

Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club Newsletter



October was a vibrant and activity-filled month for the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. We started things off on October 5 with a Bruce Trail Day celebration, featuring a scenic hike through Splitrock Narrows, enhanced by live performances from local musicians. With perfect weather on our side, the event was a tremendous success—be sure to check out the photos on page 3! Later in the month, on October 18, our most adventurous members took on the 25k Boyne Valley Challenge Hike. Thanks to another day of ideal conditions, the determined hikers completed the trek and proudly earned their badges. Wrapping up the month, the Biodiversity Committee hosted a ‘pull-party’ on October 25 to remove the invasive species, common buckthorn from the Splitrock Narrows property.



November is shaping up to be another great month for the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club, packed with lots of hikes and special events to enjoy. The Geohike Series will continue with adventures to Mono Cliffs and Lavender Hill, while the ever-popular Tuesday hiking group will explore Noisy River Provincial Nature Reserve, Rock Hill, and Riverside Woods Nature Reserve. For a full list of hikes, see page 2.

We’re also thrilled to mark our 60th Anniversary this year with a Volunteer and Landowner Appreciation Lunch. This celebratory event will take place on November 16 at the Menora Park Pavilion, featuring a catered meal and a silent auction. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit our website.



Lorraine Campbell, editor



November Hikes

November 1

F & G Hills 3

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 15 km

November 2

Toronto End-to-End in Four - Scotsdale Farm to Terra Cotta

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 14 km

November 2

GeoHikes #3: Mono Cliffs Provincial Park

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 7 km

November 4

Noisy River Provincial Nature Reserve

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 6.6 km

November 11

Rock Hill/Oliver Creek Loops

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 8.4 km

November 15

GeoHike Series #4: Lavender Hill

- Pace - Brisk
- Distance - 7 km

November 18

Walter Tovell, Main Trail; McCarston Lake Side Trail; Lookout Side Trail

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 7 km

November 22


Dundas Valley November Ramble

- Pace - Medium
- Distance - 20 km

November 25

Riverside Woods Nature Reserve

- Pace - Leisurely
- Distance - 4.5 km

Hikes are led by experienced leaders from the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. You must pre-register. Check the website for more information about dates, times and meeting locations. 

Bruce Trail Day

🌿 On October 5, the Dufferin Hi-Land Club celebrated Bruce Trail Day with a musical hike at Splitrock Narrows—and it was a fantastic success! With perfect weather and stunning scenery, 147 hikers joined us to explore the trails and enjoy performances by talented local musicians.

🌿 The day was packed with activities for all ages including:

- Informative displays from the Biodiversity Committee
- Delicious food and refreshments
- A treasure hunt designed especially for children
- A hands-on birdhouse-building station that sparked creativity and fun

🌿 Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make the day so memorable. We're already looking forward to next year's celebration!



Geology Hikes

Until you get to the top of the Niagara Escarpment in the Dufferin Hi-Land area, there are not many rocks to check out. Or at least not many rocks that are in their original location. Walking on the Trail, there are many places where you step over or around boulders, but these may have come long distances from their 'home'. In fact, many of the black, white and pink boulders are from areas north of Parry Sound.

Glacial advances occurring more than 10,000 years ago brought these precambrian rocks from the north to the peaks and valleys of the Mulmur Hills. Most of the glacial formations we trudge up are moraines with some examples of kames. Our GeoHike of October 4th visited Murphy's Pinnacle, just one example of a kame deposit in our area.

Upcoming GeoHikes will include a trip to Splitrock to see crinoid fossils and crevices, then onto Mono Cliffs for the views and to learn how the outliers were formed, finishing up in Lavender where we will check out more crevices and the large erratic boulders on the trail.



Biodiversity

Not even fog could dampen the spirits of ODSS students on their visit to Splitrock Narrows on September 24.

In the morning, two classes of Gr. 9 Science students hiked the trails on a guided educational walk, identifying tree and plant species, learning why maintaining a diverse native biota is so significant, and how they can help with conservation.

In the afternoon, GAEA (Green Association for Environmental Activists) Club members pitched in to nurture, mulch, and monitor tree seedlings planted last spring in our evolving Seed Orchard.

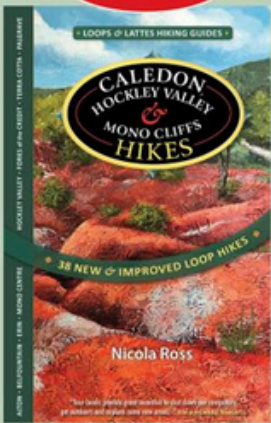
A perfect example of our Biodiversity Committee's connections in the local community.

You can find out more about the Dufferin Hi-Land Biodiversity activities here. 



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

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- Improved versions of existing hikes
- Updated après hiking suggestions

Nicola Ross

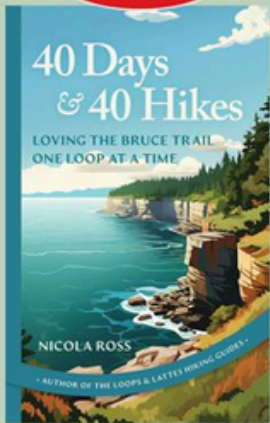
It's time for an upgrade

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

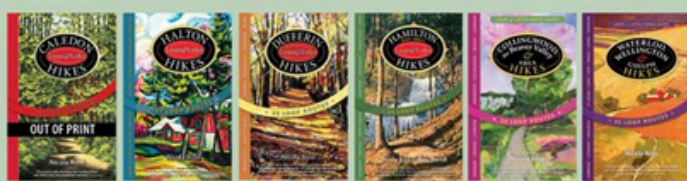
A travelogue in the style of *Wild* and *The Salt Path*, without the drama!

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

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Opening of Pine River Nature Reserve Parking Lot



October 1 marked the official opening of the latest of 5 parking lots built by the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail. This lot is located at the corner of 15 Sideroad and Prince of Wales near Kilgorie. With support from neighbours nearby, the lot gives safe access to a network of trails in Pine River Nature Reserve.

The Pine River Nature Reserve is the culmination of years of collaboration between local landowners, particularly the Van Nostrand families and club volunteer, Carl Alexander. Due to excellent forest management of the Van Nostrand families, the lot area was already flat, cleared and surrounded by beautiful mature maple trees. This made for a perfect ribbon-cutting day with sunshine and full fall colours. The opening was attended by nearby landowners, eager hikers and Bruce Trail supporters, all keen to celebrate the treasure the Bruce Trail brings to our community.

Jack Morgan Award

Carl Alexander is the first recipient of the Jack Morgan Award, presented by volunteer coordinator Rhiannon Carruthers. Morgan, a long-serving volunteer for the BTC, was known for his dedication and hard work securing landowner agreements on the Bruce Trail. The award recognizes Alexander's contributions to securing land to grow the trail system.





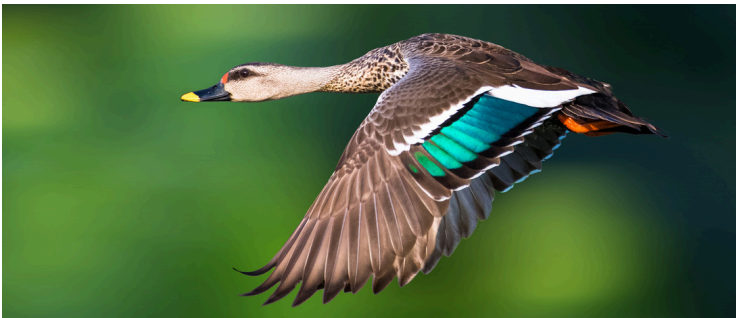
The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is thrilled to announce that the non-profit reporting organization Charity Intelligence has named the BTC one of Canada's Top 100 Charities for 2025. The BTC has once again been awarded a five-star rating in recognition of continued use of best practices in financial transparency, a high ratio of donor impact per dollar, and good governance. The commendation also includes an A reporting grade for producing high-quality communications and accountable public reporting. The BTC has been featured on the Charity Intelligence list of Canada's Top 100 Charities since 2018 and is honoured to be recognized once again as one of the country's most trusted environmental non-profits.

The BTC is one of Ontario's largest land trusts and the only one working to protect and restore the sensitive ecosystems along the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere while providing free public access to more than 1,300 km of world-class footpaths via the iconic Bruce Trail. Critical to our success is the work of dedicated staff and volunteers, the support of generous donors and landowners, the collaboration of allied organizations and the governance of our Board of Directors. Together with our community, we will continue working toward fulfilling our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

To learn more about the impact of the BTC's recent land securement, restoration, and community-building work, read our 2024-2025 Annual Impact Report or visit our website at brucetrail.org.

To visit the BTC's Charity Intelligence profile click here. 

To read the full list of Canada's Top 100 Charities of 2025 by Charity Intelligence click here. 



Tales from the Trail



The Tuesday hiking group setting off for an adventure in Humber Valley.



Dufferin Hi-Landers visited the “Hole in the Wall” at Limehouse Conservation Area in both September and again in October. This remarkable location features a stunning network of narrow crevices carved into the escarpment rock. These ancient geological formations, sculpted by glaciers thousands of years ago, continue to fascinate hikers today.

Volunteer Spotlight

Cathy Hughes

Cathy has been an active member of the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club since 2020. She resides in Barrie and recently retired from her role as a professor at Seneca College. With a strong foundation in environmental biology and a lifelong passion for conservation, Cathy quickly found her ideal niche within the club's biodiversity committee.

Drawing on her teaching experience, Cathy has focused her efforts on engaging youth. She takes great joy in leading biodiversity activities for high school students and scout groups, such as tree planting, invasive species removal, and contributing to the seed orchard. Witnessing young people form meaningful connections with nature and develop a sense of environmental stewardship is deeply fulfilling for her.

Cathy is a firm believer in the restorative power of nature. Since many biodiversity initiatives involve hiking to remote work sites, she recently completed the hike leader training program. This certification allows her to guide hikes independently and adds flexibility to the committee's programming.


In addition to her volunteer work, Cathy is pursuing a personal goal: an end-to-end hike of the Bruce Trail. She began this journey in 2018 and is aiming to complete it next year.



Bruce Trail Annual General Meeting



Bruce Trail Conservancy Members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Join us to mark another year of exciting progress toward our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place virtually with real-time voting, updates from Bruce Trail Clubs, a Q&A period, and our 2025 Volunteer Awards presentation. More information available here. 

25km Challenge Hike



On October 18, a spirited group of hikers gathered for a 25-kilometer journey through the Boyne Valley. The weather was crisp and clear—perfect conditions for a full-day trek. At the end of the trail, volunteers were on-hand to offer hikers refreshments and present them with a well-earned Boyne Valley Challenge badge.





**Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY**

DUFFERIN HI-LAND CLUB

SAVE THE DATE 60TH CLUB ANNIVERSARY APPRECIATION LUNCH

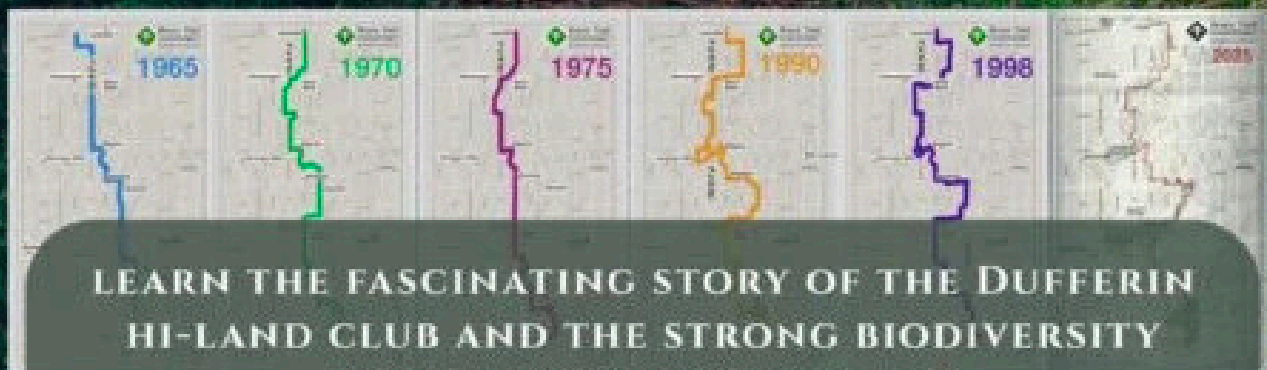
CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS, LANDOWNERS,
AND GENEROUS COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025
12 PM - 5 PM**

MONORA PARK PAVILION - 500 MONORA PARK RD.
MONO, ON L9W 6S3

\$20 REGISTRATION BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

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FOR MORE DETAILS



LEARN THE FASCINATING STORY OF THE DUFFERIN
HI-LAND CLUB AND THE STRONG BIODIVERSITY
THAT SHAPES EVERY SEASON



The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club is currently seeking a treasurer for the Board of Directors. Responsibilities of the position include:

- Communicate with the Bruce Trail Conservancy accounting office the nature of all receipts received and disbursements.
- Review the Quick Book accounting records produced by the BTC accounting office for accuracy and prepare a Treasurer’s report highlighting large receipts and disbursements to present to the Board.
- Make all cash deposits, including monies received from the sale of DHBTC products. Control the disbursements of all funds of the DHBTC, including expense reports and miscellaneous operating expenses.
- Maintain the cash box float used for sales at DHBTC events.
- Circulate, report and present the financial statement at the AGM.

For more information please contact: nominations@brucetrailclub.org

Curious about the Arctic?

Adventure Canada and the Bruce Trail Conservancy are bringing the spirit of the North to our doors—with northern flavours, vibrant art, expedition gear to explore, stories from a special guest who calls the Arctic home, music, and stunning footage from Adventure Canada’s journeys to the iceberg-laden coasts of Greenland.

Think of it as your chance to step into the adventure—without leaving Ontario.

- November 8, 2025
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- Bruce Trail Conservancy headquarters




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