

# The Rattler



ISSUE #2 2018

## President's Message

Summer and especially fall are my favourite times on the Bruce to see the growth mature and experience the extended brisk autumn which is a result of the surrounding water (a late spring for the same reason). Our trails are well groomed and ready for hikers; thanks to the over 100 volunteers who, mostly anonymously, look after them. See the story on the audit and one of our very active members who walked most of the trail with a chain saw!

There is an exciting announcement on the BTC main page ( <https://brucetrail.org/news/show/667-driftwood-cove-a-major-achievement-for-conservation-and-recreation> ) that provides the details about the special acquisition of over 3,000 acres of land with about 8 km of trail at Driftwood Cove, just north bound of Loon Lake. This is a spectacular property and it shows the commitment the BTC and its clubs and partners have to land conservation.

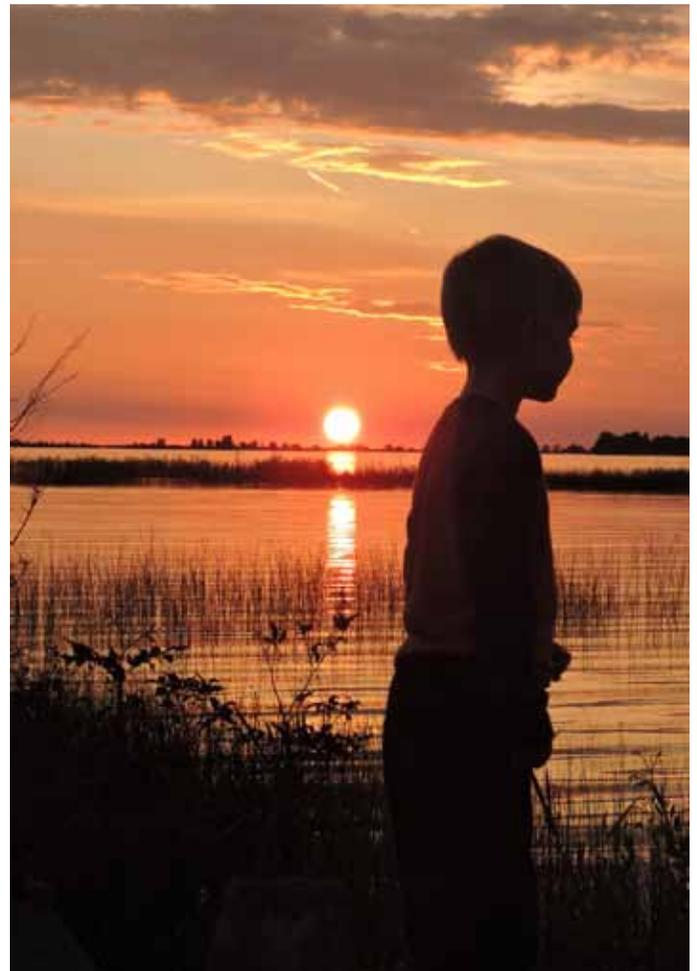
This Rattler edition contains stories and details about the four main activities of the Club: Stewardship/Conservation, Trail, Hiking and our volunteers. Many thanks to the volunteers who put the newsletter together. If you would like to join this team we have an opening that would be great for a person who is not always on the Bruce but who enjoys working with all the facets of the club. The position would manage the overall direction of the newsletter and its distribution and advertising – contact me!

The Peninsula will host the 2017 BTC AGM September 21 – 23 at the Evergreen Resort on Little Red Bay, Lake Huron. There are B&B accommodations in cabins or tents and guaranteed Lake Huron sunsets! We have confirmed that our Friday night speakers will be Zane and Scott, the guys that walked with a stand up paddle board across

Georgian Bay in winter! Come for the weekend!  
See you there!

Our membership continues to grow above the 700 mark and we appreciate each supporter. It is your continued membership that funds the majority of our on-going expenses related to the trail and our programs. Please look for your renewal notice and sign up, maybe make it an automatic renewal, that saves a lot of time each year. Thank you!

**Walter Brewer President PBTC**  
**President ([pbtcpresident@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcpresident@gmail.com)).**



## Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

P.O. Box 1087,

Warton, ON

N0H 2T0

[www.pbtc.ca](http://www.pbtc.ca)

[pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)

## Bruce Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 857

Hamilton, ON

L8N 3N9

[www.bruce-trail.org](http://www.bruce-trail.org)

[info@bruce-trail.org](mailto:info@bruce-trail.org)

Telephone: 800-665-4453

Telephone: 905-628-8081

Fax: 905-529-6832

Newsletter Editors:

Content : Kathryn Orr

Julie Heinrichs

Layout: Jan MacKie

Please send us your stories:

[pbtcrafter10@gmail.com](mailto:pbtcrafter10@gmail.com)

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

**"November 7, 2018"**

### Rattler Advertising Rates:

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# TRAIL TO THE BRUCE

## The Story of the Building of the Bruce Trail by David Tyson

Review by David Rodgers

David Tyson traces the history of the Bruce Trail from its beginnings as an idea, through implementation and then into the era of politics with the Niagara Escarpment Commission as the backdrop for tumultuous years when it's very existence is in peril.

The book is roughly divided into three sections. The first years of the nascent organization are covered in section one and you will come to know the main players as they deal with landowners, politicians and government bureaucrats. Philip Gosling sets the pace as the first Trail Director.

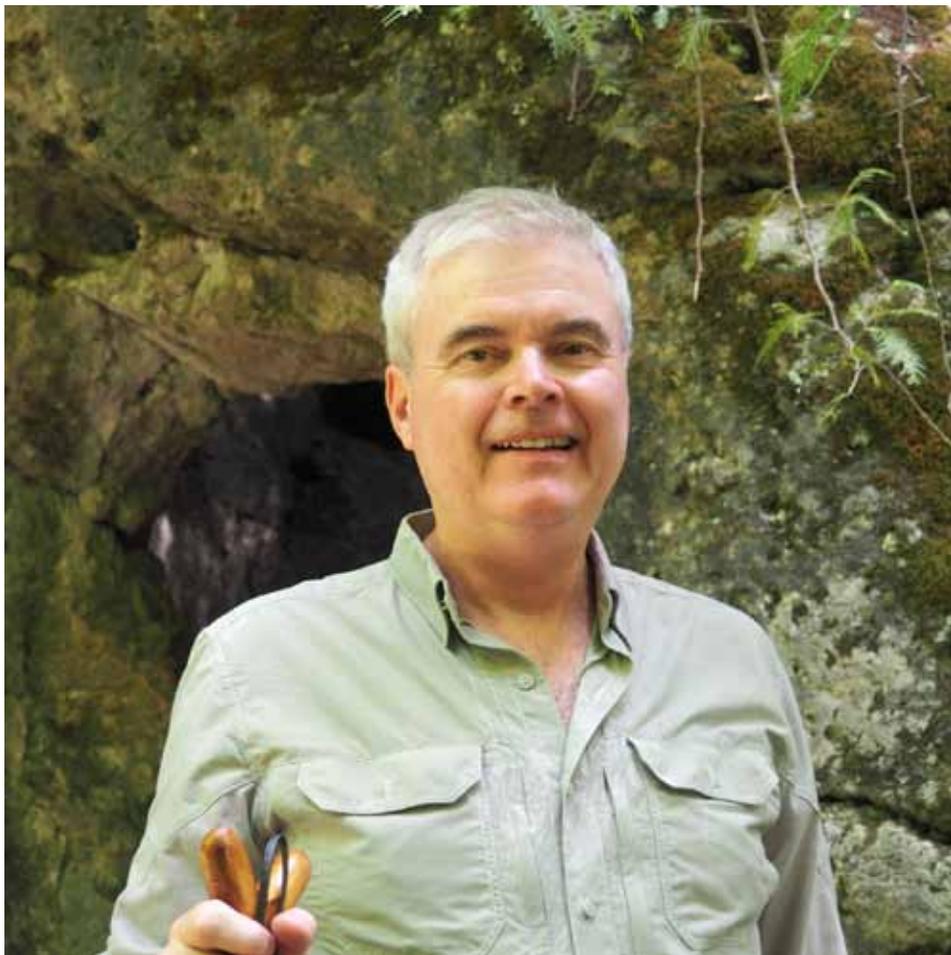
Outstanding physical feats are accomplished by volunteers as they survey potential routes and blaze trails, many across private properties with "the handshake agreement".

The use of photos, maps, illustrations and other artifacts throughout the book assists with telling the story.

The book's middle section details the evolution of the BTA and covers multiple years per chapter. Salient events are extracted from the archives to provide the reader with a view into the internal operations of the BTA and insights into changing political sentiment over the years.

By the 40th year, the Bruce Trail Association has become the Bruce Trail Conservancy and is now more than just a hiking organization - it also purchases land for the purpose of conservation and preserving the trail corridor.

*(cont'd on page 9)*



***David Rodgers grew up on the Bruce Peninsula and first walked the Bruce Trail on a school trip in grade four. In high school he hiked larger sections of the Trail with his Outdoor Education class. After several decades away, he returned to his roots and now lives on the Bruce as a full-time resident and enjoys the Trail with family and friends.***

## PBTC BIRDING HIKE



Wednesday, May 30, 2018 turned out to be a beautiful sunny day as a large number of birders gathered at the Dyer's Bay parking lot for the start of our annual Peninsula Club birding drive/hike. The turnout of 31 enthusiastic souls was a modern day record but the birds were not the least bit intimidated and showed up in pretty good numbers as well. The highlight of the day for those who managed to stay around until the bitter end (or should we say bittern end) was probably the fabulous looks we got of the American Bittern just a few metres north of Dyers Bay Road, although the spotting of a Golden Eagle was not exactly "chopped liver," and the flowering tree full of Cedar Waxwings was a photographers delight.

Thanks to the very keen eyes and ears of all the attendees we managed to count 55 different species, significantly exceeding last year's total of a mere 47. The count is even much more impressive when you consider the fact that we missed some pretty common stuff such as Double-crested Cormorant, Wild Turkey, Black-capped Chickadee, Ovenbird, American Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, etc. So there seems to be room to increase our numbers next year.

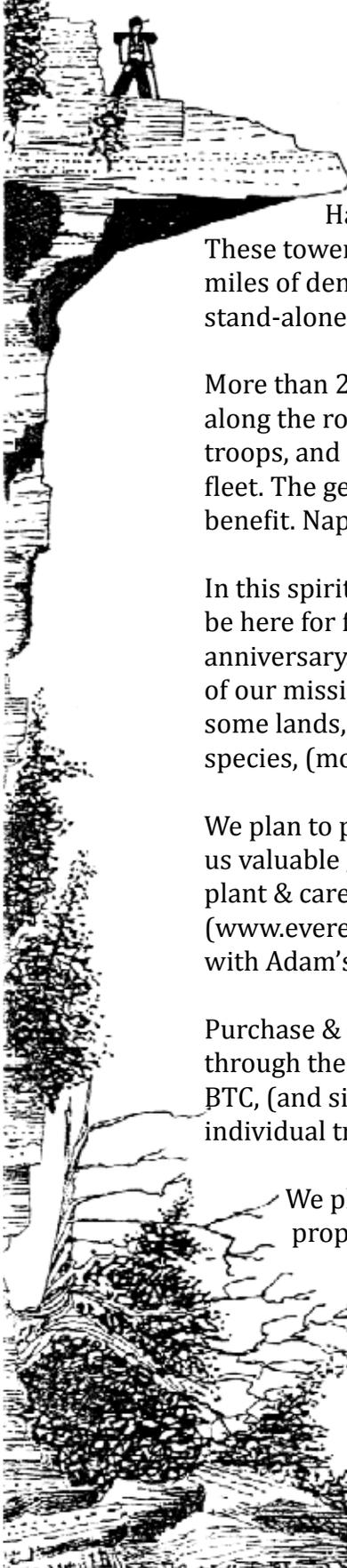
Here is the list of what we did see and/or hear.

Common Loon	American Bittern	Great Blue Heron
Great Egret	Canada Goose	Wood Duck
Mallard	Blue-winged Teal	Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser	Turkey Vulture	Osprey
Northern Harrier	Red-tailed Hawk	Golden Eagle
Merlin	Sandhill Crane	Sora
Spotted Sandpiper	Ring-billed Gull	Herring Gull
Mourning Dove	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	
Northern Flicker	Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Kingbird
Tree Swallow	Barn Swallow	Blue Jay
American Crow	Common Raven	House Wren
Eastern Bluebird	American Robin	Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher	Cedar Waxwing	European Starling
Blue-winged Warbler	Yellow Warbler	Chestnut-sided Warbler
American Redstart	Common Yellowthroat	Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting	Chipping Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow	Bobolink	Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark	Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole	American Goldfinch	

Thanks to all the birders who came out this year and contributed their eyes and ears to our excellent adventure. We look forward to seeing you all again next year. If you couldn't join us this year but have even a slight interest in our avian friends then why not pencil in Wednesday, May 22, 2019 on your calendar. That's the tentative date for next year. It's a lot of fun and there is NO EXPERTISE REQUIRED!!

*Anita and Bob Cunningham*





## Specimen Trees

### 100 Trees for our 100th Anniversary

Have you noticed the occasional majestic single tree on our BTC properties? These towering mature trees, singly or in small groups, stand apart from the many miles of dense bush on the peninsula. Many of them are more than 100 years old. As stand-alones, I think of them as “specimen trees”.

More than 200 years ago, the emperor Napoleon ordered his generals to plant acorns along the roads (cart paths) of France. He wanted the trees to shade his marching troops, and as they grew taller, they could be thinned out to provide wood for his fleet. The generals objected that it would be many years before this work showed any benefit. Napoleon’s answer: “then you’d better start right away”.

In this spirit, your board recently approved a proposal to ensure that such trees will be here for future generations to enjoy - by planting 100 specimen trees for our 100th anniversary. This project is a nod to the increasingly important Conservation portion of our mission. It is also quite different from the reforestation work completed on some lands, where mass planting of seedlings is used. Each tree will be a native species, (mostly hardwoods), nursery-raised to a height of 6-8 feet.

We plan to plant 2 trees per annum. BTC Ecologist Adam Brylowski has already given us valuable guidance as to selecting native species, locations to plant, and how to plant & care for each new tree. We have also identified a source of locally grown trees. ([www.everesttrees.com](http://www.everesttrees.com)). Each tree will be carefully planted & cared for in accordance with Adam’s advice.

Purchase & delivery of each tree will cost up to \$250. BTC has agreed to fund this through their Stewardship budget. None the less, in order to avoid further costs to BTC, (and since it is our project) the board has agreed to ask for sponsorships of individual trees.

We plan to plant the first trees this fall – quite possibly on our Bull Homestead property. If you’d like to get involved please contact Doug Miller or myself.

*John Whitworth*



## 2018 BTC Annual Meeting

Members from all Bruce Trail Clubs are invited to attend the BTC's Annual Meeting this fall, Sept 21 to 23rd, being hosted by Peninsula Bruce Trail Club at the Evergreen Resort, 139 Resort Road, Red Bay, [www.evergreenresortredbay.ca](http://www.evergreenresortredbay.ca).

The AM weekend will include a wine and cheese social on Friday evening with speaker Zane Davies and Scott Parent giving a presentation entitled "Crossing Georgian Bay on Foot." Saturday events will include the business meeting, workshops, tours, and hikes. Amongst these will be a hike to Rural Rocks, a boat tour of the Fishing Islands, a tour of Petrel Point Nature Reserve, a talk by Peter Middleton "Where we Walk: Footsteps into Wonder", a photography workshop, a kayak tour of Isaac Lake, a tour of the McIvor Wetland, a First Nations craft workshop, and a mushroom hike at Jones Bluff. Sunday hikes will begin and end in the hamlet of Colpoy's Bay with a spectacular view of Georgian Bay.

Registration begins August 1 on the BTC website [brucetrail.org](http://brucetrail.org). You can also use the mail-in registration form to be found in the Fall 2018 issue of Bruce

Trail Magazine, August 10. Be sure to catch the early bird price – by August 31st! We hope to see you there. Contact the resort directly to make accommodation reservations. Be sure to mention you are attending the BTC Annual Meeting.



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### NORTHERN LIGHTS NORWAY

February 13 to 23, 2019

A full itinerary of adventures like cross-country skiing, dog-sledding & snowmobiling plus Mother Nature's lightshow - the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). Home base is Tromsø - one of THE best places in the world to see the

#### Northern Lights!

Also visit the capital, Oslo, for some cultural exploration, including the Nobel Peace Centre.

*Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.*

### CANADIAN MARITIMES

June 21 to July 3, 2019

Hike & kayak the world's highest tides at the Hopewell Rocks in New Brunswick; meet Anne of Green Gables and build sandcastles in Prince Edward Island; celebrate Canada Day in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Plus lots more activities from cycling to hiking, and you could conceivably eat lobster every day of this trip if you tried!

*Part of the C.H.H. Adventure Collection.*

### THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

April 28 to May 5, 2019

The Camino de Santiago is an iconic trek covering some 800km across the north of Spain. Our journey encompasses the last 160km from O'Cebreiro to Santiago de Compostela, including many "extras" in order to make it a complete Galician experience. Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is time to add your footsteps to this famous trail.

### MACHU PICCHU, PERU

September 13 to 25, 2019

Explore 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!**  
**NO CAMPING – ALL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE IN HOTELS AND LODGES**

## Clayton Roberts

On March 29, 2018 Clayton Roberts passed away. He had lived a rich and rewarding life, made stronger by his many years of volunteer work with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club.

Since 1968, Clayton and his wife Anne had a cabin at the south end of Dyer's Bay where they spent each summer enjoying the beauties of the Bruce. Clayton frequently rode his bicycle to Cabot Head, or hiked the old logging trails to the west, or windsurfed on the waters of Dyer's Bay.

When the Peninsula Club was being reactivated in 1993, Clayton was researching medieval history in London, England. There he received a note that had been sent to all PBTC members requesting volunteer involvement. They eagerly joined the team and for the next two decades they would

spend their summers working to open new trail in the Peninsula. Many of the footpaths in the Dyer's Bay area owes their existence to the Roberts' efforts. Together they made a great team.

In 1999, Clayton and Anne won the Susan Oleskevich Award from the Bruce Trail Association in recognition of their volunteer efforts. They were the first Americans and the first couple to be so recognized. As well, they were awarded the Peninsula Club's first Porcupine Award (now named the Appleton Award) for all their trail building efforts.

On top of the Escarpment just south of Dyer's Bay is the Clayton and Anne Roberts Side Trail. Its name will recognize in perpetuity this couple who made such a contribution to the Bruce Trail in the Peninsula.



### **Book Review** (cont'd from page 1)

This was a major change from the original intention and the author explores the events which led to such a change in policy.

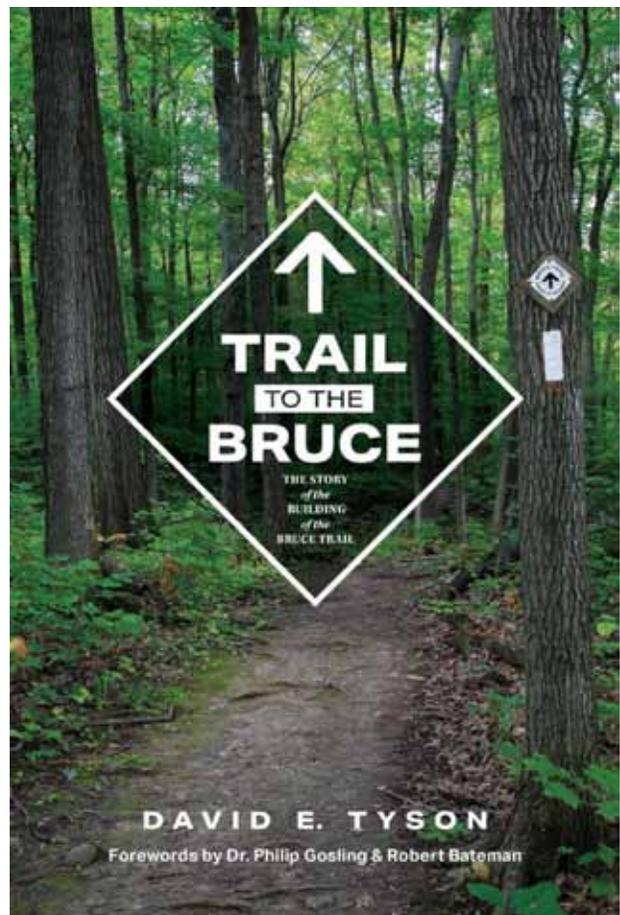
The final chapters of the book are devoted to the individual stories of the nine Bruce Trail Clubs and covers their startup successes and woes, continuing into ongoing operations the following decades.

For anyone curious about Bruce Trail origins, organization and historical events, this book elucidates. The tenacity and vision of the founders is impressive and the passion of volunteers is demonstrated throughout. It takes a lot of determination to haul heavy parts for a metal staircase into remote areas, assemble and fasten them to rock faces.

The 50th celebration of The Bruce Trail at Tobermory in 2017 was a big deal. Some of the founders attended, hitting home that this is fairly recent history.

I was just learning to walk when the spark for the idea of the Bruce Trail was ignited by Ray Lowes. A few years later I started using the Trail while on school camping trips and then returned annually with friends and family to hike various sections. Without the efforts of the people as documented in this book none of that would have happened.

***This book is available for purchase through the BTC Store on their website.***



## Bridget and Doug's Fall 2018 Peninsula Hike Series



The series is eight (8) days starting in Little Cove on September 29 and ending in Wiarton on November 11. Hike dates are September 29 and 30, October 13, 14, 27 and 28 and November 10 and 11.

The hike from Tobermory to Little Cove is short and is not scheduled.

This is a very challenging end-to-end suitable for experienced hikers. The “Degree of Difficulty” is strenuous. You should be able to hike 20 kms a day in all weather conditions. Expect difficult / rocky / slippery footing and steep climbs on some portions of this section. This is an opportunity to pick up any hikes you may have missed to complete the Peninsula section this year. Bring lunch and water and dress for the weather. You are expected to participate in the car shuttle and hike with the group. Do not bring dogs.

Please be aware that some hotels/motels/campgrounds as well as some restaurants in the Bruce Peninsula area may not be open after Thanksgiving Day weekend. It is best to make your accommodation arrangements early.

Register at [peninsulae2e@gmail.com](mailto:peninsulae2e@gmail.com). This is a small group hike, numbers are limited. Please indicate which hikes you are registering for. If you have to cancel your spot, please let me know promptly. When your registration is confirmed, you will receive the hike schedule and meeting times. Map directions and meeting locations are taken from the Bruce Trail Reference Edition 28. All GPS references are current.

### Approximate hikes are:

Day 1: Bruce Peninsula National Park

Day 2: Halfway Log Dump and High Dump

Day 3: Dyers Bay

Day 4: Cape Chin

Day 5: Lions Head and Barrow Bay

Day 6: Rush Cove and Hope Bay Forest

Day 7: Sydney and Jones Bluffs

Day 8: Purple Valley





**Our scheduled hikes  
continue into the Fall  
with more of Elaine's  
Easy Rambles,  
Lookouts and Lunch  
and  
Bridget and Doug's Fall  
Peninsula Series.  
See [www.pbtc.ca/hikes](http://www.pbtc.ca/hikes) for  
details.**



## CUP AND SAUCER HIKE



The June 8th trip to the Manitoulin Extension of the Niagara Escarpment was organized by Bridget and Doug. The cliffs were spectacular and the views over Georgian Bay and the North Channel were stunning.







To honour a dear friend and long time, dedicated Bruce Trail volunteer, Donna Baker, the side trail between the Lion's Head Inland Side Trail and the main trail near McKay's Harbour now carries her name. We miss you Donna and will remember you with this beautiful piece of the trail.



Another successful PBTC AGM held in May of this year.



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## Rich Coons, Winner of the Porcupine Award 2018

The first time I met Rich was at work at the Lion's Head library. He was staying at the remote family cottage on Gillies Lake, and since there is no Wi-Fi that deep in the woods, he brought his laptop to do some work at the library. Rich was wearing a Bruce Trail T-shirt, and we started to chat about our love of hiking. Rich is not only an avid hiker, but also has been trail captain since 2011, and volunteer sawyer in more recent years. He has walked the Peninsula end to end twice, and carried his chainsaw on his back from Wiarton to Tobermory during assorted work outings. During this year's spring clean-up, Rich and two helpers cut up and cleared away 77 trees of all sizes on the Barrow Bay Side Trail alone - in a single day. At the Peninsula AGM on May 12, Rich received the Porcupine Award for all his hard work and dedication - congratulations, Rich!

Rich and his family live just outside of York, Pennsylvania. His grandparents have owned property on Gillies Lake since the 1940s, and Rich spent his childhood summers at the family cottage with his grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. He remembers frequently hiking to the Cabot Head Lighthouse from Gillies Lake with his cousins dur-

ing summers in the 1950s - many years before Ray Lowes imagined the Bruce Trail.

Rich worked as a long-distance truck driver, and although there was now less opportunity to make the 550 miles trek up North, Rich and his wife Linda would bring their 3 children for summer vacations to Gillies Lake whenever possible, to hike and fish and enjoy the outdoors. In 1983, as a Boy Scout leader, Rich brought a group of 17 boys up North to hike and camp on the Bruce Trail.

In 1997, Rich started to work for the Denali National Park in Alaska, driving tour buses in the summer months. Now Rich was able to visit the Peninsula in spring and fall. He joined the Peninsula Club, and began to volunteer and do trail maintenance. Having worked with chainsaws since he was a teenager, Rich became a certified BT sawyer.

Rich decided to walk the full length of the Bruce Trail, and has so far completed the Niagara, Dufferin Hi-Land, and Blue Mountain sections. He plans to finish several other sections in fall. Happy hiking, Rich, and many thanks for your tireless work and dedication to the Bruce Trail!





This Spring, Nancy and Barry Ince organized another successful biannual road cleanup on Hwy 6 near Dyer's Bay Road.

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## Donor Wall

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club has gathered some of our donor plaques and is displaying them in a newly refurbished and easily accessible location. The Bull Homestead Donor Wall is on the Bruce Trail above Colpoy's Bay on BTC property acquired in 2008. The full story is available on our website at [www.pbtc.ca/blog](http://www.pbtc.ca/blog)



Thanks to the efforts of the Northern Bruce Peninsula Municipal Council there are now portapotties at some of the entrances to the trail. Let's make sure that we make good use of them and protect from the visual pollution that occurs when we don't.



**Tip from Kathie – Book your hiking agenda early for your lodgings to avoid disappointment**



## Sometimes a T-Shirt Says It All ... "Take A Hike"



What a fantastic message! Take a Hike! Use it as a cheeky challenge or as an inspiration to explore our beloved "Bruce". The "Take a Hike" t-shirts are back by popular demand! Peninsula Bruce Trail Club is selling t-shirts to help raise funds for our local club and to promote the Bruce Trail. Jane Greenhouse, a PBTC club member, avid hiker and "fun"draiser extraordinaire coordinated the original design, printing and promotion of this distinctive apparel. With Jane's support and encouragement, we have renewed our t-shirt sales. These comfortable, fun-to-wear t-shirts are for sale through local retailers in: Tobermory (Net Shed, Reader's Haven, Verna's Gift Shop), Lion's Head (Dandylion) and Hepworth (Suntrail). Get one for your next hike on the Bruce Trail. Or, celebrate with other "End-to-Enders" by wearing matching shirts. Gift giving just got much easier, put together a Bruce Trail gift package by including a "Take a Hike" t-shirt, Bruce Trail Reference Guide, Bruce Trail hat or Bruce Trail membership. T-shirt profits will support PBTC volunteer training, Bruce Trail maintenance, and Bruce Trail promotion. Support the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club AND promote the Bruce Trail Conservancy by purchasing a "Take A Hike" t-shirt.

A promotional banner for Summer House Park. On the left, two coffee and meal coupons are shown. The top coupon says "Buy six coffee and get the next one free" and features six coffee cup icons. The bottom coupon says "Buy five meals and get the next one free" and features five fork and knife icons. The central logo is a yellow diamond with a tree and the text "Summer House PARK HUNGRY HIKERS WE FUEL YOUR ADVENTURE!". On the right, contact information is provided: "GUEST HOUSE · CAMPING COTTAGE RENTALS", "197 MILLER LAKE SHORE ROAD (519) 795-7712 SUMMERHOUSEPARK.CA", and "THE SHORELINE CAFE (NOW LICENSED) REOPENS DAILY 9 AM - 3 PM MAY 5TH UNTIL THANKSGIVING MONDAY". A Facebook icon is in the bottom right corner.



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