



# **Toronto Bruce Trail Club**

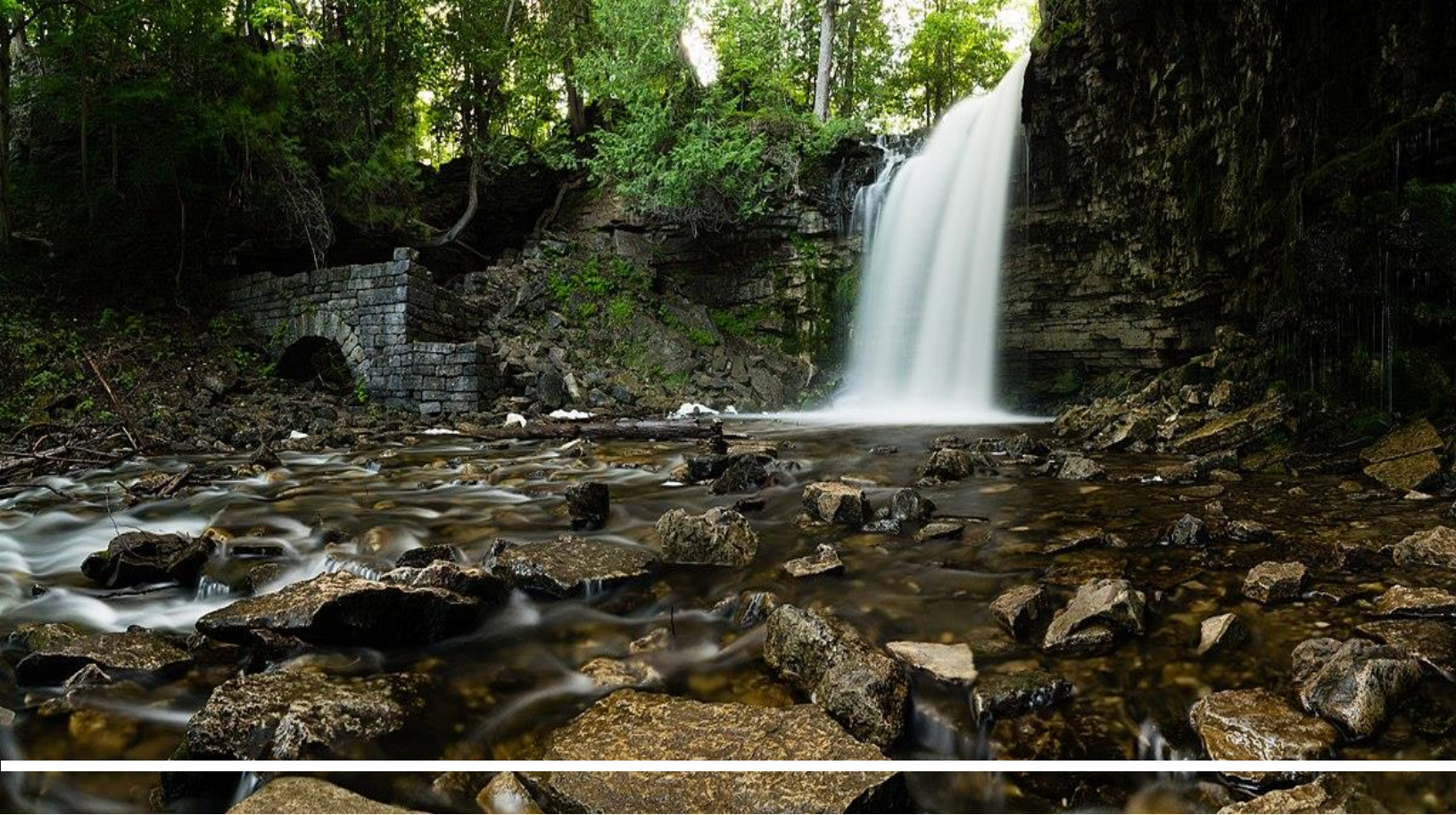
## **Annual General Meeting**

**April 23, 2023**

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# 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 in membership 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



Greetings!

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club has been transforming lives through conservation since 1962. This year, as we celebrate our **60th anniversary**, our members arrived looking for a fresh start as we safely returned to regular routines. Our members have enjoyed reconnecting through social gatherings, organized hiking activities, and opportunities to show their Club spirit.

It truly is a joy to attend **urban, car and bus hikes** in the historical landmarks of Toronto, on the Bruce Trail, in cross country and snowshoe trails and on weekend trips! The sounds of our members actively living out their membership reminds us of our true purpose: working together to protect our treasure, the Niagara Escarpment, while spending time together along the Bruce Trail.

Our Club continues to flourish with the help and support of the **entire TBTC community**. It is only with this financial support that we can provide our members with the opportunity to attend, while providing the required funding for trail maintenance, land stewardship and activities-based programming such as Bruce Trail Day and biodiversity hikes.

We have a Diversity Committee, committed to actions that encourage transparency, accountability and improve diversity across our Club. We are in a nature and climate emergency. We need to be joining with **people from all backgrounds** in leading, championing and accessing nature.

Our Board recognizes the **value of our Club membership** and the impact they have. Our conservation heritage is as rich as our hiking traditions. Our director reports highlight stories on our conservation successes and land management work and information on how we have explored nature's wonders through the 1,300 km of trails.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the **TBTC Board of Directors** many of whom fulfil dual roles on the board and for the BTC. They include Louise Kent, Graham Allen, Marlis Butcher, Margaret Corner, Alina Lin, Peter Pritchard, Laurent Thibault, Rhea Rasquinha, David Rowney, Neil Stein, Tom Swales and Juliet Williams. Without their work many of the club activities would not occur.

This year we are saying **goodbye to Marlis Butcher**. I have appreciated her many contributions and wise counsel. On behalf of the TBTC Board of Directors, I thank Marlis for her steadfast generosity and support.

As we return to the Kortright Centre for Conservation, I hope that you make some time to reconnect with nature and friends and continue to explore the wonders of the Bruce Trail. **Embrace the good things.**

David Royle  
President, Toronto Bruce Trail Club

# TBTC Key Highlights for 2022



## Special Events

- 80 people attended the 2022 Hiker Initiation Program
- Bruce Trail Day on October 2 was a success



## Membership

- There are currently 2,830 members at the TBTC
- TBTC member satisfaction is over 80%



## Communication

- High increase in website visitors and Instagram followers
- Advertising on the website and E-Notes was introduced



## PR and Education

- A winter hiking 101 webinar was conducted this year
- A joint event with Girl Guides was held for youth hikers



## Financial

- Cash balance of \$46,765 at the end of fiscal 2022
- A donation of \$36,053 was made to the BTC



## Hiking

- 128 car hikes and 76 urban walks were held in 2022
- Winter coach programs resumed this year



## Volunteer

- There are approximately 235 Club volunteers
- This includes 61 Trail Captains and 44 Hike Leaders



## Landowner Relations

- Seeking handshake agreements for 3 properties
- Delivered 90 calendars over the Fall



## Trail Maintenance

- The new Trafalgar Side Trail has now been opened
- A lovely metal bench painted pink has been installed



## Land Management Committee and Land Stewardship/ Biodiversity

- North and South club boundary signs are now in place
- Parking lot extension at Pear Tree has been approved
- Work continues to remove Scots Pine from Duff Pitt
- Two new biodiversity badges will be introduced



# AGM Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to  
announce our  
keynote speaker  
for the 2023 AGM  
– **Dr. Justina Ray!**



Dr. Justina Ray has been President and Senior Scientist of Wildlife Conservation Society Canada since its incorporation in 2004. In addition to overseeing the operations of WCS Canada, Justina is involved in research and policy activities associated with land use planning and large mammal conservation in northern landscapes. Having worked for years in African and Asian tropical forests, North America has been her predominant geographic focus over the past two decades.

Justina has been appointed to numerous government advisory panels related to policy development for species at risk and land use planning in Ontario and Canada. She was the co-chair of the Terrestrial Mammals Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) from 2009-2017 and is a member of the IUCN Taskforce on Biodiversity and Protected Areas.

She has been editor or author of 3 books and numerous peer-reviewed articles and is Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto (Faculty of Forestry) and Trent University (Biology Department) and Research Associate at the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum.



# Director Reports





# Financial Report

The year ended December 31, 2022 was another successful financial year for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club as you can see from the financial statements and highlights detailed below.

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses



Membership fee revenues were \$2,400 under budget and down \$5,000 from the 2021 actual amounts.

Decreased membership in the club also resulted in trail fees being under budget and less than 2021 amounts.

Bus and winter coach hikes resumed this year. These events were well received and resulted in these hikes being very profitable to the Club.



266

Number of  
**end-to-end**  
badges sold  
in 2022  
(compared to  
429 in 2021)

55

Number of  
**side trail**  
badges sold  
in 2022  
(compared to  
73 in 2021)

78

Number of  
**winter end-to-  
end** badges  
sold in 2022  
(196 in 2021)

105

Number of  
**60<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary**  
badges sold  
in 2022

Thank you to all the hikers who made generous donations to our Club.

We are very grateful!

Trail maintenance expenditures included the purchase of new **battery-operated equipment**. The Dufferin Quarry Bridge was inspected at a cost of approximately \$9,000 in the prior year - an expense that is incurred every three to five years.

\$36,053

Donation to the BTC  
for 2022

\$1,400

Increase in  
revenue from the  
advertising  
program for our  
website and E-  
Notes

The Landowners' relation dinner was **not held this year**. This event was budgeted at \$6,100.



\$4,956

Excess of  
expenses over  
revenues for the  
2022 year



## Toronto Bruce Trail Club

### Statement of operations and changes in net assets

year ended December 31, 2022

	2022 Budget \$	2022 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	2021 Actual \$
<b>Revenues</b>				
Memberships	27,500	25,094	91%	30,115
Trail fees	2,000	1,854	93%	2,112
Hike revenue (schedule 1)	24,200	41,555	172%	5,752
Events (schedule 1)	6,520	7,988	123%	-
Donations	880	1,743	198%	461
Advertising	1,200	1,384	115%	-
Interest income	190	639	336%	177
HST rebate	1,400	202	14%	1,411
Annual general meeting	2,250	-	0%	-
	<b>66,140</b>	<b>80,459</b>	<b>122%</b>	<b>40,028</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Hike (schedule 1)	23,180	30,844	133%	3,474
Events (schedule 1)	8,675	7,400	85%	-
Trail development and maintenance				
Supplies	4,850	3,001	62%	2,468
Storage	1,700	1,689	99%	1,640
Equipment	600	1,587	265%	568
Special projects	-	-	-	8,984
eNotes	1,500	1,538	103%	1,340
Office and general	1,600	1,376	86%	1,493
Web expenses	2,230	1,257	56%	3,961
Bank charges	325	269	83%	319
Landowner relations	6,100	215	4%	52
Annual general meeting	400	95	24%	270
Land management	225	91	40%	47
Biodiversity team	300	-	0%	-
	<b>51,685</b>	<b>49,362</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>24,616</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	14,455	31,097	215%	15,412
Donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy	20,000	36,053	180%	10,034
Excess of expenses over revenue for the year	(5,545)	(4,956)	89%	5,378
Net assets, beginning of year	50,490	50,490		45,112
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>44,945</b>	<b>45,534</b>		<b>50,490</b>

**Toronto Bruce Trail Club**

**Schedule 1 - Revenue and expense details**  
year ended December 31, 2022

	2022 Budget \$	2022 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	2021 Actual \$
<b>Hikes</b>				
Revenues				
Winter ski coaches	-	3,238		-
Bus hikes	16,000	29,560	185%	793
End to end	5,700	4,415	77%	-
Badges	2,500	4,332	173%	4,959
Other	-	10		-
	<b>24,200</b>	<b>41,555</b>		<b>5,752</b>
Expenses				
Winter ski coaches	-	2,769		236
Bus hikes	16,000	24,103	151%	656
End to end	4,500	1,510	34%	-
Badges	1,200	1,455	121%	1,698
Hike leader training	1,200	858	72%	750
Meetup, Hike line	280	149	53%	134
	<b>23,180</b>	<b>30,844</b>		<b>3,474</b>
Net	<b>1,020</b>	<b>10,711</b>		<b>2,278</b>
<b>Events</b>				
Revenues				
Hiker initiation program	-	410		-
Val David	20	20	100%	-
Peninsula	6,500	7,225	111%	-
Bruce Trail Day	-	333		-
	<b>6,520</b>	<b>7,988</b>		<b>-</b>
Expenses				
Hiker initiation program	500	817	163%	-
Peninsula	6,500	5,450	84%	-
Bruce trail day	1,375	1,133	82%	-
Earth/ Biodiversity day	175	-	0%	-
Hike-a-thon	125	-	0%	-
	<b>8,675</b>	<b>7,400</b>		<b>-</b>
Net	<b>(2,155)</b>	<b>588</b>		<b>-</b>



# Statement of Financial Position

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



**\$46,765**

**Cash balance** as at December 31, 2022

Prepaid expenses include a deposit made to the Kortright Centre for the 2023 AGM as well as prepaid bus expenses for trips that are planned for 2023.

**\$45,534**

**Net asset value** as at December 31, 2022



**Due from the BTC** of \$1,869 include December membership and trail maintenance fees owing from the BTC.

Accounts Payable relate to unpaid trail maintenance expenses. Deferred revenues are made up of advertising revenues that will be earned in 2023 and monies received for the Magog trip with will occur in March of 2023.

**Toronto Bruce Trail Club**  
**Statement of financial position**  
 as at December 31, 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	46,765	50,462
Accounts receivable	172	173
Due from the Bruce Trail Conservancy	1,869	-
Prepaid expenses	6,870	3,226
	<b>55,676</b>	<b>53,861</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	1,081	-
Due to the Bruce Trail Conservancy	-	3,371
Deferred revenue	9,061	-
	<b>10,142</b>	<b>3,371</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>45,534</b>	<b>50,490</b>
	<b>55,676</b>	<b>53,861</b>

# TBTC 2023 Budget

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

The highlights of the 2023 budget are as follows:

**\$14,560**

**Excess of expenses  
over revenues for  
2022**

**\$20,000**

**Estimated donation  
to the BTC**

**\$7,250**

**Trail maintenance  
expenses\***

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

Other than introducing a monetized end to end hiking badge we have not budgeted for any major fundraising events in 2023.

An **in-person AGM** has been budgeted at a projected cost of \$7,600.

The 2023 Budget was approved by the Board at our February Board meeting.

Margaret Corner  
Treasurer



# Volunteer Coordinator Report

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club (TBTC) **is completely run and managed by volunteers**. We are approximately 235 volunteers, some of whom enjoy the work and comradery so much that they do more than one job:

Teams / Groups	Number	Teams / Groups	Number
Trail Captains	61*	Hike Leaders	44***
Trail Maintenance	20	E2E Volunteers	20
Land Stewards	17**	Halton Hills Chapter	5
Biodiversity/Land Stewardship Volunteers	40	Board Directors (not included above)	4
Biodiversity Team	14	Other	10

\* sectors; families are counted as 1.

\*\* properties; families are counted as 1.

\*\*\* active in the last 2 years; including apprentices

In last year's TBTC annual general meeting, the following **exceptional Club volunteers** were recognized and thanked for their contributions:



**Rose-Mary Mitter** - 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: Land Stewardship Director, Trail Captain Coordinator, past Trail Director, Trail Captain, and everything to do with trail maintenance.



**David Rowney** - Presented with the **Todd Bards Volunteer Award** for making significant volunteer contributions to the TBTC in the prior year or two: As Communications Director, he significantly improved and refreshed the Club's communication channels including the website, social media channels and newsletter.

Unfortunately, **we lost some significant volunteers**, who passed away, last year. We will miss them all.



**Wayne Crockett:** Hike Leader, past Hike Director, and 2018 Nina Carlisle volunteer award recipient.

**Greg Vincent:** Hike and Snowshoe Leader, initiator of the TEC Hiker Initiation Program, Hike Leader Trainer, Orientation Trainer.

**Diane Gasner:** General Volunteer

**Bob Neale:** Hike Leader

And finally, I'm sad to announce that I will be stepping down as Volunteer Coordinator, TBTC Board of Directors, at this Annual General Meeting. I've had a wonderful time getting to meet and know so many of our volunteers - those who keep this Club running smoothly. Thank-you. I will still be volunteering with the Club as a Trail Captain - **see you on the trails!**

# Communications Report

Since last year, the team has focused its efforts on several key initiatives. Highlights include:

- Increased **promotion** of hiking, biodiversity and trail management programs
- Improved **engagement** with members including introducing a photo contest
- Highlighted areas of **youth and diversity** in our storytelling (i.e. Zwena Gray and Scouts/Guiding)
- Continued support for the popular monthly newsletter **E-Notes**
- Achieved greater **audience reach** with social media, particularly on our Instagram channel
- Executed a **digital advertising** program for E-Notes and TBTC Website

## Social Media

The TBTC has had an **increase** in followers on all social media channels, especially **Instagram**.



**6,000+**

Number of followers on TBTC social media channels



**2%**

Increase in followers to a total of 1,532



**6%**

Increase in followers to a total of 2,859



**13%**

Increase in followers to a total of 2,278

## E-Notes

The monthly e-newsletter has **7,337 subscribers** compared to 7,153 last year - a **2.5% increase**. The open rate is at 56% which is also higher than the previous year and well beyond the industry average of 33%. We re-introduced advertising, added an "Ask your Hike Leader" column, and began highlighting monthly signups for group hikes.

## Website

Some additions to the website since last January include the following:

- **43 news stories** about the club
- **Trail issues link** so members can report trail obstructions
- A new **volunteer awards form** available to members
- **Advertising options** on the website
- Creation of a **biodiversity banner**

Our focus in 2023 will be assisted by data from our membership survey.

**60**

Number of unique visitors to the website **per day**

**1,833**

Number of unique visitors to the website **per month**, a 27% increase from 2021

Thank you to our **amazing volunteer communications team**: Jude Keast (Advertising), Alina Lin and Judy Chan (Social Media), Magdalena Vanderkooy, (E-Notes Editor), with content support from Tom Swales (Hiking), Biodiversity (Lynn McFerran), and Laurent Thibault (Trail Maintenance).

David Rowney  
Communications Director



# Special Events Report

There were 2 **special events** held in 2022: the Hiker Initiation Program and Bruce Trail Day.

## 1) Hiker Initiation Program



A **webinar** was held on Monday, May 2 to provide an overview on the ins-and-outs of hiking. The presentation, which was conducted by experienced Toronto Club Hike Leaders also covered hiking safety and equipment, including boots, socks, clothing, backpacks, poles, water containers, and other hiking accessories. There were 80 people in attendance. The following hikes were offered:

- 1) Urban Hike** – Workshop on hiking tips and basic survival skills followed by a 2-hour hike in Toronto's beautiful High Park.
- 2) Car Hike and Bus Hike** – Hikers ventured out by bus or by car for a scenic 10 -12 km loop hike on the main Bruce Trail and side trails at Scottsdale Farm near Georgetown.

## 2) Bruce Trail Day

**Bruce Trail Day** returned as an in-person event on October 2 after a two-year COVID-19 hiatus. Many people took advantage of the sunny day to visit us at the Limehouse Memorial Hall and see exhibits and a slideshow. We also offered three different types of hikes with a focus on ecology and conservation, led by our very active and enthusiastic Biodiversity team.

A **bus hike group offered a 12km tour** of many ecosystems, while people learned about restoring native habitats as they travelled from Speyside to Limehouse. **Smaller car hike groups** saw work that has been done by the biodiversity team along the Todd Bardes Side Trail.

Hikers learned about our butterfly watering stations, bluebird boxes, introduction of milkweed plants and the removal of invasive species. Another group hiked through the Limehouse Conservation Area and used the iNaturalist app to identify wildflowers, ferns and fungi growing along the trail. Two youngsters Sam and Isla Rodrigues from Etobicoke were winners of a youth scavenger hunt and they were awarded with a special t-shirt made by Lynn McFerran, the Club's Biodiversity chair.



**Thank you!!**

Special thanks to Bradley Lennon, Lynn McFerran and the biodiversity team for organizing the biodiversity hike. Thanks also to Connie Soros for her creative blaze cookies and to Michelle Lindsay for her tremendous help in arranging and decorating Limehouse hall. **It could not be done without everyone's contribution!**

# Hiking Report

The last year saw a **full slate of activities**, including bus hikes and weekend trips, with members and hike leaders ready to return to group hikes and reunite with friends. In the calendar year of 2022, the club offered a total of **232 outings** to our members and guests.

## Car Hikes



There were **128 Car Hikes** offered in 2022 including End-2-End hikes, biodiversity themed hikes, a BTC 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary badge series, hikes at popular locations on the Bruce Trail, and weekly hikes on trails throughout the GTA.

## Urban Hikes



The club offered **76 Urban Walks** in 2022 within the city of Toronto and throughout the GTA area. They continue to be popular for people looking for a shorter or easier hike or to explore different areas closer to home. They're also a great way to introduce new people to hiking and the BTC/TBTC.

## Bus Hikes

The Bus Hike program returned in 2022 with one bus hike or coach trip offered most weekends and a **total of 22** operating for the season. They continue to play an essential role for hikers who don't have access to a car to reach the trails. **Thanks to the support of Wayne Crockett and Martina Furrer** in helping make the season successful as well as the TBTC Communications Team for getting the word out.

## Winter Programs

The unseasonal warm weather at the start of 2023 led to a few of the Winter Coach hikes having to be cancelled. The trips that were able to go ahead were highly successful and enjoyed by all participants. The **weekend trip to Magog, QC** booked up very quickly and there was lots of snow for it. Thanks to Martina Furrer for her leadership, once again organizing this highly anticipated part of the activity program.



On a **sad note**, the end of 2022 brought the loss of **Wayne Crockett**, one our most respected Hike Leaders and active volunteers. His absence will be felt but his leadership and influence have made the hiking program **stronger for the future**.

## Notable Achievements

**Prepayment for Bus Hikes:** With the resumption of Bus Hikes, **prepayment while registering through the BTC website was implemented** for Bus Hikes, Coach Trips, and Paid Events. This eliminates the need for Hike Leaders to collect, carry, and handle large amounts of cash. It also provides a means to know the number of participants committed to attend the hike ahead of time so appropriate actions can be taken, such as taking measures to increase registration support.

**Hike Leader Training Program:** **About 11 new Hike Leaders** from the 2021 Certified Hike Leader Course are/will be leading hikes for the TBTC in 2023. Two more classes were held in the Spring of 2023 with the final outdoor session scheduled the Saturday before the 2023 AGM. A good number of quality potential Hike Leaders from these classes will be working with current Hike Leaders to complete their TBTC Apprenticeship Program. **Thanks to Jacqueline Van Dyke and Charles Whitlock** for once again organizing and hosting the Hike Ontario Certified Hike Leader Courses.





**Hiker Initiation Program: Thanks to the initiative of our Special Events Coordinator, Juliet Williams,** the information session was taken online allowing us to reach a broader audience and eliminating the need to find a venue, which was a challenge at the time. The information session was followed by in-person hikes including Car Hikes, a Bus Hike, and an Urban Walk in High Park with an informative Survival Skills Workshop **hosted by Marie-Josée Roy.**

**A special note of thanks to all the Hike Leaders who organized or assisted on a hike in the past year and to the members who supported their Hike Leaders by registering for their hikes.**

**Thank you to all our Hike Leaders!**

Al Brown	Frank Ye	Marie-Josée Roy
Alina Lin	Fred Berktin	Martha Wheaton
Andrew Proczek	George Lennon	Martina Furrer
Barbara Euler	Ginny Giraudi	Michael Humpage
Brenda Dalglish	Glynn Richardson	Mike Dhesi
Brenda Menezes	Jacque Van Dyke	Miriam Stevens
Brian Rideout	Janet Patterson	Mohammad Aghamiri
Charles Whitlock	Jeanette Vincent	Peter Leeney
Danny Pivnick	Jen Zhang	Ray Berzins
Dariusz Khanbeigi	John McCuaig	Roland Mark
David Royle	Juliet Williams	Smadar Junkin
Duro Vukman	Ke Jia Chong	Tanya Cora
Edmond Brown	Leonora Rochwerger	Tessa Shelvey
Elizabeth Hemmerick	Lisa Lifshitz	Tom Swales
Fayyaz Mahmood	Lynn McFerran	Victor Ramautar
		Wayne Crockett

Thank you also to Jude Keast for mailing out hiking badges!

Tom Swales,  
Hiking Director

# PR and Education Report

After a few pauses of organized hikes from 2020 to 2021, the back-to-normal 2022 has seen not only back-to-trail old hikers, but also increased new outdoor lovers who started to see the beauty of the Bruce Trail during the pandemic. To catch the momentum and encourage the exploration of the trails, we have conducted both online and offline initiatives to connect, communicate and engage our members, volunteers and the public.

## Education Events



### Bruce Trail End-to-End Information Session – May

In May, we hosted an online information session to spread knowledge and share experience with people interested in completing the Bruce Trail End-to-End. Topics included End-to-End awards, approaches, registration for organized hikes, and general tips on End-to-End hikes. A total of 90 people signed up, and 54 people attended the information session online.



### Winter Hiking 101 Information Session – November

In November, we hosted an online information session, Winter Hiking 101 to encourage hikers to explore the trails in winter. Topics included the Bruce Trail, winter hiking safety, and how to join the Club's organized hikes. A total of 84 people signed up and 38 people attended the information session.

## Joint Event with Girl Guides

This event was held to promote the Bruce Trail to the younger generation. We co-hosted a hike with the Guider of 266th Toronto Guides at Limehouse Conservation Area in May. A group of 18 people joined the hike and 8 TBTC Youth badges were presented. This joint event is a great example for youth groups reaching out.



## Social Media Engagement

### Toronto Bruce Trail Club Meetup group

The number of members has increased to 3,030. It has proven to be a great platform to reach potential members and an effective platform to attract hikers to participate in TBTC organized events.

### The Facebook group (Toronto Bruce Trail Club – Share Your Hikes)

Membership has increased by 40% to 1,200. It has become an interactive online community where hikers share experiences, knowledge, photos and videos. The group is also a great resource of photos/information/ideas for the Club.

### Thank you!

Thank you to the following volunteers who have helped with PR & Education initiatives in 2022: Jacqueline Van Dyke, Tom Swales, and David Rowney.



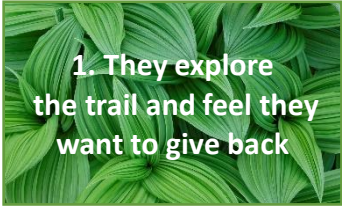
# Membership Report

The year 2022 saw a steady decrease in membership and has taken the TBTC down approximately 15% since this time last year. Currently, there are **2830 members** of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club - approximately **one quarter** of all members of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

We know that BTC members are often long standing, as the Bruce Trail Conservancy has found that most members who have not renewed were newer members to the BTC.

## Member Satisfaction

Satisfaction of members of the Toronto section is **over 80%** and most members join for one of three reasons:



1. They explore the trail and feel they want to give back



2. To give back to a community they feel is important



3. To join hikes offered by the Club

Once members join, most stay because they feel they want to give back to the trails or a cause they care about, or because it provides them with a wonderful community to connect with.

We are grateful to **all our members** and the TBTC works hard to provide value to members (see reports on hikes, PR, communications and special events!), and hope you will keep your own membership as well as continue sharing the beauty of the Bruce with others!

Louise Kent,  
Membership Director

# Land Securement/Landowner Relations Report

The Landowner Relations Director is responsible for **maintaining good relations with landowners; and shall be responsible for maintaining the Club's landowner inventory**. This year, we closed on our transaction for the purchase of the Sanders property in the spring (the Sanders agreement was originally executed in 2021). However, no new agreements for additional properties were achieved this year.

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



## Acquiring Key Properties

There are a **number of key areas** that we are targeting, including the Sixth Line, the Fifth line and also the Boston Mills end of the Toronto section. There is no single reason for not acquiring any new properties, it is about timing and a landowner's willingness to become involved with the betterment of the larger community. In most instances, **it is not money** that motivates the individual as the Toronto Club is in a very affluent area. Offers have been made on 3 key properties and there are ongoing discussions on another 3.

## Handshake Agreements

We are actively **trying to establish handshake agreements on 3 properties** that would give us temporary solutions. Hopefully these could be turned into acquisitions at a later date.



## Landowner's Dinner

The landowner's dinner was established to thank landowners who had assisted the BTC in offering their land to the BTC or in making a portion of their land available for purchase by the BTC to secure the trail in perpetuity. The dinner invitation also included prospective property owners and interested parties. Over the years, landowner interest has declined, and attendance has decreased. We are **developing a new method of showing our appreciation** to the target group with the intention of having it in place in 2023.

## Incentives

Again, this year, **we delivered nearly 90 calendars to landowners, neighbors and interested parties**, which is always greatly appreciated. Also, the BTC has initiated incentives to try and generate interest in trail development. We have been able to offer land management incentives and gave 3 of our prospective property owners a subscription to the quarterly BTC magazine. This is one way to keep these owners aware of BTC activities.



**Optimum Route:** Lastly, we have had a **number of discussions in regard to the optimum route** and how it can be managed to align with properties as they may become available. There is always a balance between the preferred route and a route that may become available. This is an ongoing process.

Peter Pritchard,  
Landowner Relations Director



# Land Management Committee Report

Work and planning during the 2022 year included the following:

A **“brainstorming” day** was held in early summer 2022 with our two major land partners- Credit Valley Conservation who we overlap with starting north of 4<sup>th</sup> line and Conservation Halton who we overlap with south of 4<sup>th</sup> line. At these sessions, we network and discuss trail and biodiversity issues. Early planning is being done for two half day sessions in late winter/early spring 2023 to continue this valuable work. We also hope to include discussion on the future of the Credit Valley Footpath in 2023.

Placement of **Club boundary signs** marking the north (across from Cheltenham CA on Creditview Rd.) and south (at Appleby Line just north of the 401) ends of the section in cooperation with our neighbouring clubs and land partners.

**Trail Maintenance was conducted** on the main trail near Fallbrook Trail, west of Heritage Rd. and Winston Churchill Rd. and the Phil Gosling side trail and is being planned on the Walking Fern, Irwin Quarry, and Great Esker side trails in coordination with the CVC and Conservation Halton.

**Exploring new routes** for the main trail and side trails: A review of Bruce trail routes on the CVC Sliver Creek property was conducted at their request and will result in structure improvement such as adding handrails on the main trail near 10<sup>th</sup> line and minor route changes on the Irwin Quarry and Great Esker side trails. A reroute of the main trail east of Heritage Rd. is currently on hold due to ecology concerns of the CVC.

**Landowner relations:** We have started to discuss new ways of acknowledging landowners now that the dinner has been shelved.

**Trail Geography:** Planning was started to conduct a trail geography to document our sections topography, structures and signs for use by sections’ Trail Captains, Auditors and administrative people.

**Parking lots:** An expansion of the lot at Pear Tree on 15<sup>th</sup> side road has been conditionally approved by Conservation Halton and will be paid for by the BTC. We are awaiting final approval by Conservation Halton and the NEC to start work there. I would like to remind everyone that plowing is done at the Pear Tree site in the winter.

Biodiversity team/Land Stewardship: We are meeting with our land partners to discuss ways of cooperating to **offer more educational and ecological training opportunities** to our group and collaborating on research projects in our area. Our Biodiversity team have recently helped with Bruce Trail Day. A proposal for 3 biodiversity bus hikes in 2023 was forwarded to the board and hikes will be starting in the spring. Recent work includes clean out of over 2 tons of garbage at a farm dump at the Robertson property near 15<sup>th</sup> side road and cleaning of bird boxes. Boot brush stations are now in place at 4 locations on the trail with educational materials. Scots pine is now mostly cleared out of Duff Pit and several Garlic mustard pulls were done. We also plan more tree ID and indigenous hikes and a new biodiversity badge for next year.

**Overnight Rest Areas:** The spot at Terra Cotta CA has reopened and a new location at Duff Pit has been reviewed and approved by the BTC. We will build the spot as a trial as previously discussed once the NEC also approves the location which may take up to a year.

**Trail Ambassadors:** The BTC is planning a modified program for 2023. Planning is underway to plan now to integrate their experience with our club at multiple levels including working with us in trail maintenance, land stewardship and ecological issues and attending board and LMC meetings. They could also participate in a few hikes together with a hike leader to discuss biodiversity issues on the trail.

## THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the people who work on this committee- Rose Mary Mitter, Pete Pritchard, Paul Vanhanen, Laurent Thibault, Connie Soros, Mark Potruff, Lynn McFerran, Dave Paape and all the volunteers who make the trail function as well as it does.

Neal Stein,  
LMC Chair

# Trail Maintenance Report

The past year was particularly active on the trail maintenance front, with a terrific group of volunteers putting in some 528 hours of volunteer time to keep the 50.3 kms of main and 66.1kms of side trails of the TBTC clear and safe.

The **highlights** of the past year include:

The opening of the new Trafalgar Side Trail, and it has received many favourable comments.

Building of 32 feet of boardwalk on the Main Trail just east of Fallbrook Trail to replace the old, and badly deteriorated, boardwalk.

The CVFP side trail was completely re-signed to correct the distances shown since this trail now ends at the railway bridge.

We were pleased to welcome two new certified sawyers after they took the BTC training course in the Fall. Two additional volunteers took the refresher course.

New TBTC boundary signs were installed at the southern and northern ends of the Toronto section.

A lovely metal bench painted pink, was installed just off the main trail as it extends westbound past the end of Boston Mills Road to honour a commitment made to the landowner who sold some property to the BTC.

The club decided to use only electric chain saws and donated two gas powered saws to the Beaver Valley Club.

To assist Trail Captains to maintain some particularly challenging sections, the club also bought a Stihl hedge trimmer and a pruning saw. This is a small chain saw that can be held in one hand.

Work continued to determine the location of an overnight camping area on the Duff Pit property that will meet all regulatory requirements. end of Boston Mills Road to honour a commitment made to the landowner who sold some property to the BTC.

Under the leadership of Neal Stein, several club volunteers met with Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation staff to exchange views on a wide range of trail related issues.

We continue to pursue plans for expanding the Pear Tree parking lot.



The trail issues reporting function in the new BTC app is working well. I am receiving reports quite frequently from hikers, and these are much appreciated. The co-ordinates location, description, and the attached photos allow me to plan the work for the volunteer maintenance crews.



A plaque was installed at the Pear Tree parking lot to honour the contribution made by Peter Leeney, a long time dedicated volunteer.

**A big THANK YOU to all our hardworking volunteers on the trail maintenance crews.**

One person in particular who deserves special mention is Matt d'Oliveira, a professional forester with Conservation Halton who comes out regularly on his own time to help clear dangerous trees often overhanging our trail.

**A big THANK YOU also to the 61 Trail Captains** who diligently cleared their trail sectors, trimmed branches, cut grass and weeds, removed litter, repainted blazes, replaced individual boards on boardwalks, and filed their regular Trail Status Reports.

Trail Captains, coordinated by Rose-Mary Mitter are:

Christine Curry & Tim Janes & Kelly Schweg, William Hamilton, Reg & Colette Crosgrey, Barbara Frey, Zack Carlan & Sydney Bracken, Veronique Habel, Neal Stein, Linda & David Noble, Peter & Gail Pritchard, Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff, Paul, Kamila, Julia & Natalie Boczkowski, Pat Ferris & Sara Maedel, Christina Bardes & Connie D'Allessandro, Jacques & Karen Martin, Ron Granger, Monica Pasquali, Rose-Mary Mitter, John Cunningham

Brian Morrell, Lois Bastell, Ian Grindall, Imelda Santiago & Ernie Fullante, Pamela Newson, Carmen Braund & Don Beatty, Jude & Helen Keast, David Rowney, Badar Bashir, Angelika Sommer, Steve & Julie McCallum, Patti Guminny, Laurent Thibault, Martha & Dirk Schrader, Judy & Frank Daniel, Rolland Hervieux, Hugh Hyndman, Jennifer Webster & Doug Pengelly, Tim Foley, Regine Joexen, Wiseley Wong, Joe McCullagh, Elizabeth Hemmerick, Tim Wylie & Kasia Miko, Andrew Costley, Kathleen Henry, Shimeem Al-Ayash and Marlis Butcher

Trail Maintenance volunteers include:

Rose Mary Mitter, Marlis Butcher, Dave Paape, John Cunningham, Paul Vanhanen, Lois Bastell, Laurent Thibault, Neil Stein, Matt D'Oliviera, Pete Pritchard, Matt Pritchard, Dave Martin, Jude Keast, Ian Grindall, Anne Grindall, David Noble, Angelika Sommer, Brad Bennett, Connie Sorros, David Rowney, Badar Bashir, Carmen Braund, Byron Guptill, Mark Potruff, John Borley, Peter Kahn, Brian Heinmiller, Rolland Hervieux, Lynn McFerran, Don Sargent

Laurent Thibault  
Trail Maintenance Director



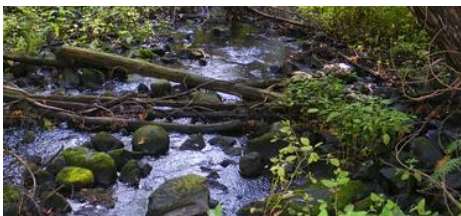


# Land Stewardship Report

With the acquisition of the Sanders property (the one with the hot pink bench) in the fall there are now **17 properties stewarded by the TBTC**. Sanders is approximately 20 acres of forest near the north end of the Toronto section and the installation of a bench was part of the sale agreement. At this time, **the Main Trail will remain where it is**, and a land steward will be appointed.

## Land Stewards and Properties

Long time land steward, **Nancy Tilt**, is retiring and **Ron Granger** will be replacing her as LS for the Opavsky property. Nancy is the original LS for the Opavsky property and the first LS for the Toronto club, being an unofficial steward even before the program began in 1998. **Neal Stein replaces the Hammer LS** who has moved.



### Duff Pitt

- Work parties continued to remove Scots Pine; approximately **90% of the trees have been cleared**. Another work party will be needed to remove seedlings & saplings.
- The location for **an overnight rest area** was chosen and the BTC has applied for NEC approval which is expected to take at least a year.
- **The Trafalgar Side Trail** was completed and is being well used.
- BDT member **John McCuaig, with Rover and Scout volunteers**, found locations for bird nest boxes on the Duff property, 10 boxes were installed in the meadows along the Trafalgar ST
- Property bars were located and **LS Paul Vanhanen** has begun to post the boundaries with BTC property tags.



### Springle

- **7 of the 10 disease resistant Elm trees** (University of Guelph) planted along the Todd Bardes Meadowlands trail have survived the first year.
- Due to the efforts of Neal Stein (LMC Chair) and the BTC ecologists a location suitable for **American Chestnut trees** was found on the Springle property. The Canadian Chestnut Council provided 120 trees which were planted on the north meadow of Springle in October.

### Robertson

- **Four days were spent** removing an old farm dump from the Robertson property this fall. Over 2 tons of metal and glass were taken out and a dozen or more bags of oil filters from farm equipment were taken to the Milton waste facility as hazardous waste.
- Goutweed was reported on Maple Ridge and **will be sprayed** by the BTC in the spring.
- The **Brown property** is still being farmed. There are no plans to move the Main Trail which currently runs along the Brown property boundary.
- There was trespassing by ATVs on the Speyside Woods property at the end of the 17 Sideroad. **Signage was added** and a fence will be put up if needed.
- Work continued to **remove Dog-Strangling Vine** from the Speyside Sanctuary property.

**2023 will see more property boundary surveys completed and work parties are being planned with the Biodiversity Team to work on the control of invasive species.**

Rose-Mary Mitter  
Land Stewardship Director

# Biodiversity Report

The highlights from the **Biodiversity Team** (BDT) include:

The **BDT and Chair, Lynn McFerran**, were the leads for 2022 Bruce Trail Day on October 2. It was a successful event based at the Limehouse Memorial Hall. The BDT led **4 short nature themed hikes and a longer bus hike** that traversed many of the BTC properties.

The team **meets monthly** and has been working on the plan for 2023 activities and projects.

**Two new Biodiversity badges** are almost ready to be introduced, one to support BDT invasive species projects, the other as an iNaturalist/Citizen Science badge earned by collecting evidence of flora and fauna along the Toronto section of the Bruce Trail.

The volunteer list now has **40 members**, new volunteers being added through the TBTC website, the BTC, and BT Day in Limehouse.

Led several **wildflower and tree identification hikes**, they demonstrated the use of the iNaturalist app and how to add observations to the Bruce Trail Project.

Had its **first garlic mustard pull** on the Maple Ridge property. More Garlic Mustard pulls are planned for the late spring in 2023.

The **planted areas on the Springle property** were checked and weeded, the largest plot with native sunflowers and Coreopsis is doing extremely well.

**6 Monarch water stations** along the Todd Bardes Meadowlands ST were installed for the summer and taken down for the winter. Numerous Monarch butterflies were noted in the meadows.

**John McCuaig and Scout volunteers** tallied the occupancy of the bird boxes on many of the TBTC properties and cleaned them out for the spring, apparently evicting many mice in the process. The data is shared with the BTC ecologists.

## An update on Boot Brush stations....

**Four boot brush stations** were installed this year. Two were installed on the Todd Bardes Meadowlands trail, which passes through an open meadow showcasing a number of Biodiversity Team initiatives.

The third is on the Main Trail at 15 Sideroad, for hikers heading north. They will pass through the Robertson, Opavsky, Speyside Woods and Speyside Sanctuary properties up to 4th Line where the last station was installed; for hikers heading south. They were placed here because the extremely invasive Dog-Strangling Vine was found growing along the Main Trail on the Speyside Sanctuary property.

They are meant to **increase awareness of how invasive species spread and to encourage people to clean their boots**. They appear to be well used and the hope is that people are also reading the signs.

Lynn McFerran  
Biodiversity Team Chair

Thank you to all the Land Stewards and Biodiversity Team members and those who volunteered on work parties with Land stewardship and the Biodiversity team this past year!

### Biodiversity Team

Lynn McFerran  
George Lennon  
Janet Patterson  
Lois Bastell  
Connie Soros  
Mark Pottruff  
Angelika Sommer  
John McCuaig  
Lucia Lopez  
Kejia Chong  
Kirsten Lavine  
Martina Furrer  
Rose-Mary Mitter

### LS and BDT work party volunteers in 2022

Marlis Butcher (TC)  
Lois Bastell (LS+TC)  
Connie Soros (LS+TC)  
Christine Soros  
Mark Pottruff (LS+TC)  
Martha Schrader (LS+TC)  
Dirk Schrader (LS+TC)  
Dave Paape (TC)  
Lynn McFerran (LS)  
Neal Stein (LS+TC)

Shawn Reichert  
Ron Granger (LS+TC)  
Angelika Sommer (LS+TC)  
Janet Patterson (HL)  
Tessa Shelvey (HL)  
Lucia Lopez & Nicholas (LS)  
George Lennon  
Laurent Thibault (TMD)  
David Rowney (TC)  
Jerry Bakker (LS)

Sibylle Foppa  
David Rowney (TC) &  
Lawrence Timmons  
Susan Sorrey  
Duane Sorrey  
John McCuaig, with  
Scouts & Rovers

Don Sargent (volunteered his pickup truck for the dump cleanup)  
John Borley (built the Boot Brush stations for the BDT)













Mara McHaffie (BTC Ecologist)  
Ryan Korosi (Trail Ambassador)  
Keagan Flower (Trail Ambassador)





# Nominating Committee Report

The TBTC Nominating Committee present the slate of 14 members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2023-24:

## Returning Board Member Nominees:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position as of May 2023</b>
	David Royle	President
	Louise Kent	Vice President and Membership Director
	Graham Allen	Club representative to Bruce Trail Conservancy Board
	Margaret Corner	Treasurer
	Rhea Rasquinha	Secretary
	Tom Swales	Hiking Director
	Peter Pritchard	Land Securement and Landowner Relations Director
	Laurent Thibault	Trail Maintenance Director
	David Rowney	Communications Director and Halton Hills Representative
	Alina Lin	Public Relations and Education Director
	Neil Stein	Land Management Committee
	Juliet Williams	Special Events Coordinator

**First time nominations to the Board for 2023-24 (and the position they are interested in):**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position as of May 2023</b>
	Karen Hanson	Volunteer Coordinator
	Rose-Mary Mitter	Land Stewardship

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the fellow members of the Nominating Committee including:

David Rowney

Jacquie Van Dyke

Louise Kent

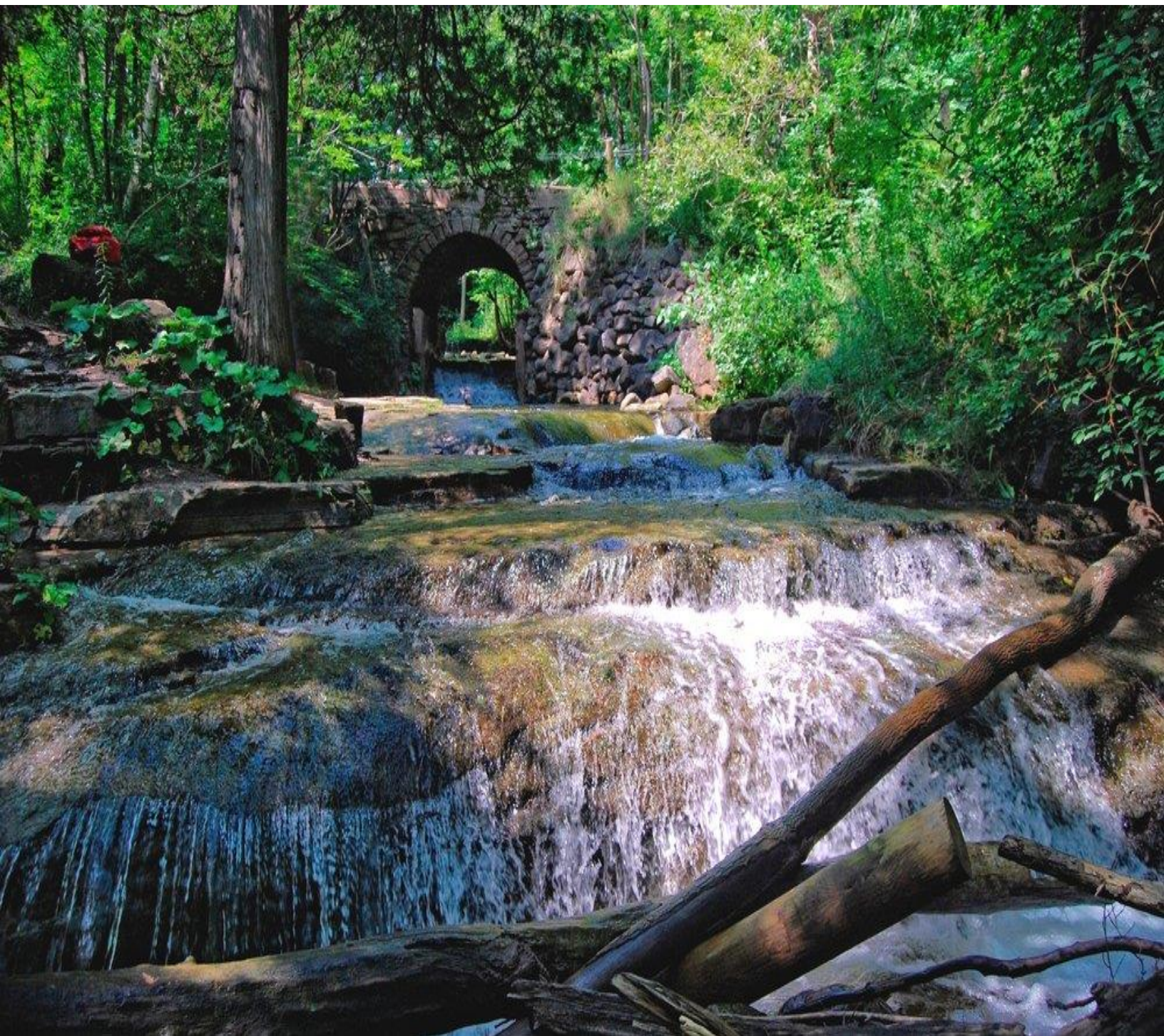
Tanya Cora

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Margaret Corner



# Appendices





# Appendix 1

## Toronto Bruce Trail Club 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes

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Date Sunday, April 10, 2022  
Time 2:00pm – 3:30pm

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### 1. Call to Order

Rhea Rasquinha called the 2022 TBTC AGM to order at 2:00 p.m. Rhea introduced Jackie Randle, from the BTC Head Office who reviewed Zoom Webinar procedures including voting and Q&A.

**Moved by Rhea Rasquinha, seconded by Graham Allen, that the agenda for the 2022 AGM be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.**

### 2. Land Acknowledgement

Louise Kent, Membership Director presented the Land Acknowledgement.

### 3. Opening Remarks

Graham Allen welcomed the members to the 2022 TBTC AGM and thanked the webinar organizers, Jackie Randle and Meghan Croll from BTC Head Office, and Rhea Rasquinha for the AGM package and slide deck.

### 4. Prior Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Rhea Rasquinha, seconded by David Royle that the minutes of the April 17, 2021 AGM meeting be approved as amended. Motion Carried.**

### 5. President's Reports

Graham Allen presented the President's Report. After four years as President, Graham will be moving to Past President. Graham thanked the current Board members for their work, and acknowledged Janet McColeman and Orest Nahcziewec for their past service, as they will be transitioning off the Board.

The TBTC highlights presented by Graham include the following:

- A new website for the TBTC
- A new unified hiking listing calendar, which was completed in collaboration with the BTC.
- A new Google drive for distribution, storage and retrieval of Board materials
- The good state of the Club's finances
- The inclusion of bios for each Director on the TBTC website
- Regularly scheduled meetings (3 times a year) with the CEO of the BTC, Michael McDonald and the other Club Presidents
- A strong Land Management Committee
- The purchase of two new properties by the BTC and a handshake agreement on a third one

- An increase in diversity for the Club's Board
- The stability of the Board, which has incorporated new ideas while also maintaining previous traditions

## 6. Treasurer's Report

- Margaret Corner provided an overview of the financial statements.
- Membership fee revenues were \$2,600 over budget and \$2,300 over the 2020 actual amounts.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the TBTC was only able to hold one bus hike this year. None of the special events planned occurred. The Club had budgeted for these events to resume in the Fall of 2021 - which unfortunately did not happen. Accordingly, both revenues and expenses are below budget in these categories.
- There were a record number of hikers earning badges in our section this year. This included 429 (2020 -258) end-to-end badges, 73 (2020 – 32) side trail badges and 196 new winter end-to-end badges.
- The TBTC's surplus for the year was \$5,378 which included a \$10,034 donation to the BTC.
- The statement of financial position shows the Club in to be in a very healthy financial position. As of December 31, 2021, the Club was holding \$50,462 in cash.

**Moved by Margaret Corner, seconded by Marlis Butcher that the TBTC Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 as previously circulated be accepted. Approved.**

## TBTC 2022 Budget Highlights

The highlights of the 2022 TBTC Budget include:

- A projected excess of expenses over revenues of \$5,545
- A planned BTC donation of \$20,000
- Trail maintenance expenses of \$7,150 - the majority of which is for lumber for boardwalk repairs
- No major fundraising events have been budgeted for 2022
- A Landowners' appreciation dinner is being planned for 2022, for which the TBTC has budgeted \$5,800.

## 7. Directors' Reports and Questions

The following questions were received prior to the AGM. Responses to the questions were also submitted prior to the AGM.

**Q1.** Why does the TBTC keep donating large amounts of dollars back to the BTC on a seemingly yearly basis instead of possibly to other BTC clubs or maybe donating to other like-minded hiking/conservation/environmental charities? Does this yearly return of funds to BTC suggest that TBTC gets too much revenue from membership dues that it cannot use effectively for the club itself and its services/activities? Does the TBTC or BTC get a Revenue Canada tax receipt for these donations back to BTC on behalf of all club members?

**Response:** The nine Bruce Trail Clubs are entirely created, organized and dedicated to supporting the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Our success, and the success of the BTC are symbiotic. The Bruce Trail Clubs have a proud 50-year tradition of supporting the mission of the BTC, including running our own fundraising initiatives that help raise money for the BTC. The BTC is our

charity of choice, and the need is both urgent and great. Approximately 30% of the Bruce Trail is still unsecure, forcing hikers off the optimum route and on to roads.

Both the TBTC and the BTC have experienced a surge in membership – which has helped to create more revenue for the Club. The Club has done a wonderful job managing its Club expenses. When there is an opportunity to donate back to the BTC we do so. The TBTC is committed to helping the BTC reach the goal of preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone forever. The BTC is responsible for land acquisitions and has funded several new acquisitions in the Toronto Section in recent years. As mentioned in the Land Acquisition AGM report acquisitions in 2021 include Duff Pitt, Reid property and Brown property. The TBTC is not a legal entity and has no charitable status, therefore a tax receipt is not issued. The BTC does not get a charitable receipt for the donation, but the donation is counted as revenue in support of the mission. The TBTC is proud to support the BTC.

**Q2.** How useful/reliable/complete/accurate is the Toronto Club's volunteer database for its active use by the TBTC Board and Club Directors, specifically how directors are actually presently using the database for land stewardship, trail maintenance, volunteer events:

- recruitment of volunteers for projects
- tracking of volunteer contributions (e.g., hours per year as Trail Maintenance in the Annual Report noted 685 volunteer hours; what other directors can provide that kind of information for 2021?) — who the current/past volunteers are/were by years of service (could be used for TBTC volunteer awards) —assessment of success in optimal deployment of volunteers including assessment of volunteer satisfaction with their experience."

**Response:** Annually, the TBTC tracks the number of volunteers in conjunction with the BTC. Reporting of volunteers at the club level is done by the applicable leads such as Trail Maintenance, Land Stewardship, Biodiversity and the Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteer expressions of interest are received through the TBTC and BTC websites. Specific volunteer vacancies are filled by accessing the list of interested volunteers or by posting the requirements on the websites. Trail Maintenance is the most advanced in tracking volunteer hours. Hike Leaders' volunteer contribution is recorded not by hours, but by the number of hikes lead. Board of Directors' hours are not tracked, but each board position description includes the estimated number of hours required. A volunteer survey is an interesting concept but antidotally, the TBTC has a number of interested people who are waiting for volunteer vacancies.

**Q3.** "In the last two years the Club has spent about \$15,000 and a lot of volunteer hours on our new website. That is a lot of money and a lot of effort. Could we do a better job looking after it? Could we ask for volunteers to proofread the calendar entries? Some of the entries were and still are nonsensical. A hike in Unionville with parking at Cherry Beach does not make sense. Plus Covid 19 protocol and trail safety rules are not descriptions of a hike. Could these entries be logical and informative? If newcomers should stumble upon our hike entries they should find the information they need, be inspired and feel confident that this is a well-run organization that offers interesting hikes."

**Response:** During the pandemic, communicating with our membership has become more important than ever. The Board acknowledges the tireless work of our Communications team who have dedicated considerable time and effort to ensure that our members know that we are thinking about them and that we care about their well-being. Hike leaders, including leaders in training have recently received additional guidelines in submitting hike entries. There continues to be a very positive response to this initiative.

With many members returning to hiking we continue to update our website and refine our hike schedule to help grow our membership. We hope people find what they are looking for and enjoy a wonderful time with us.



**Follow-up Question:** Could we ask for volunteers to proofread the calendar entries?

Attached I am sending you an entry out of the hiking calendar. The entry does not have enough information: I don't know how long the hike is, the hike has no description, I don't really know where to meet the group and I am confused about the second date that I would be signing up for. It would not be printed like this.

Please don't get me wrong. In no way do I want to blame the hike leaders for this shortcoming. I think hike leaders are doing a terrific job for the club. Maybe some hike leaders need more help and support to put their entries in, but it would still be good to have volunteer proofreaders/editors or just somebody that is taking the lead on calendar entries. In the annual report I read that we have a volunteer waiting list.

If we want to attract new members to the hiking program the entries should be more informative and inviting.

**Response:** We acknowledge that some of the hiking listings are not always accurate as people learn to use the new online hiking registration system. The Hiking Director reviews entries and approves hikes submitted. Hike Leaders, should they choose, have the option to draft an entry for review by the Hiking Director prior to posting.

A mentorship program will be created to match new hike leaders with experienced hike leaders to ensure hike entries are completed accurately. A hike leader's Facebook page was created by TBTC's Communication Director to share best practices which again can be promoted. To answer your question specifically, we are not planning to have a volunteer review hike listings before posting. Should the issue continue we will review. Membership across the BTC continues to grow and we are looking forward to the return of the Hiking Initiation Program (HIP) in May to attract new members.

**No further questions were received at the AGM.**

## **8. Nominating Committee Report**

David Royle presented the Nominating Committee slate of thirteen members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2022-23.

### **Returning Board Member Nominees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position as of May 2021</b>
David Royle	President
Graham Allen	Past President and Club nominee 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:**

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

**Moved by David Royle, seconded by Alina Lin, that the slate of thirteen members be elected to the Board of Directors for the year 2022-2023. Approved.**

## **9. Presentation of Awards**

Marlis Butcher presented the Todd Bardes Award and Nina Carlisle award.

### **A. Todd Bardes Award**

- The Todd Bardes Award is given annually to outstanding persons who have made significant volunteer contributions to the TBTC in the prior year or two. Such volunteering could be in the areas of trail maintenance, hike leading, social event planning, communications, administrative tasks, fundraising and Board service.
- Nominations were received for the following volunteers:
  - Margaret Corner, our Club's Treasurer
  - Andrew Prozchak, a dedicated hike leader
  - David Rowney, our Club's Communications Director and Halton Hills Chapter Liaison
- For this year, the Todd Bardes Award was awarded to David Rowney for his substantial contributions to the TBTC.

#### David Rowney's Nomination

Throughout the year in which David has served on the Club Board of Directors, David has provided impetus to keep projects moving forward, leading by example, and creating a space for others to bring their best to the table.

As the Communication Director of the TBTC Board, David Rowney has significantly improved and refreshed the Club's communication channels including websites, social media and newsletter. He has also acted as the trail captain and the representative of the Halton Hills chapter, and constantly taken part in the trail maintenance activities.

He led the Club's new website redesign project: initiating the project, forming the working team, selecting the vendor, coordinating with the Bruce Trail head office, and moving the complex project forward. David is also the primary website master and has written/edited/updated over forty articles/pages since the website launched. And, he contributed to the development of advertising strategy.

He integrated and revitalized the Club's social media. The Club's social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were infrequently used and rather died before 2020. After David stepped up as the Communication Director, he brought them back to life by creating content and having the social media team post identical messages over all social media three to five times a week. To provide updates about the trails, he has made frequent visits to trails to acquire firsthand information and take photos that would be used in our social media updates. Over the past two years, the followers of three social media sites have increased by approximately 20%.

### **B. Nina Carlisle Award**

- The Nina Carlisle Award is given to a longstanding volunteer (at least five years) who is actively involved in the activities of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club. Such volunteering could

be in the areas of trail maintenance, hike leading, social event planning, communications, administrative tasks, fundraising and Board service.

- This year, one nomination was received for an extremely outstanding volunteer.
- For this year, The Nina Carlisle Award is being awarded to Rose-Mary Mitter.

### Rose-Mary Mitter's Nomination

2022 is Rose-Mary's 20th anniversary of volunteering with the TBTC.

She started this work as a Trail Captain in 2002, and in 2007 volunteered as the Club's "interim" Trail Development and Maintenance Director. After 3 years, she found that she couldn't attend the Club's board meetings anymore, so in 2010 she stepped down as a Director and created the position of Trail Captain Coordinator (to reduce the Trail Director workload) – a job which she is still doing today.

Over the years, Rose-Mary has trained and managed the hundreds of Trail captains who've maintained the trails. She also manages the trail inspections and Trail Status Reports that the Trail Captains must submit to the BTC three times each year. Rose-Mary herself still steps in as a Trail Captain when no volunteers are available for any sector.

Rose-Mary also still organizes many trail maintenance work parties, and has volunteered on almost all that she hasn't led herself. In addition, she continues to be instrumental in designing and developing most of the Club's new trails and reroutes built since 2007.

Rose-Mary joined the Club's Land Management Committee at its inception in 2007. She therefore probably knows more about our trails and their history than any other volunteer – Rose-Mary is a keeper of TBTC trail and land ownership information. Furthermore, Rose-Mary does not hoard her knowledge because she is very aware of the importance of passing on historical information to new volunteers.

In 2021, Rose-Mary became the Club's Land Stewardship Director, guiding the 15 land stewards who manage the BTC's owned properties in the Toronto section. They deal with encroachment and misuse of the properties, and document species at risk and invasive species on those properties. The Club's Biodiversity Team, which is overseen by the Land Stewardship Director (Rose-Mary), works towards eradicating invasive species and replacing them with native ones.

### **C. Trail Maintenance Awards**

Laurent Thibault awarded the 2021 Trail Maintenance Volunteer-of-the-Year award to John Borley.

Trail Captain years-of-service (longevity) awards were awarded as follows:

- Jude Keast: 5 years of service
- Peter Pritchard: 5 years of service
- Rose-Mary Mitter: 20 years of service

### **10. Other Business – None**

**Moved by Graham Allen, seconded by David Rowney, that the 2022 AGM be adjourned. Approved.**



**Time of Adjournment: 2:50pm**

**Minutes Prepared by: Rhea Raquinha**

**Next Meeting: April 23, 2023**

# Appendix 2: Properties and Photos

<b>TBTC Property</b>	<b>Acquired</b>		<b>Land Stewards</b>	
1. McKague (Easement)	1994	27 Acres	Barb & Dave Young, 1998	Main Trail
2. Hardy	1994	38 Acres	Lucia Lopez, 2021	Main Trail
3. Robertson	2019	38 Acres	Rose-Mary Mitter, 2022	Main Trail, Speyside, South ST, Cliff Hatch ST
4. Opavsky	1995	50 Acres	Nancy Tilt, 1997	Main Trail, Cliff Hatch ST, 17 Sideroad ST
5. Speyside Woods	2001	100 Acres	Teresa Karolewski & Rod Fraser, 2001	Main Trail, Vanderleck ST, 17 Sideroad ST
6. Speyside Sanctuary	2010	144 Acres	Lois Bastell, 2015	Main Trail, Charles Hildebrandt ST, Canada Goose ST
7. Brown	2021	3 Acres	Ron Granger, 2021	Main Trail
8. Cunningham	2011	3 Acres	Ron Granger, 2020	Main Trail
9. Springle	2001	39 Acres	Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff, 2020	Main Trail, Todd Bardes Meadowlands ST
10. Maple Ridge	2017	69 Acres	Martha & Dirk Schrader, 2021	Main Trail, Ridge ST
11. Hammer	2000	17 Acres	Neal Stein, 2022	No trail
12. Sinclair	1995	31 Acres	Angelika Sommer, 2019	Main Trail
13. Duff Pit	2021	104 Acres*	Paul Vanhanen, 2021	Duff Pit ST, Reservoir ST, Trafalgar ST
14. Lan Kwan Sum	2016	18 Acres	Jerry Bakker, 2019	Main Trail
15. Sanders	2022	20 Acres	NEW no LS	Main Trail
16. Weiser	2001	22 Acres	Tim Foley, 2021	No trail
17. Kerr	2001	7 Acres	Lynn McFerran, 2012	No trail

\*Pending possible severance of 15 Acres

## Land Stewardship

### Robertson: Farm Dump Cleanup



### Springle: American Chestnut Planting



## Biodiversity Team

### Boot brush stations



### Garlic Mustard Pulling

