

**Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club
Annual General Meeting**

April 12, 2025, 11:00 AM-Noon

**Collingwood Leisure Time Club
100 Minnesota Street, Collingwood**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Opening Remarks by the President
5. Approval of Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report with 2025/2026 Budget
8. Directors' Reports and Questions
9. Election of the Slate of Directors for 2025-2026
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

A catered Volunteer Appreciation lunch will be served after the AGM.

**Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club
Annual General Meeting
Minutes**

April 20, 2024, 3:00-5:00pm

**All Saints Anglican Church
32 Elgin Street, Collingwood**

Attended by: BMBTC Members and Board Members: Vera Cvetkovic, Jim Lewis, Arie Van Walraven, Michelle McKenna, Linda Finley, Bev Matthews, Dave Matthews, Annette Sandberg, Stan Kaczmarek, Murray Morrison, Linda Harley, Michael Treuman, Dick Edwards

Regrets: Julie Scott, Dr. Kelly-Leigh Thomas

1. Call to Order: Jim Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:05. The current board was introduced along with Bob Crossan who has been a club member since it's inception in the mid 1960's to the present. Jim Lewis noted that there was a quorum.
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda by Bev Matthews. Seconded by Murray Morrison. Motion carried.
3. Opening Remarks by Vice President Jim Lewis: See Appendix A.
4. Motion to approve the Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting by Vera Cvetkovic. Seconded by Murray Morrison. Motion Carried.
5. President's Report: Julie Scott's report in the AGM was referred to, and Jim Lewis highlighted Julie's administration skills and efforts to investigate how to align the BMBTC with the BTC Strategic Plan. See Appendix B.
6. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report 2024/2025 by Murray Morrison. Seconded by Linda Finley. See Appendix C. Arie Van Walraven spoke to his efforts to improve club banking and introduce a Point of Sale system. He also spoke to how he arrived at his figures and addressed questions from the membership. Motion carried.
7. Motion to accept the Directors' Reports as presented in the AGM package by Murray Morrison. Seconded by Vera Cvetkovic. See Appendix D. Motion carried.
9. Motion to accept the Slate of Directors for 2024-2025 as presented in the AGM package by Michelle McKenna. Seconded by Dick Edwards. See Appendix E. Motion carried.
10. New Business:

Bob McIntyre asked if there was an update on the status of Mission Side Trail. Linda Finley responded that the trail status was still under review, with possibilities ranging from closing the trail permanently to restoring and reopening it. No matter what, the closed bridge will have to be removed and re-opening will entail a great deal of remediation. A budget of \$5,000.00 has been carried for this upcoming year to support whatever decision is made.

that distribution of badges by hike leaders on the spot would streamline the process. Vera Cvetkovic explained that there have been delivery issues created by the transition of our webhost from Bravenet to the BTC server, as well as problems created by email providers changing their security formats. As a temporary work around, the club is submitting badge requests weekly to the distribution volunteer. Vera is working with BTC to resolve the issues. Jim Lewis assured Hart that the new board would keep working on this problem.

Hart Fisher commented that meeting behind Tim Hortons to start club hikes was not the most effective system. After some discussion Jim Lewis suggested that no resolution would come at this meeting and that the matter be deferred to future committee discussions.

11. Motion to Adjourn by Vera Cvetkovic. Seconded by Arie Van Walraven. Motion carried.

After the adjournment of the business portion of the meeting at 3:55, club members enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and socialize over the delicious potluck.

Appendix A

Vice President Comments – BMBTC AGM 2024

It is appropriate that we are holding our AGM during volunteer appreciation week. We all know how important volunteers are to the BTC. Their efforts have led to the Bruce Trail being recognized as one of the top ten hiking destinations in the world.

As I talk about our challenges and successes of the past year and plans for the upcoming year, I will mention many of our volunteers. However, we have many valuable volunteers, and to mention them all would keep us here for hours. Please do not feel offended if I do not mention someone specifically, as everyone's contributions are extremely important and greatly appreciated.

The board started this past year with several directors new to the board, and a couple of board positions vacant. Julie Scott-President, myself-secretary, Michelle McKenna-Volunteer Director, Vera Cvetkovic-Communications Director, Arie Van Walraven and Murray Morrison as Directors at Large. The two vacant positions were Vice President and Hike Director. Naturally there was a steep learning curve for our new board members. Fortunately, we had several long-term board members to provide consistency, context, and guidance for the year.

Julie has a very strong background in Governance, and she did a great job chairing our meetings. They kept improving and got more streamlined as the year went on. She focused much of her attention learning what the Blue Mountains club is about, and how we could best support the BTC Strategic Plan. To that end we had several speakers from BTC join our meetings, including CEO Michael McDonald. You will see this reflected in her summary report in the AGM package. This was certainly helpful for us new to the board, and I think the long-standing members also gleaned some interesting insights into the workings of the BTC.

We did have some turnovers and changes to the board as the year went on.

Just before our End to End, our Events Director Christine Lasky was forced to step down suddenly. This was due to very unfortunate family circumstances. We certainly wish her and her family the best, and thank her for all of the work she did for the club.

Other volunteers stepped up to successfully pull off the E2E on short notice. Mary Jane McIntyre took over managing the BBQ. Mary Lynne Chenard took over hiker registration. Sarah Corrigan played a major role organizing the overall event and looking after the checkpoints. The event was very successful, especially the introduction of a 3-Day hike in addition to the traditional 2-Day hike. Based on that, we increased the number of 3-Day hikers this year. That hike sold out within a couple of hours, with a long wait list. We are now trying to encourage the wait list hikers to sign up for the 2-Day hike. Parking is the limiting factor for number of hikers for the 3-Day. We are trying to think of how to deal with this for the future. We have new volunteers Helen Stukator and Paul Swindall joining the team to organize this year's event. We are still looking for sweeps, checkpoint, and parking attendant volunteers.

Michael Treuman stepped into the role of Interim Events Director. We are still looking to fill the position full time.

Our next board turnover was the resignation of Treasurer Rob Alsop. We thank him for his time on the board. Fortunately, Director at Large, Arie Van Walraven has a strong accounting background, and he took the position over. If you know Arie, you know he is a “Doer”. He immediately started analyzing our banking procedures and met with other BTC clubs to see how they handled their banking. Thanks to these efforts we will soon be doing our banking online. Arie and Michelle also have been working on a plan to sell BTC merchandise and will be introducing a point-of-sale system. This will also give us the capability to accept donations at our events.

Long time Membership Director David Cole also resigned during the year. We certainly thank him for his many years of service. He will continue to be involved as a Trail Captain. The Nomination Committee recruited Linda Hartley to fill the Membership Director role. Linda has made some great contacts with businesses who are willing to volunteer for specific projects. She has also been in touch with Girl Guide groups who are interested in getting involved at some level with our club.

The Hike Director role is extremely important to our club. Allison Thomas continued the functions of her role as Hike Director long enough to establish the Hike Calendar to mid year and help with the transition of our new Hike Director Annette Sandberg. Annette has had to perform her duties without any assistance due to the resignation of Hike Committee members. We are actively looking for volunteers to support her. Despite working solo, Annette has organized the Hike Calendar for the upcoming year, and has scheduled Hike Leader training, and First Aid/CPR courses. She has also taken the lead on a committee to promote Indigenous Knowledge. This committee is in its formative stages, so stay tuned for further developments.

Linda Finley has a large portfolio as Trail Director with over 40 Trail Captains working under her guidance. We have had many comments on how well the trails are maintained our club section. There is a natural turn over of Trail Captains and it a position that we are always looking for new volunteers to fulfill.

Stan Kaczmarek also has a large portfolio as Land Steward Director. As the BTC acquires more land, we need more Land Stewards. His program has expanded to create a Biodiversity Committee, and a Seed Orchard project is in the works for this year. With Stan’s leadership 120 American Chestnut trees were planted on the Noisy River property, Blue Bird nesting boxes were built and installed on the Gardner and Dunedin properties, and Milkweed seeds were transplanted to the Dunedin property. All of these projects are greatly in need of volunteer support.

Another wonderful volunteer is Ann Burkholder. She was very appreciative of the services of Trail Angels when she and her husband did their End-to-End hike. She subsequently initiated and runs a Trail Angel program for our club. This has been very well received and has also promoted donations.

One of our big successes this year was the Music Hike. This was originally conceived and organised by Rob Johnston. James Collie was also very involved organizing last year’s event. We estimate that around 500 people attended. Musicians and attendees alike were very enthusiastic about the day. We even have a line up of musicians asking to be included in our next hike. This year we will combine the Music Hike with BTC Day on Sunday October 6. We will also move the location from Nottawasaga Lookout to Nottawasaga Bluffs. This will give us more space to accommodate people and parking.

Another volunteer we would like to recognize is Sarah Corrigan. As well as contributing in a large way to the organization of the End to End, she produces and continues to expand our quarterly Newsletter. It is a wonderful resource for club news, and entertaining informative articles.

We would like to thank Dr. Kelly-Leigh Thomas as she steps off the board today. She served three years as president, guiding our club through COVID, and a year as past president.

A very special thank-you goes out to Jill Doble. Many of you knew her, as she was a long-time volunteer who contributed greatly to our club. Although she is deceased, she continues to contribute and support our club through her establishment of a trust fund. We do not know the parameters of this fund, but we recently received an unexpected third donation from it. Jill is certainly an amazing example of volunteerism.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge all of the Trail Captains, Land Stewards, Hike Leaders, Trail Angels, and Committee, Event, and Work Party Volunteers that contribute so much to the success of this organization.

Appendix B

President's Report:

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

Appendix C

**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 - Yestr Start	31,170.97	18,753.39		39,003.24
Cash Year End	39,003.24	31,170.97		33,763.24

Appendix D

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

	Total Members	vs Last Report to Clubs			vs Last Year*		
Club	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.

Appendix E

Proposed Slate of Directors for 2024/2025

Nominations Committee:

Vera Cvetkovic

Michelle McKenna

Michael Treuman

Vera Cvetkovic
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



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

President's Report Blue Mountains BTC 2024-2025

Vera Cvetkovic

President Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club

Your BMBTC Board has been busy this year with hybrid meetings conducted online via Zoom, or in person at the Collingwood Library. This hybrid model seems to be working well to accommodate Board members and their various schedules. Next year we are planning to continue using hybrid options. While we see benefits with in person busy schedules and poor weather make Zoom calls effective in serving our board and sub committees.

Getting back into live events has been fun this year and the enthusiastic Events Committee had many successful activities. We enjoyed our annual E2E last spring and successfully organized and executed parallel 2- & 3-day E2E in May2024! Registration is still open for 2025 and first offered for BTC members only, shortly followed with public registration for all interested participants. Our traditional Musical Hike had terrific responses despite poor weather and will be on the schedule again this year. Last fall we combined Music Hike with Bruce Trail Day and hosted at Nottawasaga Bluffs. For this event we collaborated with local artist and created unique stained glass wind chimes.

Last September in Ottawa two board directors Annette and Linda joined me and 400+ international guests attending WTN (World Trail Network) Conference. The event was very well organized and sponsored by Trans Canada Trail. Presentations were excellent and very informative. The themes were Climate and Nature, Regenerative Tourism, and Resilient Trails. We connected with our Brazilian Friendship Trail counterpart.

Many volunteers attended the Working Together conference in Hockley Valley Resort last October 2024, an amazing learning and networking event with excellent sessions, amazing external speakers, and great food.

You can stay up to date on all these events by visiting our website, social media (Instagram and Facebook) or reading our quarterly BluePrint newsletter that will hit your email inbox!

This year included:

- Continuous efforts to build an efficient Board with good knowledge and experience on our support Teams, it's always a challenge to ensure we have enough volunteers for all areas.
- Succession Planning initiatives. We continued our annual survey of Board members to help identify the areas that would be vacant and determine what other interests Board members had. The Nomination Committee focused on vacant board roles, recruiting, interviewing, and supporting groups such as Events, Membership, Communications, and Trail Hike Leaders.

- A quick BMBTC membership survey was conducted to better understand members' needs, preferences, and ideas, in the effort to improve overall hiking experiences and help provide support with Trail Angels, Trail Ambassadors and Trail Maintenance Crews.
- First Aid/CPR and Hike Leader certification courses were successfully completed by some club volunteers, and we are planning the same courses this spring.

Our Board will be saying goodbye and thank you to some hard-working volunteers and fine people! We thank **Richard (Dick) Edwards**, a Past President and Board Director for many years, for his many contributions. Dick is stepping down from our Board but planning to stay active with club volunteering activities. Thank you to **Dave Mattews** who is stepping down from his long service as Landowner Relations Director. Congratulations and thank-you to **Katie Spreekmeester** who is stepping down after a short but impactful year as our Communications Board Director, due to a job promotion. Thank-you to **Michelle McKenna** who steps down from her role as Volunteer Director. She was very active in recruiting new volunteers, onboarding and organizing them, and also participated in organizing and working at club events. Michelle also set our club up with the ability to sell merchandise.

HUGE thank you to **Jim Lewis** our VP/Secretary and **Helen Stukator** Events and Membership Board Directors for going above and beyond expectations and especially helping me wrapping my first year as BMBTC president.

We welcome new faces to the Board this year that will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm for our shared goals.

Areas of opportunity this year included

- Working with BTC on topics like Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity strategies for our Club
- Continue developing family oriented and specialized hikes and badges like birds watching, local geology and history
- Biodiversity strategies
- Invasive species program
- Supporting special projects like the seed orchard, new parking areas, bridge repairs, and trails maintenance.

Thank you to the Board, the new Directors on the Board and amazing club members and volunteers of the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail for all their contributions making 2024-25 another great and successful year.

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club
Cash Flow
for the year ended March 31, 2025

	Year Ended 2025	Year Ended 2024	% Diff	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
Revenue					
Badge Sales	3,171	3,796	84%	4,000	3,000
Club Membership Fees	8,163	9,112	90%	10,000	8,000
Donations Received	5,347	5,751	93%	1,000	5,000
Donations - Tax Receipted	231	395	58%	500	0
End 2 End Event Income	11,056	11,276	98%	15,500	12,470
Fundraising	2,076	0		0	2,000
Merchandise Sales	1,656	0		1,200	1,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,577	561	281%	500	1,500
Total Revenue	33,276	30,890	108%	32,700	33,470
Expenses					
Badge Purchases	1,803	2,552	71%	2,500	2,000
Donations Paid	955	300	318%	500	800
End 2 End Event	11,744	4,261	276%	10,000	9,800
Merchandise Purchased	1,910	0		950	750
Music Hike Expenses	2,805	1,271	221%	1,500	2,500
Office Supplies	3,209	511	628%	1,000	3,000
Trail Maintenance	7,038	3,176	222%	7,500	12,000
Transfer to BTC	20,000	10,395	192%	10,000	10,000
Volunteer Appreciation	702	591	119%	1,490	1,500
Mission Road Bridge	0	0		2,500	0
Total Expenses	50,167	23,058	218%	37,940	42,350
Net Profit	(16,891)	7,832	-216%	(5,240)	(8,880)
Cash - Yesr Start	39,003	31,171		39,003	22,113
Cash Year End	22,113	39,003		33,763	13,233



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

2025 AGM Director's Reports

Trail Director Report Prepared by Linda Finley

The Blue Mountains BTC is comprised of approximately 70 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. Our Club was selected to test out a new online version of reporting. During the summer of 2024, 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

The following trail changes (with maps) can be found on the BTC website under <https://brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-sections-and-maps/#Bruce-Trail-Updates>

3.1 Petun C.A. Reroute (June 2024) – Map 23

A small portion of the main trail was moved off Osler property and relocated to the Petun C.A.

3.2 Salamander’s Bluff Reroute (July 2024) – Map 22

As a result of the purchase and securement of this property (adjacent to the Nottawasaga Bluffs C.A.) the main trail was removed from private land onto the Nature Reserve.

3.3 Lime Kiln Bluffs Reroute (August 2024) – Map 22

This new route follows the edge of the escarpment and provides some lovely views of Nottawasaga Bay. It also exposes some interesting geological features such as crevices and cliffs.

3.4 Maple Lane – Swiss Meadows (October 2024) – Map 24

Maple Lane in Swiss Meadows was re-blazed from blue Side Trail to white Main Trail due to the acquisition of a property in the Beaver Valley Club section. The boundary between the two Clubs is now the west end of Maple Lane where the trail turns northward. This change shortens the Swiss Meadows ST to 2 km and adds approximately 600 meters to Club’s Main Trail.

4. OTHER TRAIL RELATED ACTIVITIES

4.1 World Trails Conference (Sept 2024)

I was fortunate to be one of 3 BMBTC Board members that attended this special conference in Ottawa.

It was a wonderful opportunity to interact with other BTC staff and volunteers, as well as to meet delegates from around the world with a common interest in trails. I was able to connect with our Friendship Trail contact from the Trihla Transcarioca (Brazil).

4.2 Liaison With Running Race Organizers

There is a measurable increase in trail running races in our area that utilize sections of Blue Mountains Club maintained trails.

To date, I have connected with four race organizers to outline our expectations of trail use.

The race names and dates are:

Run for Her – (held in) Oct 2024 – Pretty River Valley
Summit 700 - July 5, 2025 – Blue Mountain Resort and area
Happy Trails – Aug. 24, 2025 – Devil’s Glen to Pretty River
Blue Bully – Oct. 3-5, 2025 – Blue Mountain Resort and area

For the upcoming races in 2025, advance notices will be placed on the BTC website to warn hikers and landowners.

Landowner Relations 2025 Report

Submitted by:

Dave and Bev Matthews

Landowner Relations Directors

We enjoy our ongoing engagement with Landowners and sincerely thank both public and private Landowners in the Blue Mountains Section who generously support the Bruce Trail Conservancy by allowing Trail access on their lands.

We are members of the BTC’s “Landowner Relations Committee” which shares Landowner Relations practices and ideas at regular meetings and Bev represents the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club on the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s “Land Securement Committee” which holds monthly meetings to consider land acquisition opportunities. We continue to make progress in securing the Bruce Trail in our Section. Our Club’s volunteers completed a few projects in this Fiscal Year which moved the Trail from private lands to public lands thereby permanently protecting it. We appreciate the support and cooperation we received from Ontario Parks in a reroute into Nottawasaga Lookout Provincial Park and from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority in two reroutes; one into the Petun Conservation Area and the other into the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area.

Land Steward Director’s Report

Stan Kaczmarek

- During June 2024 the Avalon Meadow property was chosen by BTC staff as the site for the Blue Mountain Club’s first seed orchard.
- The status of the 120 American Chestnut Seedlings planted on the property in the fall of 2023 was evaluated in the summer of 2024. The inspection indicated an approximate 1/3rd die off, 1/3rd doing well and 1/3rd so so. According to BTC staff this was a good survival rate.
- An Eastern Bluebird was spotted on our Dunedin property, which is one of the sites where we installed 3 Bluebird nesting boxes, so this is encouraging.

- The BTC had a boot brush station initiative to reduce the spread of invasive species. To that end BTC has provided our club with 3 stations which had to be assembled onsite. All three boot brush stations were installed at or close to parking areas. The 3 sites are at Duntroon Crevices, Lime Kiln and Nottawasaga Bluffs.
- In the fall of 2024, Nancy Harvey the Land Steward for Avalon Meadow and her 10 volunteers assisted Lyndsey Wilkerson, the BTC lead for the Seed Orchard project in preparing two triangular beds and planting 180 plants. Further planting is scheduled for 2025.
- The newly formed Blue Mountain Club Biodiversity Committee has had a half dozen meetings during 2024. The Committee has assisted in the following areas:
 - Maintaining the Chestnut Tree saplings
 - Maintaining bird nesting boxes
 - Maintaining Boot Brush Stations
 - Organising educational site tour(s) for our Land Stewards.

Membership Director
Helen Stukator

We currently have 759 members, which is down 94 members since same time last year.

Working with the Hike Director to ensure our hike schedule is filled with a robust offer of interesting and inspiring hikes for 2025. After conducting a membership survey, we see a keen interest in hikes that include learning, whether that be flora and fauna, birding, or local and indigenous history to name a few. We are also working on building awareness with local hiking/outdoor stores in our community to promote membership.

Events:

We hosted a very successful End to End Hike in May 2024. We had to cap registration due to busing constraints and still had a waitlist of hikers hoping to join us. The weekend went off incredibly smoothly and the feedback we received was very positive. In October we held the Music Hike on the Bruce Trail Day. This one-day event was well planned but the weather was not on our side, delivering heavy thunderstorms which hampered our expected participation by 50%.

Our Holiday Potluck was well attended with just over 50 members who enjoyed an afternoon of delicious food and robust conversation of the year's hiking adventures.

Hike Director:

Annette Sandberg

- This winter was a difficult one with the amount of snow we had and cold well into the minus 20s. As a result, hikes were difficult to schedule. Now with

spring just around the corner, we are seeing the hike schedule begin to fill with new routes and favorite previous ones. There will also be special hikes, such as bird identification, flora species, and geology.

- The recent ice storm created significant damage along the trails and as a result, a temporary closure of the trails is in effect immediately.
- Badges - What's New? - Youth Badge, Cracks and Crevices - Criteria: Youth 15 years of age and under. Complete three hikes:
 1. Nottawasaga Bluffs -Keyhole
 2. Standing Rock and Singhampton Caves
 3. Fern Crevice Nature Reserve
- BMBTC will be hosting a Hike leader course on May 6th and 8th. This also includes the first aid course certification to be taken at a separate time.



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

Proposed Slate of Directors 2025/2026

Vera Cvetkovic
Jim Lewis
Arie Van Walraven
Linda Finley
Bev Matthews
Annette Sandberg
Stan Kaczmarek
Helen Stukator
Katie Spreekmeester
Michael Treuman
Murray Morrison
Paul Swindall
Doug Kube
Rob Johnston

Retiring/Retired Directors:

Michelle McKenna
Dave Matthews
Dick Edwards
Sally Taylor