



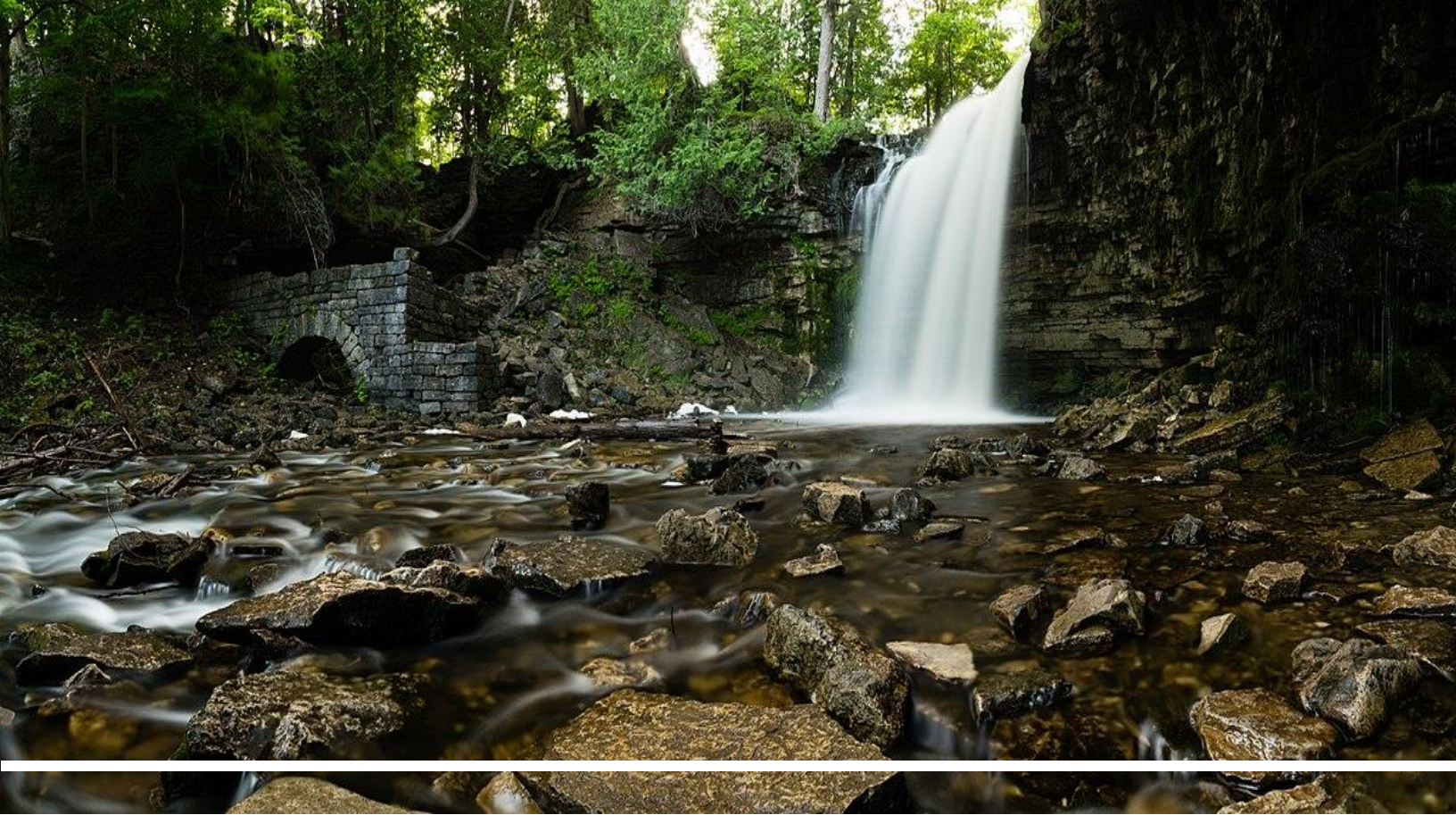
Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Annual General Meeting

April 21, 2024

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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!

I am fortunate to be working with an exceptional Board of Directors. Our volunteers are **providing their voices, their creativity, their passion and their leadership** to help advance our mission.

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

This year we are saying good bye to three of our Board members.

We acknowledge all their contributions with deep appreciation.

- Secretary Rhea Rasquinha. I have appreciated Rhea's very talented contributions, most notably the skill and care in launching our exemplary A.G.M. Packages over the last three years.
- Special Events Coordinator Juliet Williams. I thank Juliet for her steadfast generosity and support, especially in leading our memorable Bruce Trail Days and launching our Volunteer Recognition Event.
- Public Relations and Education Director Alina Lin. Our continued success in attracting new members is in large part due to the positive contributions that Alina has brought to our Communications Team. We are grateful for her many years of leadership.

The outdoors, as we know, are good for our hearts, bodies and minds. Everyone deserves opportunities to benefit from time in nature. Our Board of Directors has embraced our Club's commitment to making sure that a sense of belonging is like second nature, for everyone.

- We **nurture and grow our culture** of giving to ensure our Club is resourced to preserve and conserve the rich biodiversity of the Bruce Trail Conservancy corridor
- We **maximize technology and innovation** to reach out to create partnerships with schools, community and business alliances

- We **reaffirm what we value** with our ongoing commitment and action to Diversity and Inclusion to better represent our membership and the GTA

Our Club formed a **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)** Team. This team knows how important the sense of belonging is, but at the same time they recognize there are barriers in our society that prevent some from feeling welcome and included on trails and public land. (Three of our Directors also sit on the larger Bruce Trail Conservancy DEIB Committee: Karen Hanson, Louise Kent and David Royle.)

A history of underinvestment in particular communities, particularly for people of colour, and structural inequality can create high barriers for some individuals to participate in outdoor activities. The DEIB team wants to make sure **everyone feels welcome, included and recognized**. To do this, we need our Club members to honour and respect everyone's unique history and identities, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, age and ability.

Building an inclusive hiking community is not easy. It takes time, patience and trust in teamwork. The same can be said about protecting and preserving our trails and the work that our Land Management Committee promotes. The TBTC is equally committed to the long-term stewardship of both.

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board of Directors want to welcome everyone into the hiking community. We believe **everyone should enjoy the benefits** of the work our trail volunteers undertake. Also, we believe a diverse, engaged and growing community is vital for the future of the trails we love.

Our members will be the strongest champion for trails if it builds connections across identities and honours open dialogue about how we can all do better.

David Royle
President, Toronto Bruce Trail Club

TBTC Constitution and Term of Directors

Action

The following amendment is brought forward to our 2024 AGM for approval.

TBTC Constitution and term of Directors

Currently the term for Directors is limited to a lifetime maximum of 15 years in total.

A proposal is brought forward that the TBTC Constitution be revised to define a maximum term limit of 9 years for Board members, with the possibility for a one-year extension (under unusual circumstances) to a maximum of 10 years.

TBTC Key Highlights for 2023



Special Events

- Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on June 1 at Terra Cotta
- Bruce Trail Day was held on October 1 and included 158 hikers



Membership

- Currently, the Toronto Club has 3,239 members
- 15% of the Club's members are newcomers from the Canoo program



Communication

- Developed a social media calendar for more purposeful content
- Secured >\$2,400 in advertising with E-Notes (3-4 ads per issue)



PR and Education

- Held several community education and information events
- Expanded online outreach through Facebook and meetup



Financial

- Cash balance of \$39,797 at the end of fiscal 2023
- A donation of \$36,463 was made to the BTC



Hiking

- Over 350 activities posted to the Hike Calendar
- 15 new certified Hike Leaders



Volunteer

- There are approximately 260 Club volunteer positions
- This includes 52 Hike Leaders and 60 Trail Captains



Landowner Relations

- Seeking handshake agreements for 3 properties
- Delivered 80 calendars over the Fall



Trail Maintenance

- Built a lovely "thunder box" for the proposed overnight rest area
- Welcomed 2 new certified sawyers who took the BTC course



Land Management Committee and Land Stewardship/Biodiversity

- Ongoing planning for trail issues now and in the future
- Completed new trail geography for the Toronto section
- Sanders property is now officially the 'Rockside Woods Nature Reserve'
- Two new biodiversity badges have been introduced

AGM Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 2024 AGM – **Shimeem Al-Ayash!**



Shimeem Al-Ayash is the Volunteer and Outreach Assistant at the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). As part of the Community Engagement team at the BTC, Shimeem works with all nine Bruce Trail Clubs to raise awareness about the Bruce Trail, encourage support for and participation in the BTC, and develop new initiatives to reach new audiences. Shimeem chairs the BTC's inter-Club committee for Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB).

At the Toronto Bruce Trail Club AGM, Shimeem will explore what it means to foster a sense of belonging as it relates to the Bruce Trail, drawing from her personal experiences as a newcomer to Canada and her professional roles both at the Bruce Trail Conservancy and throughout her career.

Before joining the BTC in 2021, Shimeem worked in a variety of roles including as an Office Assistant, Translator, Interpreter and Cultural Advisor with the British military, where she made use of her second language, Arabic.

Shimeem has traveled extensively, living and working in several countries. Drawn to the outdoors, she began volunteering with the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club soon after moving to Canada. She eventually joined the BTC staff team where her interests and experience are helping to support the BTC mission and its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Director Reports



Financial Report

The year ended December 31, 2023 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 \$2,958 over budget and down \$136 from the 2022 actual amounts.

Decreased membership in the club also resulted in trail fees being less than 2022 amounts.

Bus and winter coach hikes were well received and filled buses resulted in these hikes being very profitable to the Club. Unfortunately, several winter coach hikes were cancelled due to unseasonably warm weather. As a result, we are under budget in this category – the only category that we are under budget in.



262	26	55	55
Number of end-to-end badges sold in 2023 (compared to 266 in 2022)	Number of side trail badges sold in 2023 (compared to 55 in 2022)	Number of winter end-to- end badges sold in 2023 (78 in 2022)	Number of new urban badges sold in 2023

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

We are very grateful!

This year the Club continued its advertising program for our website and e-Notes. This program which was introduced last year continued to grow and resulted in \$2,400 in revenues in 2023, an increase of a \$1,000 from the prior year.

\$36,463

**Donation to the BTC
for 2023**

Badge expenses reflect the introduction of three new hiking badges this year – The biodiversity badge, the stewardship badge and the Urban badge. We also introduced a fundraising stained-glass end to end badge which netted the Club \$2,281.



\$2,086

**Excess of
expenses over
revenues for the
2023 year**

Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Statement of operations and changes in net assets

year ended December 31, 2023

	% YTD Annual Budget		100%	2022 Actual \$
	2023 Budget \$	2023-12-31 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	
Revenues				
Memberships	22,000	24,958	113%	25,094
Trail fees	1,600	1,772	111%	1,854
HST rebate	-	-	-	202
Hike revenue (schedule 1)	53,940	49,741	92%	41,575
Events (schedule 1)	17,180	18,036	105%	7,968
Fundraising	2,400	3,013	126%	-
Advertising	1,300	2,408	185%	1,383
Donations	1,350	2,915	216%	1,743
Annual general meeting	2,070	2,239	108%	-
Interest income	190	1,373	723%	639
	102,030	106,455	104%	80,458
Expenses				
Hike (schedule 1)	53,306	37,780	71%	30,844
Events (schedule 1)	17,495	13,579	78%	7,400
E-notes	1,750	1,750	100%	1,538
Trail development and maintenance				
Supplies	4,850	2,709	56%	3,001
Storage	1,740	1,600	92%	1,689
Equipment	710	1,297	183%	1,587
Annual general meeting	7,627	7,714	101%	95
Fundraising	667	732	110%	-
Web expenses	1,400	938	67%	1,257
Office and general	3,525	2,124	60%	1,376
Biodiversity team	550	500	91%	-
Volunteer recognition	2,000	850	43%	-
Bank charges	275	294	107%	269
Land securement	600	118	20%	214
Land management	145	93	64%	91
	96,640	72,078	75%	49,361
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	5,390	34,377	638%	31,097
Donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy (Excess of expenses over revenue) revenue over expenses for the year	20,000	36,463	182%	36,053
	(14,610)	(2,086)	14%	(4,956)
Net assets, beginning of year	45,534	45,534		50,490
Net assets, end of year	30,924	43,448		45,534

Toronto Bruce Trail Club

Schedule 1 - Revenue and expense details

year ended December 31, 2023

	% YTD Annual Budget		100%	2022 Actual \$
	2023 Budget \$	2023-12-31 Actual \$	% Annual Budget	
Hikes				
Revenues				
Winter ski coaches	15,000	8,587	57%	3,238
Bus hikes	30,000	30,513	102%	29,580
End to end	6,440	6,530	101%	4,415
Badges	2,500	4,111	164%	4,332
	53,940	49,741		41,575
Expenses				
Winter ski coaches	14,000	6,348	45%	2,769
Bus hikes	29,500	25,677	87%	24,103
End to end	4,608	2,461	53%	1,510
Badges	1,598	2,002	125%	1,455
Hike leader training	3,400	1,080	32%	858
Meetup, Hike line	200	212	106%	149
	53,306	37,780		30,844
Net	634	11,961		10,731
Events				
Revenues				
Hiker initiation program	410	559	136%	410
Magog	9,170	9,629	105%	-
Peninsula	7,250	7,028	97%	7,225
Bruce Trail Day	350	820	234%	333
	17,180	18,036		7,968
Expenses				
Hiker initiation program	650	671	103%	817
Magog	9,170	6,530	71%	-
Peninula	6,500	5,400	83%	5,450
Bruce trail day	1,175	978	83%	1,133
	17,495	13,579		7,400
Net	(315)	4,457		568

Statement of Financial Position

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



\$39,797

Cash balance as at December 31, 2023

Receivables include December membership and trail maintenance fees owing from the BTC.

\$43,448

Net asset value as at December 31, 2023



Prepaid expenses include a deposit made to the Kortright Centre for the 2024 AGM as well as prepaid bus expenses for trips that are planned for 2024.

Deferred revenues are made up of advertising revenues that will be earned in 2024 and monies received for the Gatineau trip with will occur in March of 2024.

Toronto Bruce Trail Club Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
Cash	39,797	46,765
Accounts receivable	29	172
Due from the Bruce Trail Conservancy	2,607	1,869
Prepaid expenses	9,128	6,870
	51,561	55,676
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	-	1,081
Deferred revenue - indigenous hikes	370	-
Deferred revenue	7,743	9,061
	8,113	10,142
Net assets	43,448	45,534
	51,561	55,676

TBTC 2024 Budget

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

The highlights of the 2024 budget are as follows:

\$12,320

Excess of expenses
over revenues for
2024

\$20,000

Estimated donation
to the BTC

\$14,650

Trail maintenance
expenses*

* Includes the cost of two new bridges, lumber for structure repairs and a new battery-operated weed trimmer

We have not budgeted for any major fundraising events in 2024.

An **in-person AGM** has been budgeted at a projected cost of \$9,000.

The 2024 Budget was approved by the Board at our January Board meeting.

Margaret Corner
Treasurer

Volunteer Coordinator Report

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club (TBTC) thrives thanks to the dedicated efforts of our volunteers.

With a total of around **270 volunteer positions**, we are a powerhouse of passionate individuals. Remarkably, about twenty-five percent of our volunteers take on multiple roles, showcasing their versatility and commitment to our community.

Teams / Groups	Number	Teams / Groups	Number
Trail Captains	60	Hike Leaders	65
Trail Maintenance	31	E2E Volunteers	22
Land Stewards	17	Halton Hills Chapter	7
Biodiversity/Land Stewardship Volunteers	40	Board Directors	14
Biodiversity Team	14	Other	3

The **top 3 reasons** people volunteer with the Toronto Club are:

1. The Bruce Trail Conservancy mission aligns with my values
2. To give back
3. To spend more time outside

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



Margaret Corner - The Todd Bardes award, given annually to an outstanding volunteer who has made significant contributions to the Club in the previous two years, went to Margaret Corner, the Club's Treasurer.



John Cunningham - The Nina Carlisle Award, given to a longstanding volunteer (at least five years) was awarded to John Cunningham. Among other contributions, John has been mapping the trails throughout the Bruce Trail on his GPS and has been helpful in the development of each new trail guide.

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



[Maureen Smith – March 2023](#)

[Janet LeLievre – June 2023](#)

[Allan "Birley" Cowan – December 2023](#)

[Nina Carlisle – March 2024](#)

Karen Hanson
TBTC Volunteer Coordinator

Communications Report

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

- Developing a **social media calendar** resulting in more purposeful content
- Improving **2-way communications** with members (e.g. increase in “Share Your Hike” on FB)
- Highlighting **engagement, membership, themes** in content (e.g. “Humans of the Bruce Trail”)
- Raising over \$2,400 **in advertising** with E-Notes (3-4 ads per issue)
- Updating TBTC **Club brochure** for special events and trail boxes

Social Media

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



6,500+

Number of followers on TBTC social media channels



Stayed consistent with a total of 1,522 followers



1%

Increase in followers to a total of 2,900



6%

Increase in followers to a total of 2,418

E-Notes

Our ad program is at capacity (4 ads per issue). We added “become a member” button to encourage non-members to join. The newsletter also added profiles of club members across our diverse universe. This will be expanded to hike leaders in 2024. 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%.

Website

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

- **30 news stories** about the club
- **Expanded photo gallery** so members can see more past events
- A new **overnight rest area form** available to members
- an **expanded YouTube channel** and link
- Enhanced **Trail Captain page** with added resources.

60

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

2,185

Number of unique visitors to the website **per month**, a 16% increase from 2022

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 and Neal Stein (Trail Maintenance).

David Rowney
Communications Director

Special Events Report

In 2023, we held several events for our members and non-members.

1) Hiker Initiation Program



A **webinar** was held on Monday, May 15 to provide an overview on the ins-and-outs of hiking. The presentation was conducted by experienced Toronto Club Hike Leaders. Attendees learned about hiking safety and equipment, including boots, socks, clothing, backpacks, poles, water containers, and other hiking accessories. 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 by bus or by car for a scenic 10 -12 km loop hike on the main Bruce Trail and side trails at Scotsdale Farm.

2) 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event

Our **first volunteer appreciation event** was held on June 4th at Terra Cotta Conservation. There were 43 volunteers in attendance including hike leaders, trail maintenance volunteers, Board members and biodiversity team members. The **event was informal, with the goal was to get people to meet each other, socialize and share volunteer experiences.**

Club President David Royle welcomed everyone and volunteers enjoyed a sandwich lunch. There were also trivia games and scavenger hunts – with fun prizes up for grabs!



3) Bruce Trail Day

The 2023 **Bruce Trail Day** was held on **October 1st**.

Our theme was “Belonging” - Nature is for all, and all are welcome. There was great weather and it was a very successful day.

There were **158 hikers registered plus members and friends** who hiked on their own and dropped by Limehouse Hall for delicious snacks and drinks.

Our information booth was staffed by knowledgeable volunteers, who answered questions about the trail and the Club.

Hiking Report

The hiking program continued to improve with **over 350 activities posted** to the hike calendar over the course of 2023. These included:

- Biodiversity Walks
- End-2-End Bus Hike Series of Toronto & Blue Mountains Sections
- Fundraiser Badge Series (for the Toronto Badge and other sections)
- Urban Hiking Badge Series
- An Indigenous Themed Walk
- Family Friendly Hikes
- Cardio Workout Hikes
- End-End Hikes of Bruce Trail Sections
- Urban Evening Walks in Toronto
- Day Trips By GO Train to hike communities throughout the GTA
- Hikes in the wilderness section of the Ganaraska Trail
- Five Winter Coach trips
- Snowshoeing/skiing weekend at Magog, QC

The success of the hiking program would not be possible without our dedicated team of hike leaders who plan, organize, and lead the hikes. Thanks to all who led/assisted on hikes.

Bus Hikes:



25 Bus Hikes operated in 2023, including two End-2-End series of hikes at a moderate pace for hikers to complete the Toronto Section and the Blue Mountains Section (to be completed April 6 2024). Two day coach trips were operated to Silent Lake and Algonquin Provincial Parks. Chartering a coach allows us to hike areas further from Toronto. Coach trips require more advance planning and an earlier commitment from the participants than the regular school bus hikes. The hiking season would not be complete without some hiking on the Peninsula section. Once again hikers had the opportunity to hike on the beautiful Bruce (Saugeen) Peninsula based at Evergreen Resort travelling by coach. Thanks to Martina Furrer for organizing the coach trips and the Evergreen weekend.

Car Hikes:



Car Hikes continue to be a popular way of accessing the trail in all seasons. **The schedule has been enhanced** with biodiversity walks, a walk featuring an indigenous speaker, and a series of “family friendly” hikes led by Monica Pasquali, shorter hikes suitable for families and featuring a visit to a local attraction. Jeanette Vincent offered weekend trips to the Peninsula in the different seasons to enjoy snowshoeing, orchids, and fall colours.



Urban Walks:

Urban walks continue to be popular with members and prospective members looking for an easier walk or the chance to hike when they don't have the time to commit to a full day. Hikers had the **chance to**

earn the new urban badge on a series of hikes led by Brian Rideout, Alina Lin, and Smadar Junkin at either a moderate or faster pace. Some urban walks were day trips by GO train to hike trails and explore communities throughout the GTA. Miriam Stevens continued to organize the series of “Theatre Hikes” with the option of seeing a play at the Village Playhouse in Bloor West Village. Evening hikes were offered on the Toronto Islands and Toronto Ravines.



Winter Coach Program:

The Club **scheduled 11 day trips** on Saturdays from January to mid-March. Members were treated to five fantastic cross-country ski and snowshoe outings with visits to Arrowhead Provincial Park (twice), Highlands Nordic, Kawartha Nordic, and Scenic Caves. Due to a combination of weather and low registration, four trips had to be cancelled. The **Club's March 3 to 6, 2023 weekend trip** was sold out and 56 lucky members explored the awesome cross-country ski and snowshoe trails in the Parc National du Mont-Orford. None of these trips would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the hike leaders who planned and led snowshoe hikes each week. A huge thank you to all.

Annual End-2-End

The **annual End-2-End** is always well spoken of by the participants. In 2023 they had the choice of hiking the section in one day or two days. Thanks to Jacquie Van Dyke for organizing this popular event and the volunteers supporting those taking on the challenge.

Promotional Role:

The **hiking program** plays an important role in promoting the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. When hikers are drawn to our activities it is our chance to introduce them to the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment and the importance of protecting them. Outreach through hikes such as the Hiker Initiation Program hikes, hikes posted on Meetup, and Bruce Trail Day are opportunities to communicate what the BTC/TBTC are all about.

Hike Leader Training:

The club has been seeing the payoff from the Hike Ontario **Certified Hike Leader (CHL) training** and TBTC apprenticeship training with more hike leaders completing their apprenticeship and leading hikes. Thanks to Charles Whitlock and Jacquie Van Dyke for organizing and teaching the CHL course.

The hiking program continues to improve with the contributions and initiatives from the hike leader team allowing us to offer **“hikes for everyone”**.

Thank you to all the hike leaders that organized and led or assisted on hikes in 2023!

Mohammad Aghamiri
Amir Alemohammad
Mehnoush Ahmadi
Ray Berzins
Edmond Brown
Alex Brown
Marlon Chen
Ke-Jia (KJ) Chong
Tanya Cora
Brenda Dalglish
Makhan (Mike) Dhesi
Ross Estrella
Barbara Euler
Martina Furrer
Ginny Giraudi
Roger Harris
Liz Hemmerick
Celia Ho
Michael Humpage
Smadar Junkin
Lindita Kalo
Dariush Khanbeigi
Peter Leeney
George Lennon
Lisa Lifshitz
Alina Lin

Fayaz Mahmood
Roland Mark
John McCuaig
Lynn McFerran
Brenda Menezes
Minoo Minazi
Nijole Mockevicius
Monica Pasquali
Janet Patterson
Danny Pivnick
Andrew Proczek
Victor Ramautar
Glynn Richardson
Brian Rideout
Leonora Rochwerger
Marie-Josée Roy
David Royle
Tessa Shelvey
Miriam Stevens
Natalia Svechnikova
Jacqueline Van Dyke
Jeanette Vincent
Duro Vukman
Tim Wainwright
Frank Ye
Sajedeh Zahraei
Jen Zhang

Tom Swales
Hiking Director

PR and Education Report

This report outlines our achievements, challenges, and future initiatives aimed at promoting environmental stewardship, outdoor education, and community engagement.

Education Events



Hiking the Bruce Trail

In May, we collaborated with the Wellness Centre at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to host an information session titled "Hiking the Bruce Trail." This initiative introduced the Bruce Trail to over 30 CAMH employees and generated interest in our hiking programs and conservation efforts.



Winter Hiking 101

In December, we organized an insightful online information session titled "Winter Hiking 101," attracting 50 participants. This event not only promoted winter hiking but also showcased the diverse offerings of the Bruce Trail, furthering our mission of outdoor education.

Collaborations and Partnerships

We have actively pursued collaborations with external organizations to expand our reach and support our mission. Notable collaborations include a successful hiking and fundraising event with the Miss Social Group, resulting in a generous donation to the Club, and ongoing discussions with Dassault Systèmes for a potential corporate engagement.

Social Media Engagement



Toronto Bruce Trail Club Meetup group

The Toronto Bruce Trail Meetup platform continues to attract new members and facilitate event participation. Currently, there 3,200 members. The continued use of the meetup group is being assessed.

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

With membership growing to over 1,900, our Facebook group has flourished into a dynamic and interactive community, boasting a remarkable 36% growth compared to the previous year. Members actively share their hiking experiences, knowledge, and captivating photos, enriching the Club's resources and fostering a sense of camaraderie among members.

Thank you to the following volunteers who have helped with the PR & Education initiatives in 2023:
Tom Swales and David Rowney

Alina Lin
PR and Education Director

Membership Report

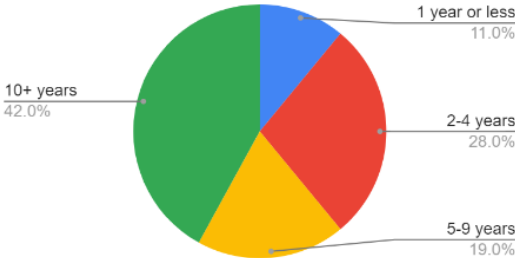
2023 was a great year for membership. After our steady decrease in 2022, we finally saw some growth in the Toronto Club! At the end of 2023 the TBTC had 3192 members (currently we stand at 3,239 members). This made up over one quarter of the full BTC membership of 12,217.

The Bruce Trail Club **promoted some excellent partnerships in 2023** to help spread the word of the Trail and its mission. One of these partnerships is Canoo. Canoo is a program (serviced through a mobile app) made available to new Canadian citizens and permanent residents for 1 year. Users of the Canoo app get access to exclusive benefits to services/business in their community. The BTC offers users of Canoo a free 1-year membership with the BTC to help the users (Canadian newcomers) connect with their local community, easing the challenge of adjusting to a new country. This also helps the BTC reach Canadian newcomers, showing them what we can offer and engage them.

The program started in May 2023 and the BTC will be tracking how many Canoo members continue with their membership. **Canoo members comprised 14% of TBTC members** by the end of the 2023 year and are currently 15.8% of TBTC membership (512 members).

TBTC members come from everywhere. Although half of all members call Toronto home, the next largest represented areas are Mississauga, North York, Brampton, Etobicoke, Georgetown, Guelph and Kitchener/Waterloo.

Most TBTC members have been with the TBTC for over 10 years. Our next highest grouping is those who joined two to four years ago, hinting that these folks likely found the TBTC during the pandemic.



We are grateful to all members as the TBTC works to provide a valuable experience (see reports on hikes, PR, communications and special events!), and hope you will continue as a member and continue sharing the beauty of the Bruce with others!

Louise Kent,
Membership Director

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.**

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



Working Together

We listen and work with our landowners to accommodate their wishes in securing land. The Pink Bench was an integral part of our agreement in securing this land which is part of the main trail. The bench provided a memorial to the landowner's late wife and has become notable rest area for the many hikers that pass by.

Handshake Agreements

All our current handshake agreements continue to operate without any issues. We have a good group of landowners in this regard. We hope that one day these agreements will turn into purchase agreements. These agreements are with both private individuals and corporations.



Parking Lot/Roadways

We are working with the MTO to try and establish a parking lot on the Duff Pit property. There are several options, we just need to find a solution that meets the Ministry requirements. We are also following up on proposed road infrastructure projects that may impact road crossings.

Incentives

Once more, we delivered 80 calendars to landowners, neighbors and interested parties. It provides the opportunity to meet face to face with the prospective landowners that we are targeting. Also, we have made offers to various landowners to provide an on-site evaluation of their property by our resident ecologists. This provides them with insights on how best to manage their property.



Accomplishments: Unfortunately, we were unable to add any new properties again this year. We are close on two properties and hope that we will be able to have success this year. It continues to be difficult to motivate landowners when there is no monetary incentive.

Optimum Route: We continue discussions regarding 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.

Corporate Landowners: We wish to acknowledge the many corporate landowners that have given permission for the Bruce Trail to occupy their lands. We have a very collaborative working relationship with them and in many cases, they contribute both time and resources to help maintain the trail.

Peter Pritchard,
Landowner Relations Director

Land Management Committee Report

BIODIVERSITY & LAND STEWARDSHIP-

Scots pine was removed from the Speyside and Duff Pit areas. Monitoring of recent plantings of endangered elm and American chestnut trees revealed they were in good shape. Boot brush stations continue to be rolled out across the trail and we encourage all hikers to use them regularly. An indigenous led hike is planned for this year as well as several hikes around biodiversity themes.

MAJOR PROJECTS - We are planning to replace a bridge on our main trail just south of Scotsdale Farm and install a new bridge on our "Hammer" property between 5th and 6th Line. Once the bridge is done on the Hammer site, we hope to install a new side trail or possibly reroute the Main Trail if we can obtain one further piece of property in the area.

TRAIL GEOGRAPHY - The first version of our sections' trail geography which included an inventory of all our structures, plaques, signage and a natural history of our trail was completed. It will be used by our trail captains and planners and updated periodically. It is available for viewing on our club's website.

PARKING LOTS - Construction work will begin in 2024 to expand our lot to accommodate 20 cars at Pear Tree lot near 15th SR and Highway 25. We will first have to work with ecologists to accommodate local nesting snapping turtles near the pond at the southwest corner of the lot in the spring of 2024. Once complete, we are looking to add a serviced portable toilet at the site which will be in place from spring to fall each year. We have also added winter snow plowing of our lot at 22nd SR near 4th Line.

OVERNIGHT REST AREAS - Our ORA was completed at Duff Pit except for signage in 2023 and once that is in place, we hope to open the spot in 2024. Both our spot at Duff Pit and Terra Cotta will have new signage in 2024 that will include a QR code that will enable users to give us feedback on the sites.

PLANNING - Sessions were held with two of our major land partners, Credit Valley Conservation who we overlap with starting northeast of 4th Line and Conservation Halton who we overlap with southwest of 4th Line. At these sessions, we network and discuss trail and ecological issues including biodiversity. We also met with our Trail Captains by Zoom in the fall and have planned for an in-person session for this spring.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE - This was conducted on multiple sections of the main trail and side trails. Ongoing planning for work in 2024 includes adding boardwalks over wet areas of the Main Trail east of Heritage Rd. and in Terra Cotta CA and repair of the steps over a seasonal creek bed on our Terra Cotta side trail in Terra Cotta CA.

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the people who work on this committee - Paul Vanhanen, Laurent Thibault, Dave Paape, Rose-Mary Mitter, Connie Soros, Mark Pottruff, Pete Pritchard, Lynn McFerran 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 hundreds of hours of volunteer time to keep the 50.3 kms of main and 66.1 kms of side trails of the TBTC clear and safe.

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

There was a lot of rain resulting in unusually heavy vegetation growth. Trail captains had to put in a lot of additional hours with the weed wackers to keep the trails clear.

Developed a new approach to managing Trail Captains by dividing the Toronto section into three zones (south; central; north) and appointed a zone coordinator for each one who will look after monitoring the trail captains in their zone.

Built a lovely “thunder box” for the proposed new overnight rest area that will open in 2024 on the BTC’s Duff Pit property

Welcomed two new certified sawyers after they took the BTC training course in the Fall.

Created a “trail geography” document, outlining the trails in detail - including the terrain, the structures, signage, etc. Based on this work, we were able to identify many aspects of the trails that needed to be remedied, and this formed the basis of much of our work program this past summer.

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.



Looking ahead to 2024:

We are planning two fairly large bridge building projects in 2024. One is replacing an old bridge just south of Scotsdale farm, and the other is on a new trail that we plan to open that will take a good stretch of the main trail off the 5th line.

The process of approval for expanding the Pear Tree parking lot was completed this year, and should be open sometime in 2024

We look forward to the official “trail audit” of the whole Toronto section in May of 2024, and our dream is that the trail will be in such great shape that the auditor’s report will be very short, and very complimentary....😊

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

We are particularly thankful for professional forester Andy Jefferies of Silver Creek Tree Care who came out on his own time to help clear dangerous trees 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, Peter Watkins, Bradley Stevens, Veronique Habel, Neal Stein, Linda & David Noble, Peter & Gail Pritchard, Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff, Paul, Kamila, Julia & Natalie Boczkowski, Pat Ferris & Sara Maedel, Melanie McLaran, David Williams, Steve Wuthmann, Patti Guminy, Jacques & Karen Martin, Ron Granger, Monica Pasquali, Rose-Mary Mitter, John Cunningham, Brian Morrell, Lois Bastell, Ian Grindall, Pamela Newson, Carmen Braund & Don Beatty, Jude & Helen Keast, David Rowney, Badar Bashir, Angelika Sommer, Steve & Julie McCallum, Laurent Thibault, Martha & Dirk Schrader, Judy & Frank Daniel, Rolland Hervieux, Hugh Hyndman, Jennifer Webster & Doug Pengelly, Tim Foley and Regine Joexen,

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, Connie Sorros, David Rowney, Badar Bashir, Carmen Braund, Byron Guptill, Mark Pottruff, John Borley, Brian Heinmiller, Rolland Hervieux, Lynn McFerran and Don Sargent

Laurent Thibault
Trail Maintenance Director



Land Stewardship Report

There are **17 BTC properties** stewarded by the Toronto Club and 18 Land Steward volunteers.

9 volunteers attended the BTC Land Stewardship Workshop this spring to learn more about invasive species and their role as stewards.

Trespassing by ATVs on the Speyside Woods property and the use of the 17 Sideroad and 3rd Line road allowances by ATVs and 4x4s seems to have **decreased significantly**. The signage that was added last year has not been disturbed.

An area of Goutweed on Maple Ridge was sprayed by the BTC in the spring and appears to have been effective. The area will be checked again next spring.

The Boot Brush Stations (BBS) installed last year appear to be very well used. More BBS will be added next year as the BTC has received funding specifically for BBS to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Oak Wilt and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are two new invasive concerns. Oak Wilt is a fungus which has been found in the Niagara area and the Hemlock Adelgid is an insect that has been found in Niagara and other parts of southern Ontario.

Hardy

- Volunteers used one of the BTC metal detectors to locate property bars on the Hardy property without much success.

Duff Pitt

- A work party in the spring removed 100s of Scots Pine seedlings & saplings
- The BTC contracted the spraying of Phragmites Reed on the property, most of it was sprayed but the reeds in the deeper areas of the ponds will need to be cut by hand next year.

Springle

- The disease resistant Elm trees (received from the University of Guelph) are growing well.
- Most of the American Chestnut trees showed buds in the spring and appear to be doing well.

Speyside Woods

- Work was started to remove Scots Pine in the area near 17 Sideroad.
- A no longer relevant information sign at this location was removed.

Speyside Sanctuary

- The BTC held two corporate volunteer work parties this fall to remove Buckthorn in an area near 4th Line.
- This location will be used as the site for the TBTC seed garden.



Rose-Mary Mitter
Land Stewardship Director



Biodiversity Report

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

- BDT members led **several successful biodiversity themed hikes** this year.
- **Two new Biodiversity badges** were introduced this year, 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 Bruce Trail.
- The BDT had several garlic mustard pulls this spring on the Springle and Duff Pit properties.
- The area on Maple Ridge which was cleared in 2022 showed **no signs of garlic mustard** this spring, and native plants like Jack-in-the-Pulpit were doing well.
- The planted areas on the Springle property were again checked and weeded, the largest plot with Sunflowers and Coreopsis is still doing extremely well.
- The **6 Monarch water stations** along the Todd Bardes Meadowlands ST were installed for the summer and taken down for the winter.
- John Kirby McCuaig and his Rovers and Scouts continue to **add new bird boxes**. They are doing repairs and an inventory, as well as cleaning out the boxes in the spring and fall.
- More volunteers are wanted to participate in the spring and fall work parties.
- Credit Valley Conservation staff member Raiden Levesque is responsible for trail development and indigenous activities. He has expressed interest in planning biodiversity themed hikes with us in the CVC areas.

Plans for 2024

- There will be a Zoom meeting for the Land Stewards next spring as a way to introduce the stewards to each other and to improve communications within the group.
- It will be a way for the **volunteers to connect with stewards of nearby properties**, ask questions, discuss issues, and receive some additional training.
- We hope to have an in-person meeting later in the year with the aim to continue it annually.
- The Biodiversity team is **planning nature hikes** for next year and continuing with invasive species removal on the TBTC stewarded properties.



Land Stewards 2023

Barb & Dave Young
Lucia Lopez
Ron Granger
Rose-Mary Mitter
Teresa Karolewski & Rod Fraser
Lois Bastell
Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff
Martha & Dirk Schrader
Neal Stein
Angelika Sommer
Paul Vanhanen
Jerry Bakker
Tim Foley
Lynn McFerran

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 (Chair)
George Lennon
Janet Patterson
Connie Soros
Mark Pottruff
John Kirby McCuaig
Kejia Chong
Lois Bastell
Lucia Lopez
Marilyn Temple
Kirsten Lavine
Angelika Sommer
Rose-Mary Mitter












Land Stewardship and Biodiversity Team Volunteers 2023

Angelika Sommer (LS)
Neal Stein (LS)
John Borley
Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff (LS)
Dave Paape
Lucia Lopez (LS)
Sibylle Foppa
Ron Granger (LS)
Lynn McFerran (LS)
Don & Gloria Sargent
Carmen Braund
Marilyn Temple
Peter Pritchard
Lois Bastell (LS)
Ian Grindalls (Sawyer)
Dave Rowney
Marlis Butcher
Hugh Hyndman
Janet Patterson (HL)
John McCuaig + Scouts and Rovers

Nominating Committee Report

The TBTC Nominating Committee present the slate of 14 members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2024-25:

Returning Board Member Nominees:

	Name	Position as of May 2024
	David Royle	President
	Louise Kent	Vice President and Membership Director
	Graham Allen	Club representative to Bruce Trail Conservancy Board
	Margaret Corner	Treasurer
	Karen Hanson	Volunteer Coordinator
	Tom Swales	Hiking Director
	Peter Pritchard	Landowner Relations Director
	Laurent Thibault	Trail Maintenance Director
	David Rowney	Communications Director and Halton Hills Representative
	Neil Stein	Land Management Committee
	Rose-Mary Mitter	Land Stewardship Director

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

Name	Position as of May 2023
Kimberly Yuong	Secretary
Judy Chan	Public Relations and Education Director
Ebby Chukwuonwe	Special Events Coordinator

Acknowledgements

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

David Rowney

Jacquie Van Dyke

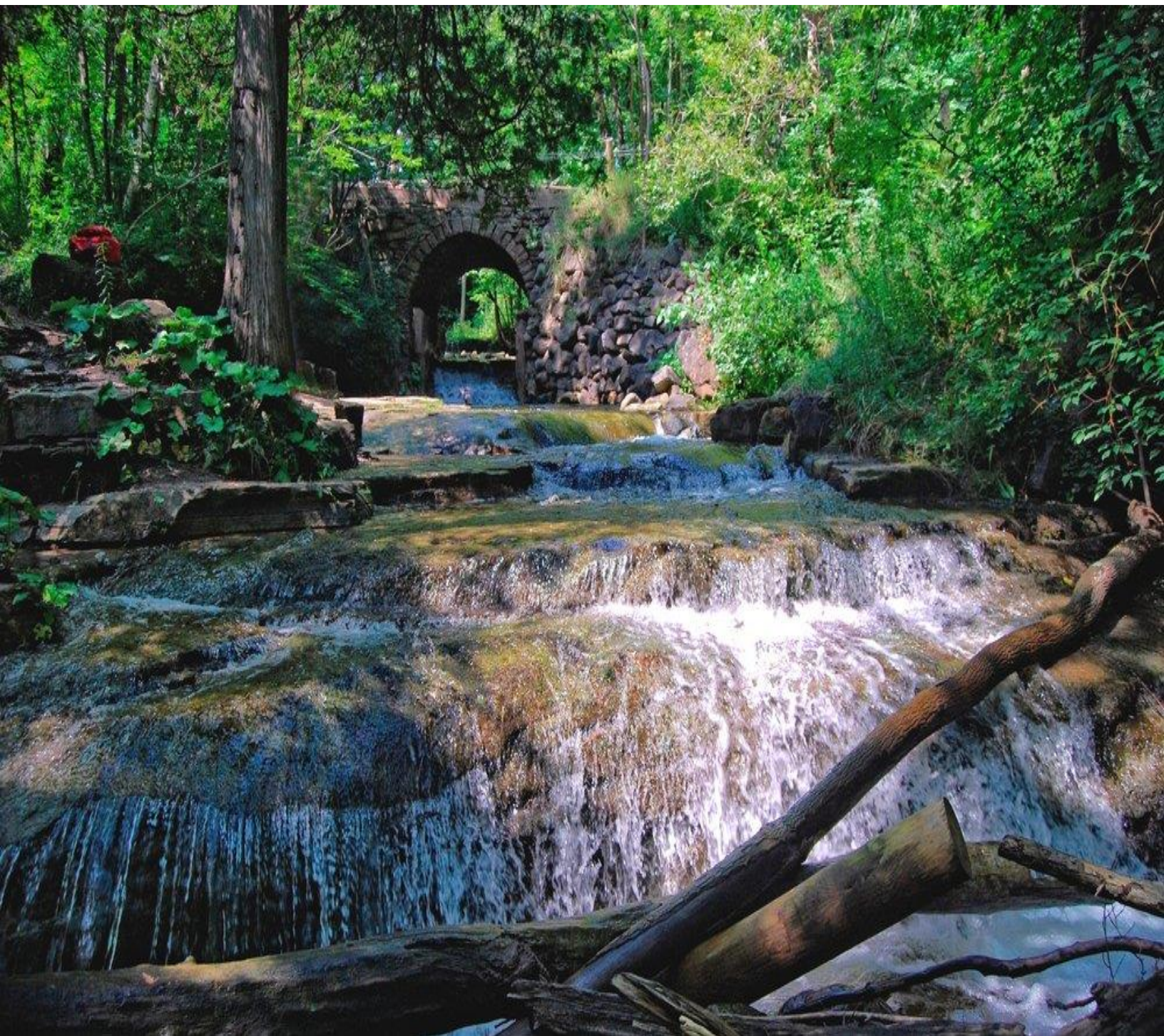
Louise Kent

Tanya Cora

**

Margaret Corner

Appendices



Appendix 1

Toronto Bruce Trail Club 2023 AGM Meeting Minutes

Date Sunday, April 23, 2023

Time 1:00pm – 2:30pm

1. Call to Order

Rhea Rasquinha called the 2023 TBTC AGM to order at 1:00 p.m. Rhea introduced David Royle, President who reviewed voting procedures and gave an overview of the agenda.

Moved by Rhea Rasquinha, seconded by Henry Lowi, that the agenda for the 2023 AGM be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Louise Kent, Membership Director presented the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Opening Remarks

David Royle welcomed the members to the 2023 TBTC AGM and thanked Juliet Williams for her role in organizing the AGM, as well as all the Board members and volunteers for their contributions to the TBTC.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes

Moved by Rhea Rasquinha, seconded by Margaret Corner that the minutes of the April 10, 2022 AGM meeting be approved as amended. Motion Carried.

5. President's Report

David Royle acknowledged the passing of six volunteers, who had made significant contributions to the TBTC: Bob Neale, Diane Gasner, Doug Sloan, Greg Vincent, Daisy Lazaranis and Wayne Crockett.

He also recognized the importance of the various TBTC volunteer roles – from hike leaders to trail maintenance, land stewards, biodiversity, communications and more.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Margaret Corner provided an overview of the financial statements.
- Membership fee revenues were \$2,400 under budget and down \$5,000 from the 2021 actual amounts.
- In 2022, the Club was able to resume both our bus hikes and our winter coach hikes. These events were well received and resulted in these hikes being very profitable to the Club. In

addition, the Club hosted several events including the end-to-end event in September, Bruce Trail Day, Hiker Initiation and a weekend in the Bruce Peninsula.

- This year, the Club introduced an advertising program for our website and e-Notes. This new program was well accepted and resulted in \$1,400 in new revenues.
- Hikers continued to earn lots of badges in the Toronto section this year. While the numbers are down from the prior year, they are still higher than pre-COVID numbers:
 - 266 (2021 – 429) end-to-end badges,
 - 55 (2021 – 73) side trail badges,
 - 78 (2021 – 196) winter end-to-end badges,
 - 15 one day badges and
 - 105 of our new 60th anniversary badges were issued during 2022
- The Landowners' relations dinner, budgeted at \$6,100, was not held this year.
- The Club had an excess of expenses over revenues this year of \$4,956 which included a \$36,053 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, 2022, the Club was holding \$46,765 in cash.

Moved by Margaret Corner, seconded by Graham Allen that the TBTC Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 as previously circulated be accepted. Approved.

TBTC 2023 Budget Highlights

The highlights of the 2023 TBTC Budget include:

- A projected excess of expenses over revenues of \$14,560
- A planned BTC donation of \$20,000
- Trail maintenance expenses of \$7,250, the majority of which is lumber for structural repairs
- An in-person AGM at a projected cost of \$7,600

The 2023 budget was approved by the Board at the February 21, 2023 Board meeting.

7. Directors' Reports and Questions

The following questions were asked at the AGM:

Q1. Why did membership go down this year, and what is the Board doing about it?

Response: Membership this year went down due to various reasons. The increase in membership fees from the BTC coupled with the current economic situation has resulted in fewer members renewing their membership, and a bigger challenge with attracting new members.

To address this, the Board has several initiatives in place. This includes advertising to younger members, conducting hiker initiation programs and planning programming for urban hikes. The TBTC recognizes that there is a large population based in Toronto that may find it easier to go on hikes within the Toronto area.

Q2. What is the interest in Mississauga for the Toronto Bruce Trail club?

Response: There has been a lot of time invested in getting Mississauga residents to join the TBTC. There are options for those that stay in Mississauga to join bus hikes from Kipling station. There is also the Halton Hills Chapter, which some Mississauga residents attend its hikes.

Q3. Is there a way that the TBTC website could include information in different languages?

Response: We realize that the GTA is a multicultural centre and this is a valued question. Currently the website is in English-only, primarily because it would double the cost of the website to translate into just one language. For this reason we have no immediate intention to translate the website into other languages. We encourage anyone who wants to comment further, or propose some ideas to make the website more use-able, to contact our communications director, david.rowney@gmail.com.

Response: (see above with updated information) This suggestion is appreciated and will be passed on to the TBTC's Communications team.

No further questions were received at the AGM.

8. Nominating Committee Report

Margaret Corner presented the Nominating Committee slate of fourteen members for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club Board for 2023-24.

Returning Board Member Nominees:

Name	Position as of May 2022
David Royle	President
Louise Kent	Vice President and Membership Director
Graham Allen	Club representative to the BTC Board
Margaret Corner	Treasurer
Rhea Rasquinha	Secretary
Peter Pritchard	Land Securement and Landowner Relations Director
Laurent Thibault	Trail Maintenance Director
David Rowney	Communications Director
Alina Lin	Public Relations and Education Director
Tom Swales	Hiking Director
Juliet Williams	Special Events Coordinator
Neal Stein	Land Management Committee

First time nominations to the Board for 2023-24:

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

Moved by Margaret Corner, seconded by Rhea Rasquinha, that the slate of fourteen members be elected to the Board of Directors for the year 2023-24. Approved.

9. Presentation of Awards

The 2021 and 2022 winners of the Todd Bardes and Nina Carlisle awards were recognized:

Todd Bardes Award (2021): Jacquie Van Dyke

Todd Bardes Award (2022): David Rowney

Nina Carlisle Award (2021): Alina Lin

Nina Carlisle Award (2022): Rose-Mary Mitter

David Royle presented the 2023 Todd Bardes Award and Nina Carlisle award to the recipients.

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
 - Peter Pritchard, our Club's Land Securement and Landowner Relations Director
 - Andrew Prozhak, a dedicated Hike Leader
- For this year, the Todd Bardes Award was awarded to Margaret Corner for her substantial contributions to the TBTC.

Margaret Corner's Nomination

Margaret is an avid hiker, familiar with all parts of the Bruce Trail. She has completed the trail several times. Along the way, friendships and connections have developed and through them.

Margaret has learned many ways to make the TBTC even more successful. On her own time and initiative, she researched and developed the criteria for the side trail badge. She also has ideas for other badges. Margaret is the current club treasurer, a position she takes very seriously. She has learned who the other clubs' treasurers are and prides herself with keeping the TBTC current and abreast of all issues.

Margaret dedicates many hours to the Club, including

- Treasurer - approximately three years
- Nominating Committee - about 2.5 years (was a member and is now the chair)
- Badge Committee - developed criteria for the new side trail badge

She is also instrumental in sorting and updating the archives.

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.
- Nominations were received for the following volunteers:
 - John Cunningham: mapping and GPS tracking all the TBTC trails and trail features, being a Trail Captain and trail maintenance volunteer for over 23 years and assisting our Club's Land Stewards to map the BTC properties.
 - Jude Keast: 8 years as Badge Secretary, 9 years eNotes Advertising Coordinator and Office Mail Coordinator, and 5+ years as Trail Captain and trail maintenance volunteer.
 - Connie Soros: volunteer for trail work and biodiversity for 5 years, and service on the Club's Land Management Committee for 3 yrs.
 - Dave Tyson: TBTC President 2003 – 2008, Chair of the Club's Land Management Committee 2005 – 2020, Trail Captain for over 23 years, Hike Leader, Club representative to the BTC Land Securement Secretariat, and wrote the book "Trail to the Bruce".
- For this year, The Nina Carlisle Award is being awarded to John Cunningham.

John Cunningham's Nomination

John has been an active hiker for over 30 years and has introduced many people to the BTC over the years.

He has been mapping the trails through out the BTC on his GPS for many years and helpful in the development of each new trail guide. John has been working on trail maintenance projects in the Toronto section. He is a Trail Captain and supervises his section regularly cleaning up garbage. He attends and helps in mapping new trails. He supports land stewards when they need assistance in doing the 2x/year visits to heir properties.

John goes about doing what he can to assist in keeping the trails open for hikers. He is a very knowledgeable man and likes to share his skills, but in a very understated manner. He is always willing to go out and walk a new property or look for the property boundaries on existing properties. He has a complete and extensive log of all the properties and structures throughout the Toronto section. He is a strong example of a BTC volunteer.

C. Trail Maintenance Awards

Laurent Thibault awarded the Trail Maintenance Volunteer-of-the-Year award to Ian Grindall.

A relatively new volunteer to the Toronto section, Ian also helps out in the Iroquoia section. As an indication of his commitment to trail maintenance, Ian recently took the chainsaw training course, and has been coming out regularly to clear downed trees, and to other work parties. His regularly patrols his section of the trail as Trail Captain, and keeps it in top shape. As an added bonus, he sometimes brings out his wife Ann and daughter Emma to do trail work. If he is available, Ian always responds to the call, even if it involves stomping through deep snow or battling mosquitoes. He is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of the BTC.

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

- Jacques and Karen Martin: 5 years of service
- Reg and Colette Crosgrey: 5 years of service
- Angelika Sommer: 10 years of service

10. Other Business – None

**Moved by David Royle, seconded by Peter Pritchard, that the 2023 AGM be adjourned.
Approved.**

Time of Adjournment: 2:15pm

Minutes Prepared by: Rhea Raquinha

Next AGM: April 21, 2024

Appendix 2: Properties

TBTC Property	Acquired		Land Stewards	
1. McKague (Easement)	1994	27 Acres	Barb & Dave Young, 1998	Main Trail
2. Hardy	Acq. 1994	38 Acres	Lucia Lopez, 2021	Main Trail
3. Robertson South ST, Cliff Hatch ST	Acq. 2019	38 Acres	Rose-Mary Mitter, 2023	Main Trail, Speyside
4. Opavsky ST, 17 Sideroad ST	Acq. 1995	50 Acres	Ron Granger, 2023	Main Trail, Cliff Hatch
5. Speyside Woods ST, 17 Sideroad ST	Acq. 2001	100 Acres	Teresa Karolewski & Rod Fraser, 2001	Main Trail, Vanderleck
6. Speyside Sanctuary Hildebrandt ST,	Acq. 2010	144 Acres	Lois Bastell, 2015	Main Trail, Charles Canada Goose ST
7. Brown	Acq. 2021	3 Acres	Ron Granger, 2021	Main Trail
8. Cunningham	Acq. 2011	3 Acres	Ron Granger, 2020	Main Trail
9. Springle Meadowlands ST	Acq. 2001	39 Acres	Connie Soros & Mark Pottruff, 2020	Main Trail, Todd Bardes
10. Maple Ridge	Acq. 2017	69 Acres	Martha & Dirk Schrader, 2021	Main Trail, Ridge ST
11. Hammer	Acq. 2000	17 Acres	Neal Stein, 2023	No trail
12. Sinclair	Acq. 1995	31 Acres	Angelika Sommer, 2019	Main Trail
13. Duff Pit ST, Trafalgar ST	Acq. 2021	104 Acres (still pending possible severance of 15 Acres)	Paul Vanhanen, 2021	Duff Pit ST, Reservoir
14. Lan Kwan Sum	Acq. 2016	18 Acres	Jerry Bakker, 2019	Main Trail
15. Sanders	Acq. 2022	20 Acres		Main Trail
16. Weiser	Acq. 2001	22 Acres	Tim Foley, 2021	No trail
17. Kerr	Acq. 2001	7 Acres	Lynn McFerran, 2012	No trail