



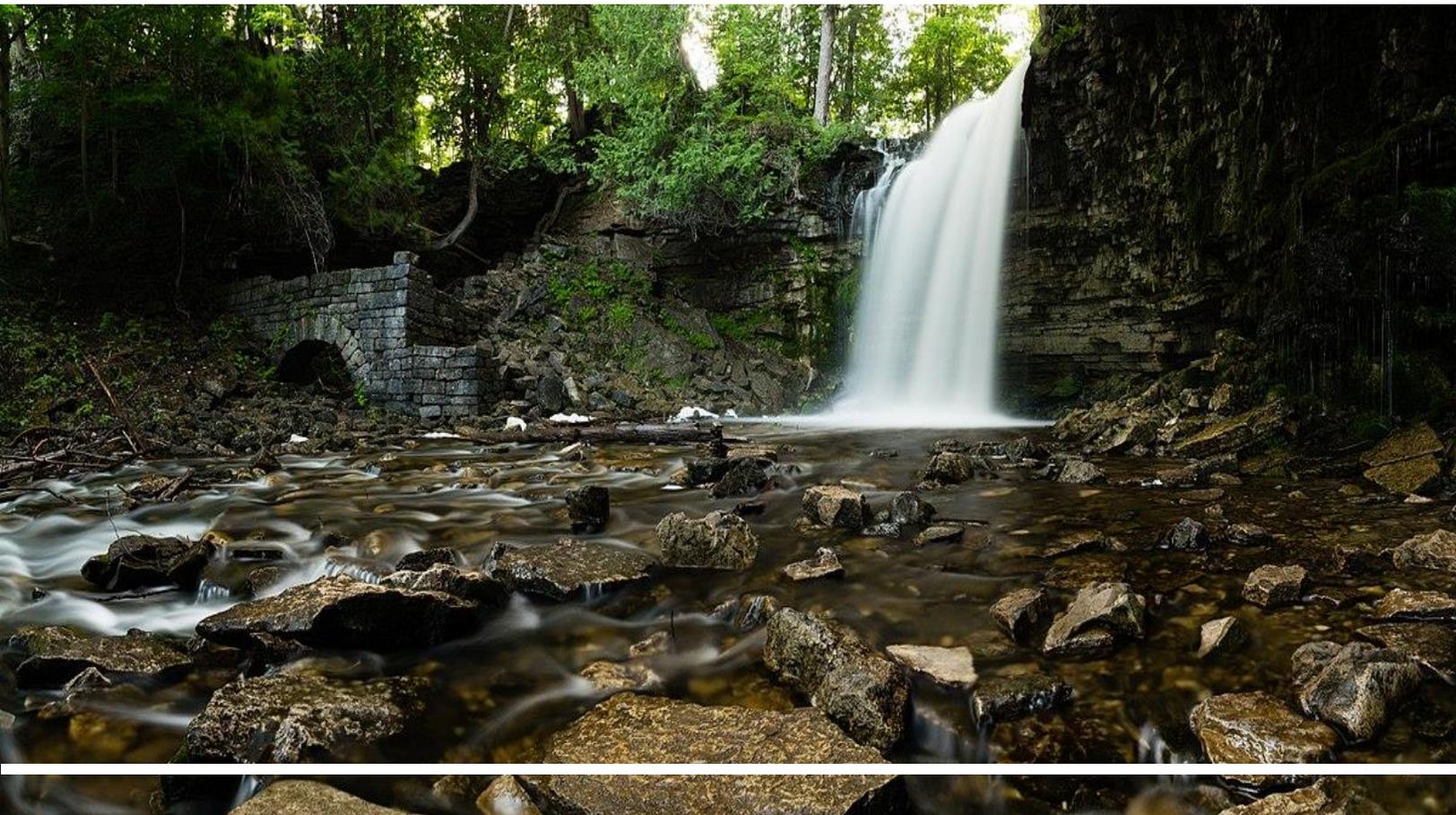
Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Annual General Meeting

April 10, 2022

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Message from the President	4
TBTC Key Highlights for 2021	6
AGM Keynote Speaker	7
Director Reports	8
Financial Report	9
Volunteer Coordinator Report	14
Communications Report	15
Hiking Report	16
Public Relations and Education Report	18
Membership Report	19
Landowner Relations/Land Acquisition Report	20
Trail Maintenance Report	21
Land Stewardship Report	23
Nominating Committee Report	24
Appendices	26



Introduction

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club (TBTC) is one of the nine clubs of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The Toronto section of the Bruce Trail stretches along the Niagara Escarpment from Highway 401 to Creditview Road, primarily within the beautiful Regional Municipality of Halton.

The Club's dedicated team of volunteers maintain 50 km of main Bruce Trail plus 66 km of side trails, and they steward 16 properties. Annually, the Club's trained volunteer Hike Leaders provide nearly 80 guided hikes along the entire Niagara Escarpment.

Founded in 1962 the TBTC has grown to over 3200 members and is the largest of all the Bruce Trail clubs. Members participate in guided hikes, educational and social events, and volunteer activities in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy through fundraising, landowner relations, community outreach, land stewardship, and trail maintenance.

Message from the President



Your Toronto Club, its Board of Directors and numerous volunteers have had a busy year.

After four years as President, this will be my last report and I would like to reflect on some of the notable accomplishments. We have gone from strength to strength and for this I would like to acknowledge the work of the Board of Directors. They include Marlis Butcher, Margaret Corner, Louise Kent, Alina Lin, Janet McColeman, Orest Nahacziwec, Peter Pritchard, Rhea Rasquinha, David Royle, David Rowney, Laurent Thibault and Juliet Williams.

We welcomed Louise Kent, Peter Pritchard, Rhea Rasquinha and Laurent Thibault as new Directors. This year we are saying goodbye to Janet McColeman and Orest Nahacziwec whose contributions over the last four years I have appreciated.

The board and its volunteers accomplished much this year. I'd like to especially recognize the following:

- Our [new website](#) under the leadership of David Rowney, Communications Director, and his team was launched, to much acclaim.
- The [new BTC Unified Hike calendar](#) was launched with significant input from David Royle, Hiking Director and Vice President, and his team. We especially appreciate the work of Tom Thayer and Ryan Mickeloff of the BTC for working with the TBTC to incorporate the unique characteristics of our bus hikes.
- We created a private [Google Drive site](#) to help board members distribute, store and retrieve club information. Thank you to Orest Nahaacziwec, IT Coordinator, and David Rowney, Communications Director for coordinating this work.

The club's finances are in good order, and in conjunction with the new online hike registration system, we eliminated cash transactions to ease the burden on hike leaders.

Our hiking program of bus, car and urban hikes had another challenging year due to COVID restrictions. Because of the flexibility of our hiking leaders, we were able to respond quickly to changing public health regulations. We look forward to the return of our annual E2E in September after a three-year pause and our Hiking Initiation Program in April.

The AGM is an important annual event for members. Last year, in response to a member's request we have posted brief bios of each Director on our website.

There is strong communication and cooperation between the nine clubs and the BTC. We meet together three times a year along with the BTC CEO, Michael McDonald.

Our Board meetings, for the second consecutive year, were conducted exclusively via Zoom. I suspect that we will return to some, but not all, in-person meetings later this year.

I have only touched on a few highlights and invite you to read the Director reports that follow to discover more of the great work of the club. I hope you enjoy the refreshed format of our annual report.

As I look what we have collectively accomplished over the last four years, I am especially proud of the unwavering commitment of our members in “[Preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone forever.](#)”

Graham Allen

President

TBTC Key Highlights for 2021



Membership

- 300 new members joined the TBTC during the year
- Conducted a membership survey to obtain feedback



Badges

- 700 TBTC badges were awarded to hikers in 2021
- A new Youth Hiking Badge was introduced



Communication

- New website and launch of TBTC section loop hikes guide
- Large increase in followers for all social media platforms



PR and Education

- A winter hiking webinar was conducted this year
- Promoted the Bruce Trail through various channels



Financial

- Membership revenues have increased this fiscal year
- A donation of \$10,000 was made to the BTC



Hiking

- Launched the unified online hiking registration system
- 25 hikers completed the Hike Leader Training Program



Volunteer

- 36 new volunteer applications were received this year
- Many in-person events were converted to virtual events



Landowner Relations

- Completed two property acquisitions successfully
- Delivered 90 calendars over the Fall



Trail Maintenance

- Dufferin Aggregates built a 40 ft bridge for the TBTC
- Repaired boardwalks, and removed trees and garbage



Land Stewardship

- Put up T-posts and boundary tags at two properties
- Engaged in several biodiversity initiatives for the trail

AGM Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to
announce our
keynote speaker
for the 2022 AGM
– **Mr. Skid Crease!**



- Skid Crease is an internationally respected educator, author, political commentator, newspaper columnist, storyteller, keynote speaker, workshop leader, and chair for global, environmental and outdoor education conferences.
- His teaching career includes 20 years of classroom teaching at all levels, 10 years as Program Leader in Outdoor Education, 3 years as a course director in the Faculty of Education at York University, and 3 years as Experiential Education Program Leader for the Toronto Montessori Schools (Caledon-King Campus).
- He continues to act as a consultant for numerous organizations on experiential education and environmental issues, and is frequently featured as an inspirational speaker. He also continues to work regularly with Ontario Nature, Caledon Region Conservation Association and the Simcoe District School Board. Skid is an active member of the Caledon Bruce Trail Club.
- In keeping with the Bruce Trail Club's Mission Statement, Skid brings to our A.G.M. a focus on Environmental Literacy. Skid advocates that a responsible use of resources, conservation and protecting our land, air and water is critical to a sustainable future, for each of us and our children. We welcome Skid's help and input regarding these issues.



Director Reports

Financial Report

The year ended December 31, 2021 was another successful financial year for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club. Although the pandemic was ongoing, our membership continued to grow. Our badge program was highly successful, with the Club issuing a record number of badges.

Please see below for details of the highlights.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses



\$30,115

Total membership fees for 2021

\$2,300

Increase in membership revenue from prior year

Due to COVID-19, none of the special events planned occurred.

The TBTC was only able to hold **one bus hike** this year.

Accordingly, both revenues and expenses are **below budget** in these categories.



429

Number of **end-to-end** badges awarded in 2021 (compared to 258 in 2020)

73

Number of **side trail** badges awarded in 2021 (compared to 32 in 2020)

196

Number of new **winter end-to-end** badges awarded in 2021

Badge expenses reflect the introduction of a **new hiking badge** this year - the side trail badge. We also re-ordered 600 more end-to-end badges to meet demand.

Thank you to all the hikers who made generous donations to our Club.
We are very grateful!

\$9,000

Inspection cost of the Dufferin Quarry Bridge

Trail maintenance expenditures included the purchase of a **battery-operated chain saw**. Overall, expenditures were well below budget due to the **deferral of the boardwalk replacement** near the 6th line.

The Club's **new website** was launched in early 2021 and accounts for the majority of our web expenses in 2020. Website expenses in 2021 include launch costs, annual maintenance costs and the costs of new pages added during the year.

\$10,034

Donation to the BTC for 2021

\$5,378

Surplus for the 2021 year

Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Statement of operations and changes in net assets

year ended December 31, 2021

	Note	2021 Budget \$	2021 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	2020 Actual \$
Revenues					
Memberships	1	27,500	30,115	110%	27,790
Trail fees	1	1,850	2,112	114%	1,865
HST rebate	1	1,500	1,411	94%	1,703
Hike revenue (schedule 1)		18,900	5,752	30%	15,957
Events (schedule 1)		7,080	-	0%	8,050
Donations		400	461	115%	747
Interest income		-	177		-
		57,230	40,028	70%	56,112
Expenses					
Hike (schedule 1)		16,080	3,474	22%	14,419
Events (schedule 1)		6,235	-	0%	6,251
Trail development and maintenance					
Supplies		1,475	2,468	167%	1,979
Equipment		300	568	189%	1,919
Storage		1,640	1,640	100%	1,640
Special projects		14,650	8,984	61%	-
Web expenses		7,000	3,961	57%	11,535
Advertising/ publicity/ E-notes		1,425	1,340	94%	1,565
Office and general		1,535	1,493	97%	1,333
Bank charges		360	319	89%	143
Annual general meeting		160	270	169%	79
Landowner relations		100	52	52%	50
Land management committee		-	47		-
Non-annual general meeting expenses		-	-		396
Bad debt expense, donation made to BTC in lieu of payment		-	-		244
		50,960	24,616	48%	41,553
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted		6,270	15,412	246%	14,559
Donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy		5,000	10,034	201%	10,466
Excess of revenue over expenses		1,270	5,378		4,093
Net assets, beginning of year		41,019	45,112		41,019
Net assets, end of year		42,289	50,490		45,112

Note 1 - These items are transfers from the Bruce Trail Conservancy

Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Schedule 1 - Revenue and expense details
year ended December 31, 2021

	2021 Budget \$	2021 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	2020 Actual \$
Hikes				
Revenues				
Winter ski coaches	-	-	0%	13,087
Bus hikes	10,000	793	8%	1,036
End to end	5,700	-	0%	-
Badges	1,200	4,959	413%	1,834
Hike leader training	2,000	-	0%	-
	18,900	5,752		15,957
Expenses				
Winter ski coaches	-	236		11,432
Bus hikes	9,500	656	7%	1,043
End to end	4,100	-	0%	-
Badges	1,000	1,698	170%	963
Hike leader training	1,200	750	63%	702
Meetup, Hike line	280	134	48%	279
	16,080	3,474		14,419
Net	2,820	2,278		1,538
Events				
Revenues				
Hiker initiation program	580	-	0%	-
Val David	-	-		8,050
Peninsula	6,500	-	0%	-
	7,080	-		8,050
Expenses				
Hiker initiation program	675	-	0%	-
Val David	-	-		6,251
Peninsula	5,000	-	0%	-
Bruce trail day	300	-	0%	-
Earth/ Biodiversity day	150	-	0%	-
Hike-a-thon	110	-	0%	-
	6,235	-		6,251
Net	845	-		1,799

Statement of Financial Position

Overall, the statement of financial position shows the Toronto Bruce Trail Club to be in a very **healthy financial position**.



\$50,462

Cash balance as at December 31, 2021

Prepaid expenses remain **unchanged** from the prior year and include a deposit made to the Kortright Centre which will be applied towards our 2023 Annual General Meeting as well as some t-shirts that were ordered for the Hiker's Initiation Program planned for some time in 2022.



Receivables in the prior year included December membership and trail maintenance fees owing from the BTC. These receivables have decreased from the prior year as we owe the BTC \$6,160 that they collected on our behalf for a trip to Val David, which was cancelled in early January 2022 due to a fire at the venue. The net of these two amounts is shown in the amount due to the BTC.

Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets		
Cash	50,462	38,756
Accounts receivable	173	3,700
Prepaid expenses	3,226	3,226
	53,861	45,682
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	-	104
Due to the Bruce Trail Conservancy	3,371	466
	3,371	570
Net assets	50,490	45,112
	53,861	45,682

TBTC 2022 Budget

The Board of Directors met in January and February to review the various board member/ committee submissions and a draft budget.

The highlights of the 2022 budget are as follows:

\$5,545

Deficit for 2022

\$20,000

Estimated donation to the BTC

\$7,150

Trail maintenance expenses*

*The majority of this expense is lumber for structure repairs.

We have not budgeted for any major fundraising events in 2022.

We are planning on hosting a Landowners' appreciation dinner for which we have budgeted \$5,800.

The 2022 Budget was approved by the Board through an online vote in mid-February.

Margaret Corner
Treasurer

Volunteer Coordinator Report

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club (TBTC) is **completely run and managed by volunteers**. Work done by volunteers includes the following areas:



The **COVID-19 pandemic** challenged all our volunteers in 2021. Events and meetings were organized, cancelled, and rescheduled multiple times. The TBTC was not able to hold many of the regular hikes, snowshoe and ski days, overnight trips, the Landowners' Appreciation Dinner, Bruce Trail Day, and man a booth at the Outdoor Adventure Show.

On the other hand, volunteers did **successfully convert** several events to **virtual**. This included the Annual General Meeting, and all committee and board meetings. Volunteers also managed to proceed with trail maintenance and development, as well as land stewardship.

Exceptional TBTC volunteers were recognized and thanked in the 2021 Annual General Meeting:



Alina Lin - presented with the Nina Carlisle Volunteer Award for her outstanding and longstanding volunteer work (at least five years of service) with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club



Jacqueline Van Dyke - presented with the Todd Bardas Volunteer Award, for her work as a hike leader and on the Hike Leader Training and Badge committees.

In 2021 we received **36 new applications** to volunteer in our Club, mostly in response to advertisements for Trail Captains. Members also wrote to us looking for opportunities to help with land stewardship, biodiversity team, trail maintenance, writing, and event planning. While we couldn't place everyone, most applicants agreed to be added to waitlists. As existing volunteers retire, move away, or can no longer help for other reasons, we will be calling on those new applicants. We will also be advertising for volunteers for other job openings as they arise. Anyone who's **interested in volunteering** for any position, or has skills the Club might benefit from, is asked to email volunteer@torontobrucetrailclub.org

A big THANK-YOU to all the Club's volunteers and all wait-listed volunteers, for your patience, fortitude, and support of the TBTC!

Marlis Butcher
TBTC Volunteer Coordinator

Communications Report

Since last year, there have been many project initiatives completed on the communications front. Major highlights include the following:

- Worked with the BTC on a **new hike calendar** which is now available on our website
- Completed a **5-part video series** courtesy of John Goddard on the Toronto section; adding a YouTube channel
- Published an updated **Hiking Booklet** of our popular loop hikes
- Developed an **advertising plan** to explore opportunities with potential sponsors

Social Media

The TBTC has had a **substantial increase** in followers on all social media channels.



6,000

Number of followers on TBTC social media channels



8%

Increase in followers to a total of 1,498



3%

Increase in followers to a total of 2,696



20%

Increase in followers to a total of 2,016

E-Notes

The monthly e-newsletter has over **7,000** subscribers. E-Notes had a **23% increase in new subscribers** since last year due to new memberships, social media, and word of mouth. A plan for **introducing advertising** to E-Notes is being developed.

Website

Our new website was launched last year! Check us out at: <https://torontobrucetrailclub.org/>

Some additions to the website since January include the following:

- **35** news articles
- Integrated **hiking calendar** with other BTC clubs
- Mobile friendly side-trail **hiking guide**
- A 5- part **video series** about the Toronto section

Thank you to our **amazing** volunteer communications team: Orest Nahacziwec (IT and Advertising), Alina Lin, Krisha Arbour (Social Media), Magdalena Vanderkooy, Wayne Crockett (E-Notes Editors), and John Goddard (Videos).

David Rowney
Communications Director

Hiking Report

The safety of our members is our top priority. With that in mind we adapted our Hiking Program in line with Provincial Guidelines in 2021. Our Hiking Program restarted on July 10, 2021, and the Club offered its members and the community at large over 50 scheduled hikes.

Car Hikes



Car hikes again counted for **more than half** of the hikes listed. These outings traversed the length of the Bruce Trail as well as portions of many other trails. While the club does not collect the numbers attending car hikes we could estimate based on a sampling of about 15 people per outing suggesting that **near 300** were out on the trail in these groups since July.

Urban Hikes

Urban hikes continue to appeal to our members. The **25 urban hikes** in the schedule drew more than **80 people**.



Bus Hikes

Bus hikes **resumed in November**. Thank you to **Wayne Crockett** for his immense support with the leadership of the bus program administration.

NOTE: As per the Ontario Covid-19 guidelines, hikes were **restricted to 25 people** effective December 16, 2021.

Winter Programs

The Club under the leadership of Martina Furrer organized the return of our **Winter Bus/Coach Hikes** at different venues for those wishing to **cross country ski** or **snow shoe**. While the January sessions were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, the remaining sessions were able to successfully go ahead.



On a **sad note**, the March winter weekend in Val David was cancelled this year due to a fire at the venue. Although no one was hurt, there is nothing left of the main building. TBTC members have enjoyed four amazing weekends at this special place.

Notable Achievements

Hike Registration System: The major achievement was the development and launch of the **unified online hike registration** system in cooperation with the B.T.C. Our thanks to Ryan Mickeloff (Member Engagement Assistant) and Tom Thayer.

A team of TBTC ambassadors including Wayne Crockett, Jacqueline Van Dyke, Alina Lin and Tom Swales supported the **transition for 57 active hike leaders** to become familiar with the new system. Hike Leaders attended an online training program, which was well received.

Hike Leader Training Program: A total of **25 hikers** completed our **Hike Leader Training Program** in May. Training includes First Aid certification, apprentice on leading three hikes and one graduation hike to become a certified hike leader. I appreciate the leadership of Jacqueline Van Dyke, Chair of the Hike Leader Training Committee. Online training and outdoor sessions were led by Jacqueline, Charles Whitlock, Peter Leoney and Wayne Crockett.

Hiking Safety

It is now more important than ever to practise physical distancing: keeping **2 metres/6 feet** apart from anyone not in your household. And during a hike to move aside to allow others to pass.

It is of particular importance to do so at the **start of the hikes** and at any **collection points** during the hikes.

From our Hiking Director

I thank you for your patience, understanding and loyalty during the transition to returning to our hiking program.

David Royle,
Hiking Director

Public Relations and Education Report

The 2021 year presented another challenging year to building relations with the community. To maintain the presence of the Club, we have continued experimenting with new ways to connect, communicate and engage our members, volunteers and the public.

TBTC Members' Zoom Story Sharing Session

In June, we experimented with a Zoom story sharing session for members to share inspiring stories. The first session was led by Fred Berktin, a three-decade long member of the TBTC, a hike leader and an active volunteer for the TBTC. He shared his story on how he lost 50 lbs within 4 months, his personal tips on health lifestyle and hiking. A total of 14 people attended the event.

WINTER HIKING 101



BY
ALINA LIN
CHARLES WHITLOCK
WAYNE CROCKETT



Winter Hiking 101 Education Event

In November, we hosted an online information session, Winter Hiking 101. Hike Leaders Charles Whitlock and Wayne Crockett joined me as guest speakers to share their experience, knowledge and tips. The event was advertised on the BTC website, TBTC Meetup and Facebook. A total of 58 people attended the event.

Reaching out to multi-cultural groups



October

Conducted an interview on OMNI TV Mandarin Focus Program to promote wilderness hiking and Bruce Trail



November

Published an article in the Toronto News on hiking the Bruce Trail, which reached over 500 readers.
Hosted an online information session on winter hiking, which was attended by 20 people



January

Held an interview on Yesmyradio to promote winter hiking and Bruce Trail

Social Media

The Meetup group membership has increased slightly and reached 2,921 members. Approximately two thirds of the group are non-members, presenting a great potential for membership recruitment.

The Facebook group (Toronto Bruce Trail Club – Share Your Hikes) membership has increased to 871 members. It has become an active community platform and complementary page to the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Facebook page.

Alina Lin
Public Relations and Education Director

Membership Report

Membership for the TBTC grew 11% in 2021, and totaled 3300 by the end of the year. During the 2021 year, we worked with BTC Staff to develop a survey for TBTC Members to learn more about what they hoped for their membership experience with the Club. We had a great response rate with over 1 in 5 members filling it out.

Membership Survey Results

Thank you to all the TBTC members who have filled out the membership survey!

84

Total % of TBTC members that are Satisfied (53%) or Extremely Satisfied (31%)

46

The "Net Promoter Score" for 2021 – a great score for a membership organization!

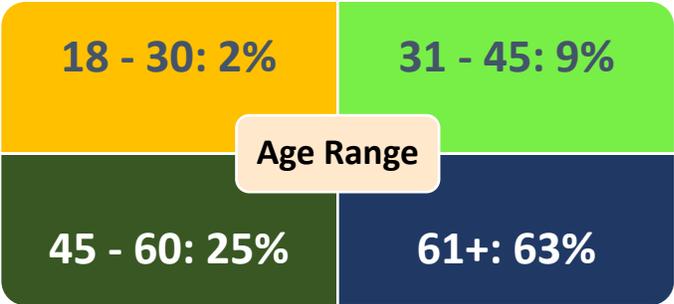
Who are TBTC members?

13% are in their first year – welcome! We hope you've enjoyed being part of the Club!

Over half of our members are also donors to the Club.

7 of 10 members remain part of the Club to give back to a cause they care about or to the Trail itself.

Age Breakdown



We hope to attract more members under 45 years old to the Club. This will help expose youth to the Trail (either through family memberships or otherwise) and lay the foundation for a strong membership in the future.

Over a quarter of TBTC Members brought a non-member to the Trail in 2021 - this is a fantastic way to share the beauty of the trail and engage folks in the value of giving back to this ribbon of wilderness. In fact, the most popular reason that people joined the club was "I walked on the trail and felt I should give back." So please continue to bring nature-lovers and hikers to the Trail or to other Toronto events to experience the focus of our work.



We heard how difficult it was for folks to get out on the trail during the pandemic and wish everyone a healthy and safe rest of your year. We hope 2022 is different and allows for more visits during every season!

Louise Kent
Membership Director

Landowner Relations/Land Acquisition Report

The Landowner Relations Director is responsible for **maintaining good relations with landowners; and shall be responsible for maintaining the Club's landowner inventory.**

It was a relatively quiet year for both landowner relations and land acquisitions. There were no major issues to note. Parking was a constant complaint in 2020, but has now quietened down. Local municipalities helped the issue by installing no parking signs along many of the roadways.

We would like to acknowledge the continued support of our sponsors and partners. We are very grateful. Many thanks to each of you!

The highlights of the year are as follows:



Property Purchases

- Moved ahead with the purchase of the **Rockside Road property** – closing date is April of 2022.
- The **Reid property** was purchased by the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) with our assistance.
- Successfully closed **two acquisitions** – the Brown property and the Duff Pit property
- **Secured a handshake agreement** for a property on the east side of the intersection of Hwy 7 and Trafalgar road to gives us access to Great Esker side trail.

Current work

- We are currently working with **a number of landowners** to try and obtain “handshake agreements” or in a best case scenario the outright purchase of a portion of their land.
- **High priority areas** are properties on the 6th line and the northern end of the Toronto section where it joins the Caledon section of the trail.



The **Landowners' Appreciation Dinner** has been rescheduled for the fall of 2022. Stay tuned for more details!



Over **90 calendars** were delivered this Fall as a thank you to the landowners who graciously allow the trail to cross their properties. Many thanks to Paul Van Hanen for his assistance in delivering calendars!



Dufferin Aggregates were approached by the Trail Maintenance team for assistance with rebuilding a failing bridge that is located on their property. They took it upon themselves to construct and install an entirely new bridge. Thank you for your valued partnership with TBTC!

Peter Pritchard,
Landowner Relations Director

Trail Maintenance Report

As the pandemic dragged on through 2021, trail maintenance activities slowed down considerably early in the year. However as restrictions lifted, trail maintenance volunteers were out with enthusiasm to keep the 50.3 kms of main trail and 66.1 kms of side trails clear and safe.

The **highlights** of the year are as follows:

Dufferin Aggregates built a large 40 ft steel and wood bridge across a wide water course, at no cost to the BTC	Confirmed through a professional inspection that the big steel 140 ft bridge which provides access to the Dufferin Aggregates quarry is in good shape	Built and repaired various boardwalks along the Toronto section of the trail.	Removed upwards of 150 fallen tree trunks and “leaners” that were threatening to fall on the trails	Removed substantial accumulated garbage on the extension of the Third Line
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In addition, we have the following **updates**:

We worked with the CVC to implement a re-route on the Main Trail leading up to the “Hole-In-The-Wall” section at Limehouse that will make access much easier	The steps, and side-logging were re-built on the Credit Valley Footpath where it crosses the creek around km 7.6	Plans for expanding the Pear Tree parking lot were moved forward, with the hope that this can be implemented in 2022 to help alleviate the serious shortage in parking for hikers accessing the trails in this area.
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Lastly, work crews **planned and cut a new side trail across the newly acquired Duff Pit property**, and extending across Hwy 7 on a private property to link up with the Great Esker Side Trail. This required the building of a new boardwalk across a wet area. We also have a proposal for a new parking lot on the Duff Pit property, pending approval by BTC staff. **The plan is to open this trail officially in the Spring of 2022.**

All of these tasks involved a total of some organized trail maintenance work parties, and about **685 total volunteer hours** worked. A big **THANK-YOU** to all our hardworking volunteers!

I have enjoyed my first year as the TBTC’s Trail Director. I particularly want to thank Marlis Butcher, outgoing Trail Maintenance Director for all the help she has so generously given to train me in the amazing on-line system of record-keeping for all our activities, e-mails, etc. A big thank you also to Rose-Mary Mitter, a TBTC veteran who has helped me enormously with her extensive knowledge of the history, the people and the details of every trail section.

A hobby of mine is to write “cheesy” poems about stuff I’m involved with, so I thought I would end this year’s report with one, dedicated to the dozens of folks who cheerfully do the work to keep the TBTC trails clear and safe.

Laurent Thibault
Trail Maintenance Director

Ode to BTC Trail Volunteers

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night” *
Shall stop us from making it right
But this is not about delivering mail
This is about maintaining the trail

The ice storm comes and brings disaster
We're not dismayed, we just work harder

Snow piled high, but we don't care
We bundle up, and we're still there

We bring our lopper, we bring our saw
We just can't wait for the Spring thaw

Folks show up, don't know their name
Young or old, we're all the same

Some people ask: “Are you crazy?”
Doing all this work for no pay?

The answer is really very easy
Even though it sounds a bit cheesy

It's about the love of being outside
And the warm feeling inside
And the simple sense of pride

Of knowing that with only volunteers
We keep the trail clear

So that others may safely hike
Anytime they like

* U.S. Postal informal motto http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Postal_Service_creed

Land Stewardship Report

There are **16 properties** stewarded by the TBTC, including **2 properties** acquired this year:

- **Brown** (4th Line to Hydro corridor) connects to the Cunningham property (Hydro corridor to 5th Line) and secures the Main Trail.
- **Duff Pitt** (104 acres) on Hwy 7 which will give us access to a safer crossing of Hwy 7 at the traffic lights in Silver Creek.

It appears most of our properties do not have the property bars located and BTC tags installed. The plan for next year is to purchase a GPS and do property visits with the land stewards to **locate bars** and to **install t-posts & boundary tags**.

Land Stewards

There was no activity in the first half of the year as most volunteers were not able to get to their properties due to Covid. Land stewards for Hardy and Maple Ridge were replaced, while **new land stewards** have been found for the Brown and Duff Pit properties, as well as for Robertson and Weiser, where the land stewards retired.

Site visits were made to Hardy, Robertson, Brown, Maple Ridge, Duff, Sinclair, Kerr and Weiser. T-posts & BTC boundary tags **have been put up** on the Brown and Maple Ridge properties. A large dump of household/farm garbage was found on Robertson.

Biodiversity Team

After no activity since 2019, the Biodiversity Team was restarted this spring, chaired by Lynn McFerran. The **highlights** include:

Removed a small area of dog-strangling vine on the Speyside Sanctuary property

Planted **indigenous wildflowers and grasses** and 10 of the disease tolerant Elm trees on the Springle property in the large field

Removed **several hundred seedlings, saplings and small trees** from a colony of Scots Pine in October

Removed large items of **garbage** between the Speyside Woods and Speyside Sanctuary properties, also from Brown and Springle

Took an **inventory of almost 100 bird boxes** on five properties to determine repairs needed

Four boot brush stations will be installed next spring. Two will be on the Todd Bardes Meadowlands ST on the Springle property. One will be at 15 Sideroad on the Robertson property and the other at 4th Line on the Speyside Sanctuary property at 4th Line.

Rose-Mary Mitter
Land Stewardship Director

Nominating Committee Report

The TBTC Nominating Committee present the slate of 13 members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2022-23:

Returning Board Member Nominees:

	Name	Position as of May 2022
	David Royle	President
	Graham Allen	Past President and Club representative to BTC Board
	Louise Kent	Vice President and Membership Director
	Margaret Corner	Treasurer
	Rhea Rasquinha	Secretary
	Peter Pritchard	Land Acquisition and Landowner Relations Director
	Laurent Thibault	Trail Maintenance Director
	David Rowney	Communications Director
	Alina Lin	Public Relations and Education Director
	Marlis Butcher	Volunteer Coordinator
	Juliet Williams	Special Events Coordinator

First time nominations to the Board for 2022-23 (and the position they are interested in):

	Name	Position as of May 2022
	Neal Stein	Chair, Land Management Committee
	Tom Swales	Hiking Director

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee, as well as other board members, for their efforts in identifying new directors, including:

Margaret Corner

Jacquie Van Dyke

George Lennon

Juliet Williams

Appendices

Appendix 1

2021 TBTC AGM – April 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Robert Gillespie called the 2021 TBTC AGM to order at 1:00 p.m. Robert introduced Jackie Randle, Director Organizational Resources at BTC Head Office who reviewed Zoom Webinar procedures including voting, Q&A and speaker recognition.

Moved by Robert Gillespie, Seconded by Graham Allen,

That the agenda for the 2021 AGM be adopted as presented

Motion Carried

Opening Remarks

Graham Allen welcomed the members to the 2021 TBTC AGM and thanked the Webinar organizers, Jackie Randle and Meghan Croll from BTC Head Office Organizational Resources.

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Moved by Robert Gillespie, Seconded by David Royle,

That the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried

President's Report – Graham Allen

Graham thanked the 2020/21 TBTC Directors and sent best wishes of the club to the directors who are stepping down this year: Peter Leeney, Matt D'Oliveira, Robert Gillespie, Janet Le Lievre and Mario Rigby. Highlights of the past year include:

Development of new web site led by David Rowney

Introduction of new winter end-to-end hiking badge designed by Shawna Reeves. Youth hiking badge introduced an initiative lead by Alina Lin

Initiation of the SAGE accounting system, moving the Toronto club banking to Meridian and the excellent financial condition of the club led by Margaret Corner

Receiving the BTC Philip Gosling award for the construction of the new footbridge near the Campbellville side road.

Thanks to members, volunteers, and directors for handling the COVID restrictions so well. Crockett

Treasurer's Report – Margaret Corner

Margaret reviewed the 2020 Financial Statements

In 2020, revenues and expenses were below budget due to COVID restrictions

The club sold a record number of badges (258 end-to-end badges, 32 youth badges)

Trail Maintenance was curtailed due to shortages of lumber and Bruce Trail closure for 2 months due to COVID

Major expenses included development of the new website.

Lower expenses included the cancellation of the Landowner Appreciation Dinner due to COVID

The club donated \$10,466 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy

The proposed 2021 TBTC Budget was reviewed

Moved by Margaret Corner, seconded by Marlis Butcher,

That the December 31, 2020 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Motion Carried

Director's Reports and questions

Graham introduced the Club's Directors and noted that each director's annual report was posted on the club web site for review 30 days prior to the 2021 AGM. The club member's questions then were addressed in a session led by Special Events Coordinator, Juliet Williams:

Q1: When will the BT App be available?

Response (Marlis Butcher): The BT App is expected to be released in early summer.

Q2: Is it possible to identify the location of trail photos in e-mails?

Response (Alina Lin): Some photos we publish may be from our archives and the locations are unknown. We can certainly identify current photos and have passed this request to those who are involved in our social media, E-Notes and Bruce Trail Guidebook.

Q3. What are upcoming volunteer needs for the Club?

Response (Marlis Butcher): The TBTC has ongoing volunteer requirements for Trail Captains, Land Stewards, Biodiversity Team and Board members. Interested volunteers should contact volunteer@torontobrucetrailclub.org. COVID has sparked an increase in volunteer interest which has been tempered by Stay-at-Home Orders and other Public Health requirements. Expressions of interest are acknowledged but it can take up to six months to match volunteers with vacancies. The annual board of directors' process starts each January.

Q4: How is the Club adapting to the challenges of COVID?

Response (Graham Allen): COVID has paused TBTC's hiking program. During this time we have engaged members through E-Notes, a successful winter E2E badge contest, a new youth hiking badge, a virtual End To End photo-engagement series, an expanded social media presence, an

improved website and by promoting the BTC's Member Webinar Series. This year, we look forward to member contributions and ideas as to how to increase our engagement. A couple of events in the works include a five-part video series on hiking the Toronto section and a new booklet on side trail hikes.

Q5. To help pay for the new (hiking) registration system would the Club consider charging urban and car hikers a small annual fee?

Response (David Royle): We appreciate the suggestion that our members help pay for the new registration system. This is currently being explored by the BTC in consultation with us.

Q6. Could the website recognize Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territories we hike? How are we engaging Indigenous Peoples?

Response: (David Rowney). Thanks to our work with the Great Escarpment Project and Plenty Canada Indigenous landmarks and language have been included in the most recent Bruce Trail Guide. These references will also be included on the new BT App. The BTC is developing a land acknowledgement statement and usage guidelines document to share with the Clubs that is relevant to the entire trail. BTC continues to work with Plenty Canada and other indigenous partners to further our work in this area.

Q7: Could we advertise all vacant board positions to all members and could bios of board members be provided to all prior to AGMs?

Response (Graham Allen): Vacant Board positions are advertised in E Notes and TBTC and BTC websites. The annual TBTC Board nominating process begins in January and concludes at the AGM. Members who are interested in becoming board members are invited to submit their interest at any time to volunteer@torontobrucetrailclub.org Providing board member bios is a welcome suggestion and will be implemented for the next AGM.

Q8: Could we reduce term limits for board members to 8 years to promote inclusion & renewal, & reduce turnover in new board members?

Response (David Royle): The TBTC Board has worked to align its governance with the BTC. Our current board term limits are five years in any portfolio to a maximum of 15 years.

Q9. How have the savings from not publishing Footnotes in paper format been reinvested into Club activities?

Response: In 2019 Footnotes operated at a net loss of \$2,432. In 2020 Footnotes was discontinued and the Club moved to E-notes to communicate to its members at a cost of \$1,270. The net savings of moving to a solely electronic format was \$1,162 which was used towards the funding of the Club's new website.

Q10. What other programming can the Club offer in the absence of a hiking program e.g., Zoom seminars, other membership engagement?

Response: COVID has paused TBTC's hiking program. During this time, we have engaged members through E-Notes, a successful winter E2E badge contest, a new youth hiking badge, a virtual End to End photo-engagement series, an expanded social media presence, an improved website and by promoting the BTC's Member Webinar Series. This year, we look forward to member contributions and ideas as to how to increase our engagement. A couple of events in the works include a five-part video series on hiking the Toronto section and The Halton Hills Chapter is preparing a new booklet on side trail hikes.

Q11. Where are the position descriptions for TBTC Board members to be found on the TBTC website?

Response: Previously, board member position descriptions were posted on the board member section of the members-only site. Since the new website is entirely public facing, it was decided not to post the descriptions. If a member is interested in receiving any of the board descriptions, please email volunteer@torontobruceclub.org

Q12. On p.36 of the AGM 2021 Annual Report, the Land Stewardship director position is not listed along with other TBTC Board positions. Is Land Stewardship not a bona fide Director position or is this an oversight in preparing the Report? If not a board position, why not? For years a director in the Land Stewardship role has been listed as a board member (and presumably a voting board member)? Is this a constitutional issue to add the board position that needs to be resolved?

Response: The current Director Land Stewardship is long time member and volunteer Rose-Mary Mitter. The Director Land Stewardship is part of the Land Management Committee (LMC) and the LMC is represented on the board by one member. This year's LMC board representative is Peter Pritchard, Director Landowner Relations and TBTC Land Acquisition representative to the BTC.

Q13. Re: the proposed Constitutional change on "Annual and Special Meetings," the proposal is to change the number of members to sign a petition calling for a special meeting from 50 signatures on the petition to 100. The rationale given is that the change "recognizes increased interest in governance among members numbers." Please provide the evidence/stats that there is increased interest in governance and over what years to the point that the required number of petitioners is now doubled? The suggestion of doubling the petitioners suggests less ability for calling a special meeting.

Response: Our revised Constitution stays true to the guiding principles set out by the Bruce Trail Conservancy of working together to protect our treasure, the Niagara Escarpment, while spending time together along the Bruce Trail. Our mission also speaks to inclusiveness. From this perspective an amendment to the proposed Constitution of reverting to the 2004 Constitution of having a petition signed by 50 members to hold a Special General Meeting of the members is welcomed. The TBTC appreciates input from members as we strive to nurture diversity, inclusion, and equity in all aspects of our work.

Q14. What is the editorial policy for E-Notes/TBTC website for promoting books/activities/information about non-TBTC sponsored events/info? An example is the recent promotion, free of charge, for the book "Park Bagger" authored by a TBTC board member. Can any TBTC member submit information about their non-TBTC activities/merchandise for possible

promotion and what criteria would be used to determine if the information will go into E-Notes or the website?

Response: The TBTC supports the BTC's mission of "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone forever" and by extension, environmental conservation. A member is free to submit information about activities that align with the BTC mission and it will be considered using that lens. It is important to celebrate members' achievements that add value to the club and are of interest to other members. That is what a club is about - supporting each other towards a common cause. The 'free of charge' promotion referred to in the question was submitted by an appreciative reader of the 'Park Bagger' unbeknownst to the author.

Q15. What is the total cost (realized or estimated) for the website redesign, across all fiscal years so far? What will be the estimated yearly maintenance costs for the website? How does the website redesign compare to costs for Footnotes?

Response: The cost of the website redesign including HST was \$11,187. Of this, \$9,458 was occurred in 2020 and the remaining \$1,729 in 2021. Our new maintenance contract is \$595 per year which includes software upgrades, page backups, security tools and malware removal. These maintenance costs are 30% lower than those of the old website. Our ability to post and change news items and pages on our own at no cost to the Club is estimated to save the Club about \$700 per year.

The website upgrade was a one-time cost and Footnotes was a quarterly cost, so it is difficult to compare. We expect that we will not have to update this website for several years. In 2019, the cost of our quarterly printed version of Footnotes, net of advertising revenue was \$2,432. We now have our monthly newsletter E-Notes which provides much better value in terms of more frequent distribution of news, and its costs are lower. The greatest value to members is that our digital newsletter and new website provide the ability to get news to you more frequently. It is easier to keep the website up to date and the website is now much more mobile friendly.

Q16. What features are built into the website, with integration into the BTC information, for the ability to sign onto events that require payment via credit card/PayPal etc.? Specifically what protections are being built in for security of information, privacy, and ability to prevent hacking or compromise of the data? By integrating information with the BTC, is the TBTC handing information to a third party or is the BTC considered a legal entity under which the TBTC is covered? Essentially, if there are any issues including breach of information, which organization is responsible or liable – the TBTC or the BTC?

Response: Security and privacy of member data is important to the BTC and our club. Membership data for all nine Clubs has been provided and safeguarded by the BTC since its inception. For many years, the BTC has successfully provided an eCommerce platform to handle membership transactions, donations, and the sale of products. The BTC has the experience and systems to provide the necessary safeguards. It has a solid track record and expert IT sources in place and they are best positioned to work with us on payment systems and event/hike registrations going forward. Additionally, the BTC has cyber insurance, under which the Toronto Bruce Trail Club is covered.

Q17. Has the TBTC Board considered creating an inventory of the volunteers and their volunteer activities that they have been involved with over the years? This information would be helpful as background for nominations to the Nina Carlisle and Todd Bardes volunteer recognition awards.

Response: The BTC maintains a database of volunteers and their positions, both current and previous, which is updated regularly by contacting the clubs' Volunteer Coordinator. The TBTC maintains a record of Trail Captains, Land Stewards, Hike Leaders, Trail Maintenance volunteers and annual E2E organizers. The list is as accurate as possible given turnover.

Q18. Is there quorum for the AGM?

Response: Yes, there is quorum.

Q19. Was there a Land Acknowledgement at the start of the meeting?

Response: There was not a Land Acknowledgement at the start of the meeting.

Q20. No slide for the 2021 budget?

Response: There is no slide for the 2021 budget and noted for next year's AGM.

Q21. Membership Numbers?

Response: TBTC Membership was 3,177 as of March 31, 2021 compared to 3,000 the same time last year. Total BTC membership is 12,392 an increase of 19% over last year.

Q22. Has the TBTC considered continuing AGMs on Zoom indefinitely even after COVID is over? This is not only easier for members to attend as Kortright is not easily accessible to those using public transit but it would also save the club money.

Response: The AGM is both a business meeting and an opportunity for members to get together annually to celebrate the club's achievements and to recognize volunteers. Combined with the AGM are two hikes. Bus transportation is provided to the AGM location at a nominal cost for those who participate in the hike. We are committed to Kortright Centre for the 2022 AGM as we were unable to have our deposit returned. We will investigate the ability to 'live stream' the AGM for those that are interested.

Q23. If I already had the BT app will I have to pay again for the new one?

Response: There has been no decision.

Q24. Are land stewards and trail captains being instructed to pause/delay their spring work until at least the extended provincial Stay-at-Home order is over into late May or if longer until the provincial government gives the "all clear"? The BTC email from last night recommended that folks not travel distances to get to the Trail but walk/hike closer to home."

Response: The TBTC follows all Public Health and Government regulations re COVID. Trail and land steward work is paused until provincial restrictions are lifted.

Q25. What is the policy for Toronto Club members going to the Trail?

Response: The policy is to stay home and not travel outside your area.

Q26. The list of board members seemed to be missing three names? Did we lose any prominent members?

Response: There are five members leaving the board (Matt D'Oliveria, Robert Gillespie, Peter Leeney, Janet Le Lievre, Mario Rigby) and three new members joining (Louise Kent, Rhea Rasquinha, Laurent Thibault).

Q27. A 15 year term for a board member seems long. Could we make that shorter to promote renewal and fresh ideas?

Response: The Board will be reviewing the appointment and duties of officers at our forthcoming Board meeting. A proposal will be brought forward to align our Constitution with the BTC By-Laws to limit the term for Directors to a lifetime maximum of nine years with a one-year extension in extenuating circumstances for a maximum of 10 years.

Nominating Committee Report – David Royle

David Royle presented the Nominating Committee slate of fourteen members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2021-22:

Returning Board Member Nominees:

Name	Position as of May 2021
Graham Allen	President and TBTC. Director to BTC (nominee)
David Royle	Vice President and Hiking Director
Margaret Corner	Treasurer
David Rowney	Communications Director and Halton Hills Chapter
Alina Lin	Public Relations and Education Director
Juliet Williams	Special Events Coordinator
Marlis Butcher	Volunteer Coordinator
Orest Nahacziwec	IT Coordinator
Janet McColeman	Bookkeeper

First time nominations to the Board for 2021-22 (and the position they are interested in):

Louise Kent	Membership Director
Rhea Rasquinha	Secretary
Laurent Thibault	Trail Maintenance Director
Peter Pritchard	Landowner Relations Director and TBTC Member of BTC Land Acquisition Committee

Special thanks to those who served during the past year but are not returning:

Matt D'Oliveira	Land Stewardship Director
Robert Gillespie	Secretary
Peter Leeney	Landowner Relations Director and TBTC Member of BTC Land Acquisition Committee
Janet Le Lievre	Chairperson Halton Hills Chapter
Mario Rigby	Director-at-Large

Moved by David Royle, Seconded by Alina Lin,

That the slate of thirteen members be elected to the Board of Directors for the year 2021-2022.

Motion Carried.

Amendments to Constitution:

David Royle indicated that the proposed amendments to the constitution have been available on e-notes and the website since March 17/21. The amendments to the constitution promote diversity and inclusion.

Moved by David Royle, Seconded by Rowney,

That the amendments to the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Constitution be approved.

Motion Carried.

Nina Carlisle Award, Todd Bardes Award, and other volunteer service awards

Peter Leeney explained that the Nina Carlisle Award is given annually to a long-standing volunteer who is active in the activities of the Club. This year the recipient of the Nina Carlisle volunteer appreciation award is Alina Lin for her work as Public Relations and Education Director.

The Todd Bardes Award is given annually to a short term (last two years) volunteer who is active in the activities of the Club. This year the recipient of the Todd Bardes Award is Jackie Van Dyke.

A Special Award was presented to Steve Kamnitzer for more than 30 years of volunteer work for the TBTC including over 20 years supporting the club web site.

In addition, past president John Grandy made a special presentation thanking Peter Leeney for 20 years of exceptional service on the Board of Directors. Peter is retiring from the Board at this AGM.

Marlis Butcher awarded the Trail Captain years-of-service (longevity) awards, and awarded the Trail Maintenance Volunteer-of-the-Year award to Neil Stein

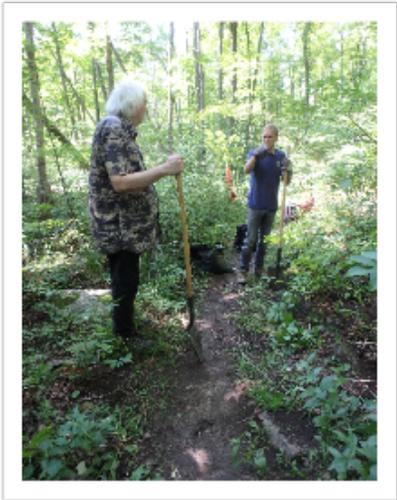
Other Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm. Minutes by Robert Gillespie.

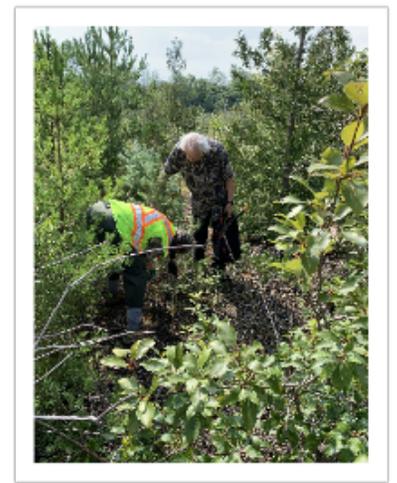
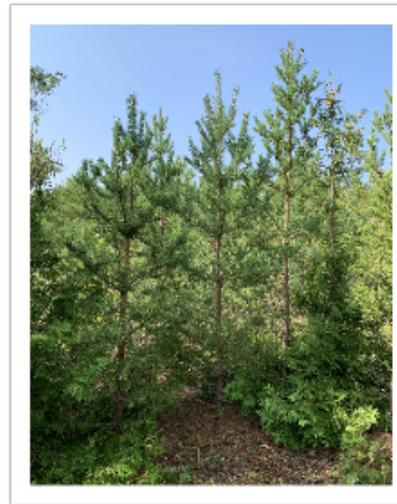
Appendix 2

Land Stewardship Photos

Speyside Sanctuary: remove Dog-Strangling Vine



Duff Pit: remove Scots Pine



Springle: prep for wildflower planting



Duff Pit: building new side trail

