



Caledon Comment

Fall 2021

Vol 57, No 3



Janice McClelland

2021 Recipient

Credit Valley Conservation

Volunteer of the Year Award

Article on Page 3

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End-2-end organizers Sandra Green (centre) and
Peter Leeney (rear) with intrepid end-2-enders

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Volunteer of the Year Award from Credit Valley Conservation – by Jean Kerins



**Janice McClelland Receives
the 2021 Volunteer of the Year
Award from Credit Valley
Conservation**

It is always a pleasure to share good news about our incredible Bruce Trail volunteers and when one of our very own Caledon Hills volunteers is widely recognized for their outstanding contributions it is even more exciting. I am very pleased to tell you that erstwhile Club President Janice McClelland is this year's recipient of the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Volunteer of the Year Award. The CVC website states that "This award recognizes individuals and/or community groups who generously give personal time to protect, connect, and sustain the environment". Janice more than meets the requirements for this prestigious volunteer of the year award.

Janice was nominated for the CVC Friends of the Credit Watershed award by the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC), which is so fitting considering all of Janice's contributions to our umbrella organization.

As the nomination form stated:

"Janice lives and breathes the BTC's mission and the importance of the preservation and protection of natural spaces. If an opportunity arises, she's prepared to share her message at any time". And she does! Janice never, ever lets an opportunity go by to share her love of the Niagara Escarpment and all the natural spaces that are contained in the Escarpment".

"Janice was selected for her tireless efforts to protect the Credit River Watershed through her significant involvement with the BTC. She has been fundamental in building connections in the community through her many efforts to protect the environment for future generations, and she sets an outstanding example of what can be done when like-minded people join forces to preserve and protect our natural world."

"Janice's volunteerism supports a thriving environment that protects, connects and sustains the Credit River watershed for today and for future generations. Janice has been a member of the BTC for more than 33 years. Over the years, she has committed significant amounts of time and energy as a volunteer and a leader for the mission and vision of the BTC. Her personal donations, fundraising efforts and public education

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have helped build capacity for the BTC to acquire and protect many properties in the area, protecting them and providing low-impact access for trail users. Janice's ability to speak in front of audiences or one-on-one and deliver powerful, compelling messages that speak not only to the specific work of the BTC but also to the broader goal of the protection of and appreciation for nature.”

You can certainly see from all of Janice’s contributions over the years, going back as far as the 1990’s that she is a most worthy recipient of this CVC honour. We would be mistaken though to think that Janice did this all by herself. Janice will tell you that none of her contributions would have been possible without the unfailing support of her husband Don Blok.

Janice and Don met on a Bruce Trail hike (which was led by Barry Westhouse!) in March 1986. Married in 1988 at Black Creek Pioneer Village, they became a “couple” in every facet of Bruce Trail life, supporting each other as Trail Captains, Hike Leader & Sweep, Trail Maintenance Volunteers and throughout many committee and board positions.

This May, Janice and Don (at age 95) hiked at Scotsdale Farm, enjoying the Spring wildflowers and seeing their “old haunts”. Sadly, after 33 years of marriage. Don passed away on June 24th, leaving Janice with many wonderful memories of all the times they shared both on and off the Trail. Don was a true believer in the importance of preserving our natural resources, and he supported and encouraged Janice every step of the way in her Bruce Trail volunteer activities. Janice, quite understandably, shares the CVC Volunteer of the Year Award with her beloved Don and also feels that she is “standing in” for the many dedicated CHBTC volunteers who contribute so much, in so many ways, over so many years!



Don Blok at Scotsdale Farm, May 2021

Both Don and Janice’s friends and fellow volunteers were very happy to hear that Janice was being recognized for all her efforts in support of the BTC and our club over her many years of involvement. Here are a few of the comments: “You express a genuine love of what you do for all of us and that is infectious.” “Thanks for being such an inspiration.” “Congratulations, now bask in the wonderful recognition of all that you have done, and continue to do, for your community.” And this is just a small sampling of the many notes of congratulations that Janice received.

I think it is appropriate that Janice closes this tribute in her own words: “The Bruce Trail has been very helpful in my life and so my volunteer activity has been a way that I could

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show my appreciation for the wonderful experiences on the Bruce Trail and help to move it forward because that's just such a positive mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness for everyone forever. So, if I can be part of moving that into the future and helping that happen, then I'm only too glad to put whatever skills I can to that purpose."

The world could definitely use more role models like Janice McClelland. On behalf of all Bruce Trail Conservancy members, congratulations Janice on this very important recognition of your contributions to protecting and preserving our natural spaces in Ontario.

Janice and Don on the Trail

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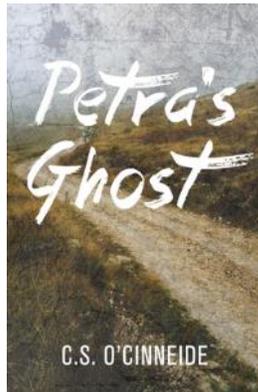
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Book Review— by Nicola Ross

Petra's Ghost

by C.S. O'Conneide (Dundurn 2019)

In March, I received a lovely note from Carole Kennedy congratulating me on my hiking guides. She mentioned she hiked the Camino de Santiago in 2015 (I walked it about a decade earlier) and had written a novel about it.



She loved the route, but Carole's pilgrimage was over-shadowed by the abduction and murder of a fellow pilgrim. In turn, this tragedy informs her novel, making *Petra's Ghost* a very spooky read. I loved it.

As her main characters make their way along Spain's 800-kilometre-long Camino, their dramas unfold. The book's atmosphere is misty and dark. It seems as if the plot is just beyond your grasp and try as you might you simply can't quite grab on to it.

Carole, who wrote the book using the name C.S. O'Conneide, weaves murder and intrigue into the lore of this ancient pilgrimage.

If you've previously read books or seen films about the Camino de Santiago, rest assured that *Petra's Ghost* bears no resemblance to what has come before. It is a unique experience.

I highly recommend [Petra's Ghost](#). I suggest asking for it at your local independent bookstore.

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GETTING BETTER

The past year and a half have been difficult and challenging for all of us. However, we can finally take some comfort knowing that the world is slowly returning to normal.

This means that you can start dreaming again about a hiking holiday, and we will be there for you when you are ready to go!

We have been busy securing services, adapting our terms & conditions, and setting the scene for a safe return to travel, and we cannot wait!

**Dominica * Portugal * Japan
Ireland * Amalfi Coast (Italy)
Corfu (Greece)
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Galapagos Islands * Slovenija**

Now's the time to put your name on the [INTERESTED LIST](#), and we will notify you when we are ready to accept reservations for a particular trip (no obligation necessary).

UNTIL THEN...

We would love to keep you informed and engaged. Here are 3 easy ways to keep in touch that would benefit us both:

1. [Follow us on Facebook](#).

We post daily on topics such as hiking tips & tricks, travel information, gear reviews, trip announcements and so much more.

Plus, we're pretty entertaining 😊

2. [Follow me on Instagram](#).

Want to see amazing photos? Follow @maddhiker on Instagram. Maddhiker - that's me! Full disclosure - I sometimes also post pictures of my family and dogs.

3. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

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Start training now for our upcoming fun-filled Prediction Hike Fundraiser!

Format

Hikers will choose to complete one of two predetermined hikes, a distance of 7 km or 20 km, and upon registration for the event, they will provide organizers with their personal "to-the-second" prediction of how long it will take to complete the distance on event day. Of course, there's a catch. NO time, pace, and/or distance technology can be used during the actual event.

The hiker in each hike distance category with the closest prediction to his/her actual time will be awarded a fabulous prize. Everyone will receive a spectacular souvenir badge.

Registration

Interested participants must pre-register on the BTC Hike Schedule, starting August 4th. When registering, be ready to pay the \$26.00 registration fee, choose your hike and record a personal "to-the-second" prediction of how long it will take to complete the hike. The fee includes the event badge, donation, and BTC administration fee.

On-Site

Participant start times will vary between 8:30 and 9:30, based on predicted finish times. In September, individuals or groups will be notified about their scheduled start times.

The hikes are self-supporting, so bring plenty of snacks and beverages. Light refreshments will be served at the finish line. All profits will be donated to the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

Further registration details will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram accounts and on our website, www.caledonbruce trail.ca.

Contact event coordinators, Sally and Sandy at info@caledonbruce trail.org with any additional questions.

Registration is now open on the
[BTC Hike Schedule](#)

Hike Descriptions

If you plan to train before the event, park at the BTC Parking Lot on Mono 5 Sideroad, 43.974055, -79.984988. Do not park or hike at the International Centre. Plan your training hike accordingly.

7 km Hike (Heads South)

International Centre Gazebo to km 45.8	approx.	0.15 km
MT km 45.8 > 42.9		2.9
MT 42.9 > 46.6		3.7
Harmony ST		0.11
km 45.8 > Gazebo	approx.	0.15

Total distance: 7.01 km

Event Day Directions

From the gazebo head to the main Trail. Turn right onto the main Trail and continue across 5 Sideroad and 7th Line to the hiker's rest bench at the lookout (km 42.9). Retrace your steps along the main Trail back to the second entrance to Harmony ST. Take this short side trail to the end. Turn right and continue to the gazebo.

20 km Hike (Heads North)

International Centre Gazebo to km 45.8	approx.	0.15km
Harmony ST		0.11
MT km 46.6 > 56.3		9.7
Griffith Ravine ST		0.9
MT km 54.5 > 52.3		2.2
Glacier Valley ST		0.58
MT km 51.6 > 48.3		3.3
Hockleycrest ST		1.6
MT km 47.1 > 45.8		1.3
km 45.8 to Gazebo		0.15

Total distance: 19.88 km

Event Day Directions

From the gazebo head to the main Trail. Turn left onto Harmony ST. Take this side trail to the main Trail. Veer left onto the main Trail and then proceed to the second entrance to the Griffith Ravine ST. Take this side trail back to the main Trail. Continue straight onto the main Trail and head to the Glacier Valley ST. Take this side trail to the main Trail. Turn right onto the main Trail and head to the Hockleycrest ST. Turn right onto the side trail and continue to the main Trail. Turn right onto the main Trail and hike to the second entrance to the Harmony ST. Continue straight and follow the trail back to the gazebo.

THE ROYAL OAK TREE OF SPEYSIDE—by Andrew Camani

The story of the Royal Oak of Speyside actually starts in England in 1651. England was near the end of their civil war and King Charles II was trying to escape with his life after the battle of Worcester. He later reported that he hid in an English Oak tree all day while parliamentary patrols searched for him. This tree became known as the Royal Oak tree and the English Oak got a new nick name. May 29th was celebrated as Royal Oak Day for centuries in England to mark the restoration of the monarchy.

In 1937, to celebrate the coronation of King George VI on May 12th, acorns from Windsor Park in England were sent all across the British Commonwealth.



A one room school stood on 22 Side Road north of Speyside. Students at SS#8 Dublin planted their acorn in a special evening ceremony in that year. When the school closed in 1960, they raised the money to have tree surgeons move the twenty foot high oak tree. They planted it beside the gym at the new school where it continues to grow. When the school closed in 1986, acorns were brought from England to plant “cousin” oak trees at Brookville, Limehouse, Pineview, and Stewarttown where the Speyside students were transferred.

The Royal Oak of Speyside received a heritage designation in 2007 for its cultural significance. A plaque, with the following inscription, was mounted on a stone near the tree. “Designated Tree 2007 – Speyside Royal Oak – Planted 1937 – Students of Dublin School planted an acorn from Windsor Park, England to mark the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. This oak provides a loving link to our heritage. – Heritage Halton Hills.” Since the tree is expected to live for up to 500 years any owner of the property is required to maintain it during its lifetime.

Today, the Royal Oak Tree stands beside a vacant, vandalized, school. No trespassing signs are posted at the entrances to the property. The plaque, that once honoured the tree, has been removed from the stone. Most, if not all, of the former students who witnessed the planting of the tree have passed away. Sadly, the tree appears to have seen better days. Looking at the tree, it reminded me of the Tony Orlando and Dawn song “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”. For a moment, I imagined the entire tree covered with yellow ribbons. As I turned to walk away, I thought I heard someone behind me say “It’s been eighty odd years, do they still want me?”.

***Directions to the Royal Oak Tree:** Toronto Section of the Bruce Trail – At km 11.4, the main trail reaches the Pear Tree Park and a parking area at 15 Sideroad. The Trail turns right along the road into Speyside. At the stoplight turn left and follow Hwy 25 for approximately 500 metres. The vacant school is on the right side of the road.

If you would like to support the publishing of the book “100 Forgotten Sites – along the Bruce Trail” by receiving a copy of “100 Hikers 100 Hikes” please contact Andrew @ acamani50@gmail.com



Caledon Hills “Fall Colours” End-to-Ends



Thanksgiving Weekend - October 9, 10, and 11, 2021

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club is so thankful to be able to invite you to join us for our “Fall Colours” End-to-End hiking events, which will be taking place this upcoming Thanksgiving weekend.

Plan to enjoy the spectacular fall colours, as you hike the 71.3 km of main Trail through our famous Caledon Hills. You can complete the distance over all three days of the weekend or the same distance over Saturday and Sunday only. The cost of the three-day event is \$43.00 and the two-day event is \$32.00. The registration fee covers the BTC administration fees, daily bus transportation, refreshments, and an end-to-end badge on completion.

Registration will begin August 9th on the BTC online Hike Schedule. Participation is limited to 44 hikers for each of the events.

For further details and event updates, visit the CHBTC website, www.caledonbruce trail.ca and follow the Club on Facebook and Instagram.

Contact Sandy Green, E2E Coordinator at info@caledonbruce trail.org with any additional questions or concerns.

LOOPS & LATTES HIKING GUIDES



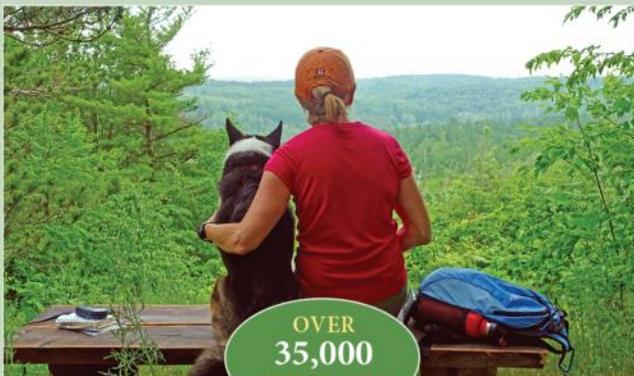
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“Thank you again for writing these books because we all love hiking and are always looking for new and exciting locations.”

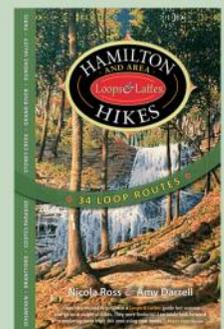
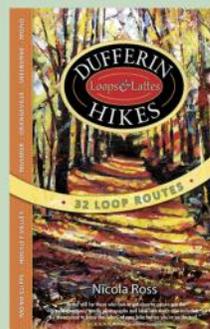
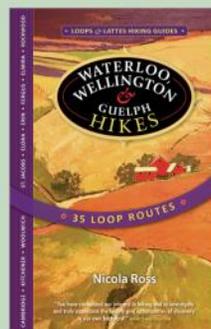
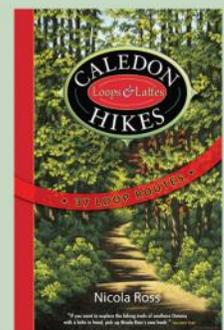
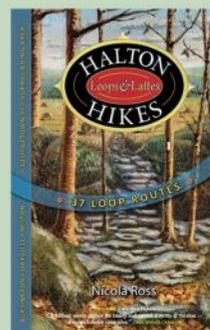
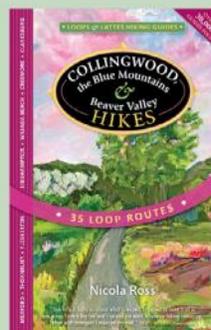
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New Volunteers Join Our Club Board of Directors

This year our club board has welcomed four wonderful new volunteers who have offered their time and expertise to bettering our Bruce Trail community - Maria Burton, Lynn Dobson, Danielle Koren and Elizabeth Staite. I asked all of them to help me introduce themselves to you, our members.

Meet Maria Burton

Maria has taken on the role of Publicity Director for the club. Maria grew up on a farm in Ontario, and spent many days and hours exploring, hiking, and running along the Bruce Trail. In her career, Maria works closely with many great protected trail systems around the world and she is keen to contribute her skills towards preserving this great Ontario trail system.



As an outdoor enthusiast and endurance athlete, Maria honed her outdoor sports marketing, event development and tourism skills working with profit and not-for-profit organizations in New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii, California, and British Columbia. She has been fortunate to incorporate her passion for backcountry sports into her career, and shares the love of outdoor endurance sports with her husband and kids every day out on the trails. In fact, one of their goals is to complete a family end-to-end soon.

Maria shared her goals as a volunteer with our club: Heighten Bruce Trail awareness and build community interest; promote health and wellbeing; protect the Trail, honor the public and private landowners, and conserve the environment; do whatever possible to preserve the Bruce Trail for her children and future generations.

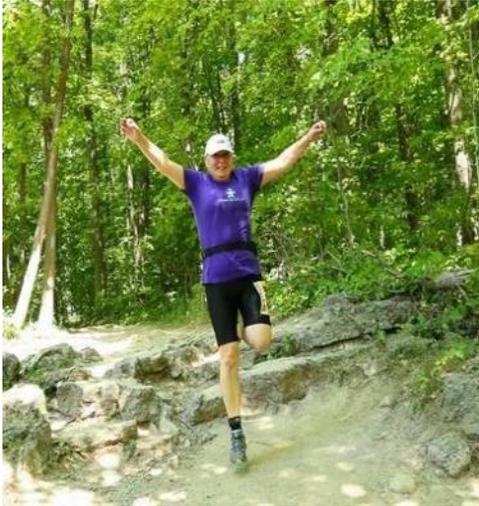


Meet Lynn Dobson

Lynn Dobson has taken on the role of Membership Director for the club. Lynn had been running on roads for many years but in June of 2015 she did her first running race on a trail. That trail was in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area and she immediately became hooked on trail running and being in the peace and beauty of the forest rather than on the road. Lynn joined the Bruce Trail in 2016 and enjoyed the trails in the Caledon Hills and Toronto sections for a few years. In December of 2019, she started an end-to-end hike at Queenston. Although she has been delayed by the pandemic, she will be back hiking this year to start the Blue Mountain section – just 400 kms to go!



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Lynn added that being on the Board at Caledon provides her with a way to combine her love of hiking and trail running with governance in support of an important green space, and it provides an opportunity to meet new people and support a cause that she cares about deeply.

Lynn shared that she has just finished reading “*Grandma Gatewood’s Walk*” the true story of a woman who, at the age of 67, did a solo hike of the Appalachian Trail which was at that time in excess of 2,000 miles. She was the first woman to do a solo hike of the entire Appalachian Trail and she did it without benefit of GPS, detailed maps, uber, a sleeping bag or tent. It is an inspirational hiking story to keep us all putting one foot in front of the other exploring the trail.

Meet Danielle Koren

Danielle has joined the Board as a Director at Large and is also assisting with our Social Media program. Danielle confessed “Quite honestly, I was never a hiker. I liked walking in the regional forest for a half-hour or so, but that was it, my hobby was cycling. However, my husband liked hiking. He cycled with me and said it would be at least fair that I would give the hiking a try. As we hiked a part of the Bruce Trail near Caledon in early 2016 something hit me, aside from the fact that it is truly magical to hike along the escarpment, the idea that this trail continued for 900 kilometers across Ontario intrigued me. In for a new challenge, we decided to set the goal to hike the Bruce Trail end-to-end and setting that goal helped us achieve the completion of the Bruce Trail on September the 8th, 2019”.



Danielle volunteered with our club for three reasons. First of all, she wants to give back to the trail that has been giving her so much joy and so many adventures. Secondly, she would like to share her passion for the trail with the members and the general public and lastly, she wants to work with and learn from a great group of fellow Board members; Danielle gets energized working with people towards a common goal, and brings strength to her volunteerism having experience in planning and leading strategic initiatives in the profit and not-for-profit sectors. She is also familiar with volunteer management and social media marketing.

Danielle would love to help increase public awareness, get more people enthusiastic about the trail and help grow the membership. For someone who professed not to be a hiker, this summer Danielle hopes to hike the coastal trail in Pukaskwa National Park if that can continue despite the pandemic. I think she is a true hiking convert!

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Meet Elizabeth Staite

Elizabeth joins our club as an Assistant Director of Landowner Relations. As a young child living in Toronto, Elizabeth spent many Saturdays exploring Wilkett Creek Park with friends. Her family enjoyed Sunday picnics and holiday camping in the many Toronto conservation areas and Ontario provincial parks. She and her husband Philip are great believers in preserving natural green spaces for everyone to enjoy now and into the future, and their entire extended family decided to forgo birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas presents to make donations towards the creation of the Trans Canada Trail in 1992. Subsequently, they heard about the Bruce Trail Conservancy and are donors and supporters of the mission and vision of the conservancy. Elizabeth and her family have been members of the Caledon Hills, Dufferin Hi-Land and Sydenham Bruce Trail Clubs since 2012.



Elizabeth and her husband have lived in the beautiful Caledon Hills for 40 years raising two children. Their daughter Victoria gifted them the BTC Reference Maps and Trail Guide to aid in their hiking experience and an end-to-end of the entire trail is in their future plans. After retirement and before the pandemic, Elizabeth was able to enjoy one hike with the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club Tuesday Hikers. The hike leader and the hike participants were very welcoming so she is trying to keep Tuesdays open in order to join them more regularly, when hiking in groups can begin again.

Elizabeth hopes to be able to assist in the continued success of the CHBTC and support the goals of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Elizabeth said: “What I have found in my short time with the CHBTC Board, is that I am privileged to have the opportunity to learn from such talented and dedicated people”.

The truth of the matter is that every member of our club and all users of the Bruce Trail will benefit from the talents that our four outstanding new volunteers are bringing to our club’s board of directors.

Right: Franca De Angelis and Fred Nix volunteering at one of several of the end-2-end refreshment stops.



Online

Winter Marketplace

Fundraiser



Winter Marketplace Online Fundraiser

Coming October 15

We are thrilled to have so many talented local artisans who are donating their beautiful handiwork to the club in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. You can expect to find one-of-a-kind nature photography, handmade artisanal crafts, stunning woodworking, and more.

Watch for a special electronic issue of the Caledon Comment issued in October featuring all the items that will be available for sale in our Winter Marketplace, hosted on our website.

We hope you will support this exciting new fundraising initiative and fill all your holiday shopping needs.

Watch for further details on our Facebook, Instagram, and website

www.caledonbrucetrail.ca.



Nature
Photography

Wooden
Signs

Wooden
Décor

Wooden
Bench

Festive
Décor

Save the Date

September 25th - Prediction Hike—details on Page 9

October 9, 10, 11—Thanksgiving E2E—details on Page 11

October 15 —Winter Marketplace Launch— details on Page 6 & 15

October 16—BTC Virtual Annual General Meeting

December Weekends—Annual Christmas Tree Sales—details to follow

Thank You Sarah and Elora

By Louise Carberry

It was a pleasure to meet Sarah Krakar and her mom Melissa in Orangeville when I stopped by to pick up the loppers that Sarah and her fellow guide member Elora Stauder, are donating to our club.

Sarah and Elora organized a fundraiser with the help of their Girl Guide group leaders, Mercedes Spoor and Lisa Stauder. Sarah was personally inspired by hiking the entire Bruce Trail over 2.5 years with her family.

We know the Bruce Trail is in good hands when we meet young people like Sarah and Elora. Thank you for your support.

Sarah is pictured here with her mother, and both are holding a pair of loppers that Sarah and Elora are donating to the club.



The Bruce Trail Conservancy Mission:

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

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