

With Much Thanks.

Thanks. Gratitude. Appreciation.

For an organization such as the Dufferin Hi-Land Club, which relies on the hard work of about seventy volunteers, these are meaningful words. Our wonderful guided hikes would be nothing without the organizers and our dedicated hike leaders. Our trails would be unwalkable without the efforts of our Trail Captains and trail workers. The properties we manage would be neglected without our land stewardship. An event like the recent Bruce Trail Day would not be a success without the twenty folks who helped on that day. Our hiking events could not go on without the efforts of many volunteers. And our Club couldn't function without the work of our Board and the support of our membership.

And we are grateful for the help we receive from outside our Club – from individuals and organizations that understand the worth of the BTC.

And we remain continually thankful that we have the Bruce Trail and its surrounding lands to remind us that despite its imperfections, it is still a beautiful world.

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Threatening skies were mainly just bluster and didn't deter the crowds from attending and enjoying Bruce Trail Day at Splitrock Narrows.

We would like to thank Dufferin County Council for giving us a grant which went towards promoting and putting on Bruce Trail Day, contributing to its success.

President's Message

by Susan Ford

In Dufferin County, we can never take a perfect hiking day for granted. When the sudden onset of subzero temperatures and white on the ground was thrust upon us November 1st, it gave some of us pause to reflect on what we had spent the last six months doing. As always, we have a lot to celebrate and be proud of in 2019 at DHLBTC.

Bruce Trail Day at Splitrock Narrows was our most successful to date. We doubled the turnout, ran out of guidebooks again with new memberships and welcomed many new faces to the trail. The expanded parking lot, thanks to the efforts of **Brian Cornfield**, helped enormously.

The BTC recognized several of our Club volunteers as having overstepped the artificial boundary of giving their time and skillset to the Trail. **Carl Alexander** and **Carol Sheppard** were recognized for fifteen years of service and are both nominated for a province-wide volunteer service award to be held at the end of November. Carl was also recognized as our Club's premier Trail Angel and received an Olympic style medal for his contribution for driving others to their hike start.

Tom Thayer was recognized early in the year as an outstanding volunteer at the Club level and was later awarded the prestigious Volunteer of the Year award at the BTC's AGM in September. This very impressive achievement involved 100's of hours of work and culminated in the Unified Hike Management System that all nine clubs and their members are now using to plan their hikes. Les Babbage says we are already seeing an increase in the number of people coming to Dufferin as a result of using this online tool.

We also would like to recognize **Carol Foley** who has tirelessly fundraised for the Club over many years and faultlessly organized two AGMs and many successful End-to-Ends. Carol will be taking a well deserved rest after the 2020 hike events. Long time trail worker **Rob Wray** has graciously volunteered to take over in 2021.

Barb Sonzogni continues to mail out Take a Hike buttons and simple "good effort" notes to the children who have completed the Treasure Hike at Splitrock.

Several local schools have participated in the School Outreach Program this fall. Thanks to **Jim Preyde** for organizing hike leaders and sweeps, **Brenda Carling** for knowing how to make the learning fun and to the Dufferin Community Organization grant that continues to subsidize the cost of transportation.

This year **Carl Tafel** opened the new Melodonna Side Trail. Do we have more side trail kilometres than main trail now in Dufferin? Carl has also ambitiously taken on the development of growing awareness of the trail for the Shelburne community. To that end he is working with Shelburne Council and has received approval for a separate "Shelburne Bruce Trail Day" which falls between our two main hiking events. What great exposure for our Club. Thanks Carl, we are looking forward to its success.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention our 1st Appreciation Night at Horning's Mill Community Hall November 9. With little time to plan or promote, we organized a really fun and successful evening with finger food, music, wine and beer, Chris Sexton a local Dufferin storyteller and 4-season photos. We attracted just over 10% of our membership which is a good turnout and we look forward to doing it again in 2020.

Of course now it's time to get outside in those winter woolies and don icers/snowshoes and go hiking with your friends. I'm looking forward to getting out more on the trail myself. These are happy times.

Bruce Trail Day, October 6, 2019, Splitrock Narrows: The old saying goes: rain at seven, clear by eleven. For the Dufferin Club it was, happily, rain at seven, clear by nine. And clear, mostly, and sweetly cool for the whole day. Perfect hiking weather, and great weather for showcasing the Club, and the Splitrock site.

Front and centre for showcasing was our new doubled-in-size, (from 12 to 24 cars) smooth-as-silk surfaced, easy-access parking lot, providing an inviting welcome to visitors. Perhaps it did not cause, but it certainly accommodated, double the number of visitors that came out last year.

Last year we had a turnout of 65 (not including dogs); this year the count (still without counting dogs) was 122. As was the case last year, the most effective publicity for Bruce Trail Day was word of mouth, closely followed by finding us on Facebook. Some people noted that they read our advertisements in the Banner, Citizen and Free Press and some picked up the postcard advertising from home delivery, libraries, coffee shops and bookstores.

As was the case last year, as we hoped/intended, the turnout was intensely local. Mono was the most mentioned home location, followed closely by Orangeville. People (and dogs) came from Alton, Shelburne, Newmarket and Alliston. A number of visitors made sure to tell us that they were members (although not necessarily hikers or trail workers), and fourteen people bought memberships and received a free Bruce Trail Guidebook (courtesy again of Ontario Power Generation) for signing up.

The hypo-allergenic, butter-icings, pumpkin cake (from Ray's Bistro/Bakery in Alton) got all gobbled up. There was a good trade in apples, sausages and hot dogs. Dozens of children assembled and painted birdhouses for placement on Dufferin Bruce Trail lands. Packets of wildflower seeds were passed out.

And, of course, visitors could self guide or take guided hikes showcasing the Splitrock property - the magnificent cliffs and rock formations and woodlands that make a tour of Splitrock a more spectacular escarpment experience than even Mono Cliffs can provide. And, best of all, we own Splitrock.

Although not in the official count, but certainly a numbers (and publicity?) boost, was the busload (44+) of Rotarians from Barrie who started at Splitrock in order to build up their appetites for their end of hike destination – the Mono Cliffs Inn.

And one final pleasant bonus: the new Conservancy CEO, Michael McDonald, paid us a visit, posed for selfies, and painted birdhouses with the best of them.

Kids building birdhouses – see if you can spot CEO Michael McDonald.



A Tail of the Trail

by Carl Tafel

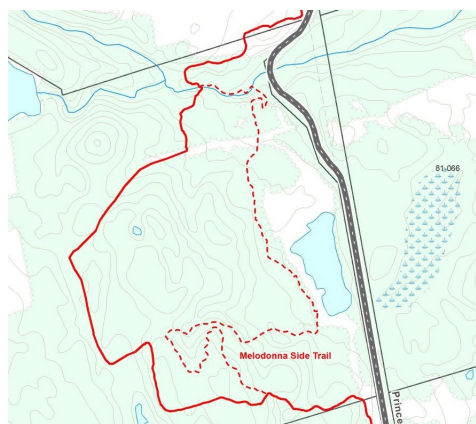
I ran into Bill Duron at the Mulmur Day celebration in the summer of 2018. He asked me if I'd like to add a Side Trail to the section of Main Trail which crosses his property (km 38.4-39.8). I said sure, and he described the trail (which was in the shape of a backwards letter J), and told me where the trailhead was. Unable to locate it a few days later, I arranged to get together with him to walk it. When we did so, I suggested the trail follow the path on the west side of the pond instead, and then proceed through the Pine plantation to the Main Trail. We walked this route, and ended up back at his home.

With this knowledge, I got to wondering if this trail could start 300 metres to the southeast, incorporate the central spine and the section along the pond, and then head to the northeast corner of the property and run along the creek, meeting the Main Trail now at the bridge. Getting permission to check it out, I returned an hour or so later with a big smile on my face and received permission to flag these sections, which I did the next week. As luck would have it, winter came in early, spring was very late, and it wasn't until June of 2019 that Bill and I could walk these sections for his approval, which he gave readily. During this walk, he told me that this trail was a gift for his wife Melody, and that her nickname was Melodonna. So now we had a name for the trail.

A few weeks later, Carl Alexander, Brian Cornfield and I built the only structures on this trail – a bridge over the creek and six steps – and cleared all of the deadfall. Lopping and fine tuning continued over the summer until Jim Preyde, Ian Shelton and I blazed the trail in early October to await its opening.



Bill Duron – opening the Melodonna Side Trail



Treasure Hike News

The Children's Treasure Hike has been a big success.

One of the reasons is that the Shelburne Library staff – once they were directed to the web site and then went to the Splitrock site – printed up 150 maps and distributed them to all the kids in the Children's Book Club. Thanks!

Another big help was the mention we got in the summer edition of In The Hills magazine. I guess editor Signe Ball must actually read the DHL newsletters that she asked us to send her, as Susan Ford had an article in the spring newsletter describing this Hike. Thanks, Signe.

We should note that the Treasure Hike is closed during the winter months, but will reopen in the spring.

From the Archives – In Memorium by Bryan Foley

Francis Ronald (Ron) O'Reilly.

Born April 21, 1925, Amaranth Township. Died Oct 28, 2019, Oakville, Ontario, age 94.

In 1965, Phillip Gosling was engaged for a year to promote the idea of a walking trail along the escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory. On April 27, 1965, a meeting was held at the Shelburne Library where Mr. Gosling presented the trail idea to those interested. As a result, the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club was formed with Mr. O'Reilly, postmaster of Shelburne, as president. Mr. O'Reilly was instrumental in establishing the trail through Dufferin, as well as forming an executive and attracting Club members.

The Bruce Trail remained close to Mr. O'Reilly's heart throughout his life. Burial is at the Shelburne Cemetery.



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GENERAL HIKE SCHEDULE

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://hikes.bruce-trail.org/ecwd_calendar/Dufferin_Hi-Land/. For all hikes, bring snacks and lots of water, also icers and/or snowshoes where indicated.

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

December 1, 2019, 10:00 - 12:00: Welsh Tract

Welsh Tract is located off Hwy 27 north of Hwy 9. Township of Bradford/West Gwillimbury. Turn right onto 12th Line East, just past Pioneer Cemetery going north. Small parking area at entrance. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5 km. Loop hike exploring Welsh Tract and Secret Pond. Muddy sections, bring waterproof boots. Hike Leader: David Francis

December 7, 2019, 9:30 - 13:30: Black Bank

Location: Dufferin Hi Land, Map 21. Meet at roadside parking on Prince of Wales Rd approximately 1 km south of County Rd 21 (Km 46.2) where the trail leaves the road to the east. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 9.8 km. We will hike out to Km 51.1 and back. Bring icers and/or snowshoes. Hike Leaders: Pat Foley and Tristan Goguen

December 14, 2019, 9:30 - 13:30: Boyne Valley

Location: Dufferin Hi Land, Map 20. Meet at Hurontario St roadside parking, 40 metres south of Highway 89 (Km 15.2). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Strenuous, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 8.7 km. Loop hike. We hike the Main Trail and the Boyne Valley Side Trail, with a side trip up Murphy's Pinnacle. Icers or snowshoes may be required. Hike Leaders: Pat Foley and Tristan Goguen

December 28, 2019, 9:30 - 14:00: Dufferin Hi-Land "Annual Walk off the Turkey Hike"

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Boyne Valley, Map 20. Meet on County Rd 19 (Prince of Wales Rd) where the Primrose Trail crosses the road (approx 2 km north of Hwy 89). Pace: Leisurely or Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 5.3 km-short hike; 17.5 km-longer hike. We will hike the Primrose Loop west of County Rd. 19, continuing west 1 km to Murphy's Pinnacle. This is a 5.3 km (approx. 1 1/4 hr.) hike suitable for families and hikers wishing to do a shorter hike. The longer hike will continue to Km 23.9, returning on the Boyne Valley Side Trail. Snowshoes may be required. Bring lunch – "Turkey sandwiches NOT welcome" Pub stop. Hike Leaders: Bryan and Carol Foley

January 1, 2020, 13:00 - 16:00: Dufferin Hi-Land Annual New Year's Day Hike

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19. Meet at the Mono Community Centre parking lot, on your right as you enter Mono Centre on Mono Centre Rd. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 4.8 or 7.5 km. Family-friendly loop hike. Bring icers and/or snowshoes. Snacks for post hike celebration welcome. Hike Leader: Les Babbage

January 5, 2020, 10:00 - 12:15: Jokers Hill Annual Blow off the Cobwebs New Year's Hike

Location: Meet at roadside parking on dead-end street west of Bathurst St, 1.3 km north of Mulock Dr in Newmarket. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 5 km. Icers needed for this traditional loop hike around historic Jokers Hill. Hike Leader: David Francis

January 11, 2020, 18:30 - 20:30: Moonlight Hike - Dufferin Hi-Land Winter Badge Hike #1 of 4

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20, Km 13.3. From Hwy 10, 15 km north of Orangeville, turn east on 30 Sideroad and drive approx 3 km. Park on the south side of 30 Sideroad. Careful with ditch. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 6.6 km. Meet at 6:15 for a prompt 6:30 start. WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATE ARRIVALS! Bring; snowshoes, icers, headlamp. Dress for the weather. Pub Stop. Hike Leaders: Bryan and Carol Foley

January 18, 2020, 09:30 - 14:30: Exploring Mono Cliffs Park

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19, Mono Cliffs Park (north end). Meet at the top of the Walter Tovell Side Trail (25 Sideroad and 2nd Line EHS). From Hwy 10, 14 km north of Orangeville, turn east on 25 Sideroad and drive 4 km to meet point. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 11 km. We will explore the Park as it can only be explored in winter. Bring snowshoes/icers/lunch. Dress appropriately. Drop outs available. Pub Stop. Hike Leader: Bryan Foley

January 18, 2020, 10:00 - 14:00: Laking Woodlot Outing

Location: Tosorontio Sideroad 17 at Concession Rd 2 (9 km south of Glencairn). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; **Distance:** Flexible. Jim Laking invites us to join him for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in a managed woodlot. Easy to challenging. Suitable for families. Marked trails for cross-country skiing. Bring lunch. Heated cabin, outdoor wood stove for lunch and breaks. Hike Leaders: Frieda Baldwin, Jim Laking

January 25, 2020, 09:30 - 13:30: Dufferin Hi-Land Winter Badge, Hike #2 of 4

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20. Meet at roadside parking on 2nd Line EHS about 300 metres north of 8 Sideroad (Km 24.2). From Hwy 89 east of Hwy 10, turn north on 1st Line EHS and drive 4.5 km to 8 Sideroad. Turn right and park just past the curve where the main trail turns east off the road. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 6.2 or 7.8 km. We will hike a loop consisting of the Main Trail and Moss Haven and Oliver Creek Side Trails. Options to shorten hike. Bring snowshoes, icers, lunch. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Helen Bailey

February 2, 2020, 10:00 - 12:30: Caledon - Forks of the Credit

Location: Meet in roadside parking at Trans Canada Trail entrance off McLaren Rd, Caledon, 2 km south of Peel Rd 24 (Charleston Sideroad). **Pace:** Medium; **Terrain:** Moderate. Steep, slippery hills and steps up escarpment; Distance: 5 km. Loop hike. Bring icers. We will follow the Credit River until it plunges over the escarpment at the old mill. Leaving sharp 10:00 am. Hike Leader: David Francis

February 8, 2020, 18:30 - 21:15: Moonlight Hike - Dufferin Hi-Land Winter Badge Hike #3 of 4

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19, Mono Cliffs Provincial Park. Meet at the end of 1st Line EHS. From Hwy. 10, turn east at 25 Sideroad (14 km north of Orangeville), turn right on 1st Line EHS, follow to end. Park on the east side. Careful with ditch. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 9 km. Meet 6:15 pm for a prompt start at 6:30 pm. WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATE ARRIVALS! Bring snowshoes, icers, headlamps. Dress for the weather. Pub Stop. Hike Leaders: Bryan and Carol Foley

February 16, 2020, 10:00 - 13:30: Copeland Forest Snowshoe Hike

Location: Meet at 10:00 am at Food Basics parking lot in Midland or 10:45 am on Ingram Road in the parking lot east of the 4th line of Oro-Medonte (Ingram Road is east off Simcoe County Road 93 north of Craighurst, just south of the Hillsdale exit on Hwy 400). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate. Joint hike with the Midland Ganaraska Hiking Club. Bring lunch, snowshoes. Hike Leader: Frieda Baldwin

February 20, 2020, 09:30 - 14:00: Exploring Boyne Valley West

Location: Boyne Valley. Meet at roadside parking on County Road 19 where the Primrose Side Trail crosses the road (approx 2 km north of Hwy 89). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate. Distance: 8 km. We will explore the Boyne Valley west of County Rd 19. Bring; snowshoes, icers, lunch, an adventurous attitude. Hike Leader: Bryan Foley

February 22, 2020, 09:30 - 13:30: Dufferin Hi-Land Winter Badge, Hike #4 of 4

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 21. Meet on Prince of Wales Rd near Km 46.2, where the Main Trail turns east off the road. From Dufferin Rd 124 15, km north of Shelburne, turn east on Dufferin Road 21. Turn right on Prince of Wales Rd in 4 km. The meeting place is 1 km ahead. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections, Distance: 8 km. In and out snowshoe hike. Bring snowshoes, icers, lunch. Optional pub stop. Hike Leaders: Les Babbage, Helen Bailey

February 29, 2020, 09:00 - 12:00: Hockley Valley - Main & 3 Side Trails

Location: Caledon Hills, Map 18: Meet at BT parking lot at Km 50.8 on east side of 5th Line EHS, just south of Hockley Road. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: Approx 9 km (shorter option of 6 km if deep snow). We will hike a loop consisting of Main Trail, Hockley Heights, Peter Beecham and Griffith Ravine Side Trail. Bring icers, snowshoes, poles. Hike Leaders: Helen Bailey, Lynda Vera

March 1, 2020, 10:00 - 12:00: King - Happy Valley North (Concession 7)

Location: Meet at the dead end of 7th Conc., 2.8 km south of Pottageville from the Lloydtown-Aurora Rd. NOTE: accessed by vehicles coming south on 7th. Conc. only. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 5 km. Loop hike. Bring icers. Leaves sharp at 10:00 am. Hike Leader: David Francis

March 7, 2020, 09:00 - 14:30: Dundas Valley Winter Waterfall Hike

Location: Iroquoia, Map 8. Meet at the upper end of the Ancaster Mill Inn north side parking lot on Old Dundas Road, 75 m past the Ancaster Mill Inn (see online description for driving directions). Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 9 to 13 km depending on weather and trail conditions. Car shuttles. Conservation Area parking fees. Drop out possible after first 9 km. Hike will take in Canterbury, Sherman, Tiffany, Webster's and Tews Falls in their full winter glory. Bring icers, poles, and snowshoes. RSVP to leader via email. Pub stop. Hike Leader: Gilles Gagnon

March 14, 2020, 09:30 - 14:00: Pine River/Kilgore

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20, Km 34.9, roadside parking on Centre Rd (Kilgore), just north of River Road. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely. Distance: 10 km. We will hike a loop consisting of the Main Trail and Kilgore and (new) Melodonna Side Trail. Snowshoes or icers may be required. Hike Leaders: Patricia Foley and Tristan Goguen

March 15, 2020, 11:00- 14:00: Boyne Valley Snowshoe Hike:

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20, Boyne Valley. Meet at roadside parking on County Road 19 where the Primrose Side Trail crosses the road (approx 2 km north of Hwy 89). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Strenuous; Distance: approx 8 km. We will hike 3 to 4 hours depending on conditions. Bring lunch, snowshoes and icers. Pub stop. Register online with hike leader to ensure you get updates if there are changes due to weather. Hike Leader: Cynthia Archer

March 21, 2020, 09:30 - 14:00: Walker's Woods Orienteering Hike

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20, Km 29.4, BT Rock Hill parking lot on 1st Line E, 300 metres south of 10 Sideroad. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: approx 10 km. We will hike the Main Trail and 2nd Line EHS, Oliver Creek, Enchanted Forest and, if conditions are good, Rock Hill Park Side Trails. This is an opportunity to complete the Orienteering Challenge. Grab your GPS, download the coordinates from the website and collect the letters to find the 3 word phrase. Snowshoes or icers may be required. Hike Leaders: Patricia Foley and Tristan Goguen

March 22, 2020, 09:00 - 12:00: Kilgore - Melodonna Side Trails

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20, Km 34.9 - Roadside Parking on Centre Road, 30 metres south of River Road. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 6 km (longer option: 9 km), We will hike Main Trail and Kilgore and Melodonna Side Trails. Icers, snowshoes and poles may be required. Hike Leaders: Helen Bailey & Lynda Vera

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2020, 08:30 – 15:00: QUADZILLA Series (4 hikes) - Pre-Registration Required

Caledon Hills 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 along the Hockley Valley trails. Contact the hike leader to register. No Drop Outs, No Badge, just satisfaction! Hike Leader: Tristan Goguen

April 5, 2020, 10:00 - 12:00: Newmarket - Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve

Location: Nature Reserve parking lot, 500 metres west of Bathurst Street, 400 metres north of Green Lane. Pace: Medium; Terrain: Moderate; Distance: 4 km. Loop hike. Hike Leader: David Francis

It is hard to know when Pauline Lloyd finds the time away from her duties as Membership Director to hike on the trail, but she finished the complete Bruce Trail End-to-End this year.

Congratulations, Pauline!

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 Hike Schedule at https://hikes.brucetrail.org/ecwd_calendar/dufferin_hi-land/

December 10, 2019, 09:30 - 13:30: Scotsdale Farm Loop

Toronto Section, Map 13. Meet at parking on east side of Party City building, Hwy 10 and 4th Ave, Orangeville, at 9:30 am or at Scotsdale Farm parking lot, north-east of Trafalgar Rd, about 1 km north-west of 27 Sideroad, at 10:15 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 8.5 km. We will hike the Main Trail and the Bennett Heritage and Maureen Smith Side Trails.

December 17, 2019, 09:30 - 12:00: Island Lake Loop

Island Lake Conservation Area. Meet at parking on east side of Party City building at Hwy 10 and 4th Ave, Orangeville at 9:30 am. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Easy; Distance: 8.5 km. We will hike the Vicki Barron Lakeside Tr.

January 1, 2020, 13:00 - 16:00: Dufferin Hi-Land Annual New Year's Day Hike

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19. Meet at the Mono Community Centre parking lot, 'on your right as you enter Mono Centre on Mono Centre Rd. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 4.8 or 7.5 km. Family-friendly loop hike. Bring icers and/or snowshoes. Snacks for post hike celebration welcome. Hike Leader: Les Babbage

January 7, 2020, 09:30 - 12:30: Kilgorie-Melodonna Side Trail Loop

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20. Meet at SuperBurger in Primrose (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89). Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 7.5 km. We will hike the Main Trail, Kilgorie Side Trail and the new Melodonna Side Trail loop. Bring snowshoes and/or icers.

January 14, 2020, 09:30 - 12:30: Belfountain - Trimble Side Trail

Location: Caledon Hills, Map 15. Meet at parking on east side of Party City/Winners building (Hwy 10 and 4th Avenue) in Orangeville. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 5.5 km. We will hike the Trimble and Crow's Nest Side Trails. Bring snowshoes and/or icers.

January 21, 2020, 09:30 - 12:00: Boyne Valley - Oliver Creek

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20. Meet at SuperBurger (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89) in Primrose. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 6.0 km. We will hike a loop consisting of the Main Trail and Moss Haven and Oliver Creek Side Trails. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

January 28, 2020, 09:30 - 12:00: Mono Cliffs - Walter Tovell/Lookout Loop

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19. Meet at SuperBurger (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89) in Primrose. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 5.0 km. We will hike a loop consisting of the Walter Tovell and Lookout Side Trails and Main Trail. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

February 4, 2020, 09:30 - 01:30: Nottawasaga Bluffs

Location: Blue Mountains, Map 22. Meet at SuperBurger (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89) in Primrose. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely. Distance: 6-8 km. We will hike loops on the Main and Side Trails in and around Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

February 11, 2020, 09:30 - 12:30 Hockley Valley - Cam Snell Side Trail

Location: Caledon Hills, Map 19. Meet at Mono Community Centre hiker parking just east of Mono Centre Rd (2nd Line EHS) in Mono Centre. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 6.5 km. We will hike Main Trail and Cam Snell Side Trail loop. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

February 18, 2020, 09:30 - 12:30: Black Bank Challenge

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 21. Meet at SuperBurger (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89) in Primrose. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 4.6 km. We will hike the Main Trail from Centre Road to Dufferin Rd 21 and back. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

February 25, 2020, 09:30 - 13:00: Cold Creek Conservation Area

Location: Meet at parking on east side of Party City building (4th Avenue at Hwy 10) in Orangeville. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 8.0 km. We will hike a loop on the Cold Creek CA trails. Bring snowshoes and/or icers.

March 3, 2020, 09:30 - 12:00: Primrose Loop Side Trails

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 20. Meet at Super Burger (intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 89) in Primrose. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely. Distance: 5.5 km. We will hike the side trail loop east of Dufferin Rd 19 and up and back to the intersection with the Main Trail. Bring icers and/or snowshoes.

March 10, 2020, 09:30 - 12:00: Hockley Valley - South Side

Location: Caledon Hills, Map 18. Meet at parking on east side of Party City (4th Avenue and Hwy 10) in Orangeville. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Strenuous, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 5.7 km. We will hike the Main Trail and Hemlock Ridge, Glacier Valley and Griffith Ravine Side Trails between Km 50.4 and Km 55.2. Icers and/or snowshoes may be required.

March 17, 2020, 09:30 - 12:00: Mono Cliffs - McCarston's Lake/Lookout Loop

Location: Dufferin Hi-Land, Map 19. Meet at roadside parking at end of 2nd Line EHS, .8 km north of Mono Centre. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Moderate, slippery sections likely; Distance: 5.5 km. We will hike a loop consisting of the Main Trail and McCarston's Lake, Lookout, Clifftop and Walter Tovell Side Trails. Icers may be required.

March 24, 2020, 09:30 - 11:30: Hockley Valley - Glen Cross/Isabel East

Location: Caledon Hills, Map 18. Meet at Hockley Road parking area on the north side of Hockley Rd, 250 metres east of km 60.1. Pace: Leisurely; Terrain: Strenuous, slippery and steep sections; Distance: 4.1 km. We will car pool to parking on 3rd Line, then hike the Glen Cross and Isabel East Side Trails loop. Icers may be required.

Hike Director Report for December 2019 Newsletter**by Les Babbage**

Wasn't that a great fall hiking season? The leaves turned to brilliant colours and the weather held up through October. Our hikes took advantage of all this fall splendour by following the changes from Algonquin Park, through Blue Mountains, Beaver Valley, Dufferin Hi-Land, Caledon Hills, Toronto and Iroquoia sections before November brought early snow and freezing temperatures.

Speaking of snow, the winter snowshoe season is fast approaching. Once again we will be offering the DH Winter Badge series, two full moon hikes and two daytime hikes. Other hikes to check out include Dufferin traditions, such as the Foley's Walk Off the Turkey hike, the Dufferin Hi-Land New Year's Hike, Bryan Foley's "Exploring..." hikes, Gilles Gagnon's Dundas Valley Winter Waterfall hike and the Tuesday hike version of the Black Bank Challenge. We also have several hikes taking in the new Melodonna Side Trail and our first Orienteering hike. Check out these hikes and many more in this newsletter or in the online Bruce Trail Hike Schedule, where you can view all Dufferin hikes or all hikes of all clubs on one calendar.

And speaking of the online schedule, congratulations to our Webmaster and Board member, Tom Thayer, on winning the Bruce Trail Volunteer of the Year Award. This well-earned award recognized not only Tom's technical wizardry in building such a complex system, but in getting all nine Bruce Trail Clubs on board with the project and customizing the system to fit with the way they manage their hiking program. Well done, Tom!



The Tuesday Hike Group visited Algonquin Park on September 30-October 1 and Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve on October 2. 28 hikers enjoyed the fall colours, interesting trails and two potluck feasts.



Hiking group, led by Frieda Baldwin, posing after completing a four day End-to-End of the Dufferin Hi-Land section. Twelve earned their badges and friendships were made amongst the hills of Mono and Mulmur.



I was just getting ready to settle back and watch an afternoon of football when I received a call from Craig, one of our Trail Captains. His neighbour Mario had just called him to let him know that there was a bear on the trail around km. 24. I figured I better do something, so I made up a couple of signs which I put up at the top of the road and just past where the bear was sighted. I then knocked on Mario's door and he invited me in to show me a video of the bear. I suppose if I'd known this was a full size bear, I might have armed myself with a bat, rather than just masking tape and a stapler. I asked Mario to send me a pic (which I passed on to our Board and webmaster) and to let me know of any more sightings.

I don't know whether this bear was looking for a den to spend the winter, or was the same bear spotted earlier in the north end of Mulmur, but I wasn't going to stick around to find out.

A ribbon of wilderness, indeed.

CT

Driving and Parking in the Dufferin Section in Winter

Anyone living in Dufferin County knows that winter can be pretty severe, and often radically different than what folks experience further south in the GTA. Although most roads are excellently plowed, they often remain snow covered. Snow squalls and blowing snow can also be a problem, causing road closures and unwelcome overnight stays in the Shelburne or Honeywood Arenas.

The parking lot on 3rd Line at Mono Cliffs Park is the only one in the Dufferin section that is plowed, and Mono and Mulmur do not allow roadside parking in the winter. And if one parks on the roadside anyways, be careful that what looks to be a nice wide shoulder is not covering up a nice deep ditch. 15 and 20 Sideroads between 2nd line and Prince of Wales in Mulmur are undriveable any time of year. Centre Road between Whitfield Lane and Kilgorie is not maintained in the winter, nor is Prince of Wales between 15 and 20 SR.

This vehicle below – which made it part way up the steep McNabb Hill on Centre Road before sliding back and ending up perched over the edge of the ravine – became stuck on Nov. 17. CAA refused to drive on this road, and it was eventually pulled out by a tractor Nov. 21. And just in time, too. Heavy rain later that day turned the road to mush and by morning the road was all ice.

CT



Perhaps the greatest gifts our Club receives each year are the handshake agreements with our landowners. Their generosity and support keeps many terrific sections of trail off of the roads, and for that we are grateful.



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Most photos by Carl Tafel except above by Bryan Foley.