



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club Annual General Meeting

April 11, 2026, 1:30 PM-3:00pm

**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 2025 Annual General Meeting
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report with 2026/2027 Budget
8. Directors' Reports and Questions
9. Election of the Slate of Directors for 2026-2027
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

Beverages and baked goods will be served after the AGM.

Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2025, 11:00 AM

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

Attended by: BMBTC Members and Board Members: Vera Cvetkovic, Jim Lewis, Arie Van Walraven, Linda Finley, Bev Matthews, Dave Matthews, Annette Sandberg, Stan Kaczmarek, Dick Edwards, Helen Stukator.

Regrets: Murray Morrison, Michael Treuman, Doug Kube, Michelle McKenna.

1. **Call to Order:** Vera Cvetkovic called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.
2. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** by Bev Matthews. Seconded by Jim Lewis. Motion passed.
3. **Land Acknowledgement:** presented by Annette Sandberg.
4. **Motion to approve the Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting** by Jim Lewis. Seconded by Arie Van Walraven. Mary Jane McIntyre pointed out that her husband's last name was wrong, (Moenck not McIntyre), and there was a grammatical error in the use of it's instead of its in the call to order. Jim Lewis acknowledged that those corrections had been made and were in the hard copies of the minutes on the tables. Motion Carried.
5. **President's Report:** Vera Cvetkovic stated that she had completed her first year as president, working with the board of directors on a hybrid basis, re-introducing in person meetings but still having some virtual meetings to facilitate attendance.

Several events were conducted. The End to End was very successful. Bruce Trail Day and the Music Hike were combined and was well attended despite the weather. Planning for this year's events is well underway.

Linda Finley, Annette Sandberg, and Vera attended the Worlds Trail Conference in Ottawa. It was well attended by clubs from around the world. They connected with the representative from our Brazilian **Transcarioca** Friendship Trail and attended several informative workshops. The next conference will be in Perth Australia.

Several board members attended the BTC Working Together Conference in Hockley Valley and were able to network with BTC staff and other clubs members, as well as participating in several workshops.

The website, newsletter, and social media inputs are constantly being updated and their analytics studied.

Ongoing challenges are succession planning for the board and the recruitment of volunteers. The website, newsletter, and social media are being used for recruitment.

The club is also working on enhancing the hiking program, coming up with specialty hikes, and recruiting and training more hike leaders.

Directors stepping down from the board were thanked. Dick Edwards, Dave Matthews, Michelle McKenna, Katie Spreekmeester, and Sally Taylor.

6. Treasurer's Report 2025/2026: Arie Van Walraven spoke to the financial statement. It is presented as a Cash Flow Statement. \$20,000.00 was donated to the BTC with the last payment being directed to the Trail Development and Maintenance Fund. Budgets were provided by the Events Director and Trail Director with the balance of budgeting projected based on the previous year's transactions. Payments using e-transfers was introduced this year, saving a lot of time and effort. The club also bought a Square Point of Sale system and started selling merchandise at events. A canopy was purchased with funds earmarked from Jill's Journey donations. The club is looking for more ways to honour Jill's contributions as well.

Flo Kusiak asked why the End to End showed a loss. Arie explained that the statement was based on the club's fiscal year which picked up expenses from the 2024 E2E and expenses already paid out for the 2025 E2E. Jim Lewis commented that the 2024 E2E made an approximate \$4,600.00 profit.

Motion to accept the Financial Statement as presented by Arie Van Walraven. Seconded by Jim Lewis. Passed.

Motion to accept the Budget as presented by Arie Van Walraven. Seconded by Jim Lewis. Passed.

7. Directors' Reports. Appendix 1

Trail Director: Linda Finley referred to her Director's Report in the AGM package. There were no questions from the floor. Linda thanked the Trail Captains for all their work.

Linda then spoke to the damage caused by the ice storm. The Dufferin Club closed their section first, then once reports started coming in from Trail Captains the decision was made to close our section until further notice as well. The priorities for clearing are BTC owned properties, the main trail itself to get ready for the upcoming E2E, and trails that were readily accessible. The best approach is with small teams with a sawyer and two or three helpers clearing the debris off the trail. A spread sheet of willing volunteers has been established so that sawyers can access helpers readily. Another spread sheet has been established to track progress in clearing. Geoff Taylor asked about the concern for overhanging deadfall. Linda confirmed that this is a major concern and that the approach should be slow and steady to maintain safety. Mary Jane McIntyre asked about the possibility of hiring arborists. Linda confirmed that this is likely as they free up from other work, and that the BTC **will be creating a fund to assist clubs in costs relating to the recovery from the ice storm.**

The fairly new bridge on the Keyhole Side Trail has collapsed with the weight of snow and ice this year and is in need of repair.

The club has purchased a skid of **100% recycled plastic** mud control mats. They are used on livestock farms where mud control is needed. The **Iroquoia and Beaver Valley Club**, have started using them with success. They will be installed in muddy areas on BTC owned land. They are being stored temporarily at Morrison's Pumpkin Farm.

Linda read a poem from Tree Of Life Inspirations:

*And the wind said:
"May you be as strong as the Oak,
yet flexible as the Birch,
may you stand tall as the Redwood,
live gracefully as the Willow,
and may peace and prosperity
surround you all your days".*

Land Owner Relations Director: Bev Matthews thanked Dave Matthews for all of his work over the years and Linda Finley for her willingness to **act as an alternate representative for the Blue Mtns Club on the Land Securement Committee**. Bev also thanked Dick Edwards for his support in providing knowledge and history of the land owners when they started out in the LOR roles, and who supported them greatly with Land Securement initiatives.

Land Steward Director: Stan Kaczmarek referred to his Director's Report in the AGM package. Highlights of the year included work by the Biodiversity Committee who are working on facilitating BTC Stewardship Directives. Bluebird nesting boxes were constructed and installed with some success. Boot brushes were installed on three BTC owned properties. The committee is planning projects for invasive species removal and are looking for a lead for that initiative.

Stan thanked Nancy Harvey who recruited friends who persevered through several challenges to successfully install the Seed Orchard at Avalon Meadows.

Stan indicated that the biggest ongoing challenge for land stewardship is recruiting volunteers.

Membership & Events Director: Helen Stukator thanked all the volunteers that made running the E2E and BTC Day/Music Hike so successful. Many volunteers were needed for both events, especially the E2E. The new canopy will be used at events in the area and the Farmers' Market to promote increased membership. Linda Finley held up one of our new **Membership Matters** signs which are being posted at key points on the trail.

Hike Director: Annette Sandberg stated that this past winter's cold temperatures forced some hikes to be cancelled.

Our club was the last club to adopt the system of Hike Leaders posting hike details on the hike calendar themselves where it was done by the director previously. This has been a

challenge for some hike leaders who have stepped back from leading as many hikes. The Membership Survey gave the club some ideas of what members' hike preferences are, and this will be incorporated into hike planning.

Annette will conduct a hike leader course with two zoom sessions on May 6 and May 8, followed by an in-person session, date and time to be determined. The club pays for the Hike Leader courses and optional First Aid/CPR course with the expectation that Hike Leaders will lead at least two hikes a year.

David Little indicated that the hike leader certification was good for 5 years and could be renewed for a \$5.00 fee at the end of that. David asked why the club doesn't follow up on these payments automatically. Annette will follow up. Annette also thanked David for his consistent active involvement in leading hikes.

8. Election of Slate of Directors for 2025-2026: The slate of directors presented in the AGM package sent out by email was altered after the email blast to members. Kate Spreekmeester stepped down due to a job promotion, and Victoria Knodel is added. **Motion to accept the slate of directors as presented in the AGM package with the deletion of Katie Spreekmeester and addition of Victoria Knodel** by Jim Lewis. Seconded by Arie Van Walraven. Passed.

Appendix 2: New Board Members

10. New Business:

Bob Moenck spoke to a presentation to his Probus Club by a representative of the Georgian Bay Biosphere. The Bruce Trail is not mentioned in their literature or on their web site. This would be a great opportunity to increase the club profile and promote the club in a very active way. The BMBTC board will follow up.

11. Motion to Adjourn by Jim Lewis. Seconded by Arie Van Walraven. Passed.

After the adjournment of the business portion of the meeting club members enjoyed a catered volunteer luncheon.

Appendix 1

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 securing 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

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.

Appendix 2

Slate of Directors 2025/2026

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

Retiring/Retired Directors:

Michelle McKenna
Dave Matthews
Dick Edwards
Sally Taylor
Katie Spreekmeester



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

2026 AGM Director's Reports

President's Report

Vera Cvetkovic

Dear Bruce Trail Members and Friends,

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 multiple goals, helping to advance our shared mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

- March 2025 Ice Storm significantly impacted our section, and our volunteers spent several weeks clearing the main trails to get ready for the annual E2E event held towards the end of May. Clean up is still ongoing.
- Last year's E2E event was very successful, with increased interest for the 3-day option. Demand was high but we have some capacity issues and other constraints preventing us to open up for more participants. This year we are introducing a couple of lessons learned to improve the experience and increase capacity. Due to registration waiting lists, we offered club members an early registration option.
- Themed hikes are gaining popularity, and we are continuously offering bird watching, geology, historical and botanical hikes. This summer the BTC is introducing a "Passport to Nature Program" and we are involved. This is a print booklet and digital listing showcasing events for the public offered across all nine Bruce Trail Clubs. Its goals are to highlight the incredible work happening throughout the organization and to attract new individuals to the Bruce Trail Conservancy through engaging, welcoming experiences.
- A work party to pull garlic mustard was organized by the BMBTC Biodiversity Committee on the Timpson Property, and there will be a follow up this season.
- July was traditionally reserved for supporting 2025 Summit 700 Trail Runs @ Blue Mountain Resort. There was great collaboration with the Beaver Valley club at this event. This year we are also exploring other collaborations with the trail running community.
- We are all excited about the recent land acquisition in our section. This new parcel has become part of "Greenrise Run" and adds to the large section of Bruce Trail conservation corridor in that immediate area which is comprised of 400 acres of protected lands and 8km of Optimum Route.

- The October 2025 Bruce Trail Day celebration was coupled with our amazing Music Hike at Nottawasaga Bluffs. This is our second biggest annual event, after the E2E
- Last fall we organized a Devil's Glen Fall Color Awareness Program to improve hike experiences, educate visitors and new hikers and de-escalate last year issues caused by social media and local magazines promoting this area as free access and parking for best fall colour views.
- The expansion of the Pretty River parking lot has been completed. It now accommodates approximately 40 cars.
- We are currently planning new hikes and activities for the upcoming summer season. Please check our hike calendar and join us.
- Our Trail Angels Program is growing and is successfully supporting hikers. We are planning collaboration with other clubs to share knowledge, experience and extend offers across the Escarpment.
- Early May I'm invited to join BTC CEO Michael McDonald, Board Chair Jaclyn Moody and Club Presidents to attend BTC Queen's Park event and connect with provincial representatives. If you have some questions or concerns, feel free to send me message directly at president@bmbtc.org

Thank you for your continuous support and dedication.

I am very grateful to all of you and feel honoured to have served as your president for a second year. Let us continue to blaze a trail of conservation and connection that will endure for generations to come.

Sincerely, Vera Cvetkovic
BMBTC Club President and Board Chair

Treasurer's Report:
Arie Van Walraven

Blue Mountains Bruce
 Trail Club Cash Flow
 Analysis

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	<u>Year Ended 2026</u>	<u>Year Ended 2025</u>	% Diff	<u>Budget 2026</u>	% Change	<u>Budget 2027</u>
Revenue						
Badge Sales	2,798	3,171	88%	3,000	93%	3,000
Club Membership Fees	8,159	8,163	100%	8,000	102%	7,000
Donations - Tax Receipted	5,381	5,347	101%	5,000	108%	0
Donations Received	9,065	231	3933%	0		10,000
End 2 End Event Income	10,680	11,056	97%	12,470	86%	10,500
Fundraising: General	1,225	2,076	59%	2,000	61%	1,500
Merchandise Sales	334	1,656	20%	1,500	22%	1,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,938	1,577	123%	1,500	129%	2,000
Total Revenue	<u>39,579</u>	<u>33,276</u>	119%	<u>33,470</u>	118%	<u>35,000</u>
Expenses						
Badge Purchases	1,266	1,803	70%	2,000	63%	2,000
Donations Paid	500	955	52%	800	63%	500
End 2 End Event	2,388	11,744	20%	9,800	24%	10,000
Merchandise Purchases	488	1,910	26%	750	65%	500
Music Hike Expenses	2,523	2,805	90%	2,500	101%	3,000
Office and Supplies	2,055	3,209	64%	3,000	68%	3,000
Trail Maintenance	3,891	7,038	55%	12,000	32%	12,000
Transfer to BTC	15,000	20,000	75%	10,000	150%	15,000
Volunteer Appreciation	1,107	702	158%	1,500	74%	2,500
Total Expenses	<u>29,217</u>	<u>50,167</u>	58%	<u>42,350</u>	69%	<u>48,500</u>
Net Cash	<u>10,361</u>	<u>(16,891)</u>	-61%	<u>(8,880)</u>	-117%	<u>(13,500)</u>
Cash - Year Start	22,113	39,003				32,474
Cash - Year End	32,474	22,113				18,974

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

1.1 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 hike-able.

2. TRAIL MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

2.1 Trail Monitoring

Trail Captains were very active in undertaking trail inspections and submitting Trail Status Reports. The BTC requires a fall and spring TSR as proof of “due diligence” with respect to identifying and removing trail hazards.

2.2 Special Trail Clean Up – March Ice Storm

It was no “April Fools” joke when several Bruce Trail Clubs officially closed their trails for safety reasons following the ice storm of March 29-30, 2025.

The first step for our trail maintenance team was to carefully assess the damage. Many areas remained inaccessible for days due to road closures, downed power lines and flooding. Shocking photos from adventurous folks revealed large trees down across the trail and branches snapped off like popsicle sticks.

Trail Captains who were able to get out to inspect their trail sections gave valuable visual and written accounts of the type and extent of the damage. As a result, sawyer led work parties were planned. We appreciated receiving offers of help from Land Stewards and many BTC members

The next step was to determine priority areas to commence the cleanup. Those trails easily accessible by road were the first to be tackled. Similarly, we deemed Bruce Trail properties and Main Trail sections a logical place to begin.

Amazingly, and thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the cleanup effort of the Main trail was largely completed by the end of May, in time for the annual “End to End” hiking event to proceed. Our sawyers and “haulers” worked tirelessly during this intense period to remove the countless number of fallen trees and the incredible volume of tangled limbs.

2.3 Ongoing Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance over the rest of the summer and fall was based on issues flagged by the Trail Captains as well as trail users and hike leaders. Typical activities included the continued removal of downed branches and hazard trees (resulting from the ice storm), 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.

2.4 Fence Repair – Duntroon Quarry

The heavy snow drift from last winter caused the 8-foot-high fencing alongside the trail at the Quarry to detach and fall over in sections. After several unsuccessful attempts to get the original installer to do the repair, a local contractor was hired.

2.5 Bridge Replacement – Nottawasaga Bluffs – Nottawasaga Bluffs Lookout ST

Specs for a replacement bridge over Leys Burn Creek in the Nottawasaga Bluffs have been drawn up, and our permit application is currently under review by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). The “old” collapsed bridge has been largely dismantled, and the building team is aiming to reuse some of the salvageable materials. We are anticipating spring for the reconstruction activity to take place.

3. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & CHANGES

3.1 Trail Notices

This is a reminder that people can stay regularly informed of updates regarding trail closures, reroutes and changes by checking the following link:

<https://brucetrail.org/bruce-trail-sections-and-maps/#Bruce-Trail-Updates>

3.2 New Side Trail

The Field & Forest ST near Duntroon was opened at the end of August 2025 and has seen steady use and positive reviews.

The Trail Notice was posted on the BTC website at the following link:

<https://brucetrail.org/map-22-blue-mountains-field-and-forest-side-trail/>

This trail is located near the Lime Kiln on land owned by the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) who were very supportive of this initiative. It creates an interesting 2.5 km loop hike when combined with the Main trail in that area.

4. OTHER TRAIL RELATED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Liaison With Running Race Organizers

There has been a measurable increase in trail running races held in our Club section.

The 4 trail races that utilized the Bruce Trail this past year were:

July 5, 2025 Summit 700 (Contour Adventures) – Blue Mountain Resort and area

Aug 24, 2025 Devil's Key (Happy Trails) – Devil's Glen to Pretty River Valley PP

Sept 27, 2025 Run for Her (Ovarian Cancer) – Pretty River Valley PP and area

Oct 3 -5 Blue Bully (Sinister Sports) – Blue Mountain Resort and area

Prior to the events, we contacted each organizer to ensure we were aware of, and approved, their planned route. Moreover, we outlined our expectations with respect to trail etiquette, as well as pre and post event responsibilities. One of those expectations is for the relevant permits to be obtained from landowners such as Ontario Parks, NVCA and municipalities.

Landowner Relations 2025 Report

Bev Matthews

Landowner Relations Directors

I am a member of the BTC's "Landowner Relations Council" and also represent the Club on the Bruce Trail Conservancy's "Land Securement Committee" which holds monthly meetings to consider land acquisition opportunities.

Sincere thanks to both our public and private Landowners in the Blue Mountains Section who very generously allow Trail access on their lands. There was outstanding cooperation during the past year with all of our Landowners. Special thanks are owed to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario Parks, Scenic Caves Nature Adventures, and Devil's Glen Country Club ("DGCC") which supported our Club events, helped remediate ice storm damage, and provided outstanding cooperation throughout the year.

Our volunteers provided incredible help to our valued Landowners during the "Fall Colours Project" by greeting visitors (200 to over 1300 daily) at Devil's Glen over five weekends. With the help of ON Parks Wardens, we provided direction and education on trail etiquette. This work reduced wandering "off trail", particularly at DGCC and was very appreciated by it and its members.

A very significant acquisition occurred in our Section this past year. "Greenrise Run" lies north of Devil's Glen Provincial Park between two previously protected BTC properties and adds over 100 acres to a BTC secure conservation corridor of over 400 acres and 8km of Optimum Route.

Land Steward Director's Report

Stan Kaczmarek

Land Securement 2025-26

- During 2025-26 BTC acquired 2 parcels of land directly south of our Duntroon Crevice Heights property, named Greenrise Run. The area preserved is approximately 114 acres and secures 0.9kms of the optimum route.

New Parking Lot at Balsam Wetlands

- Application with NEC for a new parking lot with 20 spaces is in progress. Work should start in the summer of 2026 once final approval is given.

American Chestnut Plantation at Noisy River Property

- Several maintenance and inspection visits (>5) made during the year.
- Work included fertilising saplings and battling competing vegetation.
- Established a new access trail to the plantation on the west side, which involved major clearing of downed trees and branches from the spring ice storm.
- Fencing repairs completed from the damage caused by downed trees.

Eastern Bluebird Nesting Boxes

- All 12 boxes cleaned out. Dunedin Ravine (3), Gardner (3) and McLeod (6)
- Nests difficult to identify, some were house wrens, tree swallows and house sparrows, although a couple of Bluebirds were seen to be leaving one or two of the nesting boxes.
- Repairs made to the predator guards

Boot Brush Stations

- The 3 boot brush stations located at Duntroon Crevice, Lime Kiln and Nottawasaga Bluffs were cleaned out in the fall using BTC protocols. All three boot brush stations were installed at or close to parking areas.

Seed Orchard at Avalon Meadow

- First seed harvesting took place in the fall; seeds collected included: Nannyberry, Big Blue Stem, Wild Bergamot, Canada Wild Rye, and Black-eyed Susan.
- Maintenance throughout the growing season, included clean-up following the ice storm.

Reduce invasive species

- Garlic mustard removal work party on the Timpson property
- 8 volunteers including 2 BTC Conservation Ambassadors pulled a large patch of garlic mustard on the south side of the Timpson property filling 12 XL garbage bags.

Organized Themed Biodiversity hikes

- A birding hike attended by 24 hikers in June with several bird sightings, including a Bluebird spotted at one of the bird nesting boxes.
- A Biodiversity educational hike led by staff ecologist Brian Popelier for Land Steward volunteers at Franks Lime Kiln property took place in August
- A Fern identification hike in August, led by Conservation Ambassadors with 15 hikers attending, proved to be very popular.

Hike Director:
Annette Sandberg

Season overview

The 2025–2026 hiking season demonstrated continued growth in participation, leadership development, and program diversity within the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club.

A total of 47 guided hikes were delivered along the Niagara Escarpment, supporting member engagement and fostering connection to the trail and surrounding landscape.

Program highlights

- Leadership development
Two Hike Ontario hike leader courses were delivered, qualifying **13 new hike leaders**, strengthening the club’s capacity for safe and sustainable programming.
 - Badge series
Included **8 geology hikes** focused on the Escarpment’s geological history, along with a **moonlight hike** offering an after-dark trail experience.
 - Specialty hikes
Expanded offerings included bird watching, the **4th annual music hike**, fern identification, and a family-friendly hike, supporting a range of interests and accessibility.
 - End-to-end hiking
Continued to be a key component of the program, encouraging long-distance participation and deeper engagement with the Bruce Trail.
-

Hike leader training initiative

Additional training opportunities are being introduced to further support hike leaders and enhance preparedness in the field.

As part of this initiative, a **bear awareness program** will be delivered by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). With the approach of spring and increased activity in bear habitat, this training will provide guidance on safely and respectfully sharing the landscape with wildlife.

Hike leaders are encouraged to attend the upcoming session:

- Training: MNR bear awareness program
 - Date: April 9
 - Time: 10:00 am
-

Hiking program committee

A new hiking program committee has been established to support and strengthen program delivery:

- **Claire Pearson** – communications and program tracking, including coordination with social media, collection of hike details and photos, and attendance tracking
 - **Rob Johnston** – development and support of specialty hikes, assisting leaders in planning and delivering themed hiking experiences
-

Season metrics (summary)

- Guided hikes delivered: **47**
 - New hike leaders trained: **13**
 - Hike leader courses delivered: **2**
 - Geology badge hikes: **8**
 - Specialty hikes: **4+ categories**
-

Acknowledgement

The club extends its sincere appreciation to all hike leaders for their time, leadership, and ongoing commitment to delivering safe, engaging, and meaningful experiences on the Bruce Trail.

Events Director: Helen Stukator

We hosted an AGM and lunch on April 12, 2025 at the Collingwood Leisure Club and had 55 attendees participate.

The annual End 2 End was held May 23 - 25 and we filled both the 2 day and 3 day hikes. Weather worked well for us this year and overall the event was a great success.

Feedback from hikers and volunteers was positive and we have made some very minor tweaks for 2026 that should improve the event for 2026.

Bruce Trail Day/Music Hike was held October 5, 2025 and it was a huge success with close to 400 participants. Weather was ideal and everyone enjoyed the musicians strategically staged on the trail. The BBQ hot dogs were well received and we took in a fair amount of donations.

Our annual Holiday Potluck was held on November 29, 2025 at the Collingwood Leisure Club and it drew in some new members and volunteers which was excellent. Total participation was 48 attendees.

**Membership Director:
Murray Morrison**

The Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club benefited from strong volunteer support throughout the past year. Following the Spring 2026 ice storm, volunteers played a critical role in clearing fallen trees and debris, helping to restore safe access to our trails. Their efforts were also essential to the success of major events, including the E2E Hike, the Devil's Glen Fall Colours Project, and the Music Hike.

We continue to receive more volunteer applications than available projects and are currently seeking volunteers interested in completing the Ontario Hike Leader course to expand our roster of active hike leaders. We extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed their time and skill, remembering our land stewards, trail maintenance workers, trail captains, support volunteers, and executive.

Our club runs entirely on volunteer support, and I want to thank everyone who contributed over the past year. Your work has played a key role in helping us move forward with our goal of creating an accessible ribbon of wilderness for all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Murray Morrison

**Director at Large:
Rob Johnston**

This was my first year on the BM BTC Board in any capacity.

It has been an interesting experience. I learned about the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club (BM BTC) operations and activities. What I did not expect was to also learn about how a board functions and using formal processes and rules (By-laws, Robert's Rules, separation of responsibilities etc.) to support decision-making.

I came into my position with,

- knowledge of the Bruce Trail from walking it.
- knowledge of events from volunteering for the E2E and Music Hike.
- knowing the directors and many of the volunteers

- experience with trail maintenance.
- experience as a Trail Angel

This Year I have,

- Helped plan and execute the 2025 End-To-End
- Helped plan and execute the 2025 Music Hike
- Participated in trail maintenance required due to the 2025 Ice storm.
- Helped plan the 2026 End-To-End. So far 72 3-Day hikers and 43 2-Day hikers registered which is on track for a fully attended event.
- Reviewed the club's Google Drive file storage operations.
- Attended all board meetings as well as Event Committee meetings
- Initiated with Claire Pearson and Hike Dir Annette Sandberg to form a new Hike Committee

Planned Activities for 2026-27 Year

- Help execute the 2026 End-To-End
- Help plan and execute the 2026 Music Hike
- Work with the Hike Committee to operate a successful hike program for our club and surrounding community.
- Consider other events for our club.
- Assist other Directors as necessary.
- Not really a director's responsibility but...become a Certified Hike Leader!

2026 AGM

Membership Director Report

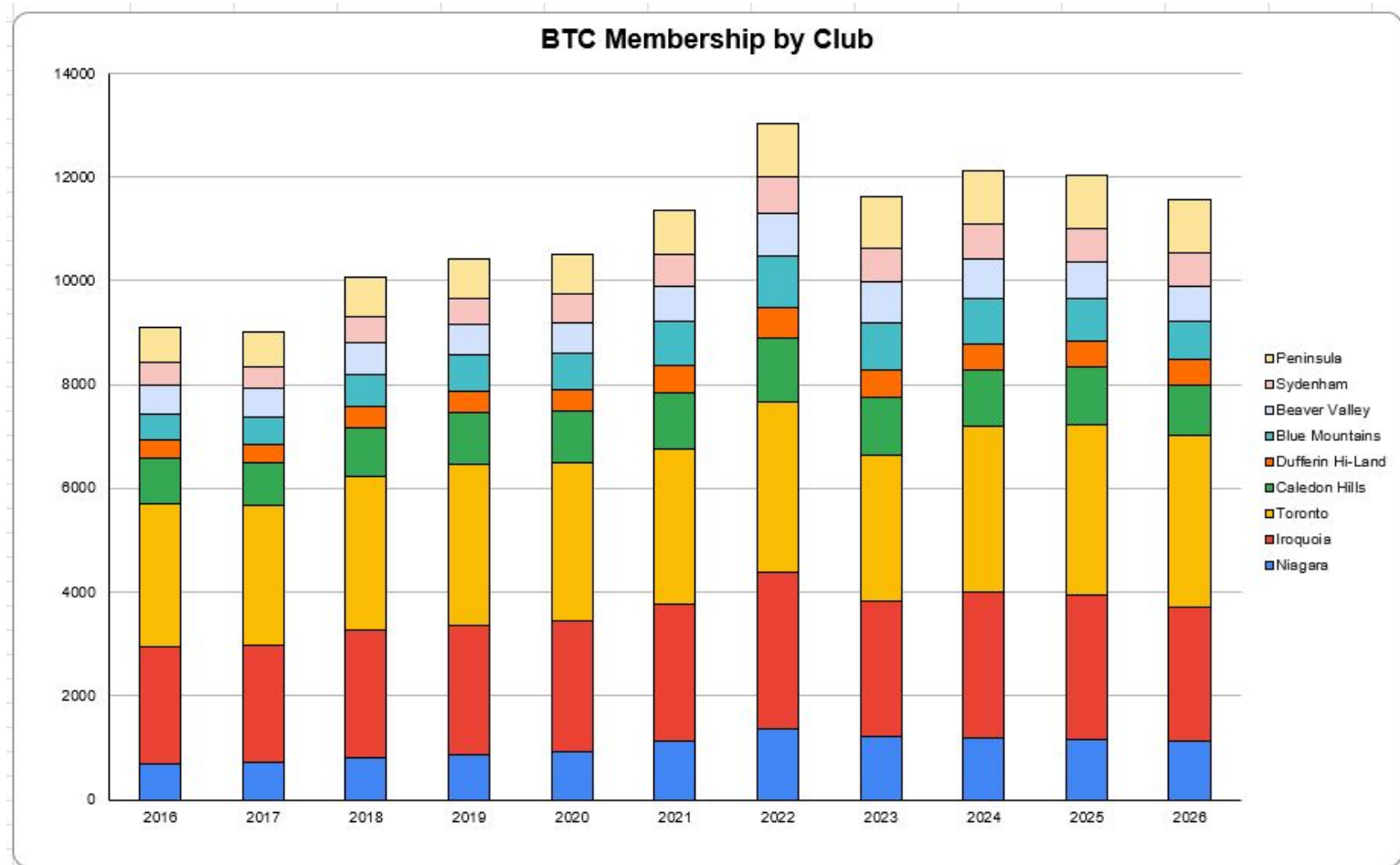
Contents:

- 1. Membership Trends**
- 2. 2025 BTC Initiatives**
- 3. 2026 Membership Outreach Plan**

Membership Trends

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Niagara	692	726	816	868	927	1144	1362	1228	1194	1164	1138
Iroquoia	2246	2260	2466	2475	2507	2637	3014	2610	2814	2769	2572
Toronto	2767	2678	2959	3126	3058	2970	3299	2816	3191	3293	3309
Caledon Hills	866	822	938	980	991	1078	1215	1092	1082	1115	984
Dufferin Hi-Land	364	348	396	430	430	545	600	524	514	506	496
Blue Mountains	493	545	618	687	690	841	989	926	866	806	712
Beaver Valley	570	537	617	591	590	693	811	773	749	715	681
Sydenham	419	439	508	517	544	601	727	669	673	652	649
Peninsula	678	664	739	761	761	854	1019	985	1034	1013	1010
Subtotal	9095	9019	10057	10435	10498	11363	13036	11623	12117	12033	11551

Membership Trends



2025 BTC Initiatives

- **New Member
Welcome email series**

New welcome series of 5 e-mails has been started by BTC. Summary below.

Overview:

The welcome series is a 5-part email campaign, aimed at slowly introducing new BTC members to the Bruce Trail, the Clubs and BTC. Each email has its own area of focus (i.e. welcome, hiking the trail, volunteering, conservation efforts). A fifth email in the series invites new members to fill out a brief survey to tell us about their experience so far. Participants of the survey will be provided with a free shipping code to use on their next purchase through the BTC Store. Emails will be delivered throughout the first month of becoming a member.

Email 1: Welcome 3-day delay

Email 2: How to explore the Bruce Trail 1-week delay

Email 3: Beyond the Trail: Our conservation corridor 1-week delay

Email 4: Give a little time. Gain so much more. 2-week delay

Email 5: We'd love to hear how your journey is going - New Member Survey

- **Renewing/Lapsed member email series**

Membership Renewal Notice Schedule

Any member with a 1-Year, 3-Year or Canoo membership will receive the following notices to remind them of their upcoming membership expiry:

Notice	Method of Communication	Delivery Schedule
1st Renewal	Email	4-6 weeks prior to expiry
2nd Renewal	Mail (long form)	2-4 weeks prior to expiry
1st Reminder	Email	1-2 weeks after expiry
2nd Reminder	Mail (bucksip)	4-6 weeks after expiry

2026 Membership Outreach Plan



Re-establish Outreach Booth

- 2026 will be a test and learn year
- kit out booth similar to BTC booth
- add a donation element to booth
- Start with free access at Cwood Farmer's Market

tiptap Display Kit 1 Device Bundle

PROMO: 20% off your tiptap order*

Tap Into 2026: Start the Year Fundraising Smarter
Make every tap count. Start 2026 with the best deal on the most frictionless way to accept in-person donations and payments.

- ✓ 1 tiptap Device
- ✓ A Mini Clip or a Medium Counter Display
- ✓ Wall Plug, Cable and Battery
- ✓ Standard Signage
- ✓ All Setup and Activation Fees



choose one display with 1 device



*Offer applies to new bundle subscriptions only. Offer valid from December 1st, 2025 to February 28th, 2026.



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLUB

Proposed Slate of Directors 2026/2027

Vera Cvetkovic
Jim Lewis
Arie Van Walraven
Linda Finley
Bev Matthews
Annette Sandberg
Stan Kaczmarek
Helen Stukator
Michael Treuman
Murray Morrison
Paul Swindall
Rob Johnston
Sarah Corrigan
David Bowden
Marise Tourigny

Retiring Directors:

Victoria Knodel