

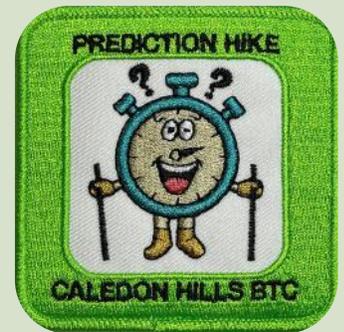


Caledon Comment

Spring 2022

Vol 58, No 1

*Have You Earned All of
Caledon's Current Badges?
See the Article on Page 6*



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Visit our website, www.caledonbrucetrail.ca for lots
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Wild Ginger
This spring flower is always well hidden under its leaves.

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President's Message—Marilyn Ross

Welcome to 2022 and hopefully we can gradually say goodbye to many of the pandemic restrictions as long as the latest or next variant doesn't create more havoc. At this time, our board and committee meetings continue through Zoom and although we had hoped our April AGM could be in person, the decision was made to hold it virtually once again. Our annual Winter Pot Luck was again cancelled in December.

Membership in our club is at an all-time high this year likely due to the increased interest in getting outdoors and into our lovely forests to experience nature. Thank you all for continuing with your membership during this time: Membership Matters! It allows the Bruce Trail Conservancy to purchase land to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Hiking is resuming in a modified way with pre-registration required through the BTC online hike schedule. This provides the ability for the hike leader to restrict the numbers participating on the hike. Our Hike Director, Rob Martin, reported that at this time our regular Tuesday hikes are usually full each week. The new Winter Hiking Badge is available for those completing the requirements. To facilitate earning this badge Sandy Green developed two series of hikes: "Frosty Five" which began in early January 2022. See our website for details.

Our Treasurer, Andree Zeritsch, reports our club is in a good financial position. Three fundraisers contributed to this. In September our first Prediction Hike created by Sandy Green and Sally Cohen was held with great success. A new badge, created by Colleen Darrell just for this, made the event even more fun for all participants. We plan to make this an annual event.

The club's first ever online Winter Marketplace was held in the Fall with sales going very quickly. Thanks to our creative Fundraising Director, Linda Vezina, for this idea to sell products from local artisans online with a beautiful catalogue of products developed by our Caledon Comment Editor, Jean Kerins. This was all put out on the club's website thanks to Dave Guzda, our Webmaster. And our Treasurer, Andree, kept track of the sales. Thanks to all who contributed to this event helping Linda with this very creative fundraiser.

The club has a dynamic Social Media Team: Colleen Darrell, Danielle Koren, Maria Burton, and Kristina Zeromskiene, who are posting information on Facebook and Instagram regularly. Kristina also sends out the monthly Cal E-News to all who subscribe with the latest club information on events, requests for volunteers, etc.

The annual sale of Christmas trees was held once again at Hockleycrest, the beautiful home of Dave Moule and Sally Cohen. Christmas planters, Christmas Gnomes, Grinch Trees, some of the Winter Marketplace products and Bruce Trail merchandise were all sold there as well as the traditional Christmas trees. The few items that were not sold from the online Winter Marketplace were given to Bethell Hospice to sell at their Christmas event. This year has been one of our most successful years ever for total revenue at the tree farm. A big thank you to all who volunteered to help make items for this event and thank you to all who helped with the sales at Hockleycrest as well thank you to Sally and Dave for hosting this at their home and Diane McKenzie for organizing.

Congratulations to Janice McClelland, club Director at Large, for receiving the Credit Valley Conservation award for the 'Outstanding Volunteer of the Year'. *"Janice's passion for preservation motivated her to become a volunteer board member of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club, which is responsible for the trail in the Credit River watershed. Since then she has played an integral role in the club,*

Continued on Page 4

President's Message Continued:

holding various positions including president, vice-president and director of fundraising." Quote taken from In the Hills magazine.

Congratulations to Sandy Green, club Vice President, who has become our club's first woman to complete the Chain Saw course with the support of our current sawyers.

Heather Murch, club Trail Director, works with a team of sawyers to take down the diseased Ash trees as well as remove any trees down across the trail on an ongoing basis. Thank you to that team.

Disease resistant American Elm Trees were picked up from the University of Guelph by Gary Hall, club Land Steward Director, and planted along the trail with the team: Richard Smythe, Dave Moule and Gary.

Much activity continues to keep our trail in great condition for us all to enjoy.

Along with those mentioned above, I would also like to extend my thanks to each and every club volunteer for the time and energy you continue to commit in order to help make our club the vibrant organization that it remains.

I am wishing us all a better year in 2022.

Marilyn Ross
Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club President

PLEASE HELP REDUCE COSTS!

IN 2020 THE CLUB SPENT \$4604 ON PRINTING AND POSTAGE TO MAIL THE CALEDON COMMENT TO OUR MEMBERS. THIS EXPENSE DROPPED TO \$3313 IN 2021, REPRESENTING A SAVINGS OF \$1291 WHICH WENT DIRECTLY TO THE BTC TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF PRESERVING A RIBBON OF WILDERNESS, FOR EVERYONE, FOREVER.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC VERSION RATHER THAN THE PRINTED VERSION.

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The Environmental Impact of Irresponsible Foraging

By Gary Hall

“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.” – Wangari Maathai.

With the coming of spring, the forest floor becomes alive with a wonderful array of diverse plant species. It also offers people a short window of time to forage for edible resources throughout the woodlots of Southern Ontario. Foraging has been getting a lot of media coverage over the past couple of years with most of the coverage focusing on the wonders of going out and gathering edible resources with little attention given to the environmental impact if conducted in an irresponsible manner.

While foraging is not a bad thing as long as it is done responsibly and with permission of the landowner, it is becoming a growing problem along the Bruce Trail corridor. In Ontario, permission from a landowner is required before harvesting on private land. Foraging without permission can lead to charges and fines. Harvesting in nature reserves like our Bruce Trail managed properties is forbidden.

Foraging, especially for wild leeks (champs) and fiddleheads (from Ostrich Ferns) has become a significant problem on some of our properties where it has become a commercial venture, stripping large areas of the forest floor for leeks, and tramping through moist sensitive habitat to harvest fiddleheads. Because the season is so short and wild leeks, fiddleheads and morels are considered a cooking delicacy, they can demand high prices at farmers' markets.



Ostrich Fern



Fiddle Head



Wild Leeks

Our trail planners and builders plan the trail corridor very carefully to provide the public with access to a variety of ecosystems with minimal impact on the environment. Commercial foragers are increasingly using our trail to give themselves access to potential foraging sites and in the process venturing off the trail damaging vegetation and disturbing wildlife. It can also lead to the spread of invasive species.

One of the core values of the Bruce Trail Conservancy is to "embrace our role in responsible stewardship of the Bruce Trail, the lands in our care, and the organization's resources, for the benefit of all including future generations."

These resources are ours and we must play a role in protecting them. We can do this by staying on the Trail, taking nothing but photographs and educating other Trail users if you see them venturing off Trail. It wouldn't be wise to get into an argument with people you see foraging, but it's fair to inform them that foraging is not allowed along the Bruce Trail and can lead to trespassing charges and fines.

2021 - It was the Year of Badges!

The Caledon Hills Club offers many different badges annually. Some of these badges are through organized events and others are earned on your own or with family and friends. The pandemic provided many families and friends with an opportunity to explore the Caledon Hills section of the trail and stay close to home. Our section consists of approximately seventy kilometers of main Trail and forty kilometers of Side Trails. There is lots to explore and it looks different in every season. A record number of End-to-End badges were awarded in 2021. The badges and the number of hikers who completed each one in 2021 are listed below. Detailed badge requirements are available on our website.

<http://caledonbruce trail.ca/hiking/club-badges/>

Sideways Badge



This special badge is awarded upon the completion of four clusters of hikes which include 14 side trails. These are the side trails in Forks of the Credit, Hockleycrest, Hockley Heights and Hockley Valley. These hikes can be done on your own or on a guided hike, or a combination of on your own and through organized hikes. 28 Individuals completed the requirements and earned this badge.

Sweetwater Badge



To earn the Sweetwater Badge, you must complete all the required hikes and take the required photographs. You will have a sweet time hiking in Caledon! The kilometer references are taken from The Bruce Trail Reference Edition 29. There were 29 individuals who completed the challenge and earned the Sweetwater Badge.

Discovery Badge



The Discovery Badge requires completion of all the hikes listed on our website and you can do so on your own or on an organized hike. You will have fun *discovering* more about the Caledon Hills section of the Bruce Trail. The kilometer references are taken from the Bruce Trail Reference Edition #29. Three individuals received this badge in 2021.

Historical Badge



To earn this special 150th birthday badge you must have completed all the requirements listed on the website. There were 8 individuals who completed the requirements for this special badge in 2021. We recommend that before starting to earn this badge you contact Colleen Darrell, Badge Co-Ordinator, at badges@caledonbruce trail.org to ensure that there are still badges available. The supply is low and will not be replenished.

Continued on Page 7

Winter Badge



This badge requires individuals to complete at least 5 hikes during the winter season. Hikes are to be a minimum of 1-1/2 hours long and can be completed on organized group hikes or be self-directed. To qualify, each hike must take place in the Caledon Hills section. This was one of the most popular badges for our section in 2021 with 55 individuals completing the challenge and embracing winter hiking.

Nature Hunter Badge



We have an exciting badge that students can earn by getting out on the Trail and exploring nature. This is a badge created by the students from Belfountain Public School. Criteria for earning the badge consists of taking a photo of 3 different types of flowers and 3 different types of trees, then identify each of the above and tell us about the life cycle of one of the plants. 5 students participated and earned this badge in 2021.

End-to-End of the Caledon Hills Section



You can earn this badge by hiking all of the main Trail (white blazes) in the Caledon Section on your own or with a friend or on guided hikes when provided or on any end-to-end hikes. The Trout Lily is the third in our series of flower badges. Drum roll please – 359 individuals completed the Caledon section in 2021. It was awesome to see such wonderful use of the Trail.

Fall Colours Badge Two Day End-to-End



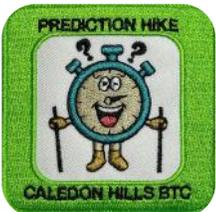
This badge is awarded upon completion of the Club organized two day end-to-end held annually over the Thanksgiving weekend. The registration fee covers the cost of bus transportation, refreshments and the badge. Unfortunately this event could not occur in 2021 but we are hopeful for 2022. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Fall Colours Badge Three Day End-to-End



This badge is awarded upon completion of the Club organized three day end-to-end held annually over the Thanksgiving weekend. The registration fee covers the cost of bus transportation, refreshments and the badge. This event could not occur in 2021 but we are hopeful it will happen in 2022. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Prediction Hike Fundraiser Badge



This badge is awarded for taking part in the Club's special event which has participants registering on the BTC Hike Calendar, paying an entrance fee, and hiking a predetermined route in the Caledon Hills. Each hiker also provides a prediction of how long it will take them to complete the distance. On event day, no pace or time technology can be used. The hiker with the closest finish time to their prediction is awarded an extra prize. 50 badges were given out in the first annual Prediction Hike Fundraiser in 2021.

Our 2021 Fundraisers

From October through December 2021, our club held an online winter marketplace in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy along with our traditional Hockleycrest Christmas tree and Christmas planter sales.

Under the leadership of Linda Vezina (see article on Page 16) the club's first attempt at an online Winter Marketplace was an unqualified success. More than 20 artisans contributed over 200 pieces of their beautiful handiwork in support of our organization. Linda organized several teams of volunteers to participate in workshops making Grinch Trees, Gnomes and Sock Snowmen for both the online sale and the Hockleycrest sale.

Under the leadership of Diane McKenzie, another group of volunteers descended upon Hockleycrest to create festive Christmas planters in readiness for the holiday season. The planters were a sell-out as usual.

Each year, Somerville Nurseries in Everett donates some pre-cut Christmas trees and wreaths in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and this year their generous tradition continued. We thank them for their ongoing support. And of course we also thank Dave Moule and Sally Cohen for allowing us to use Hockleycrest Farm for our Christmas sales.

It takes a lot of volunteer time, energy and expertise to pull off such successful fundraisers on a regular basis. Since records have been kept, our club's lifetime donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a very impressive \$237,500.

If you are interested in being part of this success, please contact our Fundraising Director at vezina.linda@gmail.com. Linda would welcome your support!



Thank You

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Ash Tree Decimation

by Heather Murch

The Bruce Trail travels through many treed areas where the emerald ash borer is decimating the ash tree population. The invasive species was discovered in Ontario in June 2002.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/emerald-ash-borer>

The beautiful emerald adult eats foliage but does little damage. <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

The larvae, on the other hand, feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, killing a healthy tree within 3 years. Eggs are laid on the bark of an ash tree so when the larvae hatch, they bore into the bark to consume the sap of the tree. This starves the tree. Infested trees may have small D-shaped holes on the tree trunk, woodpecker feeding holes (they feed on the larvae under the bark), peeling bark and treetop dieback.

<https://forestsontario.ca/en/page/emerald-ash-borer-frequently-asked-questions>



Holes through the bark are used and enlarged by woodpeckers who are after the ash borers.

Once the bark has fallen off an old stump, you can see the evidence of destructive ash borer movement.



LIFE CYCLE OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER



Image acquired from: http://remagazine.coop/electric-cooperatives-ash-borer-beetle/ash_beetle_kk_final_03/

Along the Bruce Trail, in the Caledon Hills section, volunteers have removed hundreds of ash trees.

Felling trees requires great skill. It's an art. A large tree can weigh several tons so there isn't a lot of room for error depending on what is in the vicinity. A sawyer looks to the direction the tree is already leaning; including consideration of the weight of branches along with the wind speed and direction.

Continued on Page 11

One day, Sawyer John Maxwell very skillfully felled a tree onto a bed of logs that were aligned to protect a boardwalk. It was Jamie Matheson's idea and Ron Gray and I assisted and were impressed watching the plan come successfully to fruition.



Note: a second tree missed the staged rotting pumpkin found nearby. John claimed not to have heard Jamie's challenge to hit it.

We will leave it to the reader to decide whether John has imperfect aim... or perhaps selective hearing... :)

Most importantly in both cases, the boardwalk was unscathed.

Remarkable skill.

The probability of a hiker being hurt by a falling tree is thankfully low. Odds are, no one will be on the exact part of the trail when a tree or branch falls there. Touch-wood, hundreds of branches and trees have fallen and no one that I'm aware of has been injured this year; although I have heard of some near misses. So there is an argument that it is safer to let a tree die and fall than it is to subject our sawyers to repeated risk of felling dozens if not hundreds of trees.

However, a controlled fall ensures no hikers are at risk, so, if a sawyer feels comfortable with taking down vertical trees, it's best that the tree still have some life in it. As the tree dies, it starts to rot on the inside which makes the felling of the tree more unpredictable because the trunk could snap anywhere along its length as the forces shift during cutting. That means hundreds of kilograms of wood can be thrown in an unpredictable direction; putting people – and structures at risk.



Sawyer Dave Moule assessing a couple of large fallen trees that are intertwined making removal a bit tricky.

Sawyer Sandy Green taking a break after clearing a tree from the trail.



Note: Our Sawyers wear all appropriate ppe while operating a chainsaw; but when pictures are taken, not all ppe is necessarily being worn.

Continued on Page 12

Brian Popelier, a Biologist with the BTC, said that the trail is considered a wilderness trail and as such, people who use the trail need to understand there is risk when they use it.

Although considerable effort is expended to keep the trail safe, it has rugged conditions, isolated locations with no cell signals and wildlife. And along with that, there is a risk of trees falling. This risk is much higher during high wind events.

In mid-December, there was a storm that took down dozens of trees along the Caledon Hills section. The team of Sawyers and their support spotters hit the trail to clean up Mother Nature's mess. (Spotters ensure that hikers stay out of harm's way from falling branches or trees. A spotter also assists in removing the felled tree logs from the trail.)

The amount of work that is completed by volunteers is staggering. On the 120 km or so of the Caledon Hills section, there are 35 Trail Captains, 9 Sawyers and 4 Quadrant Leaders who inspect the trail, keep the structures sound, paint blazes, cut grass, and trim trees and bushes to keep the trail visible, clear and safe. And of course, remove dangerous trees.

It's a labour of love.



Another dying ash tree marked for removal.

Caledon Hills Prediction Hike Fundraiser



This year's FUN-filled Prediction Hike will take place on Saturday, September 24 at the Hockley Valley Provincial Nature Reserve. Hikers will choose to complete one of two predetermined hikes, a distance of 7 km or 20 km, and upon registration for the event, 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, 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. Prediction Pete, our first collectible badge character will have a new friend, Prediction Parnika.

Interested participants can pre-register on the BTC Hike Schedule, starting June 30th. Participation is limited to 60 hikers. The registration fee is \$26.00.

Further registration details will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram accounts and our website, caledonbrucetrail.ca. Contact event coordinators, Sally and Sandy at info@caledonbrucetrail.org with any additional questions.

Caledon Hills "Fall Colours" End-to-End

Thanksgiving Weekend - October 8, 9,10

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club is looking forward to hosting our "Fall Colours" End-to-End hiking events, over the 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 processing fees, daily bus transportation, refreshments, and an end-to-end badge on completion.

Registration will begin June 30, on the BTC Hike Schedule. Participation is limited to one bus of hikers for each of the events.

For further details and event updates, visit the CHBTC website, caledonbrucetrail.ca and follow the Club on Facebook and Instagram. Contact Sandy Green, E2E Coordinator at info@caledonbrucetrail.org with any additional questions or concerns.

How the Mighty Have Fallen or How Everything Changes

By Joan Richard

Walking in the Dufferin Hi-Land Section, I came upon a sign extolling the magnificence of the nearby beech tree. Unfortunately, the subject of the sign was now lying beside the trail.

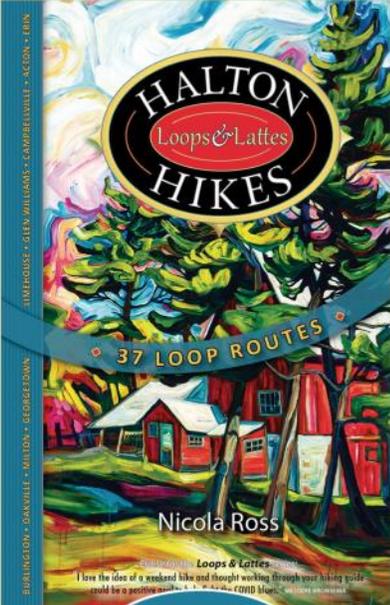
Still grand lying there, perhaps its former strength was more evident as its size was marked off by my footsteps walking beside it.

Rather than being saddened by this display of mortality, I took heart from the sign which suggested that one should look through the nearby forest for beech saplings starting life with the support of their grand predecessor. A true heritage.



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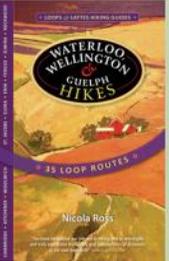
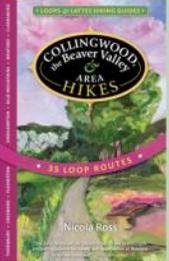
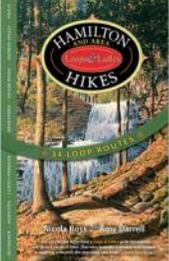
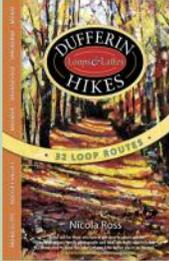
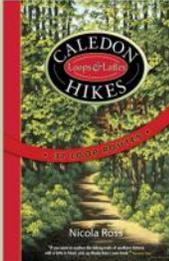
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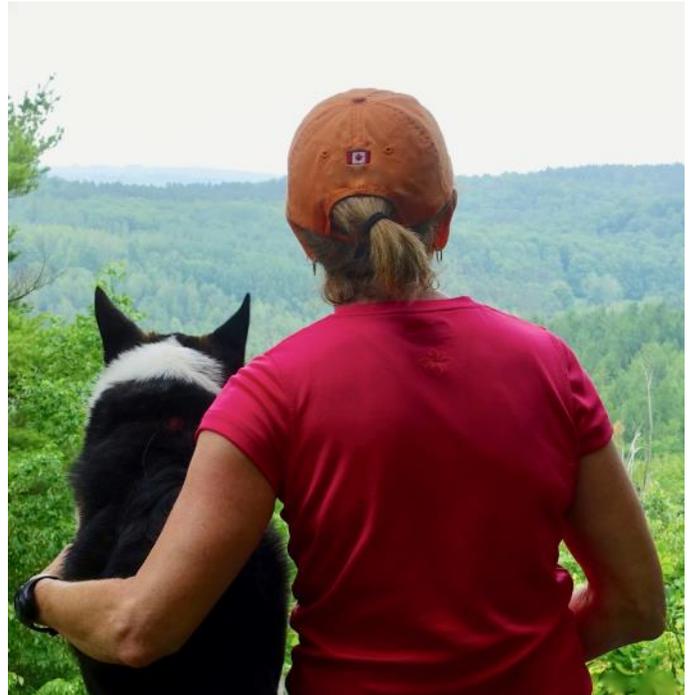
My Favourite Spot for Forest Bathing - by Phil Kidston

What on earth is “forest bathing”?

Last summer I avoided a walk billed as such because I mistakenly assumed it involved bathing suits!

So I was interested to learn from Janice McClelland’s review of the book “Forest Bathing” in the Winter edition of Caledon Comment, that it is simply being in nature and connecting with it through our senses.

As Janice says in her review, if we want to try forest bathing we should find a place where we can feel comfortable; somewhere that will fill our heart with joy. Janice listed her two favourite spots, neither of which is in the Caledon Hills section of the Bruce Trail.



Susan Gesner and Lucy Blue Enjoying the View of the Hockley Valley from the Bench on the Hockley Heights Side Trail

So where, I asked myself, is Forest Bathing most likely to work for me? On reflection, it is the off-road portion of the Hockley Heights Side Trail that is between the 5th Line turn-around and the 15 Sideroad. This is shown on map 18 of the Bruce Trail Reference Guide; the 5th Line turn-around, or dead end, is at the north end of that road, some 2km from the Hockley Road.

There is always lots of room to park at the 5th Line turn-around. From there I head north along this little-used trail, passing through mature deciduous woods, with occasional pine plantations. The trail first descends, then scales a hill with switchbacks on each side providing easy grades. Next comes a bridge crossing a (sometimes) stream, a peaceful glade filled with goldenrod in season, and a second hill, in places steeper than the first. Having descended this hill, I next climb gradually to a ridge and, following it, come upon a bench, ideally situated for a rest and a view over the Hockley Valley. This view is pictured on advertisements for the “Loops and Lattes Hiking Guides” found in past issues of Caledon Comment, with a hiker and her dog seated on the bench! From the bench I can, if I wish, continue along the trail to the 15 Sideroad, and then retrace my steps back to the bench and thence to the car.

At a leisurely pace the round trip, with rests, takes me about 2 hours, enough time (according to Janice’s book review) to get the benefits of forest bathing. The trail is far from any highway or busy road, so is free from traffic noise. A lot of it is on high, fairly open ground, so I feel comfortable here, never finding it dark or depressing.

Meet Linda Vezina, Fundraising Director - by Jean Kerins

Linda Vezina is currently the Fundraising Director for the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club. In this role, Linda has spearheaded several new and very successful initiatives for the club, and it is my pleasure to showcase her in this edition of the Caledon Comment.



As Linda's career in Human Resources wound down and she was approaching retirement, Linda's thoughts turned to how she could fill the welcome free time in both a fun and meaningful way. She began exploring various local organizations with a view to becoming an active volunteer. Luck was

with us, because shortly after retiring in 2019 Linda came across this poignant quote by the famous naturalist, John Muir, which resonates with her still: "Into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul". Subsequently Linda joined the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club. What better way to enter the retirement years!

Joining her first club hike in May, 2019 in the beautiful Hockley Valley, Linda chatted with the Hike Leader who was club board member Louise Carberry. Louise quickly recognized Linda's talents and interest and she extended a welcoming invitation for Linda to attend the next CHBTC Board meeting as her guest. It was there that Linda first met Janice McClelland, who was an inspiration with her years of dedicated service and passion for the vision and mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Janice remembers: "At the end of the Board meeting, Linda enthusiastically said to me, 'I want to do what you do!' Indeed, I was looking for a volunteer who could build on our successful foundation of CHBTC fundraising. Here was someone with very positive people skills who could probably do just that! Mentoring Linda - taking her under my wing - was a very enjoyable experience. In October 2019, she capably stepped up to emcee *The Woman Who Loved Giraffes* at our fundraiser at the Elora Gorge Cinema. In January 2020, Linda & I discussed fundraising strategies during a field trip (a hike and winery visit!). Combining sharing ideas with hikes that helped her to know our membership, Linda took over as Fundraising Director at the club's AGM in April 2020 - just weeks after Covid 19 had shut everything down - that was a challenge!"

How can you possibly organize fundraising events when everything is locked down? Linda immediately started thinking outside the box. Encouraged by a promotional email forwarded by Janice about a Yorkdale Plaza Drive-In Movie Night, Linda was inspired! She attended the event with a friend and after brainstorming with the rest of the Fundraising Committee she decided to give it a shot and spearheaded the organization of a successful Drive-in Movie night for the club at the *Mustang Drive-in Theater* in Guelph in September 2020. Over 100 members, family and friends were happy to come out and support the event from the safety of their own cars, surrounded by a gaggle of their hiking buddies. The event was a tremendous fundraising success despite the restrictions imposed by Covid 19. Linda is already planning a similar event for 2022. Stay tuned.

Continued on Page 17



Linda Helping out at Bruce Trail Day in 2019

There was still more creativity bubbling around inside Linda's head as 2021 dawned and we were all still under the cloud of the pandemic. What else could be done to continue to fulfill the club's mandate of "preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever"? The concept of an Online Winter Marketplace was the result of Linda's creative brainstorming during the summer months, and she began approaching local artisans and craftspeople in order to acquire an inventory of goods to sell as a club fundraiser. Over 20 wonderful people donated over 200 items which resulted in another tremendous fundraising success for the club. Linda's enthusiasm knows no bounds!

2021 closed with the club's annual Christmas tree sales at Hockleycrest Farm. This traditional sale has always been one of the club's best fundraisers, but this year Linda enlisted over 20 volunteers to make Grinch trees, gnomes and snowmen, all adding to the success of the event.

Now 2022 has arrived, and lo and behold we are still under the cloud of the pandemic. I personally am excited to find out what plans Linda has for this year's fundraising events. Another drive-in movie? Another on-line marketplace? Or something totally different once again? We shall have to wait and see.

In the meantime, it is so good to know that our club Fundraising team is in such capable hands.

As to the future, Linda's goals are clear. She says: *"Ideally I'd like to take fundraising to new heights in support of this worthwhile organization ... I'm willing to try new digital technologies to improve our efforts, reach new audiences, build credibility and broadcast updates online. In this day and age, fundraisers are increasingly relying on the web to connect with donors and supporters. I gained some digital marketing experience with our recent Winter Marketplace and I'd like to build on that, in addition to collaborating with board members re new fundraising ideas."*

It seems the future is in good hands. The Caledon Hills Club, the Bruce Trail Conservancy and all the users of our beautiful Trail will benefit from Linda's enthusiasm and dedication to our wonderful Bruce Trail. Linda's children and grandchildren, along with so many other Ontarians can be assured that the Bruce Trail will be there for future generations to enjoy thanks largely to dedicated volunteers like Linda.



In 2021 the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club budgeted a donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy of \$15,000. Because of the outstanding success of all our 2021 fundraising initiatives, the Club was able to increase its donation to \$25,000, bringing our Club's lifetime donation to the BTC to a staggering \$237,500! Congratulations CHBTC!



Call for Club Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club Awards which will be presented at the 14th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in June. Please read the awards criteria below, and send your nominations to Colleen Darrell, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, at colleen.darrell@gmail.com or phone Colleen at 519-833-2311. Nominations will close on April 15, 2022. (Note: Award nominations were paused in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid 19.)

THE ISABEL EAST AWARD

The recipient must be a member of CHBTC.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated the club's values of transparency, excellent communication and inclusiveness.

The recipient of this award has clearly helped CHBTC members to enjoy club activities.

The award may be given for an exemplary demonstration of enthusiasm in a particular project, office or year. It also may be awarded for continued demonstration of enthusiasm over a number of years and/or variety of activities.

THE BARRY WESTHOUSE AWARD

The recipient must be a member of CHBTC.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated active involvement in the physical work of trail maintenance and development.

The recipient must have a long-standing volunteer commitment to trail work.

The recipient best exemplifies an unsung volunteer commitment to the trail.

THE JUNIOR APPRECIATION AWARD

This award is given out to club members who are under the age of 18 that regularly volunteer their time and have demonstrated a willingness to help CHBTC members enjoy club activities.

THE LAURENCE CHRISTIE BIODIVERSITY AWARD

The recipient will be an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to preserving and/or enhancing the biodiversity within BTC managed lands in the Caledon Hills section, either in a leadership role or through active involvement.

CHBTC RIBBON OF WILDERNESS AWARD

The recipient of this new award must be a member of CHBTC. The recipient will have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the CHBTC having normally served as a volunteer for a minimum of ten years.

The award will be given for an exemplary demonstration of dedication and commitment to the CHBTC and the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy - "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever".

The recipient's volunteer activities will have enhanced and strengthened the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

Gallery of Winners

Isabel East Award

*2007: Jeanette Cave
2008: Pat Bryant/Fran Chamberlain
2009: Janice McClelland
2010: Tuesday Hiker Group
2011: Greg Huffman
2012: Robert Gillespie
2013: Ray Matsalla & Dave Platt
2014: Joan Richard
2015: Carol Sheppard
2016: Albert McMaster
2017: Kristina Zeromskiene
2018: Marilyn Ross
2019: Louise Carberry*

Barry Westhouse Award

*2007: Roy Bauman & Sally Smyth
2008: Gary Hall & John Maxwell
2009: Jim Wilker
2010: Charlie Atkinson
2011: Frank Chow
2012: Dave Hull
2013: Norm Randle
2014: Dave Sarginson
2015: Jacques & Karen Martin
2016: David Weicker
2017: Jim Graham
2018: David Lloyd
2019: Jamie Matheson*

Junior Appreciation Award

*2013: Faeron Darrell
2014: Peter Moule
2015: Alison Moule
2017: Guste Zeromskis
2018: Jenna Nensi*

Laurence Christie Biodiversity Award

2019: Laurence Christie

CHBTC Ribbon of Wilderness Award

New in 2022

Ross McLean Award

*2010: Dave Moule
2011: Laurence & Irene Christie
2012: Dave Platt
2013: Barry Westhouse
2014: Carol & John Maxwell
2015: Helen Billing
2016: Jean Kerins
2017: Alan Billing
2018: Janice McClelland
2019: Beth Gilhespy
Award Retired in 2019.*

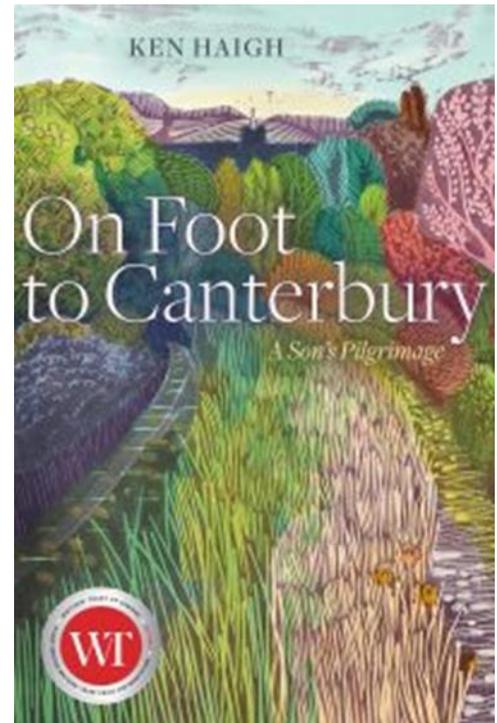
Book Review

On Foot to Canterbury: A Son's Pilgrimage by Nicola Ross

A finalist for the 2021 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction, *On Foot to Canterbury: A Son's Pilgrimage* is a contemplative read that, I predict, will make you itch to depart on your own journey.

Having walked what is now the world's most popular pilgrimage: the Camino de Santiago in Spain, I was taken back by Haigh's book to those magical days. As he describes it, "There is a wonderful simplicity about a pilgrimage. Each morning, you rise and put on the same clothes you were wearing the day before. You break your fast, hoist your pack onto your shoulders, and hit the road."

In Haigh's case, he chose to go for a walk to spend more time with his recently deceased father. But there is far more to his story than that. Trapped in a job he disliked by his need to care for his family, suffering from depression, Haigh, who lives in Clarksburg, not far from Collingwood, writes, "I knew I had to do something or spontaneously combust."



While Haigh's experience along the trail somewhat parallels Cheryl Strayed's delivery from a collapsing life, Haigh takes readers on an elegant historical tour of England as he walks for two weeks from Winchester to Canterbury. With the patient eye of a historian, he explores churches and describes the landscape. He brings to life the story of Thomas Beckett, the murdered Archbishop of Canterbury whose shrine in Canterbury Cathedral is at the end of this ancient pilgrims' route. Having misplaced his own faith, Haigh explores his relationship with God, coming to appreciate British author Julian Barnes' statement, "I don't believe in God, but I miss him."

Sitting in the shadow of the Canterbury Cathedral at the end of his walk, Haigh recognizes the advice of Phil Cousineau, who wrote *The Art of Pilgrimage*. Cousineau says that a pilgrimage is pointless unless you "bring back the boon." By this he means that you need to learn from your pilgrimage and share these lessons with others, which Haigh does in his quiet unobtrusive way.

I won't give away Haigh's lessons except to say that his pilgrimage, like my own, was a unique opportunity to reset my life. Somehow the simplicity of getting up each morning and putting on the same clothes as you wore the day before, clears your mind. Similarly, reading such an elegant description of someone else's pilgrimage, helped me clear my mind and reminded me that I was overdue to shed the worries, concerns and trappings of everyday life. It was time for me to embark on a journey of my own. And if that isn't a good reason to read a book, I don't know what is. It's no wonder Haigh's book was a finalist for the prestigious Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction.

Save the Date

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY APRIL 3RD

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL—SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH

PREDICTION HIKE FUNDRAISER—REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 30TH
FOR THE SEPTEMBER 24TH EVENT

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND END-TO-END REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 30TH

FULL DETAILS WILL BE POSTED ON THE CLUB WEBSITE

RESPECT OF THE LAND

1. Hike only along the blazed routes. Do not take short cuts. Use the stiles and do not climb fences.
2. Obey all signage.
3. Always respect the privacy of people living along the Trail. Many landowners graciously allow the Bruce Trail on their property for pedestrian use. Trespassing or misuse of the Trail could lead to a request to remove the Trail from private property.
4. Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out the litter.
5. Leave flowers, plants and trees for others to enjoy.
6. Where dogs are permitted, keep them on a leash and under control at all times.
7. Do not disturb wildlife and farm animals.
8. Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.
9. Everyone's experience in nature is unique and personal. Help encourage an inclusive community of outdoor explorers.

The Niagara Escarpment/Gchi-Bimadina/Kastenhraktáye is the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabek, HuronWendat, Tionontati, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia. Together may we care for this land and each other, drawing upon the strength of our mutual history through peace and friendship, to create a lasting legacy of conservation for generations to come.



The Bruce Trail Conservancy Mission:

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

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