

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #1 2016

It has been an easy winter and as I write this I anticipate an early trail opening this year. The 85 people who help to look after the trail will be out in full force clearing the winter deadfall and grooming the Treadway. Our annual Spruce Up the Bruce (SUTB) work party and AGM is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 with hikes planned for Sunday; I hope to see many of you there.

The Board has been busy all winter with plans for this year and the 50TH anniversary celebration which coincides with Canada's 150th birthday. This is not actually by accident as I found out while reviewing the archives which have been brilliantly catalogued by Deborah Sturdevant. The big opening event in Tobermory was delayed to 2017 in order to be a part of the centennial. (cont'd on page 4)



HOPE

*Suffocating, she succumbs
whirled white mantle thrust over
paralysed hopes*

*Sighing, she yields
fossilized yearnings frozen in time
dolomite dreams*

*Flailing heavenward, she appeals
sheathed limbs stiffened and silenced
icy repression*

*Heaving, she succeeds
thawed tears pooling, coursing, colouring
symphonic splendour*

Carol Chitovas

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

P.O. Box 1087,

Warton, ON

N0H 2T0

www.pbtc.ca

pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

Contact Ken Clark

Telephone: 519-270-7644

klclark5@hotmail.com

Bruce Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 857

Hamilton, ON

L8N 3N9

www.bruce-trail.org

info@bruce-trail.org

Telephone: 800-665-4453

Telephone: 905-529-6821

Fax: 905-529-6832

Newsletter Editors:

Content : Kathryn Orr

Julie Heinrichs

Layout: Jan MacKie

Please send us your stories:

pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?

Deadline for submissions to next Rattler:

"August 21, 2016"

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Contact: Mike Marshall

Email: marshland_3@amtelecom.net

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The current executive team of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club can be found on our website: www.pbtc.ca

Beaver versus Bafflers (continued)

This is the ongoing story of land management at Boundary Bluffs where industrious and prolific beavers are flooding meadows and part of the side trail.

Previously in this series: our stewardship team installed an apparently effective “Beaver Baffler” featuring Don McIlraith donning snow shoes in order to gain a good footing in the pond while building the structure. Over the next several months the beavers started another dam and the bafflers built another baffle – Tied at 2 each! In our last update the beavers responded with a third dam and lodge between the two baffled ponds and brought in three reinforcements and effectively bunged up the second baffle – Beavers 3 – Bafflers 2!



Bigger is Better? –The BIG “O”

Since August there have been many confrontations: Faced with expanding ponds and population the Bafflers implemented a large irrigation drainage pipe to connect the existing pipes and move the water further downstream.



Beavers responded by chewing the pipe in half! A full scale assault resulted with men invading the ponds in waders, clearing bunged baffles, patching the severed “O” drain and wrapping it with the ever popular chicken wire. The team felt the campaign had been effective and regrouped over coffee (in damp, muddy gear) declaring a modest victory.

“It ain’t over till its over”

A survey in September showed moderate continuing success with lower water levels in the upper ponds, however the Big “O” has been attacked and disconnected and the beavers are still working on blocking up the system. At this time we are declaring it a draw, however the beavers have time and patience on their side. We can look forward to another chapter in this challenge. Thanks to the Stewardship work team for spending so much time on this project.

Walter Brewer

Go Bafflers! (Tony Barton, Don McIlraith, Bob Cunningham, John Brodhagen, Grant Ehrhardt and BTC Ecologist Adam Brylowski)

Trail Captain: John Grandy

P.S. The Bafflers have strongly objected to being characterized as having less patience than the beavers.

Going through the archives has been really interesting and we plan to share much of this history throughout 2017. It was a remote club with a few dedicated supporters in the early days.

I won't give away the whole story of the birth and rebirth of the club, but it is interesting and we are seeing the effects of it in the changeover in volunteers. The club was resurrected in late 1990's and a strong crew emerged in the 2000's. Many of these fine volunteers have stepped back in the last few years and we have been celebrating their success and the gifts they shared with the club. This month we honour Marlene Rothenbury who was a stalwart during the building of the club over the 21st century. She held many jobs and encouraged so many others that a lot of our current success can be

attributed to her hard work.

Check out the story this month. (pages 6 & 7)

This is the season of renewal for the club and there will be positions available in all areas, from field work to Board Director jobs (like the communications role which is really a fun job). Contact us if you want to volunteer for any of these jobs. We have descriptions and helpers to make taking on a new job easy.

Don't forget to participate in the Side Trail Challenge. See the peninsula from the blue trails, they offer some fantastic experiences with great views, unique geology and wonderful vistas. And you can get a badge!

*Walter Brewer
President PBTC*



The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Nominating Committee

We are looking for volunteers to fill unique and rewarding positions on our Board of Directors for 2016 - 2017.

A candidate must be...

- A member of the Peninsula Club or be willing to join.
- Have recognized skills for particular facet of board work or be willing to learn.
- Supportive of the purposes and values of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
- Available to meet during the week, days or evenings, or on weekends.
- Willing to travel to board meetings without reimbursement.
- Willing to have a 1 year term minimum on the Board and attend all meetings.
- Forward thinking, proactive, and a team worker.

For more information contact - pbtgeneralinfo@gmail.com

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Bill 100 – An Update from the BTC Executive Director

Bill 100 Not a Threat

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has the proud distinction of working with 960 landowners who generously allow the Bruce Trail to cross their private land. Many of these “handshake” agreements have been in place for close to 50 years, and the landowners have always had — and continue to have — the right to allow or withdraw access at any time.

Handshake agreements are not the same as an easement. Easements are a more permanent, legal arrangement, involving lawyers and legal documentation, whereby landowners are compensated for a permanent right to cross their land. Easements can only be established if the landowner agrees. The Bruce Trail Conservancy only enters into agreements, whether for access via a handshake agreement or via an easement, with willing landowners.

It is important to stress that none of the handshake agreements with our 960 landowners are in any way impacted by the proposed legislation in Bill 100. Bill 100 does not make those handshake agreements permanent (i.e. it does not turn the permission into an easement), nor does it take away any rights of the landowners to decide what happens on their own land. The landowner can still ask for the Trail to be removed and we honour our commitment to do so at their request. If the landowner wants to enter into an easement agreement, a legal arrangement (involving lawyers for both parties and considerable documentation) is established, and the landowner is compensated for that (by cash or a tax receipt). A landowner cannot have an easement placed on their property without their knowledge and their express approval via a written legal agreement.

This recent note from Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, confirms that entering into easement agreements is at the discretion of the landowner:

The province introduced Bill 100, the Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2015, to improve access to Ontario’s trails, building both a healthier, and more prosperous Ontario. Our ministry held consultations with over 250 organizations, including municipalities, Aboriginal groups, trail organizations and not-for-profit organizations. The feedback the ministry heard during these consultations was integral to shaping the proposed legislation.

To be clear, an easement pursuant to Bill 100, if passed, would be a voluntary agreement between a landowner and an eligible body or bodies. No property owner would be compelled to provide an easement unless they agreed to do so.

- Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

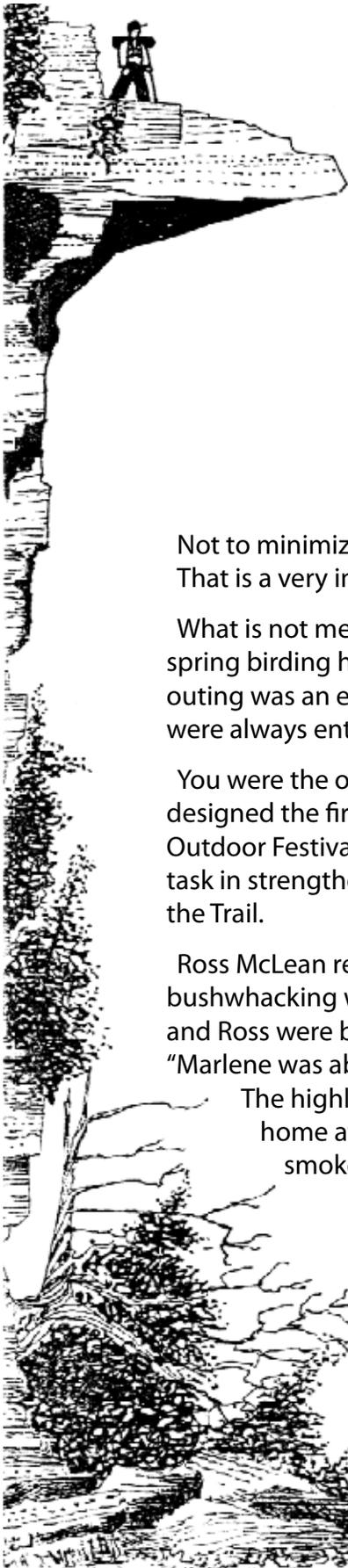
We thank and applaud the landowners along the Niagara Escarpment that so generously allow the Bruce Trail to cross their land. Of their own volition, they — like so many landowners throughout the province — provide an invaluable service to those seeking to enjoy the outdoors.

Should any landowner wish to discuss Bill 100 with someone at the BTC, please contact your local Bruce Trail Club volunteer contact, or me directly. I would also be pleased to provide any landowner with a specific written commitment that the presence of the Bruce Trail on their land will never result in the loss of their own control, authority or ownership of that land.



Beth Gilhespy

Executive Director, The Bruce Trail Conservancy



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE

Marlene and Ray Rothenbury

From the archives - positions held by Marlene Rothenbury:

1994/1995 – update the B&B list for the Bruce Peninsula
1998 to 2001 – Trail Maintenance
2001 to 2015 – Trail Captain
2003 to 2008 – Hike Co-ordinator
2005 to 2008 – Special Events Co-ordinator
2008 to 2013 – Landowner Relations Co-ordinator
2013/2014 – Profile Writer for Peninsula Newsletter

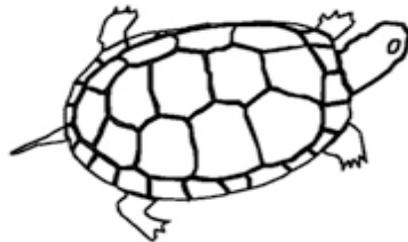
Not to minimize Ray's efforts, he was very much involved with every position. That is a very impressive volunteer resumé!

What is not mentioned in that positions held list was your skillful leadership during spring birding hikes. Sometimes the weather co-operated, sometimes not, but every outing was an exciting adventure of anticipation. Your friendly gatherings after the hikes were always entertaining.

You were the origin of many of the activities that now are the fabric of this club. You designed the first PBTC End-to-End series of hikes as well as setting up the original Hiking/Outdoor Festival. Being involved in Landowner Relations was a fundamentally important task in strengthening the handshake agreements which still are the foundation of much of the Trail.

Ross McLean recalls Marlene saying her most memorable and favourite job was bushwhacking with Ross and Chris Walker, a tradition which went on for a decade. Chris and Ross were both red colour blind and could not see any of the survey flagging tape. "Marlene was able to spot the markers from what seemed like a hundred metres away".

The highlight of those expeditions was being invited back to the Rothenbury's home at Gillies Lake for a spaghetti dinner. Ray was an avid fisherman and his smoked herring is famous.



Memories of the Rothenbury's

When I first got to know Ray & Marlene, they were Trail Captains for the section between High Dump and Halfway Log Dump. While this wonderful section of Trail has amazing and awesome views out over Georgian Bay, it's also very rugged, and the most remote section of the Bruce Trail. (i.e. High Dump is a minimum of 7 km in either direction, from the nearest car-access point. No other point on the Bruce Trail can make that claim!)

Ray & Marlene were interested in "sharing" (i.e. off-loading) some of that section, since it's a tough and arduous section to maintain. I was interested in becoming a Trail Captain, so this seemed like a match made in heaven. I went out with them a couple of times, and we even had Sue Lillie along once (a vigorous lopper of dogwood), and I agreed that even though this would be a significant commitment for me (I lived 2 hours away), I would take over half of this trail section. By sheer coincidence, I got the farthest half, at High Dump

And thus began not only a 10-year association with High Dump, but also a marvelous friendship with Ray & Marlene. Their lovely home at Gillies Lake was a frequent gathering point for Bruce Trail friends, including swimming, story-telling, and meaningful discussions around the campfire, especially in the yellow chairs down at their lakeshore!

Ray & Marlene, we'll miss you!

Frank Schoenhoeffer

This a quote from Marlene's profile that was printed in our March, 2010 Rattler, "Our roles with the Club change, we evolve and grow with each new job but the commraderie and friendly support just keeps getting stronger. Our Club is vibrant and we take our responsibilities seriously – at the same time having more fun than we could have possibly imagined."

Ray and Marlene have left this beautiful peninsula and are moving on to another chapter of their lives. Evolving is what they do well. You will be taking your talents and enthusiasm to new endeavours and we wish you all the best. Again, THANK YOU!

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IRELAND

June 7 to 17, 2016

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!

SLOVENIJA

Only 3 spots left!

July 15 to 25, 2016

Slovenija, where the Alps meet the Mediterranean, is a country of amazingly unspoiled beauty. Our program includes hikes behind the thundering Slap Pericnik waterfall, through Vintgar Gorge gushing with white water, on the slopes of & Mt. Triglav, and around the glacier-fed Lake Bohinj. Home base for the entire holiday will be the fairy-tale setting of Bled.

MACHU PICCHU

September 16 to 28, 2016

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!**

(Note: This trip does not involve ANY camping – all accommodations are in hotel & lodges.)

TURKEY

October 15 to 26, 2016

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.

NEW ZEALAND

1 spot for gentleman to share accommodations

November 8 to 27, 2016

Enjoy a full itinerary of hiking and sightseeing through the North and South Islands, including Tongariro Crossing, the Abel Tasman Coastal Walk and the Milford Track.

2016 Spring, Summer and Fall Peninsula Bruce Trail Club Easy Walks - Contact Elaine Wasserman 519-795-7407

DATE	TIME	NAME AND WHERE TO MEET	DOD	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Tuesday, May 10	11:00 a.m.	Hope Bay Nature Reserve, Provincial Park. From County Road 9, turn east on Hopeness Road and south on Cathedral Road	Easy	3 km	A profusion of trout lilies, red and white trilliums, violets, possibly hepatica and spring beauty. In the past we have seen blue cohosh, cut-leaved toothwort, false mitrewort, squirrel corn, dutchman's breeches, virginia waterleaf in abundance.
Tuesday, May 31	11:00 a.m.	FON Alvar and Crane River. Parking on west side of Hwy 6, just north of Dyer's Bay Road	Easy	2 km	The alvar features rare lakeside daisies, dwarf lake irises, polygala, seneca snake root and stary false solomon seal. At Crane River rest spot, nodding trilliums, bulblet, maiden hair spleenwort ferns.
Tuesday, June 7	10:00 a.m.	Bard Side Trail Loop. Hwy 6 to Lindsay Road 5. Left on East Road, right on Cape Chin North Road. Watch for white blazes on the right and park where blazes turn right, at the Cape Chin Connection sign.	Easy	3 km	This is a lovely loop, partly along the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay. White polygala are abundant here.
Tuesday, June 28	10:00 a.m.	Showy ladyslippers and Petrel Point. Meet at Lion's Head Cemetery on Cemetery Road off Hwy 6.	Easy	2 km	First walking into the ANSI-protected cemetery bog, we will continue at Petrel Point where round-leaved and slender-leaved sundew, bog orchid, lobelia, loesel's twayblade, cotton grass, indian plantain, rue and sweet gale can be observed off the boardwalk.
Tuesday, July 12	10:00 a.m.	Singing Sands Amble. Parking Lot at Singing Sands National Park, Dorcas Bay Road, west off Hwy 6.	Easy	3 km	First walking the boardwalk, we will see a profusion of pitcher plants, also sticky tofieldia, lobelia, possibly rose pogonia, grass pinks and spotted coral root. Then along a woody walkway: hills thistle, pipsissewa, purple fringed orchid. Returning along Lake Huron: calamint, sundews, bladderwort and butterwort.
Tuesday, July 26	10:00 a.m.	John Appleton Side Trail South of Barrow Bay, off County Road 9	Moderate	2.5 km	Interesting rock formations called grikes.
Tuesday, August 16	10:00 a.m.	White Bluff Nature Reserve. From Hwy 6, east on Lindsay Road 5, north on East Road, then east on Cape Chin South Road. At the first T-junction, turn left and at the 2nd junction, turn right.	Easy	4 km	A pleasant loop along an old logging road, then along the Georgian Bay shore. On our way back, through a wooded area, we should see rattlesnake plantain and indian pipe, spotted knapweed and star thistle.
Tuesday, September 20	10:00 a.m.	Jackson's Cove Lookout. Bruce County Road 9, east on Hopeness Road. Turn right on Jackson's Cove Road and park at the top of the hill.	Moderate	5 km	First walking along the escarpment, we loop back through deciduous forest where christmas, crested shield, holly and marginal ferns are a delight. Also wild ginger.
Tuesday, October 18	11:00 a.m.	Devil's Monument and Minihinnick Side Trail. From Hwy 6, east on Lindsay Road 5, north on East Road, then east on Cape Chin North Road and follow it to Borchardt Road at the top of the escarpment. Park at the end of Borchardt Road.	Strenuous	8 km	A lovely walk along the escarpment. Lunch overlooking Georgian Bay, looping back through forest.

Hike and Draw - White Bluff (Lion's Head)

May 9, 2016 - 10am - 3pm approximately - Meeting Place: Richardson's Access, km 86.2 - Forty Hills Road, north of Lion's Head ON Distance--about 5.2 km--a pleasant walk at a moderate pace - terrain varies from rocky to meadow, includes a hundred metres of moderately strenuous climbing at the scarp edge. We begin at Richardson's access parking lot, km 86.2 and walk west through a cedar forest to connect with the main trail heading north. There are some beautiful vistas here. The variety of environments on this hike will provide for great drawing choices.

Please pre-register for this hike so that if the weather is inclement we can contact you via email or phone and we will reschedule sometime in the same week.

For more information please refer to <http://www.kristinamaus.com/hike-and-draw.html> or www.kristinamaus.com or email Julie Heinrichs at cedargrovesfarmlh@hotmail.com

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club 2016 End-to-End Special

The Peninsula Club 2016 End-to-End Special is 19 days starting in Wiarton on May 5 and ending at the cairn in Tobermory on September 8. These hikes are on Thursdays throughout the summer and are designed for the occasional hiker and to go at a gentle pace. You will be accompanied by an experienced leader. Although the route is challenging and can be strenuous, this series has been designed with short sections determined by trail access points. There will be no checkpoints or dropouts along the way. You will need a lunch, at least a litre of water and closed toe shoes that you are comfortable walking in. Shoes with ankle support and long pants are recommended. Please do not bring dogs. You do not need to be a member of the BTC and pre-registration is not required but we ask for a donation of \$5 per hike, \$2 for members, and that you arrive 15 minutes before the start time to sign in. We meet at the endpoint for the hike and car shuttle to the beginning to start hiking. Please be prepared to participate in the car shuttle and hike with the group at the pace set by the leader. This section has interesting examples of orchids, ferns and ancient rock formations. Map references are taken from the latest BTC Guide, Edition 28. The Grey Bruce tourist map is also useful for getting to parking access points.

Schedule for End 2 End Special - 2016					
Date/Time	Hike No.	Meeting Point	Where to Meet	Kms	Features/Information
Thursday May 5 10:00 AM	1	Map 35 Km 5.8	North from Wiarton 3 km on Hwy 6, turn right on County Rd. 9. Or follow County Rd. 9 south almost to Colpoys Bay. There is roadside parking on the east side of the road near the stile.	5.8	A walk along the lakefront, up a spiral staircase, past the ruins of The Corran followed by an easy walk through woods.
Thursday May 12 10:00 am	2	Map 36 Km 14.8	North from Wiarton 3 km on Hwy 6, turn right on County Rd. 9 for 6 km, then turn east on Purple Valley Rd. for 4 km to Stop sign. Continue east on Wright's Cres. for about 2 km to a parking lot as the road bends to the left.	9	A wooded walk with some uneven sections over rocks and roots. Great views over Colpoys Bay. We will see Whitecloud, Griffith and Hay Islands.
Thursday May 19 10:00 am	3	Map 36 Km 22.9	North from Wiarton 3 km on Hwy 6, turn right on County Rd. 9 for 6 km, then turn east on Purple Valley Rd. for 5 km to Stop sign. Turn north on Purple Valley Rd. 5 km to McIver Rd. Turn east on McIver Rd. and take first right, going south, on Boundary Rd. to a curve with roadside parking at Crooked Toe Rd.	8.1	This section has some moderate climbs through woods. We pass an old but still functioning water pump.

Thursday May 26 10:00 am	4	Map 36 Km 31.6	North from Warton 3 km on Hwy 6, turn right on County Rd. 9 for 6 km, turn east on Purple Valley Rd. for 5 km to Stop sign. Turn north on Purple Valley Rd. 5 km to McIver Rd. Turn east on McIver Rd. and continue down the hill to Cape Croker Rd. Turn left and follow the road to just before the park entrance where there is roadside parking.	8.7	Hike around Jones Bluff with excellent views over the Cape Croker peninsula.
Thursday Jun 2 10:00 am	5	Map 37 Km 41.1	Follow Bruce County Rd. 9 to signs indicating Hope Bay. Turn east on Beech St. Follow the road down the hill and around the bend and continue around the bay to Brock St. Turn right and park at the top.	9.5	A walk through Camp Croker campground and along the newly repaired 900m long Snake boardwalk then a long strenuous climb to the top of the escarpment including a steel stairway. A wooded loop through a provincial nature reserve has excellent views over Sydney and Hope Bays, many types of fern can be found here.
Thursday Jun 9 10:00 am	6	Map 37 Km 50.4	Follow Bruce County Rd. 9 to signs indicating Hopeness Rd. Turn east for 4 km to Tower Rd. Turn right and follow the road to a parking area on the right at the top of the hill.	9.3	A stretch of road around Hope Bay and then a challenging and strenuous climb and hike through the woods past some potholes. The final part of this section has numerous rocks and roots.
Thursday Jun 16 10:00 am	7	Map 37 Km 59.5	Follow Bruce County Rd. 9 to Scenic Caves Rd. Turn east on Scenic Caves Rd for 2 km. Turn north onto Rush Cove Rd. and follow it for 1.5 km to a large roadside parking lot on the left.	9.1	The first part of this hike is challenging and rocky. There are beautiful lookouts, intriguing crevices, an alvar and a lovely flat rock beach at Rush Cove.
Thursday Jun 23 10:00 am	8	Map 38 Km 68.1	Follow Bruce County Rd. 9 to Cemetery Rd. Turn east and follow it to the end to a parking area at a dead end.	8.6	Today we walk on the road, gravel and paved. Good and bad news!
Thursday Jun 30 10:00 am	9	Map 38 Km 80.3	Meet at the McCurdy parking lot on Moore St. in Lion's Head, about 1 km east of Main St.	12.2	Challenging rocky section with excellent lookouts over Barrow Bay. Hike then includes several climbs, passes Gun Point, McKay's Harbour & spectacular lookouts into Lion's Head and up the coastline to Cabot Head. There are numerous potholes to be seen along the final stretches.
Thursday Jul 7 10:00 am	10	Map 38 Km 86.2	Park in Richardson Parking Lot on Forty Hills Road. Take Isthmus Bay Rd. north out of Lion's Head until it becomes Forty Hills Rd. Parking lot is on the right after the bend. From Hwy 6, turn east on Everatt Sideroad to Isthmus Bay Rd. and turn left.	5.9	A walk through Lion's Head and past the Williams Caves. Then a stretch of road along Isthmus Bay with a lovely view toward White Bluff.
Thursday Jul 14 10:00 am	11	Map 39 Km 97.2	Take Hwy 6 about 8 km north from Ferndale to Lindsay Rd. 5. Turn east. At the East Rd. intersection turn north for 2 km. Be sure to keep right onto Cape Chin Rd. onto gravel where the East Rd. curves left. Follow the road 5 km to Georgian Bay. Turn south a short distance on Carter Rd. to a dead end with a large turnaround for parking.	11	This hike is moderate through fields, hardwood forests, and a long boulder beach at Cape Chin south. There is a descent to Reed's Dump and a lookout from Smokey Head.

Thursday Jul 21 10:00 am	12	Map 39 Km 104.6	Take Hwy 6 about 8 km north from Ferndale to Lindsay Rd. 5. Turn east. At the East Rd. intersection turn north for 2 km and continue on the paved road until Cape Chin Rd. North. Turn east and continue for about 4 km to roadside parking as the road bends sharply to the left	7.4	A spectacular lookout at Cape Chin North. The tallest tree on the Bruce Peninsula is on this section. The trail passes through some fields to the road.
Thursday Jul 28 10:00 am	13	Map 40 Km 112.1	Take Hwy 6 22 km north from Ferndale to Dyers Bay Rd. Turn east for 8 km. At the T- junction, turn south toward Dyers Bay. When the road bends left, continue on Britain Lake Rd. and follow it to a parking area at the deadend	7.5	Some road sections and some strenuous rocky pieces including numerous ups and downs. You can scramble around the Devil's Monument seastack and down to the beach. There are more potholes at the end of this section
Thursday Aug 4 10:00 am	14	Map 40 Km 118.8	Take Hwy 6 22 km north from Ferndale to Dyers Bay Rd. Turn east for 8 km. At the T- junction, turn north on Bartley Drive and then east onto Lindsay Rd. 40. Continue about 2 km to the trail access point and roadside parking.	6.7	This section is strenuous and uneven and includes rocks and roots. Some of the highest cliffs are in this section.
Thursday Aug 11 10:00 am	15	Map 40 Km 126.6	Take Hwy 6 22 km north of Ferndale to Dyers Bay Rd. Turn east for 6 km. Turn left onto Crane Lake Rd. and follow it for 6 km to a small parking area at the end. Do not park on private property.	7.8	Today we walk on the road, gravel and dirt. Good and bad news! But the fields and woods are pretty.
Thursday Aug 18 10:00 am	16	Map 41 Km 140.7	Take Hwy 6 to Emmett Lake Rd. about 10 k south of Tobermory. Follow the road for about 8 km being sure to take the left fork for Halfway Log Dump. Continue to a large parking lot. National Park fees will apply. Please bring \$3 in change for parking.	14.1	An old logging road takes us to High Dump where a rope assists in the descent to the beach (optional but not to be missed). Then a long rugged hike along the cliff edge to Halfway Log Dump. There will be no access to water for 7km. This is a tough hike but the views are amazing.
Thursday Aug 25 10:00 am	17	Map 41 Km 146.5	Take Hwy 6 to Cyprus Lake Rd. about 8 km south of Tobermory. We will meet at the Park gate. National Park fees will apply for cars entering the Park for the day. Bring \$3 in change for parking	5.8	A very rugged cliff section and some boulder beach. Highlights today include Stormhaven and the Grotto,
Thursday Sept 1 10:00 am	18	Map 42 Km 157.6	Take Hwy 6 to Little Cove Rd. Turn east and follow the road to a parking area on your right. Again, National Park fees will apply when we shuttle to Cyprus Lake. Bring \$3 in change for parking.	11.1	More rugged cliffs and boulder beaches. Highlights today include Overhanging Point, Driftwood Cove and Little Cove.
Thursday Sept 8 10:00 am	19	Map 42 Km 165.1	Meet at the Community Centre parking lot on the east side of Hwy 6 in Tobermory.	7.5 to Cairn	There are some moderately rocky sections. The trail passes the National Park Visitor Centre before finally ending at the Cairn, newly refurbished for our 50th anniversary and overlooking Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory.

See a Problem on the Trail? Please Report it!

Recently, a potential logging operation was stopped thanks to a concerned citizen, who reported seeing blazes on trees on one of our managed properties. So if you see anything amiss, either on the trail or on one of our managed properties, please report it immediately to ...
 pbtccgeneralinfo@gmail.com On behalf of our club, thank you!

More Hiking Opportunities

Birding Hike – Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

Same outing and same places as in past years but new leaders.

Date: Wednesday May 11, 2016, time 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: Municipal parking area at top of Dyers Bay hill. From highway 6 turn east onto Dyers Bay Road. Stay on paved road towards Dyers Bay and at the top of the hill a large sign will direct you to municipal parking area on left. We will carpool from here.

Duration: Easy Walking. This is a drive, stop and walk tour of approximately 10 km. We will visit 5 or 6 prime birding spots in this area. We usually finish about 2:30 p.m.

Bring clothing appropriate for weather, good walking shoes or boots, water, snacks and lunch. We will eat lunch at the Warder Ranch. Binoculars, scopes and cameras are helpful and welcome.

Leaders: Anita and Bob Cunningham (519) 793-3286 or quiltingbirder@gmail.com.

Special Note: After leading many great birding hikes over the years Ray and Marlene Rothenbury are getting ready to retire to southern Ontario. They will be greatly missed and are always welcome to join us.

Peninsula Club End-to-End 2016

Weekends: July 30/31/August 1, August 20-21, September 17-19, September 24-25.

This is a full series hike, suitable for experienced hikers and a very challenging end-to-end. The “Degree of Difficulty” is strenuous and we will hike at a brisk, steady pace. Expect difficult / rocky footing and steep climbs on some portions of this section. There will be no checkpoints or dropouts along the way. There may be opportunities for a brief swim during the hike on all days except day 1. The cost is \$100, (a tax receipt will be issued). Upon completion of all nine hikes, a Peninsula Club End-to-End badge will be awarded..

Please be aware that some hotels/motels/campgrounds as well as some restaurants in the Bruce Peninsula area closed for the season after Labour Day. It is best to make your accommodation arrangements early.

No dogs. Please be prepared to participate in the car shuttle and hike with the group at the pace set by the leader.

This hike requires registration. Group size may be limited.

Please register by email to peninsulae2e@gmail.com **Registration begins April 1.**

2016 HIKING FESTIVAL

September 30th to October 2nd

It's time to mark your calendars for our exciting, annual Hiking Festival!

This year's event will be held from September 30th to October 2nd.

Saturday evening will feature Beth Gilhespy who will give a presentation on the Burgess Shale dig.

Check our website and future editions of The Rattler for more information.

Hope Bay Loop (report from the past)

There is a bumper sticker that says "I'm an Archivist not a Magician" but that could not be said of Deborah Sturdevant, who wears both hats well. During the last couple of years she has been working her way through boxes and boxes of material in order to organize and electronically store the PBTC records. It is through her efforts that we are now able to bring you a series of past Rattler and Bruce Trail News articles that when originally published celebrated the opening of some of our Side Trails and explained how they were named. As you embark on the new Blue Series Challenge, appreciate these loop hikes even more, knowing their fascinating historical back stories.

Excerpt from Bruce Trail News, Fall 1989

Above Hope Bay, as a result of the reroute, the main trail swings right towards the scarp edge. To the left, the blue-blazed loop trail continues on the logging track past the ruins of an old lumber camp. The main trail is quite rugged; it passes two huge potholes in the rock, a few metres across but very deep. These are the product of the retreat of the glaciers, when the meltwater was cascading over the escarpment. Shortly the trail reaches the edge, towering 90 metres above the water, and the hiker is rewarded with a magnificent view over Hope Bay. For close to three kilometres, the trail follows the escarpment lip, returning constantly to a series of lookouts and dramatic overhangs. Above Jackson's Cove, the trail swings inland to cross the road linking Hope Ness and Jackson's Cove. The trail continues north across the broken limestone ridges and then swings west to rejoin the old route on the road allowance as it heads north towards Barrow Bay. At this junction, the blue-blazed loop goes south past the "ghost hamlet" of Hope Ness; only the old school house remains, now converted to a community centre.

The trail continues south and then east for about four kilometres to rejoin the main trail. A short

yellow-blazed connecting link also joins the blue trail to the main trail at a lookout over the bay.

Jack Poste has been a long-time member of the Blue Mountains club and is currently its trail director. Several years ago when the clubs from the south "adopted" sections of the trail in the Bruce Peninsula, Blue Mountains assumed responsibility for the footpath from Hope Bay to Barrow Bay, and Jack personally took on the leadership for this project. Jack's cottage, "The Outpost", is located at Jackson's Cove, close to the trail, and he has always been generous in making it available as a base for trail development volunteers. It was the decision of the BTA executive that the new loop should be named the Jack Poste Loop Trail in honour of Jack's commitment over the years to the Bruce Trail. It is a richly deserved tribute to his lengthy volunteer service.

The reroute overlooking Hope Bay is one of the most important of the '80s; only Gun Point can rival its attractiveness. It is a tribute to all the volunteers of the Bruce Trail who collectively worked to establish its existence. It is a magnificent hiking resource which will open for future generations another insight into the splendour of the Bruce Peninsula.

On Sunday June 25, 1989, about 35 hikers (and one dog) joined to officially open the Jack Poste Loop Trail with its spectacular rerouting of the main trail along the scarp edge on the north shore of Hope Bay. It was a hot muggy day; on the horizon hung a heat haze and on the ground the poison ivy grew luxuriously. At the end of the day, many of the hikers cooled off in the clear waters of the bay.



Remains found in ghost hamlet of Hope Ness



Remembering our trail friends

Bill Cannon

The 1960's was characterized by a youthful enthusiasm that demonstrated itself in the opening of the Bruce Trail in 1967. Bill Cannon was one of the principals who brought about its early dramatic growth.

Bill joined the BTA in 1964 and quickly took a leadership role. For example, he chaired the committee which organized the Official Opening in Tobermory in 1967 and he was the BTA President from 1967 to 1969.

Cottage owners at Barrow Bay, Bill and his wife Barbara continued with the Peninsula club as active trail volunteers. More than a decade ago, the PBTC named a side trail above Jackson's Cove in appreciation for their many years of contribution.

It was with sadness that we learned this past January that Bill had passed on. The Cannon's contribution will live on for future generations to enjoy the beauty of the Escarpment.



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The Devil's Monument

I've often wondered why a magnificent lake stack like the one at Dyer's Bay would be referred to as "The Devil's Monument". I've read that Puritans made a practice of naming unusual landscape formations like rock outcrops and shore stacks after Satan to appease his egomaniacal temperament. They believed in inherent evil, certain that the devil had infiltrated their environment and was ready to entice them at any moment.

Indian Legend views it differently claiming that violence and theft between tribes angered the gods. The god of lightning took revenge by striking the cliff upon which the offenders lived, thus splitting the rock and separating it from the mainland. Isolated and alone, they starved to death.

So I wondered what this "monument" (referred to by some as a "shrine" or a "pulpit") actually looked like and a few years ago I hiked out to The Devil's Monument alone to check it out. I parked the car at the access to the Cottril Lake Side Trail and headed straight down to the Georgian Bay shoreline. After only two kilometres I found myself at the top of a steel staircase that looked like an old fire escape. Though rusty and steep, it was solid and securely attached to the cliff. Gripping the railings, I descended fifteen steps to a wooden platform. Three more steps and the base of the cliff appeared. It was like a crypt down there – damp, moss-hung and murky. A cascade of water wept out of the limestone into pools that were pungent with algae. When I stuck my head below an overhang I could hear water rushing through irrigation lines chiseled through the escarpment.

This is a deeply veined and mysterious land. There are places where the water leaks out and then disappears completely only to trickle out again farther down the rockface. On the rocks directly below the waterfall a motionless brown frog with a green mouth was cooling his mottled skin. I stepped closer to take his photograph expecting him to dive into the water and escape but he stood his ground, the still picture of tranquility.

Moving on I found the footing across the shale remains wet and tricky. Behind me I felt a hulking presence and as I turned a massive pillar of stratified bedrock rose at least forty feet out of

the ruins, its surface a geometric mass of square and rectangular shingles. A lone birch huddled up against the rock had rooted itself to the thick base of the pillar. This was "The Devil's Monument". I circled it cautiously jumping back when two garter snakes crossed my path. I knew that the Massassauga Rattlesnake had been sighted here so any signs of slithering made my heart lurch.

There were virtually no dry rocks to deposit my backpack on down there and my boots were rank from stepping through mounds of soggy moss and decayed wood. I decided to hang my pack on a branch to keep it dry but it promptly fell and rolled down the decline, collecting muck as it went. Luckily my camera did not get wet but the summer foliage camouflaged the pillar making photo-ops a challenge.

As I continued down the trail to a wide cobble beach I noticed three adults, two men and a woman and two rottweillers combing the shoreline. Keeping my distance, I leaned up against an old cedar and stared at the sea of naked rock. I watched the man bend over and unleash both dogs. Every now and then they took a few steps towards me, their head lowered. Are they stalking me? I wondered. I climbed backwards onto a boulder and watched them out of the corner of my eye. Their brawny bodies, tan muzzles and eyebrow patches reminded me of black bears, maybe hungry ones. On several occasions a gruff voice shouted, "Come!" and the pair reluctantly followed their master. His back was no sooner turned than they both reversed direction and began to skulk toward me like a team of bullies. I regarded their squared-off heads and burley shoulders as they slowly advanced. I wanted to tell that guy to keep his dogs away but my mounting anxiety and a low growl silenced me.

Finally their master gave a long shrill whistle and the two of them marched off down the shoreline. On my way back, I met three children, two teenage girls and a young boy escorting their old dog around the cascading pools. The dog was clearly the boy's beloved. He guided his pet patiently, crooned to him that he was a good boy and took the dog's pace down to the cobble beach.

I was only halfway up the staircase when I heard fierce barking. Several screams erupted from the beach, then "No! Help!" from the frantic little boy. Seconds later, the girls were scrambling up the stairs and before I could get a word in, they were flying down the trail. I went back down to discover that two of the adults had disappeared with the rottweillers while a man tried to console the dog and his distraught companion. The boy had his arms around the dog's head, his face streaked with tears. The man waved me off – the girls had gone to get their parents he said.

Before heading for the Minhinnick Side Trail I took one last look at The Devil's Monument growing straight out of paradise. Back at the top, I saw that the property owners had nailed a notice to a decaying tree: "If you see a large white dog on the trail, he is not lost. Please do not

feed him or take him. He knows his way home." I dwelled on those stricken children and their broken pet all the way back to the car. There was a smear on that paradise now. A terrified child cried, his old dog's blood staining the white cobbles while the black rottweillers pranced home. I could not help thinking that maybe The Devil's Monument delivers another warning – beware all those bred for aggression.

© Kathy Berg

EDITORS NOTE:

In the Bruce Trail Conservancy Trail Guide under the Bruce Trail Users' Code it states: Keep dogs on a leash and under control at all times. To all hikers, please abide by this simple code in order to avoid such a situation again.




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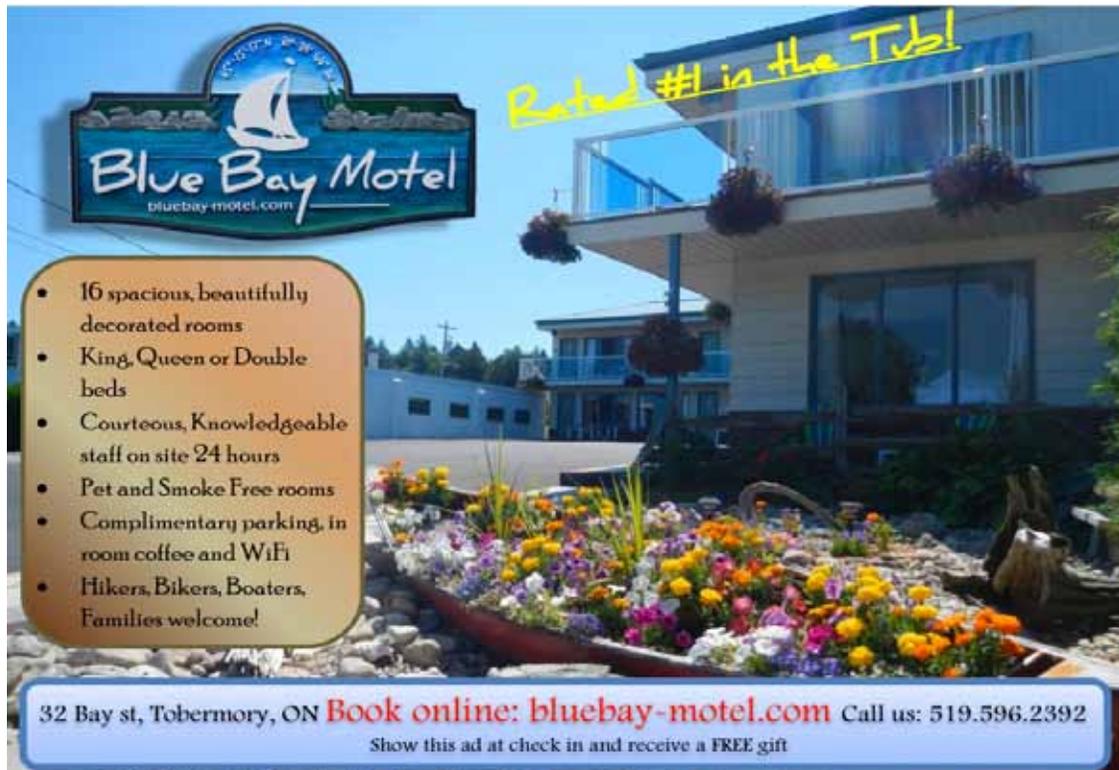
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