light series, and a seven hike end-to-end series of the Beaver Valley Section, plus much, much more. For Tuesday hikers, we have lined up an interesting selection of local hikes, including a Tuesday Spring Wildflower hike, and longer "bring lunch" outings to farther locations, including the new Terra Cotta loop, Oak Ridges Trail and Humber Valley Heritage Trail. You can find details of these hikes in the Hike Schedules in this newsletter or, for full details including Hike Leader Contacts and GoogleMap links, on the Dufferin Hi-Land website.

See you on the Trail!

GENERAL HIKE SCHEDULE

Hike Rating Criteria:

Pace:

Leisurely – 3 km/hr or less
Medium – 3 to 4 km/hr
Brisk – 4 to 5 km/hr
Fast – 5+ km/hr

Terrain:

Easy – Mostly flat and usually good footing
Moderate – Some hills and/or some poor footing
Strenuous – Hilly with steep climbs and some poor footing

All Km references are to The Bruce Trail Reference: Maps and Trail Guide, Edition 29. Descriptions are abridged. For full description, Hike Leader Contact Information and GoogleMap directions, please visit our website at <https://dufferinbruceclub.org/hikes/hike-schedule-internal/>. For all hikes, bring snacks and lots of water, also lunch and or bug spray where indicated.

April 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM: QUADZILLA Series (4 hikes) - Pre-Registration Required

Caledon Section, Map 18. Meet at parking lot on 5th Line EHS (km 53.3) just south of Hockley Road, west of Airport Road. Loop Hike. Pace: Brisk; Terrain: Strenuous, Slippery and Steep Sections; Distance: 24 km. This STRENUOUS series covers many steep grades found along the Hockley Valley trails. Please contact the hike leader to register. No Drop Outs, No Badge, just satisfaction! Hike Leader: Tristan Goguen

April 7, 2019, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Tottenham Conservation Area

Tottenham Conservation Area (Mill St W, New Tecumseth). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 5 km. Loop hike. Hike Leader: David Francis

April 28, 2019, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Nine Mile Portage & Look Out – Barrie Area

Meet at 10:00 am in Midland at Food Basics or at 11:00 am at the NVCA parking lot at the north end of Pine Grove Road in Springwater Township. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy. Bring lunch. Hike Leader: Frieda Baldwin

May 4, 2019, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Beaver Valley End to End Series, Hike 1 of 7

Beaver Valley Section, Maps 27 and 28. Meet at intersection of Sideroad 22C and 3rd Line C (Km 97.1). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 17.2 km. Today we will shuttle back to Blantyre (km 114.3) to begin our hike. Bring lunch. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Tristan Goguen, Pat Foley

May 4, 2019, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Spring Wildflower Hike - Oliver Creek and Walker's Woods

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet at parking where 2nd Line ECL Side Trail starts and the road ends, (.7 km past Km 23.9). Loop hike. Oliver Creek Side Trail and Main Trail through Walker's Woods. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 3 km. Hike Leader: Brenda Carling

May 5, 2019, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Humber Valley Heritage Trail

Meet at roadside parking on Castlederg Rd, just west of the bridge, 2.1 km east of Hwy 50. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 6 km. Hike Leader: David Francis

May 11-12, 2019: Dufferin Hi-Land Two Day End-to-End

See website for information and registration

May 25, 2019, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Beaver Valley End to End Series, Hike 2 of 7

Beaver Valley Section, Map 27. Meet at off road parking on Sideroad 7A at the top of the hill, behind the ski lifts (Km 81.0). We will shuttle back to Side Road 22C and 3rd Line C (Km 97.1). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 16.1 km. Bring lunch. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Tristan Goguen, Pat Foley

May 25, 2019, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Hilton Falls to Speyside - Pre-registration requested

Toronto Section, Maps 11 and 12. Meet at the Pear Tree Parking lot (Km 11.4) at Speyside (15 Sideroad and Hwy 25), north of Milton. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 10.7 km. We will car pool to Hilton Falls (entry fee: \$7.00). Please let hike leader know you are coming. Hike Leader: Karen Bergmann

June 8, 2019, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Beaver Valley End to End Series, Hike 3 of 7

Beaver Valley Section, Map 26. Meet at Hoggs Falls parking lot (Km 63.2) on Lower Valley Road, just north of Flesherton. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Strenuous; Distance: 17.8 km. We will shuttle back to Km 81.0. Bring lunch. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Tristan Goguen, Pat Foley

June 15, 2019: Dufferin Hi-Land One Day End-to-End

See website for information and registration

June 22, 2019, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Beaver Valley End to End Series, Hike 4 of 7

Beaver Valley Section, Map 26. Meet at intersection of Artemesia-Euphrasia Townline and 4th Line A (Km 46.4). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Strenuous; Distance: 16.8 km. We will car pool back to Hoggs Falls (Km 63.2). Bring lunch. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Tristan Goguen, Pat Foley

July 13, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Mulmur Loops - Pre-registration requested

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet at the BTC Rock Hill Park parking lot on 1st Line E, just south of 10 Sideroad. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 8 km. We will hike Main and Side Trail loops. Bring bug spray. Please let hike leader know if you are coming. Hike Leader: Karen Bergmann

August 10, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Terra Cotta and Walking Fern – Preregistration requested

Toronto Section, Map 13. Meet at 10th Line roadside parking (Km 38.7), 2.2 km southeast of 32 Sideroad (Halton Rd 42). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 8 km. We will carpool to Heritage Road and hike back, then in and back along the Walking Fern Side Trail. Bring bug spray. Please let hike leader know if you are coming. Hike Leader: Karen Bergmann

Date: August 16, 23 and 30, 2019, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Changing Light Series (3 hikes)

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet just north of km 23.9 on 2nd Line EHS. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 7.5 km. All things and everything are constantly changing, impermanent. Never is a moment, an individual or the trail the same. Change may be imperceptible or, in this case, obvious. 3 hikes, Changing Light. THIS HIKE IS SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES AND HIKERS OF ALL ABILITIES. We will hike to Moss Haven Side Trail and return via Oliver Creek Side Trail. Bring bug spray and headlamp. Hike Leaders: Bryan and Carol Foley

TUESDAY HIKE SCHEDULE

Hike Leaders for all Tuesday hikes are Les Babbage, Inge Eckerich and Bob Slack. For Hike Leader Contact Information and GoogleMap directions, please visit our online Tuesday Hike Schedule at <https://dufferinbrucetrailclub.org/hikes/tuesday-hikes-internal/>

April 2, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Scotsdale Farm

Toronto Section, Map 13. Meet at Party City/Winners building (Hwy 10 and 4th Avenue in Orangeville) or a Scotsdale Farm parking lot at 10:00 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5.2 km. We will hike a loop including Main Trail and Bennett Heritage and Maureen Smith Side Trails.

April 9, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Rock Hill Park/Moss Haven

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet at Rock Hill parking lot on 1st Line EHS, just south of 10 Sideroad (Km 29.4). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5.4 km. We will hike loops including Main Trail and the Rock Hill Park and Moss Haven Side Trails.

April 16, 2019, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM: Oak Ridges Trail

Caledon Hills Section, Map 17. Meet at roadside parking on Coolihans Sideroad (Km 35.1). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 10.7 km. We will hike from Palgrave to Coolihans Sideroad along the Oak Ridges and Bruce Trails. Bring lunch.

April 23, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Creemore Nature Preserve

Meet at Superburger (Hwy 10 and 89 in Primrose). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5 km. We will car pool to Creemore and explore the Creemore Nature Preserve trails.

April 30, 2019, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM: Terra Cotta Loop

Toronto Section, Map 14. Meet at parking on east side of Party City/Winners building at 9:30 am or roadside parking on Heritage Rd just north of Km 43.8 at 10:00 am. Note: See current map on the BTC Trail Reroute web page. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 11.3 km. We will hike the newly-created Terra Cotta loop, comprised of new Main Trail and Terra Cotta Side Trail. Bring lunch.

May 7, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Spring Wildflower Hike - Oliver Creek Side Trail/Walker's Woods

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet at north end of 2nd Line EHS off 8 Sideroad where 2nd Line EHS Side Trail begins. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 3-6 km. Brenda Carling will lead us as we explore and identify the blooming wildflowers along the Oliver Creek Side Trail and the Main Trail through Walker's Woods. Bring your camera! Hike Leader: Brenda Carling

May 14, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Black Bank Challenge

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 21. Meet at SuperBurger (Hwy 10 & 89) at 9:30 am or at BTC parking lot on 30 Sideroad (Km 53.9) at 9:45 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 7.5 km. We will shuttle back to Km 47.4, then hike down Black Bank hill and on to 30 Sideroad.

May 21, 2019, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM: Humber Valley Heritage Trail

Meet on east side of Winners/Party City building (Hwy 10 & 4th Ave in Orangeville) at 9:30 am or HVTA parking lot on west side of Emil Kolb Parkway, approximately 2 km west of Hwy 50 and 2 km south of Castlederg Rd at 10:00 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 12 km. Bring lunch.

May 28, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Mono Cliffs North

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 25. Meet at roadside parking on south side of 25 Sideroad at 2nd Line EHS. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 6 km. Loop hike. We will hike the Walter Tovell, Carriage and Lookout Side Trails and Main Trail.

June 4, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Hockley Valley South

Caledon Hills, Map 18. Meet at BTC parking lot on Hockley Rd just east of 2nd Line EHS. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Strenuous; Distance: 9.6 km. We will shuttle to parking lot on 5th Line EHS (Km 50.8) and hike back to Km 60.1 and Hockley Rd parking. Bring lunch.

June 11, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Cold Creek Conservation Area

Meet at parking on east side of Winners/Party City building (Hwy 10 and 4th Ave) in Orangeville at 9:30 am or at Cold Creek CA, which is on 11th Concession, King, 3.5 km north of King Rd, at 10:00 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 6.6 km. We will hike a loop, exploring the park's nature trails.

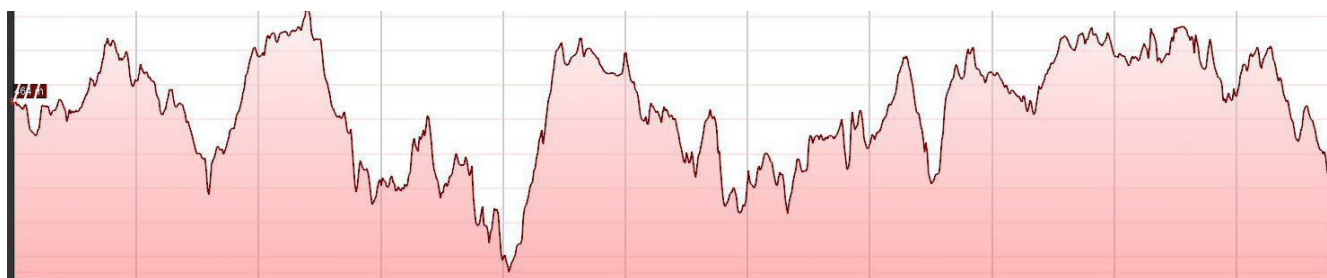
June 18, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Creemore Nature Preserve/Mingay Tract

Meet at Superburger (Hwy 10 and 89 in Primrose). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5 km. We will car pool to Creemore and explore the Creemore Nature Preserve trails.

June 25, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Boyne Valley Side Trail Loop

Dufferin Hi-Land Section, Map 20. Meet at Centre Rd parking, south of 5 Sideroad (Km 18.7). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 6.6 km. We will hike the Main Trail and Boyne Valley Side Trail.

See if you can guess what this graph represents (hint - it's not a digital audio file of a hiker swearing after falling on the ice. See back page for the answer.)



The 2016 Easter Ice Storm Revisited

by Carl Tafel

It's hard to believe that it's been three years since the Dufferin section was devastated by the Easter Ice Storm. Of the nine Clubs, Dufferin was hit the hardest. As Trail Director, I hope we never experience another similar disaster; but with the changing weather patterns due to climate change already noticeable, it is almost inevitable that at some time we will.

No trail section was spared during this storm. Some Pine plantations were completely ruined. Huge deciduous and evergreen trees either broke off or were uprooted. The canopy was hit hardest, as it could not absorb the additional weight of the ice. Debris fields at times stretched for hundreds of metres. The Dufferin Club's volunteers worked tirelessly and heroically to clear the trail, and, even with a couple of delays due to snow and bitterly cold weather, the trail from Mono Centre to Lavender was opened in three weeks. Except for one section.

The Main Trail along Centre Road at km. 34 was impassable even on foot, and remained so for weeks. I was afraid we wouldn't get the trail open in time for our spring End to End. And because this was on a municipal road, we couldn't clear it even if we wanted to. The locals realized that there was excellent hardwood that could be fairly easily harvested, and they started chipping away at it from both sides. Eventually the Township opened the road to vehicles in mid May.

I submitted a picture for the newsletter, but the powers that be didn't publish it as they didn't like the bluish tint, which was due to the fading light at the time of day the picture was taken. The Editor is ok with having it in this edition.



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Braveheart and the Mountain Goat

by Susan Ford

The last time we heard from these ladies, they had been backcountry trekking off trail, in our very own southern Rockies. And what adventures they had.

More recently, the fearless Mountain Goat was fixated on another mountain range, the Chamonix Valley in France and Braveheart, the one whose heart fluttered when astride a valley and a ridge, determined to join the expedition “so I don’t have to listen to how great it was for the rest of my days. Plus there’s bound to be great photo opportunities along the way”. The friendship cemented, the 173 km. Tour du Mont Blanc held the promise of alluring romantic cheese fondues and rather fine cheap red wine. Don’t ask me if I’ll ever fall for *that* again.

So Carol-Ann and Susan began their hike the day after the Ultra Tour du Mont Blanc trail race began, a 48 hour race that features super humans running the same trail we would be walking over the next 12 days. While hiking 10,000 metres of peaks and valleys, the surrounding scenery was stunning: wildflowers and clear streams, gorgeous glaciated valleys and crazy hillside sheep and surprising cultural experiences in dormitories where often the bedrooms and the bathrooms were co-ed. Yes, co-ed.

And all the Rosetta Stone Italian lessons the Mountain Goat studied before leaving home became a mishmash of French and Spanish under pressure, and all the photographs that Braveheart took along the path will forever capture the best two weeks in Europe they’d ever spent.

Trip date: September 2018



If you have an interesting hiking story about the Bruce Trail or parts further afield, Hi-Land Views would be happy to receive them.



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This newsletter looks way, way better in colour. Please consider receiving it digitally. You'll not only save the Club printing and postage costs, you'll save trees. To switch, contact Laura Tuohy (watch the spelling) at ltuohy@bruceclub.org. Digital versions can also be downloaded from the web site.

Photo credits:

Carl Tafel: pages 1, 6, 7 & 8
 Peter Blackmere: page 2
 Susan Ford: page 7

The graph on page 5 shows the elevation gains and losses on the Dufferin section. Over our 56 km. there is a gain of 1715 metres and a loss of 1774 metres. See if you can figure out the peaks and valleys. Thanks to BTC cartographer Scott Langley for the image.

