

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter

June 2026



Summer has settled into the hills, and it shows — the forest is alive with fresh plants, birds, curious insects, and a myriad of wildlife. As you venture out, you will see that the trails have been transformed since early spring. Be sure to take a moment and notice what's changed along the way.

Now that the trees are fully grown and leaves are providing a protective canopy, shade-loving plants have taken over the undergrowth. Ferns are at their peak—watch for huge ostrich ferns, the finer northern holly ferns, and, if you look closely at rocky surfaces, you may uncover a tiny maidenhair spleenwort. Mushrooms are popping up in the cooler, damper parts of the woods, including chanterelles, morels, and chicken of the woods.

Summer wildflowers are in full display— wild geranium, columbine, solomon's seal, dutchman's breeches, and jack-in-the-pulpit. On page 2, you'll find a photo of Dufferin Hi-Land hikers admiring some columbine along the trail. At the beginning of June, our hike director Stuart Law ventured north to the Peninsula section in search of rarer blooms including lady's-slippers, coralroot, and orchids—his story appears on page 4.

June has been a lively month for the Dufferin Hi-Land Club. The Seven River Hike Series began with treks along the Mad, Noisy, and Pine Rivers and will wrap up in July with hikes beside the Nottawasaga and Humber Rivers. The biodiversity group presented its first Environmental Stewardship Award to ODSS student Makenna Olmstead—details are on page 5. In partnership with the Caledon and Blue Mountain Clubs, we supported an unbelievable 200-km running race along the trail. Finally, we joined the Celebrate Your Awesome event, honouring the diversity and individuality of Orangeville—photos are on page 2.

Lorraine Campbell,
Newsletter editor



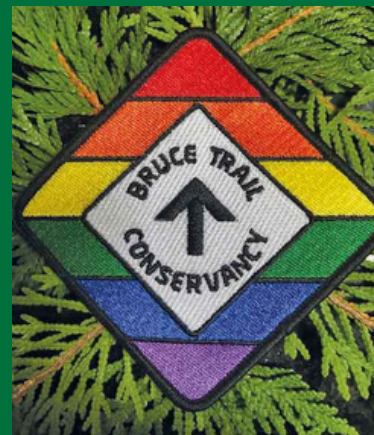


A photo of our hikers standing behind some wonderful Columbine wildflowers on the Bruce Trail between Grimsby and Beamsville. Our club organized a series of hikes to cover all of the Niagara Section on Fridays in May and June.

Celebrate Your Awesome



Dufferin Hi-Land Club was on-hand to help celebrate the vibrant community and honour diversity, pride, and individuality in Orangeville.



BRUCE TRAIL DAY



Sunday October 4th, 10am – 2pm

Splitrock Narrows Nature Reserve, Mono
(25th Sideroad & 2nd Line EHS)

**Explore forests, fields, geological features,
and a biodiversity seed garden**

10:30am &
12:30pm

Children's music circle:
nature songs

Biodiversity hike and
iNaturalist
demonstrations.

Free BBQ

**Listen to musicians perform
throughout the forest**



dufferinbrucetrailclub.org

Facebook: Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club



As the weather warms up on the trail, we start to see a less-welcome sign of summer: ticks. A few simple precautions can help keep you protected. Wear light-colored clothing, long sleeves, and tuck your pants into your socks to make it harder for ticks to reach your skin. Reapply insect repellent as needed during your hike. When you're finished, do a full-body tick check, paying close attention to warm areas like behind your knees and along your waistline. If you spot a tick, remove it immediately.

Enjoy your time on the Trails — just stay tick-aware.

Peninsula Wildflower Hike Series 2026

Every year we are amazed at the coming of Spring and the rebirth of her woodland plants. As much as I love winter and hiking in the winter, seeing delicate wildflowers re-emerge from the leaf litter on forest floor never ceases to amaze me. The eternal question is always: how do they survive the winter? But thank goodness they do.

In the first week of June, as they did last year, 11 intrepid Bruce Trail hikers, led by hike leaders Anne Armstrong of the Iroquoia section, Jeannine Kralt of the Peninsula section and yours truly from the Dufferin Hi-Lands section searched the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula and Flowerpot Island high and low in search of Mother Nature's elusive bounty. Anne and Jeannine provided the flower expertise while I took care of logistical matters. While we didn't see the very rare Calypso orchid this year, we did manage to come across many other of her sibling rarities: Large Yellow Lady-slippers, Ram's Heads, Striped Coralroot, Western Rattlesnake Plantain Orchid, Alaska Rein Orchid, Lesser Rattlesnake Plantain Orchid, Showy Lady-slipper, and Tall White Bog Orchids - enough to qualify the eager party for the Peninsula Club Orchid Adventure Badge. Hikers also thankfully survived close encounters with carnivorous plants like Butterworts, Pitcher Plants and Sundews. The three-day adventure with a great group of people was a lot of fun and a lot of laughs. We learned a lot and return more appreciative of nature than ever. Special thanks to Anne and Jeannine.

Stuart Law
DHBTC Hike Director
June 2026



Biodiversity

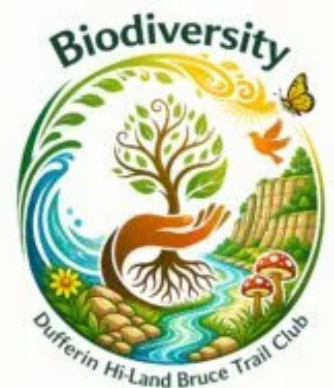
Over the past two years, Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club's Biodiversity Committee has had the distinct pleasure of working with Kurtis McMurray, Head of Canadian & World Studies at Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) to bring students to Bruce Trail sites so they could participate in ecological restoration projects. Earlier this year, when Kurt asked if DHBTC would consider sponsoring an Environmental Stewardship Award, the Board responded with a resounding, "Yes!" As of 2026, this \$500 Environmental Stewardship Award is presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in fostering environmental sustainability in their school and local community. ODSS looked for a student who met these criteria and demonstrated leadership by regularly participating and helping to plan environmental initiatives in both their school and community.

This inaugural award goes to Makenna Olmstead.

Makenna's interest in the natural world began at a young age when she spent much time camping and hiking the Bruce Trail. Kurt McMurray says that Makenna was a star in the Geography program, achieving high grades in all courses. She particularly enjoyed ODSS's Greenhouse class where she got practical experience with sustainable agriculture and environmental science. Since her Grade Ten year, Makenna demonstrated her commitment to making ODSS more sustainable and played a key role in the GAEA Club (Green Association for Environmental Activism). The past two years she has been a leader in GAEA Club helping to plan wetland clean ups, schoolyard clean ups, Earth Week activities, and school clothing swaps. Through GAEA she has also played a key role in creating ODSS's Waste Sorting Stations, GOOS (Good On One Side i.e., reusing paper printed on one side) Paper Holders (she even drew the design!), and our Monarch Butterfly Gardens.

Makenna has participated in several ODSS trips to the Bruce Trail to help with ecological restoration.

This September, Makenna begins Environmental Science studies at the University of Guelph, majoring in Wildlife Biology and Conservation. Coincidentally, this is the program where BTC Ecologist Mara McHaffie, who led a restoration project Makenna participated in last month, began her academic studies. We wish Makenna all the best as she begins this exciting new venture.



Local Happenings

- July 18 - Creemore Horticultural Society Summer Flower and Vegetable Show
- July 10 - Creemore Firefighter's Association Movie Night in the Park
- July 12 - Collingwood Music Festival Symphony Under the Stars
- July 1 - Museum of Dufferin free admission on Canada Day
- July 12 - Shelburne Fiddle Park Concert Series
- July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations at Greenwood Park

Bruce Trail News

- Bruce Trail Conservancy to demolish former Talisman Mountain Resort buildings and rewild 134 acres, launching \$7.5 million fundraising campaign
- Bruce Trail Conservancy Seed Orchard Project receives Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award in Conservation
- Bruce Trail Conservancy and nine Bruce Trail Clubs become Rainbow Registered



DCCBA | **↑** **DUFFERIN HIGHLAND BRUCE TRAIL CLUB**
Dufferin County Canadian Black Association | EXPLORE • ENJOY • PROTECT

Annual HIKE

NOURISH YOUR MIND, BODY & SOUL

Join the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) and the Dufferin Highland Bruce Trail Club for a refreshing hike in nature, community and connection.

DATE: SATURDAY JULY 18TH, 2026 10:00 AM

LOCATION: SPLIT ROCK NARROWS NATURE RESERVE

WHAT TO BRING:

- Good sturdy running shoes or sneakers
- Comfortable clothing
- Water bottle (preferably re-used)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

LOCATION DETAILS:

- Split Rock Narrows Nature Reserve 755437 2nd Line EHS, Mono, ON
- GPS: 44.074791, -80.084200
- Google Maps: 3WF8+XC Shelburne Ontario

Let's hike together!

STEP INTO NATURE. CONNECT WITH OTHERS. CREATE LASTING MEMORIES.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Secure your spot today!
We look forward to hiking with you!



Update: American Chestnut Saplings in DHBTC

We're thrilled to report that after twenty-one months, more than two-thirds of the American Chestnut saplings planted on the Russel property are surviving. On June 6th, a group of Biodiversity volunteers, under the guidance of Mara McHaffie, BTC Ecologist and Land Stewardship Coordinator, met to monitor, replace tree guards, and mulch around the trunks of these still-vulnerable young trees. This is but one Biodiversity project designed to restore native habitat and bolster the local ecosystem. Thank you to the volunteers who help to make this happen! Find out more here. 



Scarlet Paintbrushes



Striped Coralroot



Fringed Polygala

Dufferin Hi-Land Volunteer Service Awards

The Dufferin Bruce Trail has been shaped by the dedication, passion, and commitment of our volunteers. Whether it is leading hikes, clearing brush, maintaining signage, organizing events or supporting hikers, our volunteers ensure that the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club remains a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever.

Chances are you know a person who has devoted their skills to the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. Someone who shows up early, stays late, and strengthens our club through their reliability, enthusiasm, and dedication.

Now is the time to celebrate the contributions of our volunteers.

We are pleased to announce that nominations are open for two important volunteer awards:

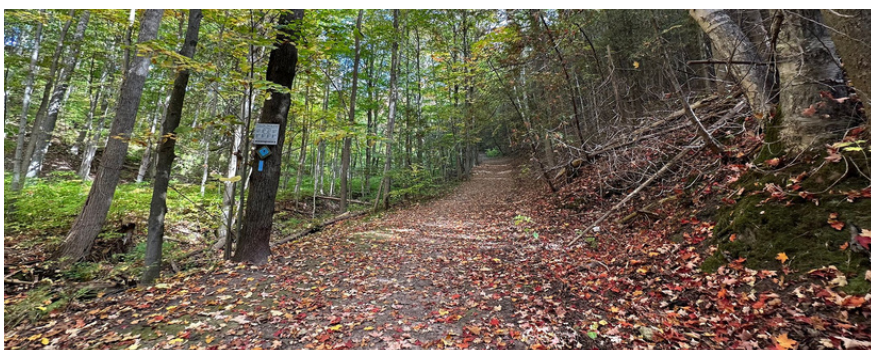
Ted Klich Award — In memory of Ted's exceptional tenure as Club President, this award recognizes an individual whose exceptional service and dedication over time has had a significant impact on the mission and success of the Club.

Norm Wingrove Award — In memory of Norm's fifty years of exemplary volunteer service, this 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. Find out more about how to nominate a volunteer [here](#).



Dufferin Hi-Lands Boyne Valley 25K Challenge Hike

Challenge yourself, your family, friends or anyone, to complete the one-day 25 km hike through the spectacularly serene yet invigorating fields and forests of the Boyne River Valley section of Dufferin Hi-Land. All participants who complete the hike will be awarded our coveted badge! Find out more [here](#).





2026 Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Mono Community Centre

754483 Mono Centre Rd, Mono, ON L9W 5W9

Agenda and pre-event guided walk information coming soon

Attendance is open to all. Voting is limited to
Dufferin Hi-land BTC members.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB

Mulmur turns 175

Join us to celebrate Mulmur's 175 celebration with an End-to-End Challenge through the hills.

This 41.1 km journey follows the Dufferin Hi-Land section of the Bruce Trail, guiding hikers from Primrose to Lavender through some of Mulmur's most scenic and storied landscapes. From rolling hills and hardwood forests to quiet country roads and escarpment views, the route reflects the deep connection between people and place that defines Mulmur. This challenge can be completed in sections or end-to-end. It's your journey to experience at your own pace, whether you're hiking solo, with friends, or as a family.

For a complete listing of Mulmur 175 events click  here.

175 MULMUR live with joy	
UPCOMING EVENTS	
JULY	5th: North Dufferin Baseball League Allstar Game @ Mansfield Community Park
AUG	23rd: Authors in the Hills of Mulmur @ Foley Barn
SEPT	26th: Mulmur 175 Celebration BBQ @ Township Office
OCT	17th: Hops in the Hills @ Mansfield Outdoor Centre
NOV	Christmas in Rosemont @ Rosemont General Store
DEC	Christmas in Rosemont @ Rosemont General Store
ADD YOUR EVENT TO THE LIST! EMAIL INFO@MULMUR.CA	

Calling all Volunteers



Do you love staying connected with friends, colleagues, and your community through social media? Is creating Instagram, Facebook, or YouTube content something that energizes you? If so, the Dufferin Hi-Land Club would love to have you on our social media team.

We're looking for volunteers who can help showcase our hikes, special events, and biodiversity projects — all essential parts of keeping our club thriving.

If you're interested in contributing your creativity and skills, please click here. 



Join us for a Hike!

Visit us on social media:
#dufferinhiland