

The Rattler



ISSUE #3 2013

President's Message

Did you know that approximately one quarter of The Bruce Trail is hosted on private land, courtesy of approximately 900 landowners.

Often, when out on our trails – with a work party or just out for a hike, I take the opportunity to strike up a conversation with passing hikers. It's fair to say that you meet all kinds of people – fellow club members, people new to the Bruce Trail (perhaps not sure where they're going), and occasionally, landowners. When thanked for their generosity, invariably these folks modestly declaim that it's "no big deal" to have the trail cross their property.

To us it is a VERY big deal. Landowners provide access to key connecting corridors (keeping the trail off-road) as well as to the scenic features of their properties on the strength of literally a handshake agreement. No fee is paid, and there is no written agreement. Some may do this out of consideration for the community while others may share our core Conservation values.

See inside for Ross's article on one such landowning couple - David & Nancy Pease. We will profile others in future issues of the Rattler. Also inside are several other articles in tribute to our landowners.

Please, when you see a BTC "Entering Private Property" sign, be especially mindful of the Trail User's Code and respect the trust the landowner has shown in us. If you get a chance to do so, thank the landowners for hosting our trail.



Shoreline Warming - acrylic by Kristina Maus

Your PBTC board will meet in early December to make plans for 2014. Programs include Trail Development & Maintenance, Land Stewardship, Hiking, and outreach to our landowners, members and the community. There are vacancies on your board. If you are interested please contact Don McIlraith (nominations chair) or myself. Finally, congratulations to BTC volunteer of the year – our very own Jane Greenhouse!

Enjoy the winter and Happy Holidays.

John Whitworth, November 2013

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:
"March 7, 2014"

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1/2 page:	\$80	\$225
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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: www.pbtc.ca

PBTC HIKE AND DRAWS

September 23rd and October 28th

Some like to draw; some like to hike at a leisurely pace. If you enjoy both and can spare the day, come for a Hike and Draw next season with myself, Kristina Maus, and fellow artist, Julie Heinrichs.

The two hikes that we ran this fall, Rush Cove/Pease Side Trail and Lion's Head/McKay's Harbour, were both about eight km long on moderate to strenuous terrain and included two stops for sketching/eating along the way. We left at nine and were back by four. No previous experience with drawing was required, just a willingness to put pen or pencil to paper. Although formal instruction was not provided, some starters were suggested and all drawing efforts supported and validated.

This type of activity is less about end product and more about the skills one develops through careful observation. It is also about the joy of sitting quietly, sinking into the beauty that is the escarpment and the Bruce Trail, listening to the sounds and taking a bit of that home in your drawing and your memory. I found it very congenial, sitting in the forest or on the escarpment edge with a group of people, sketching, observing. It was great fun as you can see from the photos participants enjoyed themselves and we had two fabulous days out! Thanks to all who were able to join us. Great to spend time with you on the Trail!

Keep looking, keep drawing and keep hiking!

I hope to see you again next year at the Hike and Draws!

Kristina Maus



*Photos:
above: Kristina Maus*

left: Donna Baker, Kris Matheson, Barb Neufeld, Wendy Rodgers, Julie Heinrichs



BTC Named as a Top Canadian Environmental Charity

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) ranks amongst leading Canadian conservation groups in a pioneering new environmental charities study.

HAMILTON, August 21, 2013

A comprehensive new study examines the Canadian environmental charitable landscape and provides detailed comparisons of charities large and small. It also sheds light on why these environmental charities are of critical importance. The report reveals that, "Canada as a whole lags behind other countries in key areas. Only 12% of Canada's land surface is protected, ranking 16th out of 30 OECD countries. In comparison, the United States protects 24% of its land."

The report reviews the work of 32 charities across Canada, and names seven "Top Pick" organizations: Bruce Trail Conservancy, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ecotrust Canada, Nature Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and Wildlife Preservation Canada.

The report hopes to serve as a compass for donors. "Canadians are inundated by charities asking for money. It's time consuming and often difficult to look beyond the heart-tugging photos and stories, to get the facts about what charities actually do," said Kate Bahen, Managing Director, Charity Intelligence. "CI's environmental report provides an independent analysis on the state of Canada's most pressing environmental issues and identifies the charities that are working most effectively to

make a difference. It challenges Canadians to look beyond the surface, get the facts about what charities do, how they spend donor money, and the results they achieve."

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) has been in existence for over 50 years. Its mission is to create a conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. BTC Executive Director Beth Gillespy adds, "We strongly endorse the findings of Charity Intelligence's report and are pleased to be included alongside top national charities. At the BTC we are committed to preserving and conserving the Niagara Escarpment for this generation and the ones that follow. Our organization is lean and our accomplishments are a result of the continued commitment of our 1,300 volunteers, 8,800 members and thousands of donors. We are a success because each year our donors and supporters enable us to secure more land and collectively move our conservation mission forward."

The full report, Environmental Charities in Canada, by John Grandy, is available from the Charity Intelligence website at:

www.charityintelligence.ca/images/environmental_charities_in_canada.pdf

* * * * *



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Hiker's Tale

The Lillies

The Lillies left their mailbox on the Britain Lake Road, and a delightful tradition has begun of hikers leaving notes. (They are collected periodically by Peninsula executive members and mailed to John and Sue.) What follows is a short collection of the past summer's writings:

- "What a view! Thanks for sharing." (from London, ON)
- "Thanks for your generosity" (from Cargill, ON).
- "Thank you for opening up your land for the public to enjoy!" (from Toronto, ON)
- "Muchas Gracias! Thanks a lot for that amazing trail" (from Barcelona, Spain)
- "Thank you for the sign @ lookout. It made me cry. This place is magical. Thanks" (no name)
- "You're right, it is a magical place" (from London, ON.)
- "Dear Lillies – Just had a lovely hike along the trail, perfect weather, thanks" (from Halton, ON)
- "I am a child of the Bruce in spirit since 1970 – one of 'the Michiganders'. ... With greatest appreciation." (Note: The Michiganders owned the property to the north and several years ago sold it to the BTC as well as giving us a considerable donation. Also included in the note was a phone number and email address inviting John and Sue to visit "For tea and sharing love of this place.")

Landowners have so little opportunity to hear the thanks of the many hikers who treasure the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Bruce. These notes could be extended to hundred of other generous landowners along the entire Trail. If you as a hiker ever meet a landowner, please take a moment to extend your appreciation and to give your thanks. If we can build on this spirit, more and more landowners may invite us to hike on their land and to share its magical qualities.

Ross McLean

THANK-YOU TO A LANDOWNER

In 2012, John and Sue Lillie completed the donation of their land just north of the Devil's Monument to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. For close to forty years it had been their retreat into a utopian natural world.

Their first introduction to the Bruce Trail occurred when Chris Walker while building trail on the property to the south by mistake trespassed on their land (it was the days before GPS!) John's response however was very polite and the Lillies allowed the Trail to remain there.

Over the years John and Sue came to know many of the Peninsula members, often joining us on work parties or holiday adventures. For example, for some four winters they traveled to Saba with volunteers from the PBTC for a work project on the trails of this paradisaal island. Frequently they would

arrange holiday time in the Bruce with friends; I remember once spending a winter week with them at Chris Walker's place north of Lion's Head where we were storm-bound for most of the seven days. I remember John and Sue remarking that many of their closest friends were Peninsula club volunteers. Several years ago they retired to Colorado, especially to be close to family. They decided to donate their property to the Conservancy to preserve its beauty in perpetuity while allowing access to the Trail. The plaque on the property tells much about their character and motivation. (Most plaques are simply objective wording of the date and donors' names.) John and Sue wrote the inscription themselves, and many of us who have read it have been touched by its warmth and sensitivity:

Trail Friends,
These cliffs, rocky shoreline and forests, and the creatures
and plants that inhabit them have delighted our family for decades.
Enjoy, share and protect this magical place.

Ross McLean



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Having Fun 'Til it Yurts!

Yurts aren't just for nomadic Mongolians any more. These tent-like, insulated camping structures are catching on in a big way here in Ontario at the provincial parks. Eleven parks, including Algonquin, Bon Echo, Killarney, Pinery and Quetico, now offer this type of roofed accommodation. I had the opportunity in late January 2013 to check it out first hand by spending the weekend in a yurt at MacGregor Point with my sister, Susan Allen, and a group of her hiking buddies.



Here's how the weekend unfolded:

Friday afternoon – leave town. 1" of snow on ground in Kitchener. Drive north toward Port Elgin. More snow. Much more snow. Arrive at MacGregor Point to 2' of snow. Absolutely beautiful, fairy tale, postcard snow blanketing everything.

Friday night – meet the group and move into my yurt. Realize that we were lucky to get a booking. 17 yurts in the park and all sold out. Quick inventory of the tent. Eight-sided, 16' diameter, double walled construction on a wooden deck. Outside wall is thick plastic, inside wall is heavy quilting. Two large windows behind quilted flaps. Open the flaps to let in daylight and instantly lose the heat provided by the wall-mounted heater that is pumping out warm air full-force. The yurt sleeps 6 in two sets of bunk beds. There is a patio table and 4 stacking chairs. No space to fit any more chairs. One tall shelf and an overhead fluorescent light. It is functional and far from luxurious. We've brought area rugs and strands of coloured lights to make it homier. Each site also has a kitchen shelter with a picnic table and propane barbeque with a side burner. Comfort stations are heated and brightly light. Hooray!

Late night – hmm - 5 people trying to sleep in a room smaller than my kitchen = restless night.

First thing Saturday morning – figure out what was making that skritchng noise at the side of the yurt in the night. Sink up to our knees in the snow as we follow the tracks of smallish prints with a waddling stride and an imprint like a furrow from a belly or tail being dragged. The trail leads down into a hole that had been cleared out right beside the yurt base. We put the clues together and figure our night visitor was a skunk.

Breakfast is cooked on the barbeque while the water for coffee boils on the side burner. Wash up is done quickly at the picnic table before the washwater can turn cold. Sleeves of my parka are pushed up to the elbows. Drying needs to be done even quicker as ice crystals form on the still wet dishes before they can be dried off.

Mid-morning – Sue and I click into our cross-country skis and head out on the Deer Run Trail. This is a 3.7 km track set loop trail over level, easy-going terrain. Weather sure does change fast. Started out windless then morphed into near-blizzard. Back at yurt, track snow in all over the floor and hang wet jacket, gloves, hats over every surface to dry.

Mid-afternoon – snow-shoe time. Conditions are beyond perfect and the entire park is accessible. We make our way over to the shoreline of Lake Huron and tramp over boardwalks, past interpretive signs, along the beach, out on the frozen edge as close as comfortable to the open water, all the while watching the play of light on our surroundings as the skies start to clear.

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. – nine people cozied into our yurt for happy hour. And somehow we all fit comfortably.

Mid-evening – go for the best skate ever! One of the summer-use campground roads has been converted into a 400m long looped skating trail. Flood lights have been strung up along the perimeter providing the prettiest glow as you glide through the woods. Positively magical. There's even a hut with benches and heated by a wood-stove, for lacing up your skates in comfort.

Late evening – Dinner with my roomies and crash out.

Sunday – more snow, more food, more snow-shoeing, more camaraderie. Conclude that the yurt is just the means to an end. It's just a place to change your clothes (and hang them to dry) and to sleep. The real reason for coming to MacGregor Point in winter is to be outside enjoying all that nature has to offer.

By Janet Ozaruk K-W Field Naturalists

Come and see what Yurt Camping at MacGregor Provincial Park is all about!

You are welcome to drop in at MacGregor Provincial Park near Port Elgin on the afternoon of Saturday, January 25th, 2014, when several yurts will have Bruce Trail members yurt camping. If the snow and temperatures permit, we will be snow shoeing, cross country skiing, skating on the oval or hiking.

Please bring your own lunch and drinks and be prepared to pay for a parking and day use fee to enter the park.

For costs and information go online www.ontarioparks.com/park/macgregorpoint.



Peninsula Bruce Trail Club – WINTER HIKES – 2014

Jones Bluff

Saturday, January 11, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

Map 36 – roadside parking at Point 23.5

This hike covers varied terrain with no strenuous surprises. We will go approximately 7 km at a moderate pace. We will be able to enjoy great views of Cape Croker and Sydney Bay.

For those travelling from the Wiarton area, come north on County Road 9 to Purple Valley Road. Turn right onto Purple Valley Road and follow it to McIver Road. Come along to Boundary Road and there will be roadside parking at Jones Bluff.

For those travelling from the north, come south on County Road 9 to Waugh Road. Turn left onto Waugh Road, then onto Purple Valley Road to McIver Road where you will turn left and follow to Boundary Road and the roadside parking.

Please be sure to bring plenty of water, a snack, and lunch. Should there be enough snow, we will snowshoe this hike.

Contact: Nancy Ince at 519-793-6550 or nanbar.ince@amtelecom.net

Forty Hills Side Trail

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

Map 38 – Richardson Access Trail in parking lot at Point 86.2

We will be hiking approximately 9 km through forest and fields at a moderate pace.

To reach the meeting point, travel through Lion's Head north on Main Street through town and come up Isthmus Bay Road. At the north end of Isthmus Bay Road, the road will swing left to become Forty Hills Road. About ½ km along, the road will swing to the right and parking lot is on your right just past this curve.

Please be sure to bring plenty of water, a snack, and lunch. Should there be enough snow, we will snowshoe this hike.

Contact: Nancy Ince at 519-793-6550 or nanbar.ince@amtelecom.net

Cape Chin South–Pat Daunt Side Trail

Saturday, March 15, 2014–10:00 a.m.

Map 39 – Cape Chin Road South at Point 98.

This hike will take us through a varied terrain with a chance to enjoy easy forest walking with a short uphill climb followed by more forest. We will make our way out to the Escarpment edge with beautiful views of Georgian Bay and Cape Chin. We will be going approximately 10 km.

Our meeting point is right on Cape Chin Road South. Travel on Highway 6 to Lindsay Road 5 where you will turn East. Come along Lindsay Road 5 to the stop sign. Turn left onto East Road. You will pass through Cape Chin and past St. Margaret's Chapel. Cape Chin Road South runs off East Road to the right. Follow Cape Chin Road South as it winds its way around several curves and past farm fields. At the bottom of the hill and on a curve in the road is the roadside parking. If you continue past this point, you will arrive at a stop sign at Carter Road. You are then about ¼ km past the parking area we will be using. Please be sure to bring plenty of water, a snack, and your lunch. Should there be enough snow, we will snowshoe this hike.

Contact: Nancy Ince at 519-793-6550 or nanbar.ince@amtelecom.net

Bruce's Caves

Len Holly Side Trail and Curly Harnden Side Trail
Saturday, April 12, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

Map 35 – Bruce's Caves Access Trail at Point 160.5

To reach Bruce's Caves, travel on Road 1 (Frank Street) out of Wiarton through Oxenden. When you reach Bruce's Caves Conservation Area, follow the roadway in to the parking lot.

With this hike, we will enjoy a mix of terrain over approximately 9 – 10 km. We will explore Bruce's Caves and then head up to the top of the Escarpment where we will be treated to wonderful views of Colpoys Bay. We will also see the cliffs across the Bay and we can look down on the immediate countryside and golf course along the way. When we turn inland on the side trails, we will be able to enjoy wide forest paths.

Please be sure to bring plenty of water, a snack, and your lunch. Contact: Nancy Ince at 519-793-6550 or nanbar.ince@amtelecom.net

Hike Leader Training

Have you thought you would like to lead hikes to take others out there to enjoy Mother Nature at her finest? Here is an opportunity to engage in a Hike Leader Training day. Not only will you learn about trail and hiking safety, you will be given lots of tips and strategies to make use of.

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, along with several other clubs, will be hosting a Hike Leadership Training Course next Spring. If there are any potential hike leaders out there, please just let me know if you would be interested in signing up! I know this course is very worthwhile.

You can respond to Nancy Ince at 519-793-6550 or nancyrince@gmail.com

GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

with the Warton Christmas Parade
on Saturday, December 7, 2013



Meet at 6:30 p.m. by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club float on Frank Street. Parade is two blocks long and will take approximately half an hour. Come out and be part of the walkers and wavers.

A good time will be had by all!
Ho! Ho! Ho!

Contact Susan Allen at 519 534 5898.

Call For Volunteers

We need a Chainsaw Request Coordinator.

Removing trees that obstruct the trail is a large part of keeping it accessible and safe to use.

This is a desk job! You need organizational skills and an affinity for managing Gmail.

You will:

- check the Gmail for requests to clear trees
- log and verify the location and size, photo and distance from the closest access point (cut a map screen shot if you are familiar with the map system)
- send out a request by Gmail to the sawyer list
- coordinate volunteers with a date and additional helpers to make up a team of 3-4
- turn over the final coordination of the day to the team
- update the log to show the trees were dealt with

We also have some openings for Trail Captains in the Jones Bluff and Park areas of the trail.

This is a great way to hike and maintain a piece of the trail.

You can report larger issues to the maintenance team.

If you think you might be interested in either of these positions or would like more information, please contact Bridget at bridgetjaneross@gmail.com

BTC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - CONGRATULATIONS JANE!



left to right: Beth Gilhepsy, Jane Greenhouse and Neil Hester

Jane Greenhouse has been a volunteer with the Bruce Trail Conservancy for 14 years starting in 1999 as a Trail Captain. Her home Club is Peninsula, but her efforts are wide spread.

This year Jane made extraordinary efforts to help promote the work of the BTC on many fronts. As a Bruce Trail Ambassador, Jane participated in a training session focusing on how to promote membership sales. Since March, Jane has personally secured 15 new members. In addition to her personal efforts to increase membership sales, she has also been coordinating other volunteers to "Share the Bruce Trail". Jane has coordinated regular outreach booths at the Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitor Centre, and other locations. To say Jane has a knack for sales is an understatement. Her charm and persistence has resulted in the creation and sale of unique BTC merchandise for the tourist and local crowds that flock to Tobermory.

This year, Jane spearheaded an effort to restore the cairn in Tobermory. The cairn was repaved and the stone work cleaned and re-pointed. A stone bench now frames the Cairn providing the tired hiker a magnificent view of Little Tub Harbour.

Jane is a force. Her energy is infectious. Her warmth and fun sensibility endear her to all she meets. Jane embodies the great 'just do it' spirit we so appreciate in a volunteer.

A Tribute

(To) John (Greenhouse)

We had a great time at the hiking festival. Our friends Jessica and Olivier are from France, living in Waterloo for a season and had a wonderful introduction to Canadian hospitality. We were very well taken care of at Summer House Park and had a blast with the fine folks at Tubby's. The "Art on the Trail" was a most excellent adventure and my first introduction to water colour paint. Our hosts shared their beautiful home and spectacular view and we were amazed at the generosity of the Art Community in Tobermory. Forgive me for not remembering everyone's names, it was an action-packed week-end that continued to Port Elgin for a wee bit of Pumpkinfest and to Elora for an intimate poetry reading in honour of Bill Berkson but the walk on the Bruce Trail was the most amazing of all.

Thank you, Sue Cunha

* * * * *

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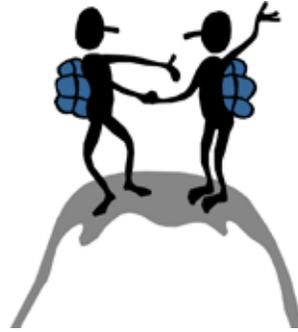
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THE 10TH ANNUAL PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL HIKING FESTIVAL

After a week of perfect fall weather the dicey forecast for the 10th annual Hiking Festival had some worried. But in true Tobermory style, (and possibly due to the preventive power of the rain ponchos donated by the Blue Heron Company) the weather remained workably pleasant and the entire weekend was a great success. And since the weather was too rough for tour boats, it also afforded us Rick Salen's personal services driving hikers to the trail in the Blue Heron bus, both morning and afternoon.

After the usual enthusiastic registration proceedings, most weekend participants gathered at Tubby's Gastropub at Tobermory Lodge and enjoyed a buffet supper and some refreshments. They were treated to live music by Larry Jensen and a wonderful selection of tales by local master storyteller Ron Baker.



After the morning's hiking groups got on their way, the race crew moved in and registered a fine group of athletes for the now annual competitive race event. This year was a repeat of the Burnt Point Loop walk/run for the adults, and a new shorter course for kids. Many thanks to the Peninsula Amateur Sport Association and Ashley Miller for organizing this event. We hope to continue to attract new Bruce Trail enthusiasts from among our younger residents and visitors through such activities.

A well subscribed "build your own sandwich" lunch filled bellies affording folks the energy to get back out and challenge themselves on afternoon trails.

As usual, volunteers provided great trail leadership and information to participants and the hikers and helpers had much to add in return.

The hikers ranged from Pine Tree to Johnson's Harbour and from Highway 6 to Eagle Road. They painted, photographed, and revisited history at the site of the old Warder Ranch and in the Tobermory harbour. In the only weather-induced alteration to Saturday's hike details participants in the Bootlegger's Cave outing were relieved not to have to climb under and over the boulders along the Georgian Bay shore, especially after they tackled the climb down to the cave and back.

cont'd at bottom of page 15



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Profile of Darci Lombard

Remember the incredibly successful Bruce Trail Conservancy Annual General Meeting? It was 2009; the Peninsula Bruce Trail was hosting; and managing the coordination of this huge event was ... Darci Lombard! But ... let's back up a bit.

Meet Darci Lombard

Many of us volunteering for the Peninsula club knew Darci through our scheduled hikes and birding walks. She was about to become very involved! Darci first started volunteering for the club at the fall Outdoor Festival that the Peninsula Club runs every year, in partnership with Parks Canada. She offered to help with preparing cheese platters and also at the front registration desk. Darci reminisces: "I remember that first festival at the Community Centre really well since I was trying to remember everyone's names and seemed to keep meeting men by the name of 'John!' It took me awhile to figure out who was married to whom, having met everyone on the same night at that first festival." This was the year Darci moved home from out west. Her Mom mentioned the Festival as a possible interest, and the rest is history as they say. Darci enjoyed that first of her many festivals so much she joined the Outdoor Festival planning committee. Her enthusiasm, energy and creative ideas were contagious and our OF planning group was energized. I remember her ability to look at the big picture while keeping close attention to the hundreds of details necessary to organize our annual fall event.

In the next two years Darci took on more as we planned and ran this unique festival. 2009 was looming. It was the Peninsula Club's turn to host the big Bruce Trail Annual General Meeting. In 2008 Darci had moved to being chairperson of our committee. As we planned that year's festival, we all knew what lay ahead in terms of organizing, planning and promoting the following year's Big Event! We had a conflict! Our popular fall festival always fell on the weekend of the Bruce Trail Day, a Sunday event. It was always considered a great fit. The BTC AGM was traditionally held in mid October. The dilemma - should we combine the events or run each separately? Our committee, lead by Darci, struggled for weeks ... what to do?



Eventually the group decided to combine the two great events into one big gala outdoor event in the interests of our prospective participants' interests and availability and lastly, but not least, our local club volunteer availability and fatigue factor. It was a daunting solution and the planning and work loomed heavy for the group ... but mostly for Darci, our leader.

Darci met the challenge head on. She, along with other members of our club, attended the 2008 BTC AGM in Toronto to see first hand how this showcase event was organized. Darci's life was about to change in another way ... on one of the Sunday AGM hikes, she met Scott Langley, GIS Cartographer for the BTC working at Raspberry House. Scott and Darci have been a special couple ever since ... but that's another story!

Life was hectic, life was good for Darci. The 2009 Bruce Trail Conservancy AGM/Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Outdoor Festival was an awesome event, thanks to Darci's leadership and sense of fun. As she loves to say: "I was really thrilled to work with everyone that year since the committee worked so hard and really pulled together to make things happen. I also enjoyed our regular pot luck meetings which were a crucial part of the planning stage! I really gained a sense of how devoted and

Cont'd from page 14

dedicated club members are by seeing how everyone pitched in and so graciously donated their time and energy to that event.”

I have to add, those planning meetings were more fun than any of us can remember. Great wine, food, companionship and a common goal to work to. It was some year!

Darci continued with the Peninsula BTC Outdoor Festival until 2011, working with Sheila Buckingham in that year. Sheila took over the role as Special Events Coordinator from Darci in 2012. She wasn't able to attend that year's festival and she talks about how strange it was not to be involved... she had been participating for the last seven years! Darci's next and current volunteer role is as Landowner Relations Director. She manages the extremely important relationship of our Peninsula landowners with the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Over all of these years, Darci has also been outside on our trails either building new ones or maintaining existing trails. She worked with John Greenhouse, Laurence Ackland, Jeff Buckingham and Grant Ehrhardt on the reroute at Mar Lake and the Grotto, plus a reroute in the Lion's Head area. Back then, John Appleton was Trail Director and he and his wife Judy generously hosted the Spruce Up the Bruce BBQ at their home in Lion's Head for many years. When John retired from that job the SUTB BBQ, along with the AGM, was moved to Summer House Park. More about Summer House Park below. Once these were held at Summer House, Darci ended up once more preparing for these events with all of the details needed to make a full day run smoothly.

* * * * *

HIKING FESTIVAL *cont'd from page 13* - Every year we celebrate surviving the day's activities with some wine and cheese and social time. Then we usher everyone into the comfortable seats of the Parks Canada Visitors Centre theatre and dim the lights. No matter how fascinating the presentation, there is normally a selection of nodding heads a few minutes in. Not so this year! Robyn Simard, a new interpreter here in Bruce Peninsula/Fathom Five, treated the group to a travelogue of her incredible "one woman, two wheels, four months and 9 parks" bike tour travelogue. Robyn not only had a great story to tell, she made sure to draw everyone into the adventure. Photos of huge hills and vast plains elicited groans, punctuated by laughter at black flies that can travel faster than a bicycle, and then amazement at the expansion of Robyn's quad muscles as the trip progressed.

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club would like to express special thanks to Rick Salen, Ashley Miller and The Blue heron Company for their generous contributions, and all the local businesses who contributed to the centrefold of the Bruce Peninsula Press advertising the event, and to the silent auction. We also thank the volunteers who made this weekend so successful, and the landowners who allowed us to cross their land. Mark October 3-5, 2014, to participate in the 11th annual Hiking Festival.

Darci Lombard and her family have been long time residents and business owners of Summer House Park on beautiful Miller Lake since 1949. Their business has been a strong supporter of the Bruce Trail for many years. During many summers, as part of the park's Civic Holiday weekend events, they hosted corn roast fundraisers for the BTC. Check out www.summerhousepark.ca to get an idea of the commitment and dedication the Lombard family have applied to make their park one of the most beautiful and successful private parks in Ontario.

We're not finished yet. Again, over these years, Darci took the Bruce Trail Conservancy sponsored Hike Leader course and has volunteered as a sweep or hike leader on some Peninsula End to End hikes. She also leads hikes on the Bruce Trail during the summer for guests at Summer House, as part of the park's activity schedule. And that's not all.....I quote Darci: "I have also taken individuals and groups on guided hikes in the spring and fall as part of a hiking package that our business offers. I really love sharing the trail with people who are not familiar with the Bruce Trail and our area. People are always so impressed with our trail and the natural beauty of this area."

So that last quote will give you an idea of what Darci is all about. We thank Darci for her many years of working with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club and for bringing her sense of fun and enthusiasm to the Peninsula Board. She continues as Landowner Relations Director. A perfect role for a young business woman who is taking on the management of her family business at Summer House Park, while giving back so enthusiastically to her community and the Bruce Trail. *Marlene Rothenbury*

WHY A LANDOWNER WELCOMES THE BRUCE TRAIL

A decade ago, a landowner in the Bruce Peninsula saw in an issue of *The Rattler* an article about a side trail above Jackson's Cove. At that time it was not connected to the Main Trail but allowed hikers to reach one of the more spectacular views along the entire Niagara Escarpment. The owners' property was just to the north, and they called the PBTC's Trail Director, asking "Why not put a similar trail on our property?"

One might ask: "Why would anyone initiate an offer to have a public footpath on their own land?" Their answer tells us much about the values of these owners and hopefully is an approach that others might emulate.

David and Nancy Pease in the late '60's had been looking for a cottage property that they as a family might enjoy. Living in the Kitchener area, they were attracted to the Bruce Peninsula. A Wiarton realtor introduced them to a property at Cape Dundas and soon the deal was closed.

They still refer to the place as "a special spot" and they wanted to share it with others. They showed me a letter from their files from 1973, sent to the FON (Federation of Ontario Naturalists) inviting them to use the land, but other than an initial reply, nothing developed. It was another two decades before they contacted the Bruce Trail.

David and Nancy (who had meanwhile become full time farmers and had sold and then repossessed the property) started to use the property as their own holiday retreat, building a three-sided shelter where they camped on top of the escarpment. They still have rich memories of being there when their children were young. David also remembers the large variety of warblers that could be sighted there during the annual fall migration.

Then came the invitation to the Bruce Trail a decade ago. I remember that winter and early spring exploring the land with people like Chris Walker, Donna Baker and John and Sue Lillie. I especially remember walking the proposed route with David Pease and being shown geological and botanical treasures we had not been aware of, things that have enhanced the pleasures of the route.

The first trail captain, Sandra Purchase, also fell in



love with the land, and after she died tragically of cancer, her friends held annually a memorial hike in her name; David has come north from home to join the group.

So we come back to the question: "Why allow the Trail on your land?". David looks at me quizzically and responds, "Why support a library?", and both talk about the value of a sense of community - "We are all better off if we share."

David also recognizes what we can offer as stewards of the property. As absentee landowners, they were distressed by trespassers, especially ATV's and trucks gouging tracks on the wet alvar. Hikers and BTC members are also stewards of the land, monitoring for problems which they may discover. For example, at each end of an old trail on the property, Bruce Trail volunteers have built brush barriers and erected signs urging responsible use of this sensitive land. Hikers also regularly use the trails and abuses have been reduced by the presence of committed nature lovers. As David says, it is important, "To have people there who share your values."

The riches of the Bruce Peninsula are available to visitors through the generosity of such people as David and Nancy Pease. Without such handshake agreements, the Trail would simply not exist, or at best would traverse a road distance far greater than the 25% which still plagues us. To the Pease family and to all our landowners we are sincerely grateful.

Ross McLean – November 2013

Meet Antoin Diamond and Frank Schoenhoeffer

*The Bride wore Strapless White.....and sports water shoes..
..the groom stepped out of a fashion magazine in cool linen shirt and slacks*

We wrote a profile about Antoin and Frank in the last edition of the Rattler. We are so happy for them both to tell you they were married at 2:00 p.m. on August 31, 2013. The place was in Collingwood, Ontario at the Pretty River Valley Provincial Park on the Bruce Trail on top of Osler Bluff.

Can you think of a more picture perfect place for two people whose lives are so intertwined with the Bruce Trail to be married? Bruce Trail Hike Leaders guided guests on a lovely 30 minute walk through the woods via the Bruce Trail Russ McConnell Side Trail to the lookout. As the guests approached the site of the wedding, through the trees, could be heard the sound of beautifully simple music being played by two gifted musicians. As we approached closer, the magnificent hardwoods along the trail were decorated with the whitest of white long silk bows. It couldn't have been more perfect. The mood was simple, calm, and filled with love. Antoin and her bridesmaids came from the trail further along to join Frank, his best man, the guests, musicians and minister at the lookout. It was a simple ceremony that everyone felt a part of.

The satin ribbons were gathered by each of the guests as they hiked back through the forest, then whisked back to a typically Canadian log home where we celebrated and partied at the best pig roast ever!

We wish Antoin and Frank the best happiness in their marriage.

Marlene Rothenbury



* * * * *

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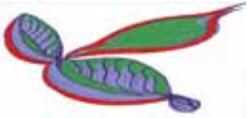
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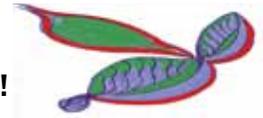


On the Bruce Trail

Steps to the beach



The holidays are fast approaching!



Let the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club make your gift giving easy!

Shop in person for PBTC items: John Appleton's "Stix", note cards, Day Hike Guides, magnets, "Take A Hike" tee shirts and BTC calendars.

Email pjanegge@yahoo to arrange a time to see the merchandise.

Or let us do the work for you!

We will gift wrap and mail calendars for you.

All you need to do is to send your gift card, to be included with the calendar, along with the recipient's address and we will do the rest!

The cost, includes the calendar, taxes, gift wrapping and postage:

To a Canadian address: \$20.00

To an address in USA: \$25.00

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Make the cheque payable to Peninsula Bruce Trail Club or PBTC and mail to PBTC, PO Box 2, Tobermory, ON. N0H 2R0

The orders must be received by December 17th, 2013

* * * * *

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IRELAND

June 3 to 13, 2014

With more shades of green than you can imagine, the **Emerald Isle** lives up to its deserving reputation. From historical Dublin to picturesque Killarney & parts in between, we will take you hiking through some of the most sought-after scenery the country has to offer - and we'll even make a few pub stops along the way!

KENYA

July 6 to 18, 2014

Don't just drive through Kenya – hike it too!

Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsman in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?

PERU & MACHU PICCHU

September 13 to 26, 2014

Spend a week exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range. Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps. From the Sacred Valley, journey south to Lake Titicaca for hikes on Uros, Amantani and Taquile islands.

AMALFI COAST

October 6 to 18, 2014

Italy never fails to captures the hearts (and stomachs) of its visitors, and the Amalfi Coast lives up to that reputation - towns perched impossibly on mountainsides, one of the most famous stretches of coastline in the world, sapphire-blue water in every direction, an infamous volcano and some of the finest Limoncello anywhere. Come hike in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and on the posh island of Capri.

TURKEY

October 18 to 29, 2014

Hike in Cappadocia with its secret frescoed churches, underground cities and volcanic tuff sculpted into fairy chimneys. Visit ancient ruins, shop the bazaars of Istanbul and take a history lesson through time. Steeped in tradition and a masterpiece of nature, Turkey will impress you.

Attention Rattler readers,

It has been almost a decade since Muffy and I moved up to the Bruce Peninsula and 7 since we took the plunge “north of the checkerboard.” With all our pursuits as outdoor adventurers and work experience in the fields of guiding, paramedicine, public safety, firefighting, teaching and volunteer/professional trail building we would like to take a moment and inform you of our exciting new business ventures; Explorers Tread and TREADscape.

Explorers Tread is a full service outdoor adventure guiding, facilitating and educating business. We provide four seasons of fun by specializing in hiking, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and winter camping. Explorer’s Tread has over 15 years experience as professional guides for public schools, private schools, local outfitters and volunteer groups.

Hiring a professional guide can help make outdoor adventure more enjoyable, safe and comfortable. Need local knowledge without the guide? Let us help facilitate your adventure through custom trip planning, food cache placement and gear/vehicle shuttling. Have questions about gear, outdoor adventure, or want to try something new? We offer buying advice, “how to” clinics and educational programs. Past engagements include; How to Snowshoe, Camping for Beginners, Introduction to Sea Kayaking, Introduction to Canoeing and Woolly Winter Camping just to name a few. Explorers Tread: taking your outdoor adventure from ordinary to extraordinary!

TREADscape specializes in consulting, designing and building of trails, pathways and walkways. Properly designed and built, they will reduce degradation in sensitive areas, focus on positive control points while staying away from negative control points, direct proper flow of traffic, never wash out and mitigate risk. We place a large emphasis on sustainability and using natural surface materials to reduce the trails ecological footprint. TREADscape can fit any budget whether it is that pesky small weekend project or large scale trail network. We specialize in the natural and sustainable solution! We are looking to partner with volunteers, interested stakeholders and enterprises in our local Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

If you have referrals, comments, suggestions and/or something to offer please call or email us at (519)270-8461, Explorertread@gmail.com and Treadscape@gmail.com.



Sincerely, Zane and Muffy Davies



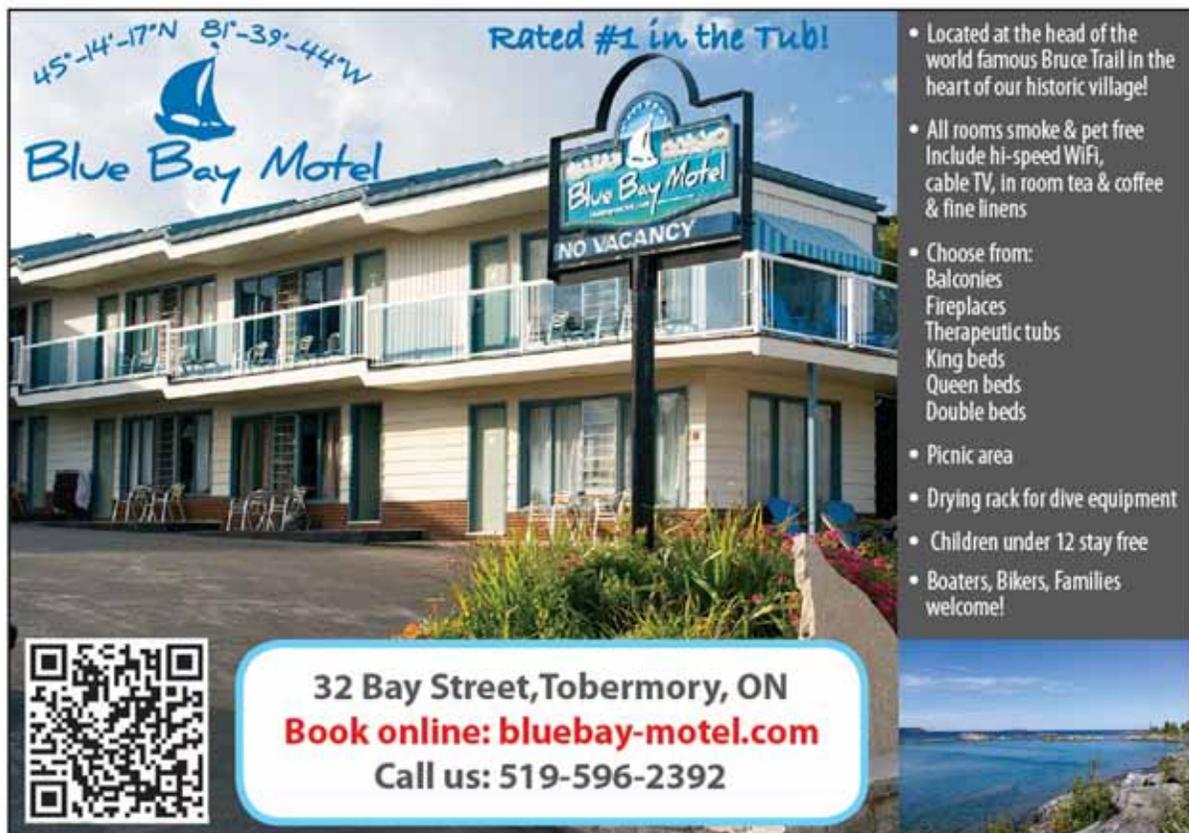
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Send us your favorite photo taken on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format.

What is the Most interesting thing you almost stepped in on the Bruce Trail. Send a high quality image in JPEG format to:

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Tell us a story about it and maybe you will see it in the Rattler.



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