

The Rattler



President's Message

ISSUE #3, 2021

Being an Ambassador by Building an Inclusive Outdoors

This fall, the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club was presented with several opportunities to action the Bruce Trail Pledge and specifically, two of its key components: "being an ambassador" and "building an inclusive outdoors." Being an ambassador for the Bruce Trail involves sharing our love of the trail and encouraging others to support the BTC. Being inclusive involves taking an active role in making the outdoors safe and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

On September 25, volunteers weathered the wet but mild weather to attend our highly anticipated post-lockdown, outdoor event. It was refreshing to finally meet one another in person and connect with those whom we may have spoken to only on the phone or met through Zoom. Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteer coordinator Meghan Croll helped greet attendees in her first public BTC interaction since 2020. By reaching out to local vendors and donors, we established that Peninsula Bruce Trail Club was alive and well — ready to reconnect with the vibrant club spirit that has sustained us for decades. The volunteer event was a reminder that the Bruce Trail and its conservancy lands are not maintained by a paid workforce but rather through the generosity of its volunteers. The local community support for our volunteer event was overwhelmingly generous. Individuals and vendors alike reciprocated in kindness and support. This included Lion's Head Transit Authority's donation of a shuttle to help move attendees to and from the Cape Chin point. The following weekend, the BTC held a donor event at the Maple Cross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin. There, I met a good many generous donors, new BTC staff, and several new first-time Club volunteers — each one a participant in the good work of the BTC. Once again, the stellar local

support by PBTC volunteers (thank you to Tom Hall for organizing us!) and the generous provision of pizza and beer by Christian, Barbara and their team at Cape Chin Tagwerks and Paris Beer Co., may have created a new standard for future donor events.

(cont'd on pg 4)



Party time!! - turkeys feasting on winter fermented apples - photo by Jan MacKie

Peninsula Bruce Trail Club
 PO Box 1096
 Lions Head, ON N0H 1W0
 www.pbtc.ca
 pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

Bruce Trail Conservancy
 P.O. Box 857
 Hamilton, ON
 L8N 3N9
www.brucetrail.org
info@brucetrail.org
 Telephone: 800-665-4453
 Telephone: 905-628-8081
 Fax: 905-529-6832

Newsletter Editors:
 Content: Barbara Reuber
 & Laurie Chan
 Layout: Jan MacKie

Please send us your stories:
 pbtcrafter10@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Any articles or stories of interest?
 Deadline for submissions to next
 Rattler: March 7, 2022

Rattler Advertising Rates:

	Per issue:	Yearly: (3 issues)
Business card:	\$15	\$40
Quarter page:	\$35	\$90

Contact: Barb Reuber
 Email: pbtcadvertising@gmail.com

Reproduction of editorial or advertising material requires permission of the writer, photographer and/or publisher. Articles are published at the discretion of the editor and/or publisher, who reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and libel.

Contents Issue #3, 2021

President's Message pg. 1
 Cape Chin Meadows S T Reroute pg. 3
 MapleCross Donor Event pg. 4
 David Blasing Side Trail pg. 5
 Conservation Matters pg. 6
 European Reed (Phragmites) pg. 7
 Fall Hikes + 20-Year Odyssey pg. 8
 20-Year Odyssey (cont'd) pg. 9
 20-Year Odyssey (cont'd) pg. 10
 Story of a Bear Cub Badge pg. 11
 Birder Badge Journal pages pg. 12
 Junior Birders + Snacks for the Trail . pg. 13
 Remembering John Baker pg. 14
 The Power of Volunteerism pg. 15
 The Power of Volunteerism (cont'd) pg. 16
 Volunteer Recognition Event pg. 17
 Archives + Outstanding Volunteers pg. 18
 A Magnificent Piece of Gaia pg. 19

* * * * *

Correction

The people in the photo on p. 6 of the August 2021 issue of The Rattler were incorrectly identified as litter ambassadors Jaime Thibodeau and Brenda Stewart. The photo is of PBTC volunteer Brenda Stewart and BTC trail ambassador Claire Estey. We apologize for the error.



Cape Chin Meadows Side Trail Reroute

The Cape Chin Meadows Side Trail has been rerouted (see map below).

The new route passes through some beautiful hardwood forest.

The side trail is 6.3 kilometres long and makes an 8.9 kilometre loop with the main trail.

Thanks to the PBTC trail maintenance volunteers who completed the reroute.



MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin Donor Event

On Oct. 2-3, the BTC held a donor event at the MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin. This nature reserve was made possible with funds from MapleCross and a community of over 1,500 generous individual donors in 2020-2021.

With 523 acres of iconic Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula landscape, a breathtaking 270-degree view of Georgian Bay, and 1.8 kilometers of the Bruce Trail's optimum route, this is a natural masterpiece and a true conservation gem. It also represents the largest solo acquisition of land in Bruce Trail Conservancy history.

Thanks to the donors for making this acquisition possible and the PBTC volunteers who supported the event.



(President's message - cont'd from pg 1)

We are blessed with many talented ambassadors on our PBTC Board, two of whom were recently recognized this fall by the BTC. Many of us know Darci Lombard through Miller Lake's Summer House Park, leading hikes, orchestrating annual BTC calendar handouts, and Peninsula landowner relations activities. In October, Darci was recognized for her ten years of volunteering on BTC related activities such as the Land Management Committee.

Another PBTC ambassador who was recognized in October was Marg Glendon, the PBTC's director of membership and our outreach coordinator. She was the recipient of the BTC's prestigious Ross McLean Volunteer of the Year award. Marg is an expert relationship builder, a master of inclusion, and a superb PBTC ambassador in the local community. She does this through continual community outreach — from involvement in art fundraisers, local schools, and litter programs, to providing recipes for the Good to Go meals program run by the Meeting Place in Tobermory. The PBTC is extremely proud of the recognition both of our members received this fall.

Some of our club's ambassador activities this past fall have gone hand in hand with building an inclusive outdoors. Promoting inclusion can mean many things depending on the communities that we interface with. Inclusion can mean facilitating hikes for a group of LGBTQ2 visitors embarking on their first hike on the Peninsula; hiking with friends and family with physical challenges such as dementia; facilitating hikes for visible minorities; or hiking with friends who have serious mental health issues. Maybe you have your own "ambassador of inclusion" story to share. We may not be part of these diverse communities ourselves, but we can show our support for their lifestyles, physical and mental conditions, racial diversity, causes, and experiences. Our encounters with the Bruce Trail will be as individual as the communities that enjoy it. We can communicate through our actions, encouragement, and acceptance that "We see you. We accept you as you are. The Bruce Trail is a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever- and when we say 'everyone,' we mean you!"

* * * * *

David Blasing Side Trail

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has renamed a section of trail as the David Blasing Side Trail (see map) to honor long-time landowner and PBTC supporter David Blasing, for generously hosting this side trail since the inception of the trail.

The Blasings are one of three landowners from 1967 that still carry a handshake agreement today. Mr. David Blasing did pioneering work in locating the initial Bruce Trail on his land in the Smokey Head-White Bluff area. His son, Bob Blasing, continues to visit their property during the summer months and regularly walks the trails in this area, picks up garbage and trims deadfall. He assisted in placing a thunderbox at the Reed's Dump camping area, an idea that David suggested years ago when the number of campers in that area was beginning to increase.

Thank you and congratulations to the Blasing family!



Conservation Matters

As promised, elm trees have indeed returned to the Peninsula. Elms are largely extinct across North America, sadly due to the spread of Dutch Elm Disease — named for the scientists who first identified the cause of this massive die-off.

On October 22, volunteers planted 30 young trees (one metre high) in the Colpoy area (km 4.5-5.5) and on the MapleCross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin.

Thanks to Mark Shantz and Tom Hall for organizing the volunteers — and to Tony Barton, Bob Cunningham, Doug Miller, and newer volunteers Shanna Reid, Harry Veldhuizen, and Mark Janke for helping to plant.

These trees were grown at the University of Guelph's Gosling Research Institute for Plant Preservation, an organization underwritten by BTC co-founder Philip Gosling. They are bred from surviving trees that seem to have a natural resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. (See <http://gripp.ca/> for more information on their many project). PBTC's unstoppable "Stew Crew" will be monitoring the health of these plants.

This issue brings another entry in the BTC's Ten Most Un-Wanted list of invasive species. Thanks to BTC ecologists Brian and Adam for their help with this.

#2 on our list is Phragmites (see details on the following page). This is the tall (two to four-metre) non-native grass often found along the edges of streams, ditches and wetlands. If you find this or have other concerns about BTC properties please contact stewardship director Mark at mshantz56@gmail.com

Finally, if you have not yet seen David Attenborough's powerful address to the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, I encourage you to watch it — and reflect on his message. The passion, conviction and science that he brings to the subject are truly inspiring. <https://youtu.be/TmlUX4mnNY4>

John Whitworth



Above L to R: Shanna Reid, Harry Veldhuizen, John Whitworth, Mark Janke, Doug Miller

Right L to R: Bob Cunningham, Tony Barton & Mark Shantz



European reed (*Phragmites australis subsp. australis*)



Flower



Infestation

Distinct Physical Features:

- tall grass with a smooth thick stem (which is sometimes purplish) that stands up to 4m high
- flowers are flag-like or plume-like inflorescences that emerge from the stem, long with ascending branches and forming a densely branched silky dark purple panicle
- stem and leaf-base are characteristic of a typical grass with the leaf blades being flat and smooth, ranging in lengths from 5-60 cm, tapered at the tips

Typical Habitat:

- found in fresh to alkaline marshes, lake-shores, pond margins, ditches, roadsides and fields throughout most of Ontario.

Species Significance:

The European reed is an aggressive invasive plant with its origins in Europe and Asia. There is concern that the growth of this plant in wetland areas could negatively affect ecosystems and displace native species. It is very difficult to distinguish from the native common reed.

* * * * *

Experience
COMFORT CAMPING
AMONGST 85 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL HARDWOOD FOREST BORDERED BY THE SHORES OF MILLER LAKE
**COTTAGES, RV & CAMPING CABIN RENTALS
BED & BREAKFAST**

**Hungry Hikers...
we fuel your adventure**

THE SHORELINE CAFÉ & RESTAURANT (NOW LICENSED)
OPEN DAILY 9 AM - 3 PM UNTIL THANKSGIVING MONDAY

**Smile
if you
Love Hiking**

**Summer House
PARK**

197 MILLER LAKE SHORE ROAD | (519) 795-7712 | SUMMERHOUSEPARK.CA | OPEN FIRST FRIDAY IN MAY UNTIL THANKSGIVING MONDAY

Hiking News

Fall Hikes

PBTC fall hikes included two new member hikes, a series of three geology hikes, a tree identification hike and an owl prowl. Thanks to hike leaders Marg Glendon and Beth Gilhespy and to all who participated.

Hiking During Hunting Season

Due to the potential risks involved during the fall hunting season, hiking the Peninsula section should be undertaken with caution during all of November and December. Here are six tips for hiking during hunting season:

- Be aware: Understand that hunting is taking place. Know the seasons, dates, locations.
- Be visible: Wear hunter orange or another bright colour (as a hat, vest, scarf) and avoid beige, brown, white, red or green clothing.
- Make some noise: Talk, whistle, and generally let your presence be known.
- Keep your pet on a leash and use a bright vest, collar or leash to make your pet more visible.
- Avoid hiking at dawn and dusk, and anytime visibility is limited.
- Stick to established trails.

For more information, go to the BTC website
at <https://brucetrail.org/pages/show/hiking-during-hunting-season>

* * * * *

A 20-year Odyssey

Here's the story of a never-say-die mother-and-daughter team, Mary and Kris Verbeek of Kingsville, who finally reached the Tobermory cairn after 20 years of their hiking journey.

Mary and Kris — 20 Years on the Bruce Trail

In 2001, I decided to leave my office and art store to my husband, and I began bookkeeping for a tool and mold company. I finally had weekends available to me. My daughters, Heidi and Kristine, had successfully left home and were working in their chosen professions. We missed spending time together, so we decided to choose an ongoing, occasional outing that would suit our time tables and passions. Since Heidi and I both attended University of Windsor, we chose season tickets to their university plays. For Kris, I chose walking the Bruce Trail; she lived in Oakville at the time, and we both loved nature and could easily drive to the trail from her home. I was made aware of this amazing trail by a customer of my office supply store, Dr. Tony Barton. He had recently retired from teaching chemistry at Kingsville District High School and my daughters had loved him as a teacher. He came to copy beautiful nature pictures over several months and shared with us this wonderful adventure

he was on. We were amazed he had hiked the trail solo, using his car and bicycle.

(cont'd on pg.9)





20-year Odyssey (cont'd from pg 8)

We started our journey on Sept. 9, 2001. I ordered the maps, we organized our times, and off we went. Right from the beginning, Kris and I were hooked! After hunting down the beginning Southern Terminus Cairn and getting the knack of watching for the blazes, we were smoothly on our way! We were wowed right from the start by such beauty and isolation so close to the busy Niagara area. We also found the trail to be a wonderful balance for our busy, high-pressure, sit-down jobs, and looked forward to every hike.

After several walks, it was obvious that we needed to keep ourselves fit. The longer distances we were trying to accomplish in a weekend, two to four times per year, were taxing on our knees and feet. Parts of the trail were not just a simple “walk in the park.” We needed to refigure our shoes, invest in some (miracle) moleskin, and be sure to keep in shape. Kris complemented her competitive volleyball training with more hill workouts, and I dedicated myself to walking and exercising several times a week. Hiking the trail for so many years actually helped to give us motivation stay in shape and set fitness goals too. As we progressed further north, the driving distances to the trail became longer, so we set aside longer weekends, then eventually full weeks for hiking.

As with other Bruce Trail hikers whose stories I read, we were happy to be joined by family and friends on some of our hikes. We fondly look back on walks with my parents (now both deceased); my brother Ben and his wife Jody and daughter Rose; my friend and former employee, Joanna; Kris’s friend Sarah (thanks for the hot tub after); and best of all, Dr. Tony Barton. He joined us about four times through the peninsula section for several illuminating hikes. He now volunteers with the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and we loved hearing his stories about the lands and nature. His fitness and energy for 80+ years was incredible, and we often struggled to keep up with his spry steps.

Being me, I just loved the journey of exploration and the wonder of rocks and plants growing in both lush and impossible places — patches of lichen, trees clinging to rocks, and ferns peeking out from crevices. I also loved the surprises of what was around the next corner, and we were never disappointed. One surprise visitor along the trail was a HUGE, waddling porcupine. We followed it at a distance for about one kilometre along the trail, until it mysteriously disappeared into a crevice.

(cont'd on pg 10)

Our spirits were always raised by the chickadees who seem to be cheering us along on most hikes. Also, we were wowed by the amazing display of colourful mushrooms, fungi, mosses, ferns, and delicate flowers, all growing and clinging to the most breathtaking environments imaginable. I loved the transition from quiet deciduous forests to farmers' fields, and then silent birch and cedar woods — then up the escarpment, catch your breath, and there before you was another breathtaking lookout over an incredible valley or a beautiful clear blue bay.

Being a graphic designer, illustrator and photo fanatic, Kris has wondered at all the beauty along the trails and documented our journey in a way I could have never achieved. Her camera's eye artfully captured each shot and the photos are enjoyed by her friends and family on Facebook. She also gathered the pictures, my journal notes, and snapshots of the Bruce Trail maps and surprised me with beautiful Bruce Trail memory books. I am a very proud mama.

Our walks definitely broke no speed records, but we had determination and time on our side. We finished our journey on Sept. 16, 2021, 1:15 p.m., twenty years and one week from when we started.



We were surprised with our emotional response at reaching the end. It was an overwhelming feeling of pride, and relief. We were greeted by my husband, Martin, who has selflessly shuttled us and supported us for much of our hikes, and our beloved Dr. Tony Barton. Tony greeted us with a precious bouquet of wild flowers and some honey and beans from his garden. We are most humbly thankful for all the Bruce Trail Conservancy volunteers who have tirelessly maintained the trails and given us guidance and safe travel through such a wonderful place on earth.

Mary Verbeek, Kingsville, Ontario



Mary & Kris with Dr. Tony Barton at the Cairn



Kids Corner

PBTC kids were hard at it this summer and we are so impressed! Mayer Thibodeau completed his Bear Cub badge with energy to spare (see story below). Rishi, Layla and Leena Munday were the first recipients of the PBTC Junior Birder badges (and obtained their Bear Cub badges while they were at it) and we think you'll agree, their journals are wonderful! Congratulations to these and all PBTC kids who hit the trail this summer.

Story of a Bear Cub Badge

My name is Jaime Thibodeau, and I have a Bruce Trail story from this summer. My youngest son, Mayer, earned his Bear Cub badge for hiking four side trail loops this summer. His dad, Jeff, is a member of the Peninsula Club board of directors and I was a litter ambassador this summer, so as you can imagine we are super proud of our buddy Mayer!

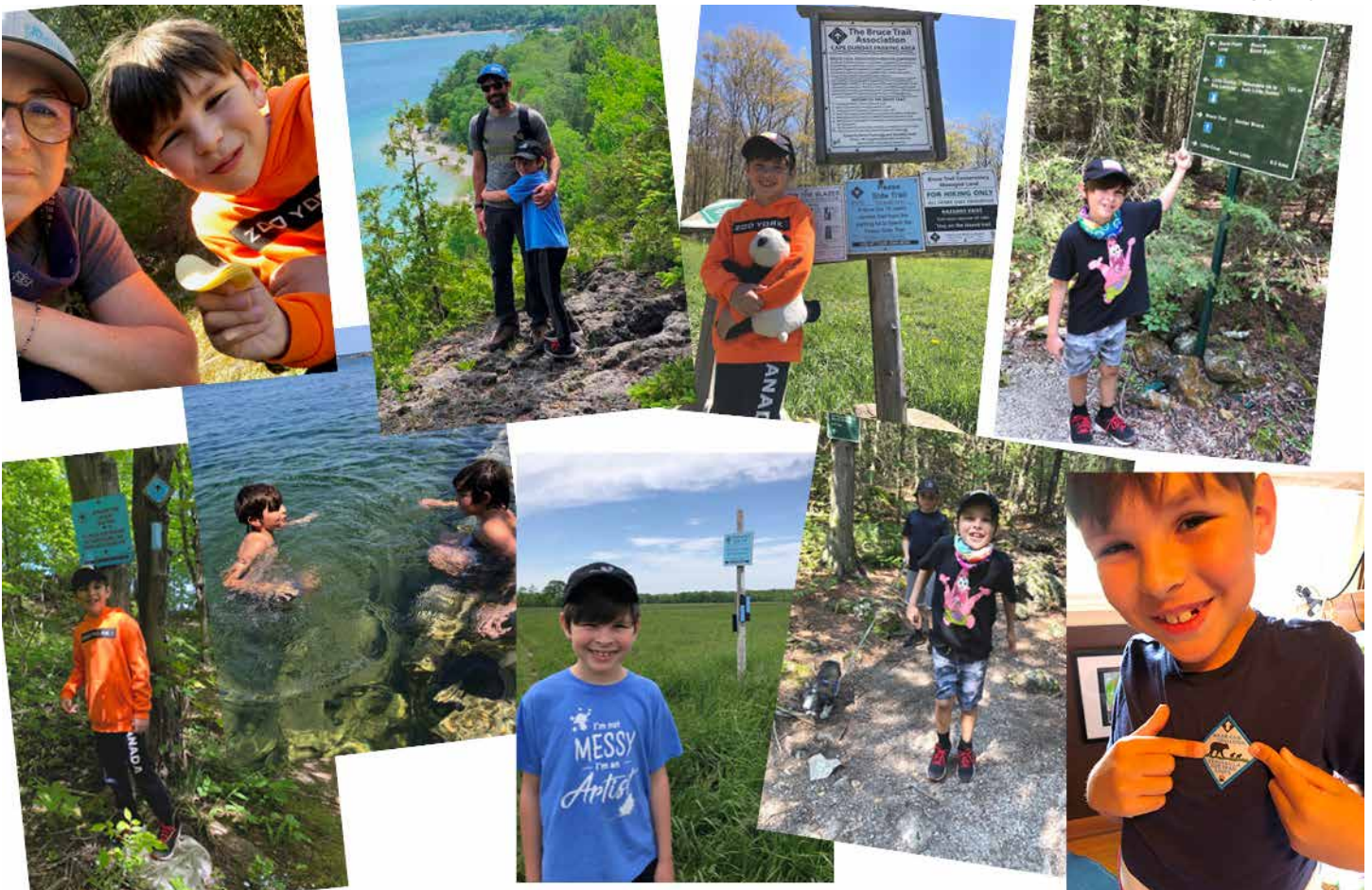
At the start of the summer we talked about how he could set a goal of hiking four side trails off the main Bruce Trail, and how that would earn him a badge.

On May 14 Mayer and I hiked the Pease Side Trail at Cape Dundas. The trail was 2.8 kilometres for a total hike of 5.5 kilometres. From the parking lot, the side trail takes you to the main trail, and then you join up

with the other end of the side trail after a walk along the cliff edge. We met a couple hikers along the way but otherwise had the trail to ourselves. We had a beautiful view of Barrier Island and Neyaashiingmiing /Cape Croker.

On May 23 the entire family went on an adventure back to Cape Dundas to check out the climbing crag known as TV Tower. The second side trail was the Jackson's Cove Side Trail and lookout. The views are just as magical as those from the Lion's Head lookout. The side trail is 1.8 kilometres and our total hike that day was 4 kilometres. At one point we had to scramble up a small section using a rope — a bit technical and a welcome challenge for Mayer! He still talks about that as one of his favourite hikes ever!

(cont'd on pg 12)



On June 5 we walked out the front door and down the road to the Whippoorwill and Alan Fowler Side Trails. It comes off the main trail just past the Forty Hills Road parking lot, and cuts through the rich green forest. There is some steep hiking — Mayer flowed through the different sections, problem solving to make it up and over large rocks or around trees. We hiked 4.4 kilometres in total. This trail is extra special for us since it is one we visit most. We always have the best conversations sitting at the lookout.

The last side trail was the most fun. On August 11 we packed up and went to the National Park Visitor Centre to check out the Burnt Point side trail. We chose this for a couple reasons. The first was the description: "This trail is suited for hikers with a bit more experience." Let's go! There's also a very cool

lookout tower, 65 metres tall, that gives you a vista across the entire Fathom Five Marine Park. And one other reason is that this trail reaches the northernmost point on the Bruce Trail! When we reached the tip of the peninsula the sun was shining and the water looked incredible. We stayed for a long swim before we made our way back. With the lower water levels the trail along the shore is open again; this means you are walking from rock to rock along the waters of Little Dunks Bay! Our hike from the visitors centre and back was just over 6.5 kilometres. That includes a climb to the top of the tower — Mayer did it twice!

Mayer is definitely proud of his accomplishment, and we are too. He always has endless stories to go along with his seemingly endless energy. He has a sense of adventure that is encouraged on the trails, and follows him anywhere we go.

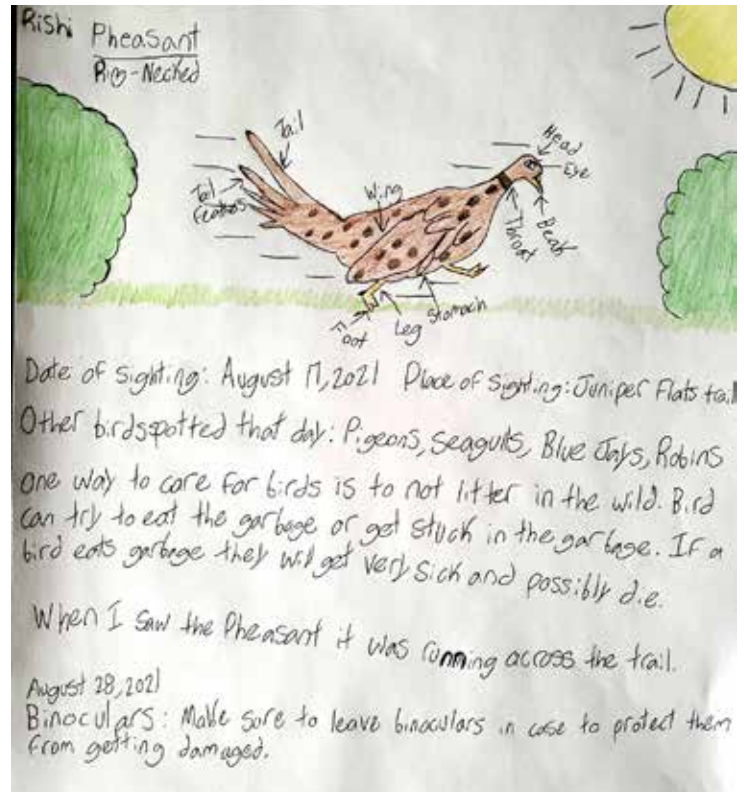
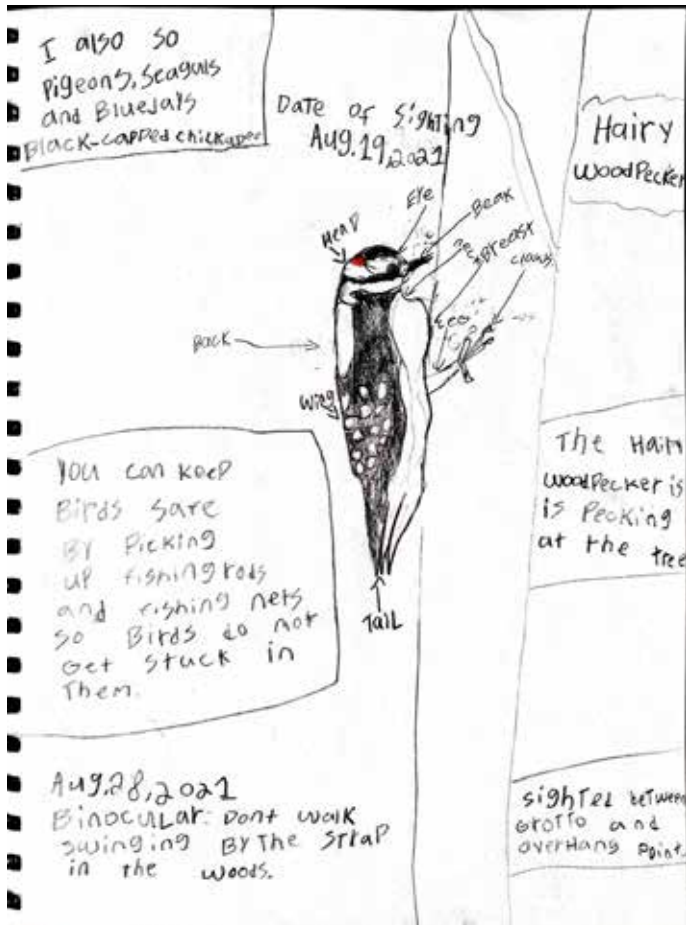
Jaime (mom)



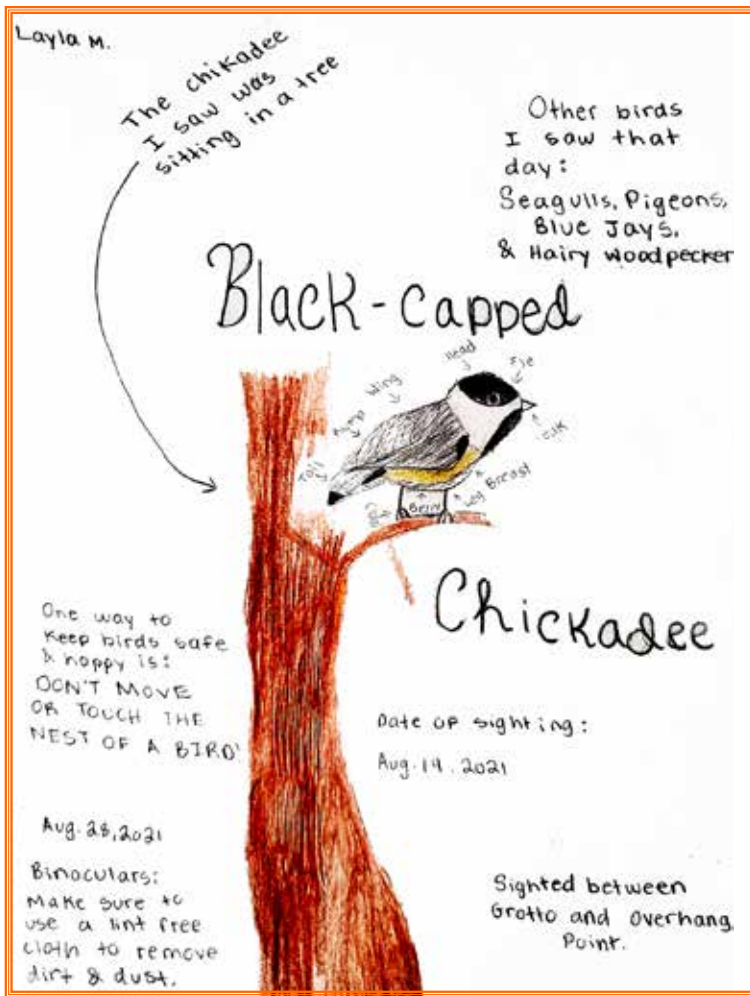
Rishi, Layla and Leena Munday's Junior Birder Badge Journals

Ornithologists in the making.

Rishi, Layla and Leena Munday were the first recipients of the PBTC Junior Birder badges, and obtained their Bear Cub badges while they were at it. We think you'll agree, their journals are wonderful!



Pages from journals - left: Leena above: Rishi
See Layla's journal page on pg 13



Journal page by Layla (see note on pg 12)



Layla, Rishi and Leena Munday

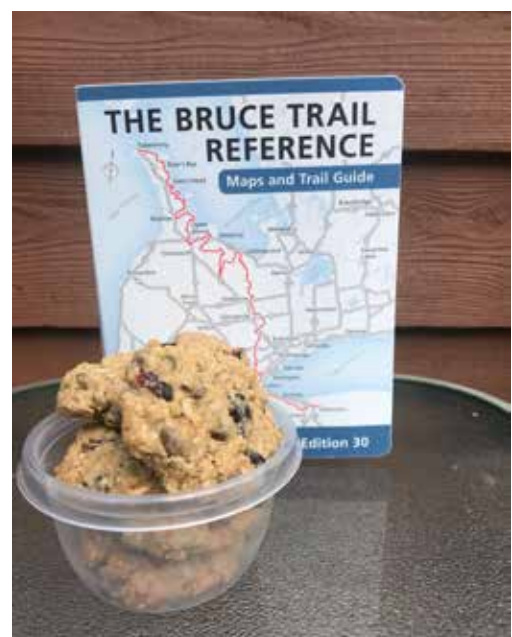
* * * * *

* * * * *

Snacks for the Trail

No need to go hungry while hiking! Peninsula Bruce Trail Club teamed up with Tobermory Meeting Place's Good to Go guided meal program to celebrate hiking on the Bruce Trail and to share some suggestions for Bruce Trail hiking snacks. You can find the recipes for Tamara's High Dump Bear Bars and Marg's Bruce Trail cookies along with a video of Marg in the kitchen!

The Good to Go guided meal program explores a new recipe each week, and provides all of the necessary ingredients for you, along with a printout of the recipe. Check out The Meeting Place website for more information.



Remembering John Baker



John Baker, PBTC volunteer and landowner, passed away on October 31, 2021. John and his wife Donna were members of the BTC since the early 1980s. After retiring in 1999, John and Donna moved to Lion's Head where, in addition to his work volunteering for PBTC, John will be remembered for his music, environmental advocacy and community building. He and Donna, who died four years ago, volunteered in many capacities and were winners of the Club's Porcupine Award in 2011.

In 2015, John and Donna donated 2.5 acres of land to secure a section of main trail. In their words:

"We are very pleased to be able to donate this tangible gift to the BTC. The Trail has given us considerable enjoyment, mainly through friends and acquaintances we have been so fortunate to make during our years as trail captains, work party participants and serving different roles/committees of the PBTC executive. Although we are no longer actively involved as volunteers, we have high praise for those who are taking on the roles in which we served and trust that the Trail will be well cared for by volunteers and hikers for coming generations." (Bruce Trail Magazine, Fall 2015)

Our condolences go to John's friends and the Baker family.



SUNTRAIL
SOURCE FOR
adventure

Quality equipment & clothing for
the hiker, snowshoer & XC skier!

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS

www.suntrail.ca
info@suntrail.ca
519-935-2478

Suntrail Source for Adventure @suntrail_19a

Hwy. #6, Hepworth ON

BLUE HERON
CRUISES

Glass Bottom Boat Tours

1-855-596-2999 cruisetobermory.com

The Power of Volunteerism

—Volunteerism is the lifeblood that flows through every step along the trail.

by Rich Moccia

The Bruce Trail would not exist without the army of volunteers who dedicate themselves to developing and maintaining this ribbon of wilderness beauty connecting the Niagara Gorge to Tobermory. Each year, hundreds of volunteers spend thousands of hours on activities like laying out new trails, painting blazes, cutting and clearing trees, building bridges and boardwalks, fundraising, cultivating landowner relationships, land stewardship, leading hikes, and creating newsletters like this, to name just a few! Though the trail itself is a world-class hiking route, it also provides an important story about the remarkable role of volunteerism in society, and how a common goal can bring people together to do incredible things.

But what is a volunteer exactly, and what motivates them to donate so much time, energy and sweat equity to something like the Bruce Trail?

To me, the core of true volunteerism is the act of giving something — anything — to help a community in need, and expecting nothing in return. It's about trying to enhance our world one small step at a time. Bruce Trail volunteers come from all walks of life and demographic groups. They bring with them a broad and deep mix of skills and accomplishments, and life experiences. Together, exploiting each other's strengths, they work towards the common goal of maintaining a footpath through nature for all to enjoy, for all time. All for no salary, and apparently nothing tangible in return.


But there's a hidden payoff to volunteerism. Volunteers gain physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual rewards by working together in a team with the common goal of simply helping others.

(cont'd on pg 16)



experience
The East Coast Trail
with
Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.



We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isa.

Phone: 1-709- 334-2208 Fax: 1-709- 334-3601
email: brownrabbitcabins@nf.albn.com www.brownrabbit.nl.ca



Centrally located overlooking Little Tub Harbour & Georgian Bay. Enjoy the fabulous sunsets in our fully licensed dining room & patio. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily!

20 tastefully decorated rooms, air-conditioned with individual climate control. Colour cable T.V., Free local calls, Wireless Internet, Complimentary Continental Breakfast, No Pets.

Cottage rentals
Tobermory Princess Hotel
34 Bay St. S., Tobermory, ON N0H 2R0
Phone: 519-596-8282 • Toll Free: 1-877-901-8282
www.tobermoryprincesshotel.com



PRINCESS HOTEL
CASUAL FINE DINING
DINING ROOM & PATIO
OPEN YEAR ROUND

The Power of Volunteerism (cont'd from pg 15)

You create a sense of purpose in life, and volunteering motivates yourself and others to do things that matter. It helps you realize the benefit of serving a community with humility and with gratitude for all that we enjoy in life. Volunteers are blessed by developing lifelong new friendships, and enriching existing bonds with family and old friends along the way. And you come to realize that hiking is not just about walking through the forest, but it's about taking time to enjoy the beauty and calming effect of our natural world

and appreciating the accomplishments of working together.

Much of what is good in any community simply would not happen without the contributions of volunteers. By volunteering, you get back more than you ever give. Realizing that fact is perhaps the best motivator of all.

To find out more about volunteering with the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, send an email to: pbtcoutreach@gmail.com



The "Three-Must-Have-Beers" (but only AFTER the sawing is done!!) crew: sawyers Rich Moccia, Laura Browne and Tom Hall show the fun side of volunteering.



Rich Moccia, Laura Browne, Tom Hall and Sandra Moccia enjoying the fellowship of trail work.



CAPE CHIN BED & BREAKFAST

Cabins and Cottage

519-795-7200
info@capechinbb.ca
www.capechinbb.ca
314 Cape Chin North Road
Lion's Head, ON N0H 1W0

Just 0.5 km from the Bruce Trail

MOUNTAIN TROUT CAMP

Welcome to our hidden gem!

Gillies Lake
60 Daly's Rd RR#1
Miller Lake, Ontario
N0H 1Z0

Phone: 519-795-7655
camping@mountaintroutcamp.com
www.mountaintroutcamp.com

Offering seasonal and overnight tent and trailer camping. Potable water, public washrooms and showers available.

Volunteer Recognition Event

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club held a volunteer recognition event on Saturday, September 25 at the new Maple Cross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin. While it may have been a little soggy that day, it did not dampen the spirits of the happy crew of approximately 60 volunteers who appreciated the outdoor camaraderie. They were able to catch up with fellow volunteers they had not seen for a while, and in some cases chat in person with new friends they had met through emails and Zoom. Take that, Covid! (And yes, we were very careful to comply with Ontario's protocols for outdoor gatherings).

Many thanks to the community supporters who helped make this a fun event. Thank you to the BTC for lending their tents and supplying BTC merchandise prizes, and to Meghan Croll, BTC's volunteer coordinator, for driving up to help. Driver Scott Matheson donated his time and Lion's Head Transit Authority donated the bus shuttle, which was greatly appreciated on such a wet day; Tru Foods supplied delicious sandwiches and muffins; Earthbound Gardens supplied tasty Honeycrisp apples; and Peninsula Septic Service donated two port-a-potties.

The following people and businesses donated prizes for the event: Christian and Barbara Von Der Heide of Cape Chin Tagwerk Farms and Paris Beer Company; Darci Lombard and Summer House Park; Teresa Purchase and Craig Chisholm of Cape Chin Micro-Farm; Tom Hall; Diver's Den; and Scott's Home Hardware.

And thanks to the volunteers who volunteered at the event (they just can't stop volunteering): Tom Hall, Laura Browne and Tim Wilson who spent days prepping the property and put up tarps and tents the day of the event; our hike leaders, John Grandy and Darci Lombard, who lead/swept the event hike; Marg and Owen Glendon for overseeing the volunteer parking; and our president Tamara Wilson who orchestrated it all.

Thank you to the volunteers who could not attend and to the many others including our generous donors who helped acquire the beautiful Maple Cross Nature Reserve at Cape Chin. We are most thankful that we finally had the opportunity to gather safely together, and to once again say in person how very lucky the PBTC is to have wonderful volunteers like you!



A Magnificent Piece of Gaia

by Marg Glendon and Dee and Tom Ashman

Have you ever wanted to visit a place which creates a sense of magic, adventure and peace? Whether you are an adult or a child, I have found the place for you — Rural Rootz Nature Reserve.

Tom and Dee Ashman live, own and steward this 100-acre property and have established a land easement to protect this sanctuary forever. I had the great pleasure to meet Tom and Dee during a PBTC small group hike held at their place in August. Tom and Dee have indeed created a peaceful sanctuary for all to explore — labyrinths; gardens filled with the colours and fragrances of native species plants; an outdoor chime maze; stone archways; and, throughout, magical and imaginative creatures that welcome you.

A very determined trail builder, Ken Ingham, came to Rural Rootz in the mid-1990s, and insisted that Tom and Dee build trails on this 100-acre property. It is an outlier of the Niagara Escarpment and has crevice caves along the southern boundary and a 10-acre spring-fed beaver pond in the middle.

According to Ross McLean's memoir, "Trail Memories in the Bruce Peninsula," Ken Ingham was a dedicated trail captain for the Bruce Trail and fell in love with Tom and Dee's property. He was instrumental in helping Tom and Dee in building a trail system on the property, including the Rural Rocks Side Trail for the Bruce Trail.

Tom was more interested in completing their passive solar home and perfecting a dry composting toilet. Dee was busy creating gardens without soil in the middle of a forest. Somehow they found time to do both and to help Ken with the creation of trails.

Ken insisted there was no interest in a straight trail so they dutifully followed his lead as he wound Rural Rocks Side Trail in a higgledy-piggledy fashion across the land. Today they host the only satellite trail in the entire length of the Bruce Trail. Originally Ken developed seven "internal trails" radiating from the house, totaling about seven kilometres. These are maintained to this day as a way of sending people on short jaunts to view the magic of this land. This makes the main features accessible for those with either limited time or physical stamina.

By 2000, working with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and Bob Barnett, they created a conservation easement to protect this land. To their surprise and delight, when the easement was registered in Walkerton, it was the first property in Ontario having a conservation easement with an integrated trail system. This covenant made with the federal government protects this land in perpetuity. Since its humble beginning, the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy has secured thousands of acres which could otherwise fall to the hands of developers. Working together with the BTC, it helped Tom, Dee and Ken to create and protect Rural Rootz Nature Reserve and Rural Rocks Side Trail.

The Ashmans have the honour of having their names on the deed to Rural Rootz but have never felt that they owned this land; this is why they have put it in trust of the Conservancy. When they first opened the gardens to the public, Tom carved into a stone: "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." They feel blessed to be stewards of such a magnificent piece of Gaia.



the Ashmans are standing under the stone archway designed and built solely by Dr. Ken Ingham as part of his millennium project in 2000.

We would love to hear your Tales from the Trail. Send us your stories to pbtcrafter10@gmail.com and we will share them in future issues of The Rattler. If you have any photos to include please send them as a jpeg at highest resolution possible.

Comfortable Hiking Holidays
Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

WE'RE READY! ARE YOU?

When you are ready to return to international hiking, the company you book with is now more important than ever.

Here's why we think you should travel with us:

- We are a small, family-run Canadian company that has been in the hiking business since 1986
- Small group sizes (15-20 guests)
- We personally lead/accompany every trip
- 70% of guests have travelled with us before!
- COVID safety protocols in place for all trips

Our 2022 hiking holidays have been filling up quickly and all that is missing is YOU!

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by emailing us at info@letshike.com and **Follow us on Facebook.**

**Tour du Mont Blanc * Galapagos Islands
Slovenija * Japan * Ireland * Kenya & others!**

www.letshike.com
info@letshike.com * Toll free 1 (866) 449-1908



FOODLAND
Fresh food, Friendly neighbours

Rick & Marlene Peacock
Owners and friendly neighbours

General Delivery
Tobermory, ON
N0H 2R0
(T) 519-596-2380
(F) 519-596-2582

Rick.Peacock@sobeys.com

CEDARHOLME
Bed & Breakfast and Cottages
On the Bruce Trail • Steps to the Beach

Lynn and John
McCurdy

108 Beech Street, Hope Bay
South Bruce Peninsula, ON N0H 2T0
519-534-3705
cedarholme@mdirect.net www.cedarholmebb.com