

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter

July 2025



President's Comments

As I step off the board this August, I am struck by the remarkable changes our club has experienced over the years.

I joined the Dufferin Hi-Land Board of Directors shortly after moving to Mulmur and discovered how wonderfully social it was being a volunteer with the club. As a 'newbie' to Mulmur, the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club became my introduction to Dufferin society. I am pleased to report that this hasn't changed, and I have met many remarkable new friends over the years. In the early 2000's, the Board meetings were focused on trail maintenance issues, running events, organizing hikes and raising money to fund club activities.


Although the tasks of organizing events and hikes has not declined in importance, the focus of the club has changed. Today we are known as the Bruce Trail Conservancy, a nature conservancy focused on connecting people with a secured and strengthened biodiversity the length of the Niagara Escarpment. This mandate of preserving a 'wilderness corridor for everyone forever' has driven many of the changes we now see at the DHBTC. Today we focus on creating nature reserves such as the one at the Pine River rather than simply 'securing the trail'. Securing nature around us means that we support programs to grow disease resistant trees and plants, remove invasive species and teach our youth about the benefits of these actions for them and future generations.

When we say for 'everyone forever' that means we build resources, both money and skills, to ensure the forever. Also, we recognize the importance of supporting our local communities and sharing our lands and trail experiences with people not used to hiking the woods. This expanded focus is not simply altruistic - it reaches back to the very reason for building a trail. As more people experience the wonder and benefits of the land we wish to protect, they will fall in love with this land and like so many of our members and volunteers work to protect it. It has been my privilege to have been associated with the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club and to witness its' evolution. I feel confident that what we see now is but the beginning.

John Dickason, president



Join us on Thursday Aug 14, 2025 for the Annual General Meeting of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. This event is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow volunteers, gain insights into Board initiatives, and discover the wide array of activities and future plans that the club has in store. You will also get the opportunity to vote for the 2025/2026 Board of Directors. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to the club, we invite you to participate and be a part of shaping our exciting journey ahead!

- Location: 678155 Centre Rd, Mulmur (Location: [Google maps](#)).
- Meeting will be held outdoors (weather permitting).
- Please bring your own lawn chair.
- AGM will start at 5:00 pm with a potluck dinner to follow.
- Bring a favourite dish to share plus your own plate, utensils, mug and beverage of choice.
- Click here to RSVP and sign up for the potluck. 

Note: This event is open to DHBTC members only.

Bruce Trail Day

Music Walk @ Splitrock Narrows

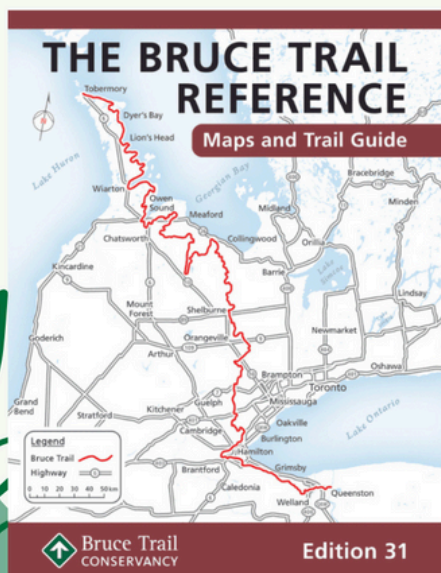
When: Sunday, October 5, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Where: "Split Rock Narrows", 755437 2nd Line EHS, in Mono.

Join us for a music-filled day on one of our most beautiful and serene properties!

Activities suitable for all family members, including bringing in several musical artists who will perform at locations spread along the Trail!



**Guidebook
Giveaways!**

For more information, visit :
dufferinbrucetrailclub.org



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB

The Bruce Indeed Beckons

Many years ago I escaped to 'The Bruce'. I found a veritable sanctuary. An untamed place of cliff-tops, wind and trees with a rich history as mixed as human nature itself. A place nurtured, respected and harvested by Indigenous Peoples. A shoreline so long and dangerous that no map existed until relatively recently. A place where pioneer families tried, often in vain, to make a life for themselves in the wilderness. A huge territory that was denuded of trees in less than 30 years. Our own Bruce Trail follows those old logging roads and visits places along the shore where logs were collected and floated away. A place described brilliantly by W. Sherwood Fox in his 1952 classic "The Bruce Beckons".



Our cultural and environmental sensibilities have evolved since 1952. We now refer to the Peninsula as the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. We now collectively place a much higher value on the preservation and conservation of the natural world, not that individuals like Fox and the famous John Muir did not appreciate these things in years gone by. Fox was an avid amateur naturalist with a special interest in wildflowers. As described by him, Muir spent his formative years in the bush in and around Georgian Bay and had an epiphany on finding his very first Calypso orchid. Muir wrote: "Hunger and weariness vanished, and only after the sun was low in the west I splashed on through the swamp, strong and as exhilarated as if never more to feel mortal care."

Much more recently, 11 intrepid Bruce Trail hikers, led by Iroquoia hiker leader Anne Armstrong, Peninsula hike leader Jeannine Kralt and myself found our very own rare Calypso orchid on the Peninsula in the first week of June. It was so small, delicate, colourful and precious. Over the course of three days we were lucky enough to come across more than 200 orchids! It was like looking for buried treasure – jewels in the wilderness. We were blessed to see the Calypso, Ram's Head Lady's-slippers, Yellow Lady's-slippers, Striped Coralroots, Western/Giant Rattlesnake-plantain, Showy Lady's-slipper, Alaska Rein Orchid, and Tall White Bog Orchid within the good company of appreciative and discerning folks like our very own Biodiversity Committee Chairperson, Liz Jansen. We also discovered the equally rare Nodding Trillium and a host of different ferns. There were snakes, frogs, toads, a stunningly white egret in the sunshine, and more than a dozen Sandhill Cranes cavorting on a hill. It was a great trip to be savoured for years to come.

Stuart Law
DHBTC Hike Director
June 2025



Tales from the Trail



The Dufferin Hi-Land 60th Anniversary End-to-End series of hikes concluded on Sunday, June 8th. A total of 10 hikers completed the main trail along with additional side trails, amounting to 60 kms. Stuart Law along with co-leaders Sue Bate, Helen Bailey, and Kerry Seong, led the hikes. Thank you all for the enjoyable experience!



On a beautiful sunny morning, a group of Dufferin Hi-Landers gathered to celebrate the summer solstice with an indigenous drumming circle and smudging ceremony at the Pine River Nature Reserve.



**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB



Monica Pasquali led hike #7 of 10 to complete the Dufferin Hi-Land section of the Bruce Trail via out-and-back hikes. The group endured sweltering heat as they hiked km 45.3 to km 50.1 and back again to their cars.

Our best wishes to everyone in the group as they have only three more hikes to go to earn their stained-glass fundraiser badge from the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club.



Save the Date

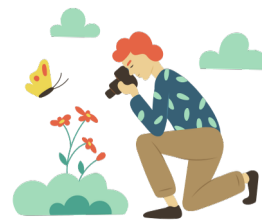
Dufferin Hi-Land BTC 60th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Sunday November 16, 2025

Location: Monora Park Pavilion



Stay tuned for more information and registration details!



Bruce Trail Conservancy Photo Contest

In our latest photo contest, we want to meet your Bruce Trail buds. Show us the triumphant faces of family or friends after a challenging adventure, the group of new pals you made on a guided hike, or your furry familiar who enjoys adventuring on the trail as much as you do.

If you're typically a solo hiker, perhaps your trail friend is your shadow, or the creatures you encounter along the way.

More information here. 

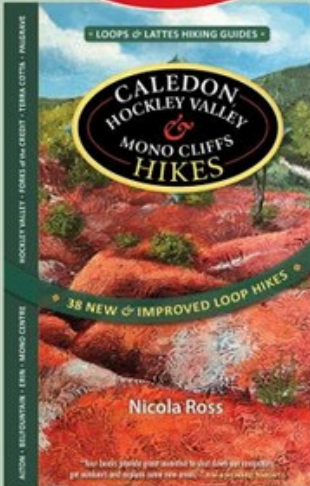


• LOOPS & LATTES HIKING GUIDES •



Satisfy your Hiking Craving

NEW RELEASE
Now Available



It's time for an upgrade Caledon, Hockley Valley & Mono Cliffs Hikes: Loops & Lattes

The newest and 7th installment in the Loops & Lattes Hiking Guide series.

- Brand new loops
- Improved versions of existing hikes
- Updated après hiking suggestions

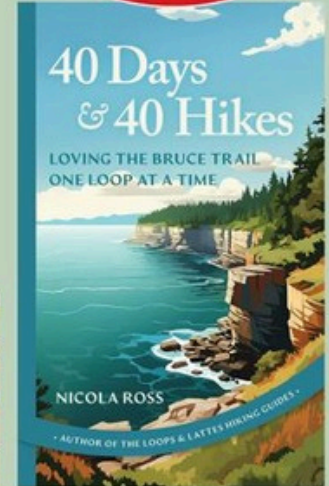
Walk the Bruce Trail your way

40 Days & 40 Hikes: Loving the Bruce Trail One Loop at a Time

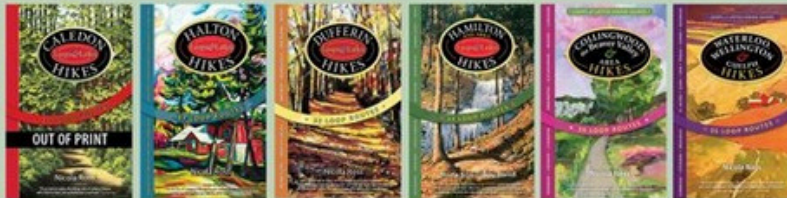
A travelogue in the style of *Wild* and *The Salt Path*, without the drama!

Follow Nicola's journey along her beloved Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory.

NEW RELEASE
Now Available



Over 52,000 Guides Sold



I have walked by this tree for 21 years on the BTC Honeywood Ridge property north of 20 Sideroad in Mulmur, noting its foundation of two trees that 'married' and formed one. A tough old tree to say the least, it only lost a couple of already dead branches in this year's ice storm!!!

Although the left trunk is dead, it remains a key part of the tree's endurance, allowing the right trunk to stay calm and carry on. A testament to the belief that trees have their own history and personality.

The background is the wonderful, rich farmland south of Honeywood.

Carl Alexander
Land Securement, Landowner Relations and Interim Trail Maintenance Coordinator



DO YOU HAVE A FAV TRAIL SNACK?



We are looking for your recipes to compile a booklet of recipes of treats people like to eat on the trail. This booklet, once assembled, will be shared with all the clubs.

EMAIL YOUR RECIPE TO:

brucetrailtreats@gmail.com



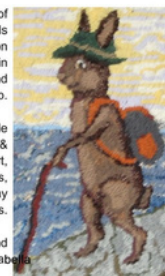
Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY
DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB

experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, to and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isabella and Bill



Phone: 1-709- 334-2208 Fax: 1-709- 334-3601
www.brownrabbit.nl.ca
email: brownrabbitcabins@gmail.com



Celebrate Your Awesome



The Dufferin Hi-Land Club was on hand on Pride Day in Orangeville to honour diversity, pride, and individuality within our community.





JOIN OUR

Leadership Team



We are actively seeking members to join our dynamic Board of Directors. Novel ideas, positive energy, a heart for our mission, and diverse experiences are welcome.



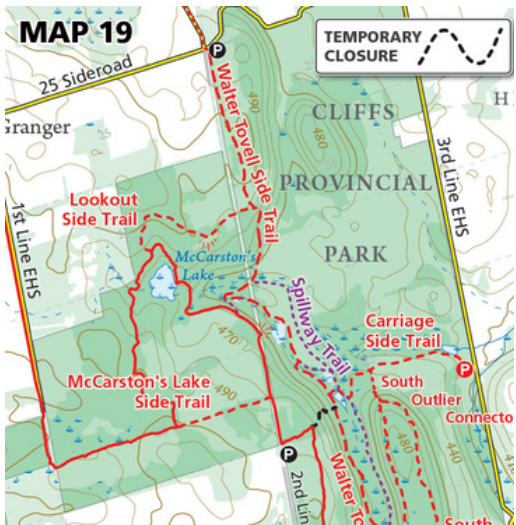
Board Positions Available:

- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Social Media Coordinator

If you are interested in any of these positions, please drop us a line at nominations@dufferinbrucetrailclub.org by July 31. We are eager to hear about your skills and experiences and to meet with you in-person. A complete description of each position can be found here.



Bruce Trail Updates: Changes and Notices



Map 19 – Dufferin Hi-Land –
Carriage Side Trail, Temporary
Closure – LIFTED

UPDATE, Jun. 16, 2025:
This closure has been lifted and
the entire Carriage Side Trail is
now open.

Trail Reroute along 10 Sideroad: back from a busy road into the trees

For decades the Bruce Trail from Rock Hill corner to Whitfield has been on 10 sideroad. Adjacent property owners, Trevor and Denise Downey, in a handshake agreement, were receptive to having the trail re-located away from the traffic among three rows of mature spruce trees. After volunteers Norm Randa and Keith Gunn cleared ice storm debris, we blazed the 600 metre reroute in time to provide welcome shade for summer hikers.

Trail changes and notices can also be found in:

Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine: The maps printed in the magazine are printed at the same scale as the Bruce Trail Reference for easy cutting & pasting.

Bruce Trail App: Trail changes are incorporated in real-time in the app. Remember to open your app when you have access to internet/wifi and it will download the latest available trail data.

Remember: If your map doesn't match what you see on the trail, always follow the Bruce Trail blazes and heed any closure signage.

Calling all Volunteers




We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the Dufferin Hi- Land club and there are lots of jobs to choose from. We currently need volunteers for the following events:

- Bruce Trail Day – October 2025
- 60th Anniversary Celebration – November 2025

More information about volunteering with the Dufferin Hi- Land Bruce Trail club here. 



Featured Badge

As you explore the trails of the Beaver Valley section, why not let your efforts flourish into something even more rewarding? The Mushroom Hunter badge awaits those who discover, photograph, and identify at least 20 different types of fungi found in the area. Let your curiosity—and your badge collection—grow! More information here. 

Visit us on social media
#dufferinhiland

