

Caledon Comment

Spring – 2024

Vol 60, No 1



Our New 60th Anniversary Commemorative Badge



*Original End-to-End
Badge*



*60th Anniversary
Retro End-to-End Badge*

One of the many ways that you can celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Caledon Hills BTC is by earning one or both of the new badges. You can earn the Commemorative badge by hiking a total of 60 kilometres in the Caledon Hills section in 2024. You can earn the 60th Anniversary End-to-End badge by completing the entire Caledon Hills section in 2024. Detailed requirements can be found on the club website at www.caledonbruce trail.ca

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Cal E-News
is our club email newsletter that
keeps members up to date on club
issues and activities between edi-
tions of the Caledon Comment.

Subscribe at:
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Visit our website, www.caledonbrucetrail.ca for
lots more information about the club.

Join the Caledon Hills Biodiversity Facebook
Group at [Biodiversity Team - Caledon Hills
Bruce Trail Club | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BiodiversityTeam-CaledonHillsBruceTrailClub/)



First CHBTC AGM - March 31, 1965
RD Hendry, P Gosling, RN Lowes, T East, J Morrison

THE FIRST annual general meeting of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club was held last night at the University of Guelph. Tom East, director of the Credit Forks area points out some aspects of the trail to from LEFT: R. D. Henry, Galt; Phil Gosling, president of the club; R. N. Lowes, foun- der of the Bruce Trail and Mrs. Jean Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the club.

(Guelph Mercury Photo).

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER EDITION:

April 15, 2024

Email your submissions to:
jeankerins@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING

SIZE	RATE
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Full Page (7.5 x 10)	\$145

HST must be added
Terms: Cheque or e-transfer with order
Cheque should be made payable to:
"The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club"



Happy 60th Anniversary Greetings!

Sandra Green, Club President, friendsofchbtc@gmail.com



Dear Members,

On February 13, 1964, the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club was officially formed, bringing a dream of an unbroken footpath from Niagara to Tobermory even closer to reality.

For 60 years, Club members and volunteers have led the way in designing and maintaining first-rate trails, helping to secure land to protect and restore ecosystems, and "connecting people with nature." This past year, the Club donated \$23,000 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, increasing our lifetime donation to \$284,000. Our mission to "preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever" continues to inspire generosity and reminds us of the responsibility we all share for this land and future generations.

Join in the celebration of this amazing milestone. Your Anniversary Planning Team has lined up a year filled with exciting events and opportunities to mark the occasion. You can work towards earning two commemorative badges independently or on group hikes and help out with our habitat restoration and trail-building projects. For updates and more information, follow us on social media and watch for our monthly Cal E-News.

You are also invited to participate in a night hike on Saturday, February 24, that Richard Smythe and I will co-lead. This exploration of the Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve under (fingers crossed) a starry sky and bright, shining Snow Moon should provide a novel experience for all. The hike is from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, starting at the Mono Community Centre. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Hot chocolate will be served after the hike. Contact me or visit the BTC Hike Schedule for more information and registration.

Don't let the words Annual General M-e-e-t-i-n-g deter you from attending our 60th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 14th. The day promises to be filled with good cheer, including a local hike, a catered meal by the staff at the Caledon Ski Club, and a message from Michael McDonald, CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The m-e-e-t-i-n-g portion will be brief and very informative.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to Andree Zeritsch and Linda Vezina for their dedicated service to our Club as Treasurer and Fundraising Director. They will be missed on the Board, but this is not goodbye, as they will continue to support our mission in other ways.

We are off to a fantastic start to the new year. I look forward to spending time with you celebrating our 60th, hiking, maintaining and building trails, and caring for our magnificent protected natural areas.

Sandy

Friends of CHBTC Group Hikes

Get to know others and enjoy some fun outdoor time.

Nature Seekers - leisurely 5ish km

Thursday, April 18, 9:30 - 12:00

Saturday, April 20, 1:00 - 3:30

Just For Fun - medium 10ish km

Sunday, April 28, 9:00 - 12:30

For registration information, meeting locations, and hike descriptions, scan the QR Code.



Check the BTC Hike Schedule for 60th Anniversary Badge Hikes, Nature Walks, Tuesday Group Hikes, Historical Hikes, and more.

Nature Quest

Email winter CONNECTING WITH NATURE photos to Sandy by March 31st for a chance to win a 60th Anniversary technical fabric t-shirt. One winner will be randomly picked.



Congratulations to Marla Haring for winning a CHBTC t-shirt and to Joanne Long, Karen Oreto, and Rosemarie Abrecht for winning BTC toques.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALEDON HILLS BRUCE TRAIL CLUB ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

1964 February 13: First meeting is held. Philip Gosling is the first Club President.

1965 Volume # 1 of the Caledon Comment is issued in February. (See cover page below right.)

1966 Membership exceeds 100 people and Tom East becomes Club President.

1967 October: The Caledon section is 32 miles long and contains 47 stiles and 11 bridges.

1967 October: First organized end-to-end is held.

1968 January: Philip Gosling becomes the Club's first and only honorary member.

1968 Caledon creates first loop trail in the Bruce Trail Network

1972 Caledon initiates help for Lion's Head Club and helps in the Peninsula area for the next two decades

1985 Tuesday (Mid-Week) Hiking group starts

1986 Club receives Hike Ontario's Outstanding Contribution Award.

1996 Christmas trees are planted at Hockleycrest as a future fundraiser.

1996 Club receives the BTA Tom East Award.

1997 Club receives the BTA Tom East Award.

2002 May: Club website is launched – www.caledonbrucetrail.org

2002 Our L'il Cookbook is published.

2006 Cal E-News is introduced for the first time.

2007 Isabel East, Barry Westhouse and Retiring Trail Captain Awards are established.

2007 June 16: First Volunteer Social is held at Belfountain Conservation Area.

2007 Club receives BTA Philip and Jean Gosling Award.

2007 April: Forty Great Years 1967-2007 is published.

2009 September 27: Gosling Volunteer Forest is officially opened.

2010 Ross McLean Award is established.

2010 Club receives BTC Tom East Award.

2011 First Club bylaws are passed.

2012 Club donations to the BTC pass \$50,000.

2013 Club Facebook page is launched

2013 Club receives BTC Philip and Jean Gosling Award and BTC Tom East Award.

2014 February 13: Club turns 50!

2014 Club receives the BTC Tom East Award

2014 "A Celebration of 50 years 1964-2014" is published

2015 Wildflower series of E2E badges is introduced

2015 Cheltenham Badlands site is temporarily closed

2016 An Instagram account is set up

2017 Club donations to the BTC pass \$100,000

2019 Biodiversity Committee is established

2019 Laurence Christie Biodiversity Award is established

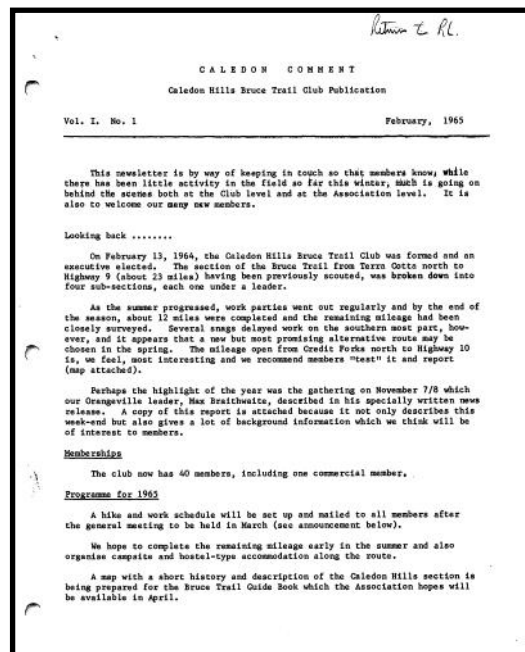
2020 Club membership reaches 1000

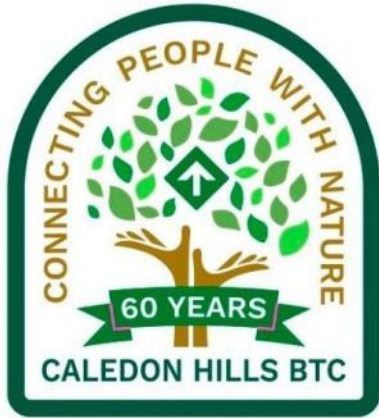
2022 Ribbon of Wilderness Award is introduced.

2023 Club receives the BTC Tom East Award.

2023 Club donations to the BTC pass \$250,000

2024 February 13: Club turns 60!





Plan to attend our

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Caledon Ski Club
West Lodge
17431 Mississauga Road,
Caledon

Join us for the full day or take part when you can.

9:00 AM GROUP HIKE

Meet at the West Lodge parking lot for a leisurely two hour group hike to explore the scenic property.

11:00 AM MEET AND GREET

12:00 PM LUNCH

Hot catered lunch for \$25.00 with Chicken Marsala as the main entrée will be served prior to the AGM. Vegetarian and vegan dishes will be decided closer to the date. Non-alcoholic beverages are included. A cash bar will be open. Email your lunch reservation to chbtcevents@gmail.com by March 28th. Please include any dietary restrictions. Payment is to be made by e-transfer to treasurer@caledonbrucetrail.org. In the message box indicate that the transaction is for the AGM. For other payment options contact the Treasurer.

1:45 PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2:30 PM GUEST SPEAKER

We welcome Michael McDonald, Chief Executive Officer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Silent Auction and Raffle Fundraiser
Live Music by Hikers in Treble



Michael McDonald

AGM agenda and reports will be emailed to members on March 14th.
For more information contact Sandy, info@caledonbrucetrail.org.



**HELP US KEEP THE
MOMENTUM GOING!**

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club is actively seeking members to join its dynamic Board of Directors. Novel ideas, positive energy, a heart for our mission, and diverse experiences are very welcome!

Board of Directors Opportunities:

Treasurer
Fundraising Director
Director At Large

Send a letter of intent expressing your interest and experience to Lynn Dobson, chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com by February 19, 2024. An in-person or Zoom chat will then be arranged.

A complete description of the roles and expectations can be found on the CHBTC website. <http://caledonbrucetrail.ca/>

The start date will be after the April 2024 Annual General Meeting. The Board enjoys a team approach where members are supported and encouraged.

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PREDICTION HIKE CHALLENGE



MAY 11, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 30
ON THE BTC HIKE SCHEDULE

Watch for further details on our website and social media.
Proceeds from the event will go to trail development.

Fall Colours End-to-End

Two-day & Three-day Events



Thanksgiving Weekend - October 12, 13, & 14

Registration opens June 30th.

2-days - \$40.00
3-days - \$60.00

Contact Sandy Green at info@caledonbrucetrail.org
for additional information or visit caledonbrucetrail.ca

**HABITAT
RESTORATION
PROJECTS**

SAVE- THESE- DATES

April 21
Mathilda's Way Protected Natural Area

May 4
Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve

Volunteer to help our Biodiversity
Team and partners from the BTC and
NVCA to plant shrubs and trees.

Watch for more details on our website, monthly
Cal E-News, and social media.

THANK YOU

**ORANGEVILLE SALT & SOIL SUPPLY INC AND SOMERVILLE NURSERIES
FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND MULTI-YEAR SUPPORT OF THE CALEDON HILLS BRUCE
TRAIL CLUB. YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED.**

COMMUNITY GIVEBACK PERFORMANCE

THEATRE ORANGEVILLE



THE DARKTOWN STRUTTERS' BALL

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 7:30 P.M.

87 Broadway, Orangeville



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
CALEDON HILLS CLUB

Buy tickets directly through the Theatre Orangeville Box Office, 519-942-3423 Ext. 1. Please identify yourself as part of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club. Seating is limited, so get your ticket early.

If you are interested in a 5:00 p.m. pre-show dinner at the Barley Vine Rail Co., contact Anne Broadhead at broadheadanne@gmail.com for details and limited reservations.

All funds raised go to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission of "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever".

My Favourite Things: Marking 60 Years by Nicola Ross

Maria's favourite things are raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens. Mine are reading, writing, hiking and, more recently, drawing. Luckily for me, I've turned my favourite things into a vocation, referring to myself as a "professional hiker". And of all the places in the world where I could practice my craft there is no place like home. Where, as luck would have it, I have access to the Bruce Trail.

In his book, *The Art of Travel*, Alain de Botton writes, "We meet people who have crossed deserts, floated on icecaps and cut their way through jungles – and yet in whose souls we would search in vain for evidence of what they have witnessed... nudging us to try before taking off for distant hemispheres to notice what we have already seen".



Nicola in Hockley Valley

De Botton's observation hit home when I was climbing Austria's Alps last year as I completed the 750-kilometre Alpe Adria Trail. It wasn't that I failed to witness and appreciate the landscape. Those verdant green valleys, soaring peaks, the jingle of cow bells and balconies draped in geraniums are forever etched in my mind – along with the ache of tired muscles midway up a 1000 metre climb! But a key takeaway from that trek was, as de Botton described it, how it made me "notice what [I had] already seen".

The previous year, I'd completed my loopy end-to-end along the Bruce Trail. And as wonderful as the Alpe Adria was, it never brought me as much joy, as many cloud-nine days, as my time on the Bruce Trail. And nowhere along the entire 900 kilometres of Canada's longest marked trail did my emotions soar, my memories sing and my sense of wellbeing reach the skies as they did when I walked through the Caledon Hills section. I wanted it to go on forever.

The final paragraph in Chapter 16, "The Forks of the Credit and Belfountain Park," of my upcoming book, *40 Days & 40 Hikes: Loving the Bruce Trail One Loop at a Time*, tells the tale. I wrote,

"The McLaren Road Side Trail ended and I descended back into 'the quarry' and then on again to where my car was parked. It had been a hike filled with memories that rushed at me unannounced as I climbed well known ascents and appeared unbidden as I rounded familiar corners. I love this landscape because of the images it conjures for me of youthful times, but also because I know it so well. I feel secure in Caledon. Being here is like snuggling in bed on a rainy morning. I know the trails, the hills, the trees, its smells and sounds. I fit into this landscape."

Continued on Page 9


The Bruce Trail has been part of my life for as long as I can remember -- literally. Far from being just a trail, it has allowed me and countless others to delve into a landscape shaped by ancient geological forces to become the Niagara Escarpment. Trails allow us to experience the landscape from the inside out, rather than peering from the outside in. And nowhere is that truer for me than through the hills and valleys of my youth.

The Bruce Trail and, particularly, the Caledon Hills Club, facilitated my becoming a professional hiker and spending my time hiking, writing and drawing. Our “ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever” encouraged me to begin that same Chapter 16 with this: “When I set out from Queenston 15 loop-hikes ago, my ultimate destination was Tobermory. But my first goal was to get “home”. Today I arrived. I walked on paths embedded in my genes and alongside rivers that course my veins. If I have trouble falling asleep, rather than count sheep, I trace the route of the Credit River and the layout of the local Bruce Trail in my mind’s eye.”




When the dog bites or the bee stings, Maria remembers her favourite things. Seems I do too.

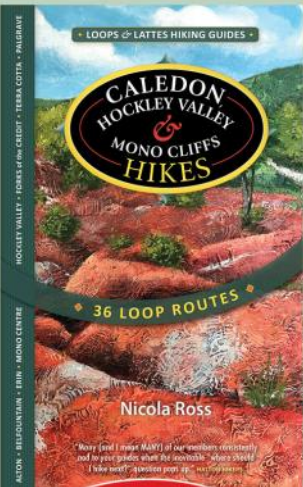
For this, plus so much more, I thank the Caledon Hills Club, together with all its volunteers. My appreciation comes from my heart, my soul and my sole(s)!



• LOOPS & LATTES HIKING GUIDES •

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NEW RELEASE
Available April 2024






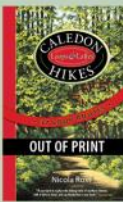
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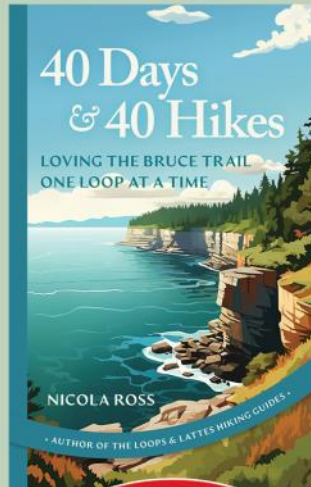


Walk the Bruce Trail your way

40 Days & 40 Hikes: Loving the Bruce Trail One Loop at a Time

A travelogue in the style of *Wild* and *The Salt Path*, without the drama!

Follow Nicola's journey along her beloved Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory.



NEW RELEASE
Available April 2024

Available at www.loopsandlattes.ca and at bookstores and other retail shops.

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Image courtesy of Tourism PEI/Nick Jay

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SINGLE

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DOUBLE

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Gaspé Hiking

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DOUBLE

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SINGLE

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Québec Eastern Townships

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Leprechauns Learn about Garlic Mustard

After the holiday season, Lucy the unicorn invited her leprechaun friends, Jimmy, Eddie and Ernie, to visit the Songbird Nature Reserve where she lives. When she told them the story about the rainbow and the invasive Scots pine they knew that they would find a pot of gold under her Charlie Brown tree. Lucy was thrilled and said she would give this to the CHBTC to plant native trees.



Jimmy, Eddie and Ernie were curious about the strange shaped shamrocks at Songbird and Lucy explained that they were not shamrocks but garlic mustard rosettes. She told them that garlic mustard, introduced to North America as a food source in the late 1800s, is one of Ontario's most aggressive invaders which threatens biodiversity and is becoming a problem at Songbird. Within 5-7 years, garlic mustard can enter, establish itself and become a dominant plant in the forest understory by dispersing chemicals in the soil that prevent the growth of other plants.

The leprechauns wanted to know more and learned that these pretty green rosettes are the first year growth of the biennial garlic mustard plant. In year two, the plant flowers produce up to 1000 seeds. Lucy told them that Warren and Rosemary, who look after Songbird, volunteered on a CHBTC work party last spring to remove the garlic mustard before the seed pods formed. They pulled out the young plants by the roots and put them into black plastic garbage bags. Pulled plants which have flowered may still be able to produce seed, so pulled garlic mustard should be "solarized" by leaving them in the bags in direct sunlight for 1-3 weeks to ensure the plant is no longer viable.



Jimmy thought of the legend about St. Patrick, a fifth century missionary from Britain, who drove all the snakes from Ireland by waving his staff to herd the slithering creatures into the sea, expelling them for ever. When he told the others, they agreed that it was going to be much more difficult for Lucy to get the garlic mustard expelled from Songbird than it was for St Patrick to get rid of the snakes. The main pathway for seed spread is through humans, pets and wildlife inadvertently carrying seeds to new areas on boots, clothing and fur. CHBTC trails are now getting more boot scrubbers to help prevent spread but the public needs to know how important it is to use these when they enter and leave a property. Ernie suggested that maybe some of the gold they found could also be used to buy more boot scrubbers.

Submitted by Rosemary McArthur
Photo enhancement credit to Ren Bissola

Editor's Note: Gary Hall, Land Stewardship Director, reports that the club currently has 7 boot scrubbers. We hope to install five more in 2024.



More About Our Side Trail Stories

Have you ever wondered why a very scenic 2.2 km side trail in the Hockley Valley is called the Cam Snell Side Trail? Who was Cam Snell? What did he do?

If you are out on the trail and standing close to the Cam Snell Side Trail sign, you can now put your cell phone up to the QR code (visible on the upper right of the blue Side Trail sign) and your cell phone will take you to a brief synopsis that explains why is it called Cam Snell Side Trail.



Not out on the Side Trail - but your curiosity has been piqued - go to caledonbrucetrail.org, click on Hiking and then on Side Trail Stories and you can view the synopsis. At the bottom of that page, you can also click on Cam Snell Side Trail Story and read a fuller version of the story, complete with a photo of Cam Snell. Mystery solved!

Do you have writing skills? Would you like to volunteer to draft a side trail story about one of the Caledon Hills Club side trails? If you'd like to give back to the Bruce Trail in this way, please contact Janice McClelland, member of the CHBTC Board of Directors, at janicedon86@gmail.com. We guarantee that you'll learn some interesting information while helping to preserve the history of the Club.



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1970 – Celebrating Ten Years of An Idea — by Helen Billing

In 1970 the Bruce Trail Association (as it was then called) celebrated the tenth anniversary of the initial idea of the trail with a Decennial Scroll being carried south from Tobermory to Queenston. On August 8th, the Scroll was handed to the Caledon Club by the Dufferin Hi-Land Club in Mono Centre at a ceremony in the middle of the road with TV cameras! About a dozen members took turns carrying it to the Terra Cotta Conservation gates, where it was turned over to the Toronto Club at noon on the 15th.



Jack Soper, Dave Taylor and Barry Westhouse
New Queenston Cairn, September 19, 1970



Barry Westhouse at the end of his E2E
August 29, 1970

As part of the celebration a group of hikers was determined to hike the entire length of the 430-mile trail, at this point quite a rough hike. Only nine people completed this trek, five of whom were from the Caledon Hills Club: a young Barry Westhouse (E2E #20) with Ralph Hendry (#24), Jim Sneath (#23), Dave Taylor (#21), and Jack Soper (#27). A sixth, Birley Cowan (#19) joined CHBTC the next year.

Still active more than 50 years later, Barry presents the Barry Westhouse Award to Jamie Matheson in 2019 while Trail Maintenance Director Joan Richard smiles in approval.



Why a Barry Westhouse Award? This award is given to a long-standing and unsung volunteer who has demonstrated active involvement in the physical work of trail maintenance and development. It is hard to briefly summarize the contributions that Barry made to the Caledon Hills Club. Barry was “stolen” from the Toronto Club where he had volunteered for 10 years and joined Caledon in the role of Landowner Relations in 1986. That year he scouted and developed the Alton Side Trail, which had been a part of the main trail going from Alton to Cataract in the 1970s.

Barry subsequently held many roles in the club - trail development, trail maintenance, work party leader, government relations, trail maintenance coordinator, trail director, trail captain, publicity, public relations, membership, etc. He has been a very active hike leader throughout the years and many of you may remember his informative hikes for the Winter Social and the AGM. In 2001 he decided to take a break from any role on the executive but still continued as a trail captain and hike leader. Barry's interest in the history of the area led to some interesting articles in the Caledon Comment. Did you ever wonder why the steps up to the Devil's Pulpit were so big? Barry constructed them; he is 6'6" tall.

Sources: 1970s photographs from Barry Westhouse
CHBTC Archives
Caledon Comments from 1970 on
A Celebration of 50 Years of CHBTC Book

EXPLORING ONE INDIGENOUS VILLAGE ON THE ESCARPMENT

Introduction

*The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club screened the film, **Elder in the Making**, as a successful fundraiser this past autumn. This film, produced & directed by Alberta filmmaker Chris Hsiung, was a journey of exploration across traditional Blackfoot territory with Cowboy Smithx (an Indigenous man) as our guide. There were humorous moments and many reflective moments. Some reactions from our audience were - “the film really spoke to me”, “this was the history that we did not learn in school”, “very worthwhile”, ‘I want to show this film to my adult children’.*

This film brought us all a step closer in recognizing the long standing/ongoing connections of Indigenous people to the land - whether Alberta or the Niagara Escarpment.

*The Niagara Escarpment is known as **Gchi-Bimadinaa** (The Great Cliff that Runs Along) in Anishinaabe and as **Kastenhkrataye** (Along the Cliffs) in Kanyen'keha:ka/Mohawk. The Bruce Trail Conservancy Reference Guide has an introductory section on Indigenous Culture and the Niagara Escarpment along with references in the trail descriptions to Indigenous Cultural Landmarks.*

One of the references is found on page 13-1 of the Guidebook under the Bennet Heritage Side Trail - a Side Trail that many of us have hiked at Scotsdale Farm. The Guidebook says, “After crossing Owl Creek, the trail turns right, heading south to re-enter the forest. This area was the site of an indigenous village some 500 years ago.”

*The following article about this Indigenous village at Scotsdale Farm, written by John Mark Rowe, was published in **Niagara Escarpment Views**, Autumn 2023. Excerpts were subsequently published by the Toronto Bruce Trail Club in the Toronto E-Notes. It is our pleasure to bring excerpts from the original article to our Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club members.*

*-Janice McClelland
CHBTC Board of Directors
Member at Large and Hike Leader*

By John Mark Rowe

We can travel back to the Halton Hills part of Turtle Island about 460 years, thanks to a number of archeological digs. One site on the Niagara Escarpment has been located within Scotsdale Farm, an Ontario Heritage Trust property. The six studies from 1984 to 2004 were carried out by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, University of Toronto and Laurentian University. They revealed a village perched on a promontory overlooking Owl Creek, a tributary of the Credit River.



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Dating the site was greatly helped by reference to the 1973-74 work at Crawford Lake in Milton. The archeological digs that led to the reconstructed longhouses at Crawford Lake, along with pollen deposits, placed villages there in the 1370s, 1400s and finally 1622-1652. The site at Scotsdale, labelled Emmerson Springs by William Fox, is estimated to range from 1550-1580.

The suggestion has been that these residents may have been Neutral peoples correctly known as Attiwonderonk. If so, this is about the farthest east they have been located. Europeans labelled them Neutral because they maintained peace with the Huron-Wendat peoples and with the Haudenosaunee - all were Iroquoian-speaking peoples. The Neutral lived in the Hamilton-Niagara region and western New York, controlling the flint (chert) to make arrowheads for war and trading it with the Wendat and Haudenosaunee who were at war with each other.

When this village was extant, the Attiwonderonk population was at its peak, perhaps explaining their easterly expansion into Wendat Territory. They prospered because they had not yet been exposed to the European diseases, religion or the demands of the fur trade.

Village of Longhouses

The 2004 Laurentian University report by archeologist Alicia Hawkins incorporates findings from previous studies to deliver a detailed report on the Escarpment's local inhabitants 460 years ago. The village of longhouses sat on a terraced plateau, surrounded by a defensive palisade. South of the wall, the ground drops steeply to Owl Creek below, providing further defence. Check out the longhouses and palisade at Crawford Lake - they suggest how the 16th century Iroquoian village on land now called Scotsdale Farm may have looked.

This area is in a transition zone from the Carolinian forest of maples, oak, hickory, beech and black walnut to the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest of red pine, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, yellow birch, maple and oak. The site has a maple and beech dominant uplands to the north with an oak dominant forest to the south and a cedar swamp at the base of the slope. Cedar swamps provide winter yarding habitats for White-tailed Deer.

White-tailed Deer were the most common bones found at this site, being the principal source of food. But meals were varied with proteins like Black Bear, Wapiti (Indigenous word for Elk) Raccoon, and Grey Squirrel. The ubiquitous Passenger Pigeon (now extinct) Wild Turkey and Box Turtle were common meals along with Whitefish, Salmon, Trout and Suckers.

Remains of domestic dogs were found throughout the village site. Dogs were used for hunting, protection and companionship - valued then as now for the same reasons.

Smoking tobacco was a common pastime among these people evidenced by the large number of ceramic pipe fragments discovered. Quite a number of fragments in one area, partially underground, suggest the site of a sweat lodge.

Found Artifacts

The majority of chipped stone at the site was Onondaga chert - transported here from the Niagara region and then chipped to form scrapers, wedges and points. Ground stones were used for axes. Grinding stones were usually granite and included grinders and hammerstones.

A few small flat or tubular pieces of copper suggest these were decorative items traded with northern tribes. Quite a number of worked bone beads also point to decorative items worn by the inhabitants. Worked and drilled deer phalanges also suggest a type of wind chime.

The Neutral, Wendat and Petun peoples, all Iroquoian-speaking, also hunted, fished and grew the three sisters – beans, corn and squash - throughout this area. The Petun may have supplied the tobacco.

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All these archeological findings paint a picture of a thriving village of Attiwonderonk peoples living in community on the edge of the Escarpment. They obviously travelled and traded with the neighbouring villages and nations. This site at Scotsdale Farm in Halton Hills gives a satisfactory glimpse of daily life before European contact.

Devastating Contact

In 1649-50 the Haudenosaunee saw an opportunity to remove their fur trade rivals, the Wendat, when the Wendat were greatly affected by smallpox and the divisiveness of Christianity. Many fled to their Attiwonderonk allies. However destruction of the Neutral nation by the Iroquois was the next stage in securing these lands.

The residents of the Escarpment that were not killed fled to Quebec, to western tribes or were adopted in the Haudenosaunee tribes such as the Seneca. While the Wendat still has a presence in Quebec, the Attiwonderonk-Neutral peoples no longer exist.

Part of the Aninshinaabe nation moved south into this area by the 1690's - becoming known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. They followed a seasonal cycle of movement and harvesting along the Credit and other rivers. They gathered at the mouth of the Credit for the autumn salmon run. In winter months, extended family groups hunted in today's Halton Hills area. After sugaring-off they gathered again at the mouth of the Credit for the spring salmon run and to repay credit owing to French traders with pelts collected during the winter. Extended families would again disperse around the shores of Lake Ontario to grow the three sisters (corn, beans, squash) and enjoy the summer weather.

Salmon and trout are once again plentiful in the Credit River. The forest cover protects an increasing population of animals, rodents, birds and the odd *Ursus americanus* (bear) along the Escarpment in Halton Hills. While a vast amount of history separates us from the people who once lived above Owl Creek, we are still able to get a sense of their world hiking along the Niagara Escarpment today.

-excerpts from "Tracing People of the Past, John Mark Rowe, Niagara Escarpment Views, Autumn 2023.

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Call for Club Award Nominations

Do you know a volunteer with the Caledon Hills Club who goes above and beyond? Does one of these award descriptions fit a Caledon Hills volunteer you know?

It is time to recognize individuals who go above and beyond to make a difference within our Club. We are pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the annual Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club Awards which will be presented at the 16th Volunteer Appreciation Event on June 2, 2024.

Please read the awards criteria below, and send your nominations to Lynn Dobson, Membership and Volunteer Director, at chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com or phone Lynn at 647-404-4912 if you have any questions.

Nominations will close on April 15, 2024. When nominating a volunteer please complete the below template, OR provide the information that is contained on the template in an email. The template can also be accessed here: <http://caledonbrucetrail.ca/awardform/>

Drum Roll Please.....the Awards available to recognize a volunteer or group of volunteers are:

THE ISABEL EAST AWARD The recipient must be a member of CHBTC and will have demonstrated the club's values of transparency, excellent communication and inclusiveness. The recipient has clearly helped CHBTC members to enjoy club activities through their exemplary demonstration of enthusiasm on a particular project, in office or over a year. It also may be awarded for continued demonstration of enthusiasm over a number of years and/or variety of activities. This award has previously been given to the following Volunteers: *Jeanette Cave; Pat Bryant and Fran Chamberlain; Janice McClelland; Tuesday Hiker Group; Greg Huffman; Robert Gillespie; Ray Matsalla and Dave Platt; Joan Richard; Carol Sheppard; Albert McMaster; Kristina Zeromskiene; Marilyn Ross; Louise Carberry; David Lamb; Andree Zeritsch; and Colleen Darrell.*

THE BARRY WESTHOUSE AWARD The recipient must be a member of CHBTC and will have demonstrated active involvement (at least three years) in the physical work of trail maintenance and development. The recipient best exemplifies an unsung volunteer commitment to the Trail. This award has previously been given to the following Volunteers: *Roy Bauman and Sally Smyth; Gary Hall and John Maxwell; Jim Wilker; Charlie Atkinson; Frank Chow; Dave Hull; Norm Randle; Dave Sarginson; Jacques and Karen Martin; David Weiker; Jim Graham; David Lloyd; Jamie Matheson; Joan Richard; Sandra Green; and Gord Witty.*

THE JUNIOR APPRECIATION AWARD This award is given out to club members who are under the age of 18 and regularly volunteer their time. They have demonstrated a willingness to help CHBTC members enjoy club activities. This award has previously been given to the following Volunteers: *Faeron Darrell; Peter Moule; Alison Moule; Guste Zeromskis; and Jenna Nensi.*

THE LAURENCE CHRISTIE BIODIVERSITY AWARD The recipient(s) 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. This award has previously been given to the following Volunteers: *Laurence Christie; Franca De Angelis; Jointly Richard Smythe and Gary Hall; and Bill Murray.*

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CALEDON HILLS BRUCE TRAIL CLUB RIBBON OF WILDERNESS AWARD The recipient of this award must be a member of CHBTC, and 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. This award has previously been given to the following Volunteers: *Diane McKenzie; and Peter Leeney.*

CHBTC AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Date of Nomination _____(DD-MM-YYYY)

Name of Award: _____

Your Name: _____ Phone No. _____

Name of Individual or Individuals being Nominated:

Describe why this person is being nominated: (What is it they have done to deserve the award; how have they gone above and beyond; apply the criteria to their actions; provide context about how the individual excels.)

Complete the form online at: <http://caledonbrucetrail.ca/awardform/> or

Mail to: CHBTC 30 Crestview Avenue, Brampton, ON L6W 2R6 or

Email to: chbtcmembershipdirector@gmail.com

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April 21—Habitat Restoration Project at Mathilda's Way

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May 4—Habitat Restoration Project at Whitetail Nature Reserve

May 11—Prediction Hike

June 2—Volunteer Appreciation BBQ at Alton Legion

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.

The Niagara Escarpment/Gchi-Bimadina/Kastenhraktátye 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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