



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club Annual General Meeting

April 20, 2024, 3:00-4:30pm

All Saints Anglican Church
32 Elgin Street, Collingwood

To register for the Blue Mountains Annual General Meeting, please follow click [HERE](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda
3. Opening Remarks by the Vice President
4. Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report with 2024/2025 Budget
7. Directors' Reports and Questions
9. Election of the Slate of Directors for 2024-2025
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

A potluck dinner will take place after the AGM.



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Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2023

4:00 pm via Zoom

Attending	BMBTC Members and Board Members, Jackie Randle
Regrets	
Minutes by	Sandy McNair

Call to Order at 4:01 pm by Kelly-Leigh Thomas. Land Acknowledgement provided by Vera Cvetkovic. Acknowledgement and appreciation expressed to Jackie Randle of Bruce Trail Conservancy for her assistance throughout the year and for assisting with administration of this meeting. A quorum was declared by Sandy McNair.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion 1st by Christine Lasky, 2nd by David Cole, Carried Unanimously.

Opening Remarks by the President

As more fully detailed in the President's Report, Kelly-Leigh Thomas highlighted the many accomplishments of the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club over the prior year. Appreciation and recognition of the historic and ongoing contributions of the retiring directors was provided. They are: Rebecca Koroll, Frank Huggins, Sandy Buik, Allison Thomas and Sandy McNair

Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

Motion: 1st by Sandy McNair, 2nd by Linda Finley, Carried Unanimously.

President's Report

Kelly-Leigh Thomas referred to and deferred to her report as distributed. Her opening remarks provided an overview.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements with the 2023-2024 Budget as distributed.

1st by Rob Alsop, 2nd by Sandy McNair, Carried Unanimously

Directors' Reports and Questions

Kelly-Leigh Thomas invited Linda Finley to respond to a question received regarding Sustainability. Linda provided a comprehensive outline of the sustainability initiatives undertaken by BMBTC.

Motion: To approve the Directors' reports as distributed. 1st by Michel Treuman, 2nd by Bev Matthews, Carried Unanimously

Club Bylaws – Amendments to Improve Commitment Control

Motion: To approve the red-lined amendments as distributed. 1st by Rob Alsop, 2nd by David Matthews.
Carried Unanimously.

Presentation of Slate of Directors for 2022-2023

Motion: That the proposed slate of directors be approved as follows:
1st by Michael Treuman, 2nd by Allison Thomas, Carried Unanimously

Renewing:

Kelly-Leigh Thomas
Rob Alsop
David Cole
Linda Finley
Stan Kaczmarek
Christine Lasky
Dick Edwards
Michael Treuman
Bev Matthews
Dave Matthews

New:

Vera Cvetkovic
Jim Lewis
Julie Scott
Murray Morrison
Arie van Walraven
Michelle McKenna

New Business: none

Meeting Terminated by Kelly-Leigh Thomas at 4:27 pm based upon a motion from Allison Thomas.



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President's Report Blue Mountains BTC 2023-2024

Julie Scott

President Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club

Dear Bruce Trail enthusiasts,

It's my pleasure to reflect on the efforts of the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club (BMBTC) in the last fiscal year to support the ambitious goals of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's (BTC) 2030 Strategy. Our club has embraced the five goals, helping to advance our shared mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Urgently Protect Land:

Our club has been unwavering in working to secure land within our section of the BTC. Through collaborating with landowners, we've made significant strides in expanding and safeguarding critical habitats along the Bruce Trail.

Restore and Care for Niagara Escarpment Lands:

This year has seen us redouble our efforts to restore and care for the precious ecosystems of the Niagara Escarpment. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to mitigate the impact of invasive species and protect endangered wildlife.

Enhance the Bruce Trail Experience:

Our club recognizes its role in enabling every individual who sets foot on the Bruce Trail to experience its magic to the fullest. This year, we've invested in sustainable trail design and maintenance, ensuring that the Bruce Trail meets world-class standards of accessibility and environmental stewardship.

Inspire Generosity:

This year has seen an outpouring of generosity from our members and supporters. Despite a turnover in the leadership of the BMBTC Board, new and returning directors and volunteers were able to expand our reach in the community, helping to deepen our supporters' connection to the BTC.

Support People and Culture:

At the heart of our club are the dedicated individuals who give their time, talent, and passion. By strengthening relationships with other Bruce Trail clubs and empowering our volunteers to achieve their full potential, we've built a resilient network of volunteers who are committed to our shared vision of a protected conservation corridor.

Thank you for your tireless dedication. I am very grateful to all of you and feel honoured to have served as your president. Although I am stepping off the Board, I plan to continue to support the work of BMBTC.

Let us continue to blaze a trail of conservation and connection that will endure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Julie Scott



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Treasurer's Report

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club Cash Flow for the year ended March 31, 2024

	Year Ended 2024	Year Ended 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025
Revenue				
Badge Sales	3,796	4,034	4,122	4,000
Club Membership Fees	9,112	10,420	9,830	10,000
Donations Received	5,751	4,200	350	1,000
Donations - Tax Receipted	395	0	0	500
End 2 End Event Income	11,276	3,942	7,486	15,500
Fundraising	0	518	3,000	0
Merchandise Sales	0	0	0	1,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	561	187	190	500
Total Revenue	30,890	23,301	24,978	32,700
Expenses				
Badge Purchases	2,552	2,136	2,226	2,500
Donations Paid	300	0	0	500
End 2 End Event	4,261	1,910	4,830	10,000
Fundraising Expenses	0	269	3,250	0
Jill's Journey Fund Expenses	0	500	0	0
Merchandise Purchased	0	0	0	950
Music Hike Expenses	1,271	0	0	1,500
Office Supplies	511	723	1,322	1,000
Trail Maintenance	3,176	4,189	7,500	7,500
Transfer to BTC	10,395	0	3,000	10,000
Volunteer Appreciation	591	1,157	0	1,490
Mission Road Bridge	0	0	5,000	2,500
Total Expenses	23,058	10,884	27,128	37,940
Net Profit	7,832	12,418	(2,150)	(5,240)
Cash - Year Start	31,170.97	18,753.39		39,003.24
Cash Year End	39,003.24	31,170.97		33,763.24



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Directors' Reports

Past President Report 2023/24

Kelly-Leigh Thomas

Board meetings, subcommittee work, Trail Captain duties and leading hikes rounded out my involvement at BMBTC this year.

Promoting indigenous reflection and reconciliation efforts within our Club when leading hikes and at special events such as our Music Hike and Summer Solstice helped bring this part of the BTC strategic plan to life.

I made myself available to newer Board and committee members to add context and background on current issues and

encouraged improved transparency within our Board.

As my four years of volunteer work on the Blue Mountains Club Board come to an end I'd like to wish the new Board much success with the busy year ahead.

Volunteer Director

Michelle McKenna

The volunteers have been busy this year with maintenance projects, multiple events and at the board level.

At the board level we've been successful filling 2 Director positions this past year - Hike Director and Membership Director. We are still looking for the right candidate for Events Director. Our board will see change to the President in the coming year and we thank Julie Scott for her contributions in the past year. With new board members we are excited for the new ideas, collaboration and stability they bring for the next few years.

This year I was able to attend a course on Engagement Organizing run through the Sustainability Network. The course reiterated the importance of giving thanks and appreciation to our volunteers. With Covid nerves easing we find people are excited to get together again. In that spirit we hosted a Christmas Potluck and the Trail Angel meet up. This coming year, we will plan to organize a Club wide appreciation event to celebrate our hard work and come together as a group. It's encouraged for Directors to make their groups of volunteers feel appreciated and thanked on a continuous basis. Myra Campbell and Mary-Jane McIntyre nominated Linda Finley for the Honorary Lifetime Award. In June Linda was successful in her Nomination, Congratulations Linda.

We continue to accept new volunteer applications through the BTC website. This year a total of 11 were received (May to April). This is down from last year of 23 applications. I've been able to re-initiate contact with past applicants and have had some successful volunteers come forward.

Looking forward to the year ahead,

Membership Director
Linda Hartley

Club	Total Members	vs Last Report to Clubs			vs Last Year*		
	Apr 2 2024	Mar 1 2024	# +/-	% +/-	April 3 2023	# +/-	% +/-
BM	853	851	2	0%	922	-69	-7%

The majority of clubs are experiencing declining membership. Much of this is attributed to a spike during COVID and non renewal after things opened up.

We are currently working on youth involvement through Girl Guide, and Scout programs and hope to expand into school programs.

Trail Director
Linda Finley

The Blue Mountains BTC is comprised of approximately 68 km of Main trail and an additional 30 km of Side trails. Our Club section offers a diversity of topography and ecology, leading to a variety of trail maintenance challenges and development opportunities.

1. TRAIL CAPTAINS

Recruitment & Retention

Our Club currently has over 40 active Trail Captains. Some resignations were handed in over the year, however, replacements were successfully recruited. Each new Trail Captain receives an on-site orientation along with training in their roles and responsibilities. Ongoing coaching and support are provided where needed. Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to all these dedicated volunteers for keeping our trails safe and hikeable.

2. TRAIL MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

2.1 Trail Monitoring

Trail Captains were very active in undertaking trail inspections and submitting Trail Status Reports. During the summer of 2023, we benefitted from 2 Trail Ambassadors who also monitored the trail.

2.2 Trail Maintenance

Maintenance was based on issues flagged by the Trail Captains and Trail Ambassadors, as well as trail users and hike leaders. Typical activities included the removal of downed and hazard trees, mowing and trimming, blaze refreshing, and sign installation.

The “Report a Trail Issue” feature on the Bruce Trail App has proved to be a valuable communication tool. It permits trail users to report their concerns directly to the Trail Director, complete with GPS coordinates and photos.

3. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & CHANGES

3.1 Pretty River Access Trail

In December 2023, a new 510 m Side trail was established that links the parking area located on Pretty River Road to the Bruce Trail network within the Provincial Park.

3.2 Nottawasaga Lookout

A minor realignment of the Main trail was undertaken in the fall of 2023 at the south end of the Nottawasaga Lookout Provincial Park.

3.3 Scenic Caves Road

In March 2024, a portion of the Main trail was rerouted onto a 180 m stretch of Scenic Caves Rd. This was necessary to avoid long term construction on the property where the trail had been located.

Land Steward Director Stan Kaczmarek

- In late spring 6 Eastern Bluebird Boxes were installed on the Gardner and Dunedin properties, 3 on each. 6 additional boxes made ready for installation in the spring of 2024.
- Thanks to a concerted effort by over a dozen volunteers, 120 American Chestnut Seedlings provided by the Canadian Chestnut Council were planted in the meadow area of the Noisy River property.
- The Blue Mountain Club acquired an additional property adjacent to the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, which has been named : Maple Cross Nature Reserve at Salamander’s Bluff.
- 3 new Land Stewards assigned for the newly acquired Maple Cross property and 2 other vacant positions.
- On an ad hoc basis related to biodiversity; a milkweed seed collection and planting project in the fall on the Dunedin Property in an attempt to increase the number of feeding sites for the Monarch butterfly.

Communications Director Vera Cvetkovic

Team Members Updates:

Vera Cvetkovic - Communications Director, Webmaster and Social Media

Sarah Corrigan – Email Newsletters

Shani Betz – New Communication team member as of April 2024 taking responsibility for Website content

Major activities in 2023/2024

1. BMBTC Website officially migrated from Bravenet to BTC server last November 2023. We still host domain bmbtc.org and emails with Bravenet. Website: Frequently posted trail changes, latest hike schedule and updated badge section based on new hikes.
2. Strong and extremely successful quarterly email newsletter engagement lead by Sarah. We should continue with same frequency and Mailchimp deployment.

Dates for 2024/2025 Blue Print Newsletters

	Edition	Dates
1	Spring	April 26, 2024
2	Summer	July 26, 2024
3	Fall	October 25, 2024
4	Winter	January 31, 2025

3. Social media Engagement: Still strong presence and slightly increase audience on Facebook and Instagram channels this year. X (former Twitter) decline audience. Remind hikers and members to

tag us on social media whenever you can. Consider adding club hashtags to new signage as it goes up on our trails.

Events Director, (Interim)

Michael Treuman

With the peak effects of COVID of COVID behind us, some of our traditional “Events” have come back in place.

Our major event is the annual End-to-End. Then some mid-size ones such as the Cakewalk Hike, Potluck socials and the Music Hike.

End-to-End, in late May 2023 incorporated a brand new feature for our Club, namely an option for hikers to complete the Blue Mountains section of 67km over three days, instead of the usual two. For those “three day” hikers we extended our “E2E weekend” into Monday, and arranged separate parking, bus transport and checkpoint services.

Recalling that before COVID, we had 150 or more hikers for the two-day event, we resumed with 40 or so when we restarted in 2022 after a two-year absence. In 2023 we welcomed about 75 persons for the two-day event, and about 45 for the three-day event. Interestingly, the completion percentage for the three-day hikers was somewhat higher than that for the two-day persons: 91% vs 75%.

One might wonder why !

Meeting socially came back to some degree in 2023. It had been part of the Blue Mountains member experience, ranging from restaurant or home gatherings after some of the scheduled hikes, and after Board meetings, a BBQ on Saturday evening at the E2E, to the Holiday and AGM Potlucks.

Our first distinctly social item of the season was the popular “Cakewalk” hike event in June. A “short” and a “long” hike are scheduled. Both meet for lunch at the same time around a picnic table on the Trail. There, a custom-made carrot cake is served as desert after the lunch break.

We also restarted in-person potlucks, with a Holiday Potluck in December. That brought active and new members together as well as some long-standing veterans. A recipe for story telling of several kinds: the historical, in-the-moment, and future planning kinds.

An event unique amongst Bruce Trail Clubs is the Blue Mountain Club Music Hike in September. For the second consecutive year we invited a number of musicians to bring their instrument along a hike route on the Trail, and give a performance, with hikers as their audience. Supported by a publicity campaign, and good parking capacity, about 500 persons attended and took the short hike to see these musicians. Feedback was uniformly positive from both the public and the musicians. We aim to repeat in 2024!

Landowner Relations Director

Bev and Dave Matthews

We sincerely thank both public and private Landowners in the Blue Mountains Section who generously allow Trail access to their lands.

We appreciate the ongoing support and cooperation of public Landowners including Ontario Parks, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, The Town of the Blue Mountains, and Clearview Township. Landowners including The Osler Bluff Ski Club Ltd, Devil’s Glen CC, Scenic Caves Nature Adventures, Hamilton Brothers Farm Supplies Limited, Walker Aggregates Inc., Blue Mountains Resorts, and several individuals and families deserve special recognition for allowing hikers to walk on their private lands.

We continue to make progress in securing the Bruce Trail. This year, in addition to securing the Trail by a small reroute onto public lands and receiving a donation of a permanent Easement from The Osler Bluff Ski Club, a new natural area was established in our Section.

“MapleCross Nature Reserve at Salamander’s Bluff” is bordered on two sides by the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area and boasts beautiful escarpment features as well as important habitats. Having generously hosted the Bruce Trail through a handshake agreement for many years, the previous landowners are happy knowing that 50 acres of their well-loved family property is now permanently preserved through a conservation severance and that the Trail’s continuity is secure.



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Proposed Slate of Directors for 2024/2025

Nominations Committee:

Vera Cvetkovic

Michelle McKenna

Michael Treuman

Vera Cvetkovic
Julie Scott
Jim Lewis
Arie Van Walraven
Michelle McKenna
Linda Finley
Bev Matthews
Dave Matthews
Annette Sandberg
Stan Kaczmarek
Murray Morrison
Linda Hartley
Michael Treuman
Dick Edwards
Helen Stukator
Doug Kube
Sally Taylor
Geoff Taylor

