



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB



President's Report

The last 6 months have been a busy time for our Board of Directors with the organization of new teams, a better communication strategy, and enhanced volunteer management.

Our new Biodiversity Committee supports the ecology of the Dufferin Hi-land Trail corridor through a combination of education, land stewardship, and special events. Check out the biodiversity page on our website to learn more about the iNaturalist app, species mapping, invasive species removal, and native species planting.

The management of volunteers has taken a huge leap forward with the implementation of a database to match areas of interest and improve safety practices. Communication with members and volunteers has become easier with our events calendar. (Be sure to check the calendar for details about the Social Meet-up on November 17.).

The communications team continues to update the website, manage our quarterly newsletter, and keep blog posts up-to-date.

Trail maintenance, landowner relations, and land securement are always a challenge. Teams of volunteers are hard at work most weeks, plowing parking

lots, cutting grass, and clearing fallen trees on the trails. The much-appreciated Trail Angel service carries on and is managed by a separate team.

Our hiking program is continuing to organize well-known, popular events such as the challenging End-to-End series and weekly Tuesday hikes. New events have also been introduced such as the Seven Rivers Badge series, the Summer Solstice, geology hikes, and forest bathing.

We are also making efforts to reach out to members of the local community. Come and visit our booth at the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation, Dufferin County Museum on June 8.

Finally, consider how you could contribute either as a board member or on a volunteer team. Our Nominations Committee is assessing our need for board members and we are always looking for new volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE!



2 Day End-to-End Hike

The most challenging hike in our calendar, covering over 25 km daily.

Date: May 11-12

Location ([Google Maps](#)): 586387 10th Sideroad, Mulmur. GPS Coordinates: N 44 13849 W 080 13649.

Hike Leader: Stuart Law [Click here to contact Hike Leader](#)

Distance: 55km (29km & 26km)



Seven Rivers Hike

A series of fabulous, picturesque hikes, featuring rivers of the Headwaters area.

Dates: April 13 & 20, May 18 & 25, June 8, 22 & 29

Hike Leader: Margery Cruise [Click here to contact Hike Leader](#)



Theatre Orangeville Fundraiser

Join us at Theatre Orangeville to see **Tip of the Iceberg**, an original screenplay that tells a uniquely Canadian story filled with friendship, music, and laughter. A great opportunity to connect with Dufferin Hi-land members, enjoy some live theatre, and support our trails.

Date: November 3rd, 8:00 pm

Location: Theatre Orangeville, 87 Broadway

Volunteer Appreciation Social

Every year, the Dufferin Hi-land team comes together to connect, celebrate and honour our volunteers, members and landowners. This year's social meet-up will feature a keynote presentation by Linda Murphy, a hiking enthusiast who has completed solo expeditions throughout the world and is passionate about sharing her love of hiking. You can find out more about her on her website, <http://thehealthyhiker.ca>. The day will start with a hike in the morning, followed by a luncheon with a silent auction and door prizes. Check our website for additional details and tickets as the date approaches.

Date: November 17

Location: Mono Community Centre





Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Bruce Trail. Over the past year, we have created a database of over 100 volunteers for the Dufferin Hi-land Bruce Trail Club. To make sign-ups easier, we have joined the website volunteer sign-up (<https://volunteersignup.org>). Check your email regularly (don't forget to look at your spam folder) and sign up for as many positions as you like.

If you're not receiving emails, you might not be on the database. Check the Dufferin Hi-lands website (dufferinbruceclub.org) and look under *Get Involved – Become a Volunteer* to fill out an application. We would love to have you join the team!

Thank you for your interest in giving back to the Dufferin Hi-land Bruce Trail Club through volunteering.

Marianne Dzuba and Helen Bailey
mdzuba@dufferinbruceclub.org



Full-Moon Hikes

Over the past 20 years of leading the Full Moon Hikes, we have experienced everything from miscalculating the time of the moonrise (and subsequently wandering around in the dark for 2 hours), rain, a blinding snowstorm, hiking through snow up to our waists, a lunar eclipse and a few magical evenings like Saturday February 24. After meeting at the bottom of 1st Line EHS , km 7.8 for a 6:30 pm start, we set off in Mono Cliffs Prov. Park for a 7 km hike. The moon was rising in the east under a clear sky and the stars were just beginning to appear overhead. A fabulous hike with a great group of hikers, truly enjoyed by all. If you have never hiked under the full moon, I encourage you to do so - it is exciting to experience the trail in a completely different way.

- Bryan Foley



Biodiversity

The Dufferin Hi-land Biodiversity Committee has identified two goals for the upcoming year:

- Engage and educate Bruce Trail members about the importance of biodiversity.
- Interest, inspire, and engage individuals and groups outside the club.

While these goals are distinct, they clearly overlap. As we develop educational events for Bruce Trail members, we also hope to engage non-members and casual hikers who may not be aware of how wonderful the Bruce Trail is and how easily it can be accessed.

After consulting with our members at a fabulous social event last fall, we identified four areas of concern:

#1: Invasive Species. Members asked for workshops on how to identify and dispose of invasive species correctly as well as some hands-on “pull-parties” (BTC terminology, so we’ve been told!).

#2: Signage. More detailed trail descriptions on the Bruce Trail app, signs and maps at trailheads to identify the difficulty level, and good trail etiquette would be helpful.

#3: Guided Walks: Members expressed interest in biodiversity hikes and educational walks for both individuals and schools.

We have recently updated our website and added a page on biodiversity. Check regularly for updates. Also be sure to check the calendar for special events from the Biodiversity Committee such as the Summer Solstice (June 14) and Buckthorn Pull-Party (October).

If you are associated with a local school, group, or community association that would enjoy a guided hike, a special event, or a workshop, please let us know!

- Martina Rowley



Henry the Hiker

Henry started hiking during the COVID pandemic of 2020. Back then, every hike was exciting as Henry connected his experiences on the Bruce Trail to school lessons in geography, history, and science. He had a great time meeting other hikers and giving out packets of tree seeds. More recently, he has started to hand out bracelets with his hashtag (#mydogsarebarkin) on one side and the other "It's Worth It"... he likes to tell people that sometimes the going is hard but if you push through, you realize that it's worth it.

In 2022, Henry started an End-to-End hike of the Bruce Trail and set a goal of hiking every province in Canada. This time, he brought his social media

followers along, showcasing hikes on <http://henrythehiker.com>. It has been incredible. In British Columbia, Henry kayaked into Desolation Sound on the Pacific Ocean on one day and hiked up Tin Hat Mountain on the next. In Northern Ontario, he got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat and met Henry the Polar Bear.

I want people to realize that we're just a normal family. My husband and I are self-employed, and we have a farm to run. We never have time or money. I am a 45-year-old overweight woman with no history of trekking or adventuring. But if I can do it, so can you! You don't need new gear or the latest in GPS tracking technology—just a map, a plan, and good shoes. Tell someone where you're going... then just go! Get out there and experience it. The outside world shouldn't be intimidating—it should be felt, smelled, heard, and explored—especially with a little human by your side who wants to share all he sees with the world!

- Carola Little



Join us for a hike

Check-out the full online hike schedule

For more up-to-date information, check out the Dufferin Hi-land blog or visit us on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/DufferinHiLandBruceTrailClub



www.instagram.com/dufferinhiland



dufferinbrucetrailclub.org
