

[View this email in your browser](#)



[PEOPLE & CULTURE](#) / [PROTECT & RESTORE](#) / [TRAIL](#) / [OTHER NEWS](#)

[Check the Hike Calendar for an upcoming Hike!](#)



PEOPLE & CULTURE

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring arrived, but Mother Nature threw us a curveball with an ice storm that significantly affected forests and trails across Simcoe County, and large sections of the Bruce Trail were not spared. Downed trees and branches and damage to infrastructure such as bridges and boardwalks resulted in the decision to close some sections of the trail. The clean-up has begun, and we will inform our members of progress in future newsletters, timely bulletins or on our website.



The clean-up is uniting us – club members and community members have joined our club volunteers working to remove the debris from the trails while avoiding additional risk from hanging broken tree limbs, amongst other dangers from ice and water on the trail from snow melt. I'm sure there will be many war stories and photos to share from this tremendous clean-up project.

Speaking of volunteers, at our recent AGM meeting, we had the opportunity to highlight the 2024-2025 past year's achievements and to recognize the volunteer work that makes any successes possible with a catered luncheon. I'd like to once again warmly thank all our club volunteers, and to warmly recognize our departing board members and welcome our newly elected Board members.

I look forward to working with everyone through the trail clean-up and a successful 2025-2026 year, enjoying nature and contributing to the amazing Bruce Trail!

See you on trails or connect via email at president@bmbtc.org

Vera Cvetkovic, BMBTC President

Reflections on the Recovery from the March Ice Storm

Submitted by L.Finley, Trail Director

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. We instantly recalled the old proverb about March weather, but this time it "came in like a lamb and out like a lion". It was indeed a loud roar that had

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 from many BTC members to lend a hand.

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.

At the time of writing this article, our progress in the cleanup effort is steady thanks to our dedicated volunteers. Our sawyers and “haulers” have been working tirelessly to remove the countless number of fallen trees and the incredible volume of tangled limbs. One volunteer described the activity like playing a huge game of “Pick Up Sticks”.

In terms of knowing when trail sections have reopened, members are reminded to refer to the [Trail Changes and Notices tab on the BTC website](#). The BTC App will also be updated accordingly.

Looking on the positive side, a trail worker was overheard saying, “Well, compared to the ice storm cleanup, our summer maintenance tasks will look like a walk in the park”.

Important End-to-End Note: A decision will be made on May 1st, whether the E2E scheduled for May 24 - 26 will have to be cancelled or postponed.

Jill's Legacy: A Canopy of Generosity and Adventure

We are thrilled to share that the BMBTC has purchased a brand-new event canopy. This purchase has been made possible through the generous support of Jill's Journey Trust Fund, which will be proudly recognized on the canopy itself.

To say that Jill Doble was an active member of the Collingwood community is an understatement. Beyond her dedication to the Bruce Trail (she also completed a full trail E2E), Jill was a member of the Horticultural Club, where she helped beautify gardens around town. She also played a leading role in a Probus group, organizing and leading hikes, and sang with the Sound Investment choir, where she served on the Board. Jill's contributions didn't stop there - she cultivated a stunning garden at her home and supported a Syrian family and local theatre, among many other endeavors.



Jill considered the Bruce Trail her second home. She was deeply involved with the BMBTC, bringing her time, talents, and enthusiasm to every project she undertook. As the club's Blue Print newsletter editor, she shared her creativity through biannual publications, often featuring her own photographs. Jill also organized cherished activities such as the "Six Pack of Blue" (six hikes completing our section's end-to-end journey), the Summer Solstice hike and potluck, and the Tobermory event. Her ability to create opportunities for members to share in her love of nature and adventure was truly remarkable. Now, her generosity will continue to inspire and enhance our section events under the shelter of the new canopy for years to come.

BTC Webinar - Prescribing Nature with PaRx: What the Outdoors Can Do for Your Health

An initiative of the BC Parks Foundation, PaRx is Canada's national evidence-based nature prescription program that works with healthcare professionals to prescribe time in nature for patient and planetary health. Launched in 2020, PaRx is scaling rapidly with more than 15,000 prescribers registered nationwide and support from more than 100 major health and parks organizations. This webinar will discuss the science behind nature prescriptions, how to incorporate the principles of nature prescriptions into your work, and how to prioritize nature habits for your health—recorded Jan 9, 2025. [Watch it now!](#)

Photo of the Newsletter - Dancing Shadows

A winter hike along the forest trail on a sunny morning is a glorious experience when shadows dance playfully on the snow. Taken by Jim Lewis near Castle Glen on March 9, 2025, before the ice storm.



Club Events

April 12 - Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Event Update:

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our incredible Board of Directors, passionate volunteers, and supportive community! ❤️

Our Annual General Meeting was an excellent opportunity to reflect on a fantastic year of growth, achievements, and memorable events along the Bruce Trail. From trail maintenance and stewardship to successful hikes and community outreach, 2024 was a year to be proud of. If you missed it, you can review the [meeting materials here](#).

At the meeting, we had the opportunity to recognize some outstanding 2024 Volunteers:

- Mary Jane McIntyre, for helping Helen start her Membership/Events Director role.
- Rob Johnston, for his work on events, especially the E2E and for creating the highly successful Music Hike, for his significant trail work, and for his technical work cleaning up club emails and Google Drive.
- Sarah Corrigan, for her work on events, especially documenting the E2E in a guide and event marketing, for producing the quarterly club newsletter, and for taking on the role of webmaster.

Also, at the AGM, we said a fond farewell to Board Directors Richard Edwards, Dave Matthews, Michelle McKenna, Sally Taylor and Katie Spreekmeester, and added some new faces with fresh perspectives. [Read more about them here](#). The Board is excited about what's ahead in 2025 – new goals, fresh initiatives, and more chances to connect with nature and each other. Let's keep the momentum going together – step by step, trail by trail.

- President **Vera Cvetkovic**
- Secretary **Jim Lewis**
- Treasurer **Arie van Walraven**
- Communications Director **Victoria Knodel (new)**
- Events and Membership Director **Helen Stukator**
- Club representative to the BTC Board **Micheal Treuman**
- Volunteer Coordinator **Murray Morrison (new)**
- Hiking Director **Annette Sandberg**
- Land Steward Director **Stan Kaczmarek**
- Landowner Relations **Bev Matthews**

- Director at Large **Rob Johnston (new)**
- Director at Large **Paul Swindall (new)**

Upcoming Events:

May 24-26: Annual End-to-End Event (TBC on May 1 - based on trail conditions)

As of April 14th, we have 34 two-day hikers and 95 three-day hikers registered for our annual E2E. We are well organized with a full roster of volunteers, buses, and Nordic Highlands are booked, and we are ready for the well-deserved hiker and volunteer barbecue on Saturday. Keep your fingers crossed for a beautiful weather weekend and a trail cleaned up and ready for hiking.

Registration closes on May 9, 2025. [Hurry and grab a spot!](#)

Oct 5 - Bruce Trail Day - Save the Date

Membership Survey Results

A big thanks to all our members who participated in our brief ten-question survey in February. Your responses will help the Board plan for an exciting 2025. The results were (largest to smallest):

Why did you join the BTC?

1. To support the BTC mission
2. Maintain a healthy lifestyle
3. Connect with nature
4. Support trail maintenance

Which of these initiatives are most important to you?

1. Connect with like-minded people
2. A robust hike schedule
3. Volunteer opportunities,
4. Special events

Do you participate in our local guided hikes?

1. 68% No
2. 32% Yes

What is your preference for guided hikes?

1. 69.5% Mid-week
2. 20.5 % Weekend

Do you have a preference for time of day or scheduled hikes?

1. 82% Morning
2. 17% Afternoon
3. 1% Evening

How long would you like a guided hike to be?

1. 63% 2 hours
2. 31% Over 2 hours
3. 6% 1 hour

Preference for educational hikes?

1. Local flora and fauna
2. Local and Indigenous History
3. Geology
4. Birding
5. Learn Hiking basics
6. Family Friendly

Will you be participating in our events this year?

1. 65% E2E
2. 56% Music Hike
3. 50% AGM & Volunteer appreciation
4. 43% Holiday Potluck

Which volunteering opportunities interest you?

1. 67% Trail maintenance
2. 50% Events support
3. 28% Hike Leader
4. 22% Biodiversity
5. 5% Marketing and Advertising

What's the best way to communicate with you?

1. 85% Email
2. 12% Newsletter
3. 3% Social media/text

Badge News

Hiking badges are a popular way to celebrate and show off hiking achievements. Proudly sewn onto backpacks, badges are a great conversation starter. In 2024, our BMBTC club sold 296 badges. The most popular badge of the year was the Independent End-to-End Boot Badge at 154 sold. The second most popular badge was the Independent Winter End to End at 24 sold. We were delighted to see a few kids achieving our newest, Cracks and Crevices Youth Badge.



Interested in other Volunteer Opportunities?

We have lots available: [click here](#).

[Return to Menu](#)

PROTECT & RESTORE

Six Fun Facts about Ontario's Trilliums

1. Trilliums have three leaves, three petals, and three-sectioned seedpods—the magic of 3's.
2. The White Trillium is the floral emblem of Ontario.
3. Ontario has five native trillium species: White Trillium, Red Trillium, Painted Trillium, Drooping Trillium (endangered), and Nodding Trillium.
4. Trillium seeds are primarily dispersed by ants, a method called Myrmecochory (say that 5 times fast).
5. Trilliums are native woodland wildflowers. If you pick a White Trillium, it can seriously injure the plant and take years to recover from the damage.
6. White trillium is a favourite food of white-tailed deer.



Go on a GeoHike!

Learn more about the geology, ecology, and water systems of the Niagara Escarpment with [GeoHikes](#), which offers virtual educational field trips along the Bruce Trail.

[Return to Menu](#)

TRAIL

A Hike Leader's Journey with the Blue Mountains Club

By: Mary Jane McIntyre

My name is Mary Jane McIntyre, and I'm proud to be a Hike Leader. I live in Collingwood with my husband, Bob Moenck. We first started coming to Collingwood in 2002 and made it our permanent home in 2016 after retiring from Toronto. Our daughter and son both still live in Toronto.



I started hiking with the BMBTC when hikes were advertised in the Enterprise-Bulletin newspaper. Bob joined the hikers initially - I was afraid I wouldn't keep up. But when he started a conversation with another

Bob and I took the Hike Leader course in 2016 and began leading hikes later that year. A more experienced leader might initially join a new leader to support them. Personally, I prefer leading hikes that don't require a car shuttle or a long drive to arrive at the trailhead. That still provides lots of choice in the Blue Mountains and Beaver Valley sections.

Back in the "good old days," Tom Wilson would gather the hike leaders at the Leisure Time Centre over pizza. He had an empty calendar of hike dates and encouraged us to fill in the spaces, and we did! One year, he reported at our AGM that we held 102 hikes. We paused the schedule each year in August and counted on Rosemary Petrie to step up for her Cake Walk in June and the annual New Year's Day hike. Several club members organized three days of hikes on the Bruce Peninsula for years.

One year on the Peninsula, Bob Moenck led a hike from Cyprus Lake to the High Dump Side Trail. There were six or eight of us hiking through pouring rain most of the way. Foul weather gear was dripping wet from every cuff and seam! We did it, though, and were the only hike group of three scheduled who completed their hike that day. What a feeling of success and pride at a job well done. Not to mention bragging rights years later! Many of us have fond memories of our time on the Peninsula.



COVID changed several things in our lives. Hiking changed dramatically, requiring sign-ups for hikes, leaders backing away from leading, hikers finding their own paths, and a cohort of hike leaders aging a few years - well, some of us.

Hiking in a group has its merits:

- The hike leader ensures we find the trailhead, having pre-hiked the route and identified parking.
- I don't complain(as loudly) if I am in a group and struggling to figure out why I'm here.
- Hikers are rarely shy about sharing their latest hikes and/or travel experiences.
- There may be a badge at the end!

Through volunteering, I've taken on a variety of roles from trail maintenance and clearing brush for new trails to serving on the Board as secretary, participating on the Events Committee, and in events like the End to End and Bruce Trail Day. As a Board member, it astonished me to see the time and passion volunteers put into the Conservancy for years without any expectation of reward beyond knowing what pleasure they provide for hikers. A well-blazed trail pruned or cleared of fallen trees and limbs is a pleasure to hike. Creating a new or side trail portion requires approvals from several sectors before it can be marked for clearing and blazing. Volunteers do the work with the support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy staff.

Last year, I met Michael McDonald, CEO of the BTC, at Union Station in Toronto. I introduced myself and shared my connection to the BTC. He was so grateful for all that our club members contributed that I got teary-eyed. To me, the Blue Mountains Club Bruce Trail lives up to our mission of Preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever.

NEW Hike Leaders Needed

Have you ever considered becoming a Hike Leader with the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club? It's a great way to get to know the trail and to play a vital role in the promotion of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. After receiving your certification, you will sweep with a veteran leader and then organize your favorite hikes to

students will receive a course manual. The on-site and final class is done on-site at a chosen location and a date that works with every student. TBA. Following the hike leader course, a first aid course will be offered to the students.

Interested? See our [Volunteer Hike Leader](#) role description and contact Annette Sandberg at annettehsandberg@gmail.com to find out how you can join this rewarding experience and help inspire others to explore the beauty of the Bruce Trail!

Places to Visit on the BMBTC Trail: Lavender (the Start of Blue Mountains Section) through Noisy River (~6 or 12 km return)

[Map 21 - Black Bank - Edition 31](#) Or the [Bruce Trail App](#)

Description: In Lavender, the Trail crosses the intersection of Lavender Hill Rd and Center Rd (Trailhead at 0.0 km) and continues for a short distance on the baseline before turning right onto a gravel road, which soon turns right, but the Trail goes straight and enters the Noisy River Nature Preserve. Over the next 2 km, the Trail moves through woods and a scenic lookout.

Proceeding past several deep crevices and lookouts, the Trail descends the Escarpment, crosses Concession 10 and the Garden of Eden Road, and heads through an old apple orchard and a mature forest. The Trail then crosses the Noisy River before climbing out of the valley to reach Country Road 9 (6.1k). For 12 km, return the way you came to your car.

Parking: Roadside parking for 10 cars is available at km 54.9 on Mulmur-Nottawasaga, Townline, 550 m east of Lavender Hill Road, at the cemetery. Do not block the cemetery gate. Hikers would need to self-organize a shuttle for the shorter 6 km hike by parking a car at the hike finish on the south shoulder of County Road 9, collecting the driver and returning to Lavender to start the hike.

Terrain: The Trail is mainly hilly.

Getting there: Travel south from Collingwood through Dunedin on Simcoe County Road 124 for ~14 km. Turn left onto Concession 8 Nottawasaga for ~8 km. Turn right onto County Road 9, which becomes Hurontario St/Lavender Hill Road. Watch for the cemetery parking.

Place to Eat/Drink: The [Old Mill House Pub](#) is nearby in Creemore. In mid-June, visit the [Purple Hill Lavender Farm](#).

Hike to Highlight - Let's Look for Bobolinks!

Calling all bird-watching enthusiasts! On the morning of Saturday, June 7, (assuming trail readiness) we will hike to a beautiful meadow where bobolinks nest in early June and look for singing males defending their territories. The hike will be ~6km, over moderately hilly terrain, and at a pace that allows hikers to both bird watch and listen. Spaces will be limited to 30 hikers, so [register early](#).

[Return to Menu](#)

OTHER NEWS

You Asked? We Answered.



Question: What does Laura Secord have to do with the Bruce Trail?

Answer: Legend says that Laura Secord, the wife of a Canadian militia officer, was responsible for a British/Canadian victory in the War of 1812. In 1813, Queenston had been occupied by the Americans, and U.S. officers were being billeted in the Secord home. Laura apparently overheard plans for an American attack and decided to take action. She is reputed to have travelled on foot overnight from Queenston to

The [Niagara Bruce Trail Club](#) is hosting a [Laura Secord Hike on June 21, 2025](#). Registration opens: TBD.
Check out the [hike route here](#).

[Got another question? Ask us.](#)

More News

- In other hiking news, [travel across the U.S./Canadian border is no longer allowed](#).
- [Managing Simcoe County Forests](#)
- [Simcoe County Forest Storm Damage](#)
- [The Best Ontario Hiking Trails to Explore this Spring](#)
- Park Bus - Canada's Bus to the Great Outdoors - (depending on trail readiness) [Guided Hike Event - Apr 26](#)
- Love the Trail? [Member Referral Program special offers](#).
- Bruce Trail Hike-A-Thon [Returns this Spring](#)

[Return to Menu](#)

[BTC Store](#) / [BTC Books](#) / [Volunteer](#) / [Join/Renew Membership](#) / [Donate](#)

**Look for our summer issue on July 25, 2025.
Happy Trails!**

[Questions or comments? Email us at \[blueprint@bmbtc.org\]\(mailto:blueprint@bmbtc.org\)](#)



You are receiving this email as a member of the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club

Club mailing address: P.O. Box 91, Collingwood, ON L9Y 3Z4

Copyright © 2024 Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club, All rights reserved. Charitable Registration
#119217578RR0001

[Update your email preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe from all BTC email](#)

This email was sent to red.cardinal4@gmail.com
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
n/a · 40 Cooper St · Collingwood, ON L9Y 0W8 · Canada

