

2026

AGM

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB

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VOLUNTEER AWARDS:

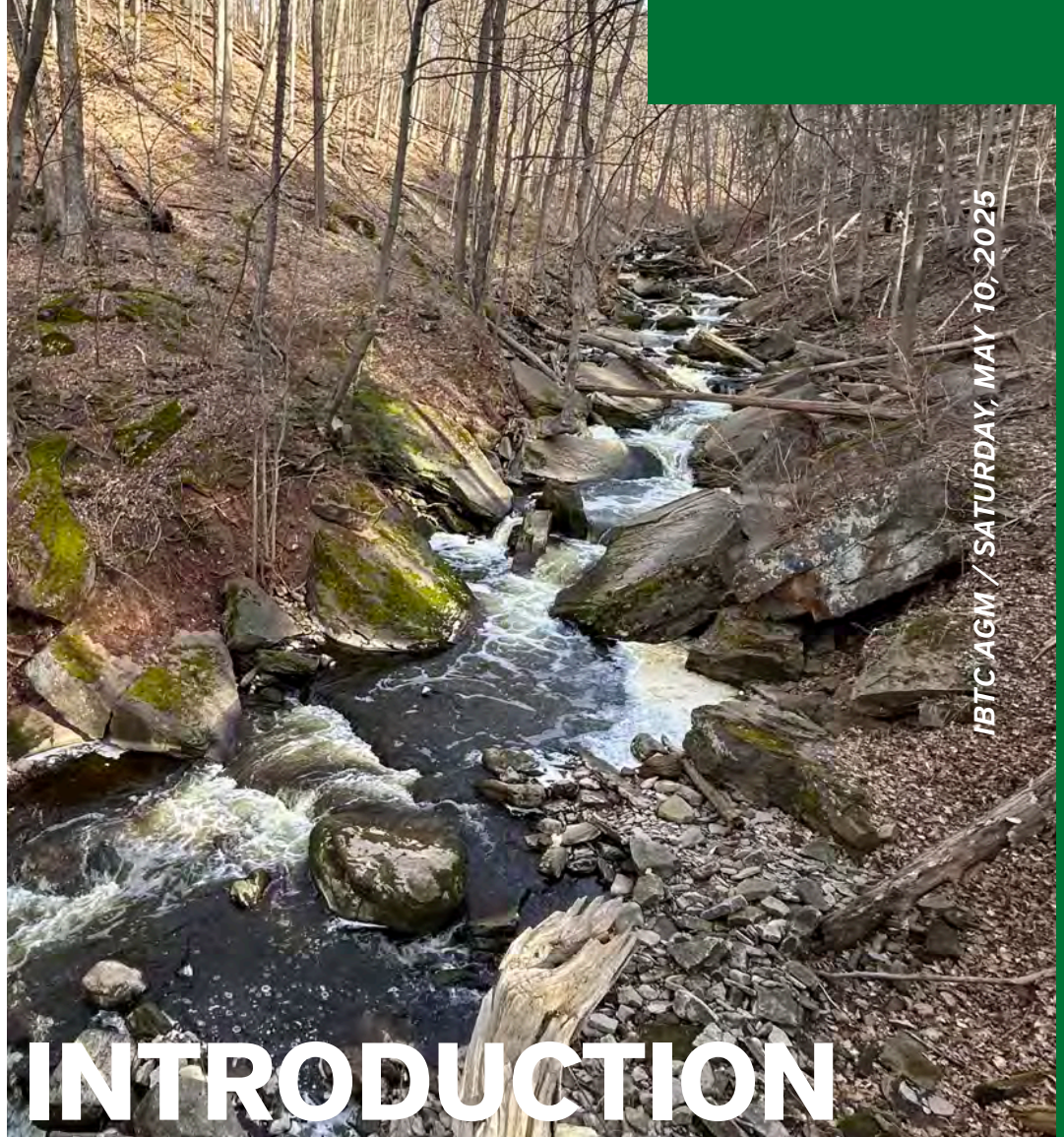
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IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB AGM 2026



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB



IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is one of nine member clubs that form the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Our mission is to preserve a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever. Accomplishing this goal means maintaining our land for the safety of wildlife and hikers, a 122 km stretch of trail that runs from Grimsby to Keslo.

Beginning in the south, the Iroquoia Section hugs the ancient shoreline of Lake Iroquoia, following the winding path of the Niagara Escarpment, and forming a horseshoe around the western end of Lake Ontario. While the Trail passes through a densely populated areas, for the most part the hiker will be walking on a woodland path with only occasional glimpses of the surrounding urban sprawl. Our Trail and its surrounding natural areas are home to many species of bird, plants and animals.

Iroquoia has an abundance of waterfalls, splashing their way over the Escarpment: Tiffany, Sherman, Webster's, Tew, and Borer's. Most of these waterfalls can be seen in a full day of hiking across the Dundas Valley. Largely the Iroquoia Trails cross parkland and conservation areas, with some parts of our Trail crossing private lands with special landowner permission. Without the goodwill and cooperation of the Landowners, the Bruce Trail could not exist. Please respect the lands you walk on!



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB



IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club wish to acknowledge and honour the lands of the Niagara Escarpment as the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Anishinaabek, Huron-Wendat, Tionontati, Neutral Nation, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia.

Recognition of the contributions of Indigenous peoples is consistent with our commitment to making the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and play here and thank all those who have served and continue to serve as caretakers of this special place.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our allies and relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing upon the strength of our mutual history through peace and friendship, to create a lasting legacy of conservation for generations to come.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB

AGENDA

IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB AGM

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2026

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The Westdale Theatre

1014 King Street West, Hamilton ON L8S 1L4

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

10:30 AM **GATHER, MIX & MINGLE IN THE WESTDALE**

11:00 AM **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment
Review 2025 AGM Minutes from May 10, 2025
President's Report
Club Financial Report
Nominations for Board of Directors

VOLUNTEER AWARDS PRESENTED:

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Commendation Award (<i>Hike</i>) | Karen Bergmann |
| Commendation Award (<i>Land Stewardship</i>) | Henriette Jansen |
| Friends of the Trail Award | 1st North Grimsby Venturers |
| Friends of the Trail Award | Al Merlo |
| Hike Award | Lynn Mighton |
| Hike Award | Bill Reilly |
| Public Education & Publicity Award | Doug O'Neill |
| Trail Maintenance Award | Paul Ford |
| Golden Shovel Award | Steve Brown |
| President's Award | Al Dundas |
| Volunteer of the Year Award | Joe Borges |

11:45 AM **ADJOURN AGM MEETING**

11:45 AM **LUNCH, MIX & MINGLE IN THEATRE & VICINITY**

12:30 PM **BRUCE TRAIL TALKS SESSION: DOORS OPEN TO PUBLIC**

1:00 PM **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION** by BTC CEO Michael McDonald
IBTC Lifetime Achievement Award **Ron Granger**

1:10 PM **INDIGENOUS TRAIL SYSTEMS** with Martin S. Cooper

1:30 PM **INDIGENOUS PRIORITIES** with Tim Johnson and Rick Hill Sr.

2:00 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION** with Tim, Rick, Martin and moderated by Michael McDonald

2:30 PM **CLOSING REMARKS** Michael McDonald



MINUTES OF 2025 AGM SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH, 306 PARKSIDE DR. WATERDOWN, ONTARIO

Board Members Present for AGM: Al Dundas, Alana Giustizia, Freddy Wang, Kathrin König, Cynthia Archer, Agnes Bongers, Joe Borges, Dan Lawlor, Nick Pankratz (departing), Peter Rumble, Susan O'Leary, Parvinder Sachdeva, Resham Chabra and Doug Stansbury

Regrets: James Jennings, Tiffany Ivey, Ruth Moffatt (departing), Cheri Chevalier (departing), Jessica Clark Barrow (departing).

PRELIMINARIES & NOTES:

- Inaugural Meet & Greet commencing at 11AM
- 40-Member quorum attained
- Lunch provided by Paradise Catering, commencing 12PM
- Additional homemade snacks/desserts provided by certain members voluntarily
- \$20 Suggested donation for lunch
- Inaugural member feedback survey used on table / digital with QR code

CALL TO ORDER - AL DUNDAS, PRESIDENT

- **Introduction and Land Acknowledgment**
- **Presentation of Minutes of 2024 AGM**
 - Opportunity for questions provided, none forthcoming
 - **Motion:** that the report from the 2024 Annual General Meeting for the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club as presented in the 2025 Annual General Meeting report be approved.
 - **Moved by** Anne Armstrong, **Seconded by** Paul Lewis. **Carried with none opposed.**
- **Introduction to 2025 Report**
 - Broad overview of report and objective-setting methodology
 - Highlights of objective-setting subgroups, reference to written report
 - "By the numbers" visualization
- **Financial Reporting - Freddy Wang, Treasurer**
 - Review of finances
 - Highlighted \$20k donation to BTC & healthy cash balance
 - Opportunity for questions provided, none forthcoming.
 - **Motion:** that the financial statements from the 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented in the 2025 Annual General Meeting report be approved.
 - **Moved by** Resham Chabra, **Seconded by** Susan O'Leary. **Carried with none opposed.**



- **Board Composition - Al Dundas, President**
 - Gratitude expressed to past or departing board members: Erica Weir (Director-at-Large), Julia Kole (Membership Director), Jordan Scott (Volunteer Director), Ruth Moffat (Hike Director), Jessica Clark Barrow (Fundraising Director), Nick Pankratz (Secretary/Archivist) and Cheri Chevalier (Publicity and Education Director);
 - New board introduced & those in attendance stood in acknowledgment;
 - **Motion:** that the 2025-2026 slate of Directors for the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Board of Directors as presented in the 2025 Annual General Meeting report be accepted.
 - **Moved by** Dale Skverekas, **Seconded by** Joe Verhaege. **Carried with none opposed.**

VOLUNTEER AWARDS - AL DUNDAS, PETER RUMBLE, CYNTHIA ARCHER

- Presented to recipients as determined in advance, in accordance with 2025 AGM Report:
 - **Trail Maintenance Award: Peter (Pete) Elliott** (presented by Peter Rumble);
 - **Friends of the Trail: Jeremy Fisher** (presented by Peter Rumble);
 - **Trail Director's Award: Pam Chakeris** (presented by Peter Rumble)
 - **Commendation Award: Paul McLenachan** (presented by Peter Rumble);
 - **Hike Award: Joe Gould** (presented by Parvinder Sachdeva);
 - **Commendation Award: Scott Faichnie** (presented by Parvinder Sachdeva);
 - **Commendation Award: Joe Borges** (presented by Parvinder Sachdeva);
 - **Conservation Award: Jason Miller** (presented by Cynthia Archer);
 - **Publicity and Education Volunteer: Kathrin Konig** (presented by Al Dundas);
 - **Commendation Award: Jordan Scott** (presented by Al Dundas);
 - **Volunteer of the Year: Freddy Wang** (presented by Al Dundas);
 - **Lifetime Achievement: Paul Toffoletti** (presented by Al Dundas)

IN MEMORIAM SLIDE FOR 6 MEMBERS WHO PASSED IN PRIOR YEAR

Motion to Adjourn – Joe Borges, **Seconded by** Russ Moore.

- END OF MINUTES -

POST-MEETING NOTE:

Guest Speaker: Mark Harris is the author of Waterfalls of Ontario, a guide to exploring and appreciating the best waterfalls in our province. The lasting popularity of waterfalls has led Firefly Books to release four editions over 20 years. In 1999, he created a website about waterfalls as a simple hobby project. Over time, the website evolved into waterfallsontario.com, serving as a grassroots guide for waterfall fans ever since. Mark proudly acknowledges that the website's success is due to the contributions of hundreds of Ontario explorers. Many of them have connected with one another through the "Waterfalls of Ontario" Facebook group, established in 2011. Mark's presentation will cover the many facets of 'waterfallology': the study and appreciation of waterfalls. As a career geographer and a licensed professional geoscientist, he aims to tell the full story of these intriguing places. Waterfalls teach us about geology, hydrology, history, power, and recreation. Mark will draw on examples from across the province, but also focus on the familiar sites of our Iroquoia region.





Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

IROQUOIA CLUB

DIRECTOR REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AL DUNDAS, PRESIDENT

The Iroquoia Club has continued to build on the strong foundation of past years. Great progress is being made in all aspects of the club, thanks to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, members and the club board.

The Land Steward and conservation program continues to make great strides, through ongoing support of the seed garden at McNally, invasive plant species management, significant progress on staking BTC properties, tree planting and ongoing stewardship of BTC owned properties. Land stewards have received training in the use of iNaturalist and Merlin, to assist with monitoring efforts on their property. All BTC properties have Land Stewards (and there is a waiting list of interested people), and land stewards are being assigned to new properties in Iroquoia as management plans for newly secured properties are completed by BTC staff ecologists.

THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR TD&M TEAM WAS RECOGNISED AT THE LAST BTC AGM LAST NOVEMBER, AS IROQUOIA RECEIVED TWO MAJOR AWARDS:

- The **BTC Susan Oleskevich Award** for outstanding trail worker was received by **Don Cangiano**.
- The **BTC Philip & Jean Gosling Award** for completing the year's most significant trail project was received by **Art Johnson and team**, for their impressive work on the Smokey Hollow stair replacement.

The team has invested thousands of hours in maintaining the trail, including building replacement bridges at Battlefield Park and Hopkins Creek, as well as rebuilding and expanding the Fisher's Pond boardwalk (200 feet in total). A labour of love for sure.

The club's hike program remains strong and innovative, with a number of excellent new hikes launched (Waterfall, Full Moon, Photography, iNaturalist/Merlin and Geology), to complement the regular program. Exciting new hikes are under development, including a series of Naturalist hikes. Our series of Rainbow hikes have been extremely successful and are seen as a real commitment from the club in supporting diversity and inclusion. The Trail Angels program is into its second year, and also continues to be a tremendous success. Lastly, Happy Trails Racing also organized a trail race on our section of the Bruce Trail in coordination with the club board, and supported the club through participant-based donations.

Our relationship with MEC Burlington continues to be strong and we are regularly promoting the BTC at their store. Information tables were also set up at a variety of local events once again this year, including Canada Day in Hamilton and the Connon Winter Market. A second Nicola Ross Author Session was held at the Oakville Public Library on November 19 to explore her 40 Hikes in 40 Days book. The first session in Waterdown earlier in the year was very popular, with many turned away due to seating limitations.

WE HAD A NUMBER OF VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENTS ONCE AGAIN IN THE PAST YEAR:

- We held our second Volunteer Recognition event in June, and will continue these going forward.
- The 10th anniversary Steel Town Stomp was a tremendous success. 200 participants who enjoyed glorious weather.
- The End to End in 4 was successful once again with 53 registered participants and also great weather.
- A Landowner Appreciation event was held in September, the first in recent years.
- Bruce Trail Day was held again at City View Park in Burlington. We had great weather and a good turnout. A Trail run and a geology hike were added to the usual adult and Childrens hikes.
- The annual New Years Day Hike and Volunteer Event was held at the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. 130 members and guests registered for hikes, and a great time was had by all.



Strong financial management and fund raising allowed us to once again make a \$20,000 donation to the BTC. As in past years, the donation has been applied to the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund which is matched dollar for dollar by a private anonymous donor. In the coming year we will once again review our financial position to determine if a donation to the BTC head office is possible.

Presidents of the 9 clubs continue to meet regularly with BTC CEO Michael McDonald through the year to discuss items of mutual concern.

My 3 year term as President has come to an end. It has been a wonderful experience, and the Iroquoia board has been an incredible group to work with. We are extremely fortunate to have Freddy Wang stepping into the role. Freddy is a past Volunteer of the Year award winner and to this point has held a dual portfolio on the board as both Treasurer and Director of Land Securement. Welcome Freddy!

All IBTC board roles are filled with the exception of Treasurer and Director-at-Large. Recruitment for these is actively underway, and Freddy will continue to act as Treasurer until a qualified replacement can be found.

NEW MEMBERS (OR NEW ROLES) AND VACANCIES ON THE BOARD ARE:

- **Freddy Wang** is now President and previously was Treasurer and Director of Land Securement
- **Al Dundas** is now Director of Land Securement and previously was President
- **Phil Miller** has joined the board as Director of Publicity and Public Education
- **Shayne Ward** has joined the board as Membership Director
- **Deborah Denman** has joined the board as Director-at-Large
- **Joe Borges** is now Hike Director and previously was Director-at-Large
- **James (Jamie) Jennings** is now Director-at-Large, and has been instrumental in organizing the upcoming Speaker Series
- **David Munford** is now Director-at-Large

Many thanks to **Parvinder Sachdeva**, and **Alana Giustizia** who have stepped down from the board in the past year. Each has made a significant contribution to the success of the Iroquoia club during their time on the board. We sincerely thank them for their time, energy and dedication to the Iroquoia club and the BTC.

We are excited about the coming new year and continuing this important work. Of particular note is the new **Bruce Trail Talks Speaker Series**, with 2 events planned in 2026. The first of these will be Indigenous Trails after the AGM on May 9th. The second will be On the Trail of Wellness, also held at the Westdale theater in Hamilton on October 18th (more details to follow). Also of note, the BTC is moving forward to request local government approval for a parking lot at the new Hollow Oak property, beside Guelph line. This is a very busy area for road traffic, with limited options for parking currently. A wonderful development that will be appreciated by all who hike in the area.

Al Dundas
President, Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club

IROQUOIA

BY THE NUMBERS



122 km
BTC WHITE TRAIL
 + 59 km Blue Side Trails

\$20,000
 IROQUOIA CLUB DONATION TO BTC

On-going removal of 10+ key invasive plant species
 including Garlic Mustard, Greater Celandine, Periwinkle, Dog-strangling vine, Phragmites, and Common Buckthorn

394 acres
 BTC managed land

255 plants
 / 11 species were **planted, mulched & watered** at Fisher's Pond

40%
expenditures for trail maintenance

2,680
VOLUNTEER HOURS
 Trail Captains + Monitors

115
 hazard trees removed

391
club hikes
 +62% from last year

More than 12 NATIVE SPECIES
 grown at the McNally Seed Orchard

1 SCOUT GROUP
 supporting our conservation efforts

4,100
Facebook followers
 (+18% in 3 years)

2,532
Instagram followers
 (+23% in 3 years)

72 volunteer applications

703 badges issued

21 TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES
 =732 volunteer hours

300+ dedicated volunteers
 generously contributing passion, skills & time

4,000 subscribers
 to the Quarterly eNewsletter

VOLUNTEERS BY GROUP:

- Trail Maintenance: 142
- Hike Leaders: 51
- Conservation: 50
- Land Ambassadors: 10
- Land Stewards: 23
- Communications & Publicity: 3
- Event Ambassadors: 15
- Board Members: 15
- Trail Angels: 37

Moved 383 meters of trail onto Optimum Route in Stoney Creek area

109 Rides
 from 37 Trail Angels



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY
 IROQUOIA CLUB

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

***NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB FOR THE 2026-2027 TERM ARE:***

- Cynthia Archer
- Joe Borges
- Amy Cao
- Deborah Denman
- Al Dundas
- Susan O’Leary
- Tiffany Ivey
- James Jennings
- Kathrin König
- Dan Lawlor
- David Munford
- Peter Rumble
- Doug Stansbury
- Freddy Wang
- Shayne Ward

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026



TREASURER'S REPORT

FREDDY WANG, TREASURER

Our fiscal year ended **March 31, 2026** was another successful financial year.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Donation to the Bruce Trail Conservancy: **\$20,000**
- Net income: **\$360**
- % of expenditures used to maintain trail: **40%**
- Cash at end of year: **\$28,904**

IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

| | 2025 | 2026 | Budget | of Budget |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| BTC membership and trail fees | 22,638 | 23,082 | 22,700 | 102% |
| Donations | 12,569 | 11,196 | 25,425 | 44% |
| Hikes and badges | 17,110 | 14,913 | 15,500 | 96% |
| Fundraising and events | 12,144 | 12,117 | 12,275 | 99% |
| Interest revenue | 368 | 180 | 250 | 72% |
| Total income | 64,829 | 61,488 | 76,150 | 81% |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Donation to BTC | 20,000 | 20,000 | - | |
| Hikes and badges | 6,712 | 5,875 | 7,120 | 83% |
| Fundraising and events | 6,717 | 6,094 | 6,390 | 95% |
| Media and communications | 1,703 | 1,732 | 2,250 | 77% |
| Trail, development & maintenance | 25,352 | 24,265 | 43,900 | 55% |
| Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations | 62 | 1,253 | 1,500 | 84% |
| Volunteer recognition | 1,358 | 863 | 1,800 | 48% |
| Office and Admin Expenses | 996 | 1,046 | 1,190 | 88% |
| Total expenses | 62,900 | 61,128 | 64,150 | 95% |
| NET ACTIVITIES | 1,929 | 360 | 12,000 | 3% |

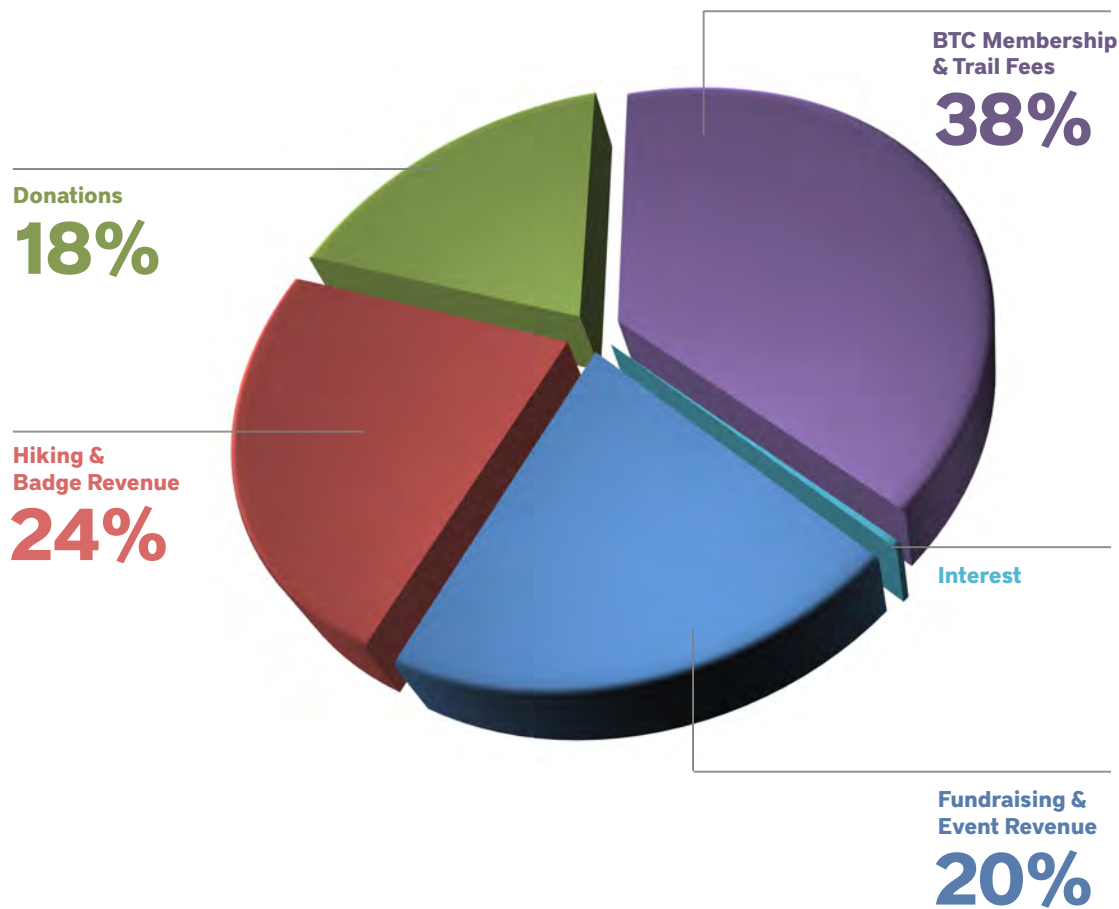


INCOME

OVERVIEW

The majority of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club's income is from **four primary sources**:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| BTC Memberships: | \$11 of every \$75 Iroquoia membership fee is received by the club |
| Donations: | The Bruce Trail Conservancy funds significant trail improvement projects, which helps manage the variability of cash flows from year-to-year. Other donations were received from the Trail Angel program and the Happy Trails organization for the new Lost Valleys Trail Race event. |
| Hike Event & Badges: | Badge sales, hiking events (Club End-to-End) and fundraising hikes (Stained Glass E2E, City of Waterfalls, Steeltown Stomp, Full Moon Hikes) |
| Fundraising & Events: | Merchandise sales and funds received from non-hike events (AGM donations) |



CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITY

BTC Memberships:

Paid memberships increased by 2% from the prior year.

Donations:

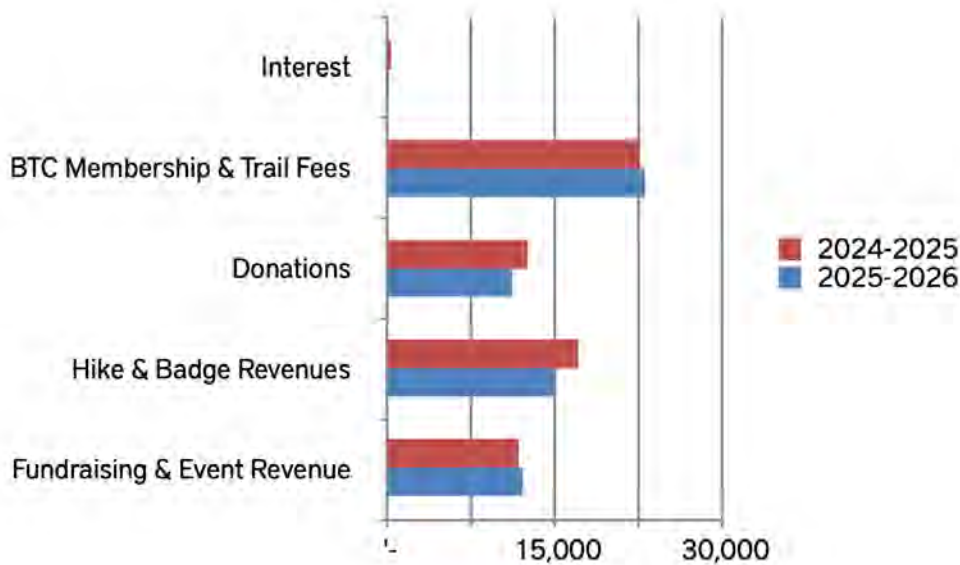
Donations fluctuate from year-to-year, depending on funding received for capital projects. \$7,833 was received in the current year from the Bruce Trail Conservancy from its Trail, Development and Maintenance Endowment Fund. \$1,500 was received

Hike Event & Badges:

Hike and badge revenues decreased by 13% due to lower attendance for the official E2E and badges revenues, offset by a \$1,400 increase from City of Waterfalls hikes

Fundraising & Events:

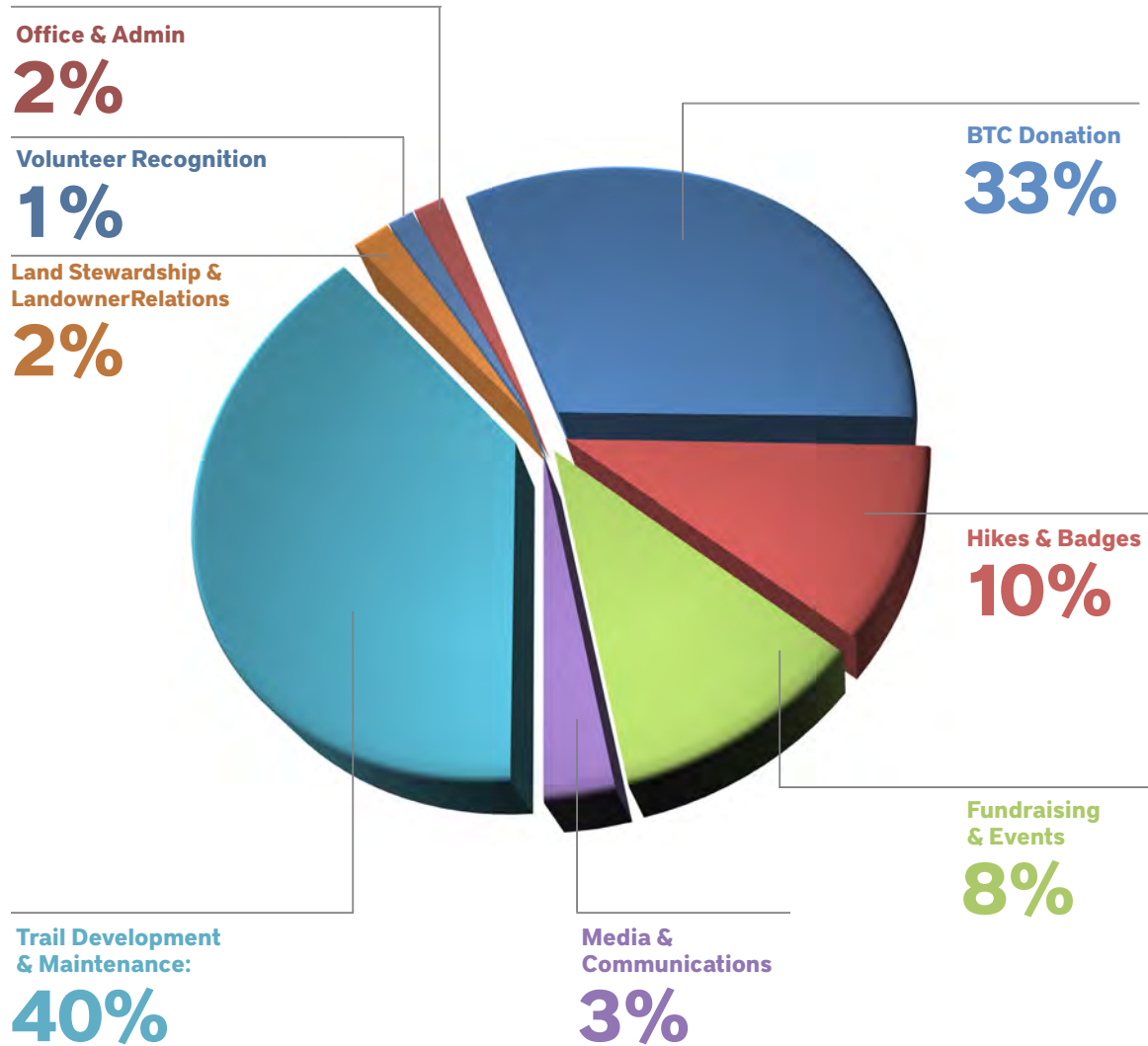
Sales of merchandise at additional venues helped boost these revenues by 3%.



EXPENSES

OVERVIEW

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club uses the majority of its funds to maintain the trails and infrastructure in its section, hold various hiking, member and volunteer events, and fund other necessary Club operations. Any excess funds are donated to the Bruce Trail Conservancy.



CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITY

Trail Development & Maintenance:

\$11,171 was incurred related to capital projects for infrastructure, while the remainder was used for supplies and equipment for ongoing maintenance, as well as smaller projects..

BTC Donation:

The Iroquoia BTC Board approves a donation to the BTC, after consideration of forecasted cash flows and a minimum required cash balance to sustain ongoing operations.

Hike Events & Badges:

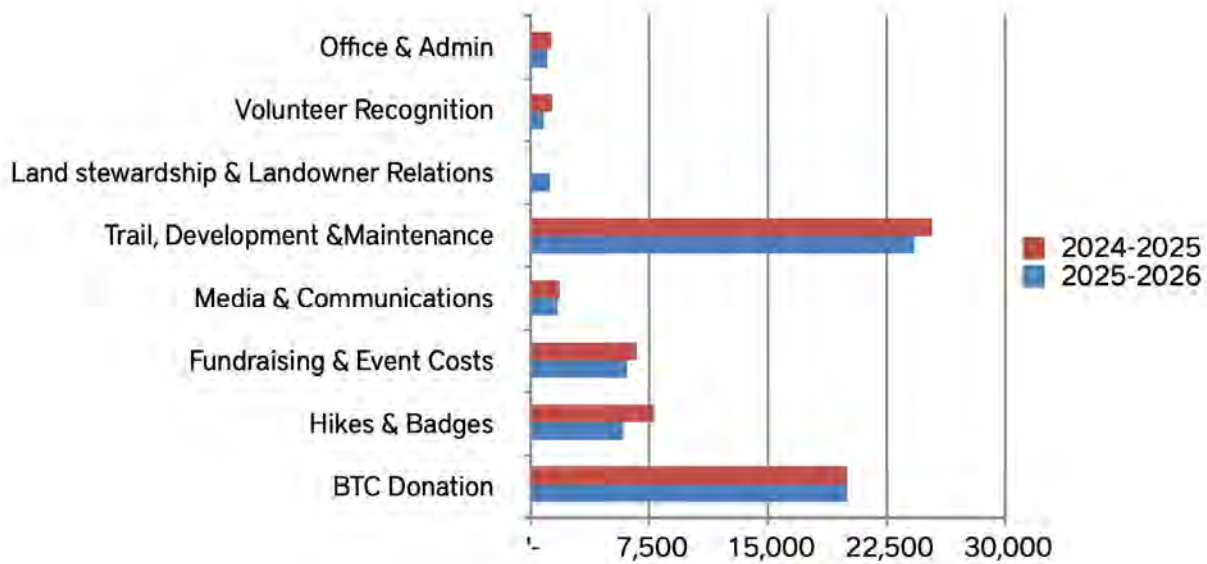
Decreased attendance at the official E2E resulted in lower costs (transportation, parking, and checkpoint supplies).

Fundraising & Events:

New Iroquoia merchandise (Tshirts + Towels) as well as BTC merchandise was purchased for sale at events.

Land Stewardship & Landowner Relations:

A landowner appreciation event was held for the first time in Iroquoia.



NET ASSETS

OVERVIEW

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club's assets and liabilities at year-end consisted of:

| | |
|--|--|
| Cash in Bank: | The Iroquoia BTC maintains sufficient cash for current and future operations. Approximately \$10,000 is retained in a savings account that generates interest. |
| Accounts Receivable: | Balance due from the Bruce Trail Conservancy, as membership fees and event revenues are paid to the Clubs the month after collection. There is also a small balance due from an advertiser. |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities: | Expense reimbursements to volunteers and vendor invoices owing at the month-end, which are paid the following month. |
| Deferred Revenue: | A Hike Ontario grant which will offset expenses to be incurred the next year, as well as revenues received for FY27 events (AGM, speaker series) which will be recognized when the event occurs. |

IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - AS AT MARCH 31, 2026

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Net Assets: | |
| Net Assets - beginning of year | 29,118 |
| Net Activities for the year | 360 |
| Net Assets - end of year | 29,478 |
| Represented by: | |
| Cash in bank | 28,904 |
| Accounts receivable | 2,077 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (118) |
| Deferred revenue | (1,385) |
| | 29,478 |

2025-2026 BUDGET

We look forward to the next year, exercising due care and financial stewardship over the Club's net assets.

HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|--|---|
| Donations Revenue / Trail Development & Maintenance | There are three significant capital projects totaling \$31,300 which will be funded from the Bruce Trail Conservancy's Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund |
| Hike Events & Badges | Both revenue and expenses are expected to increase with higher attendance at the official End-to-End event |
| Fundraising & Events: | Two new Speaker Series events are budgeted to raise \$10,000 in total |
| BTC Donation: | The amount of BTC donation is determined by the Board as the year progresses, and thus is not included in the budget event. |

IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

BUDGETED ACTIVITIES - FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2026

| | 2025 - 26 Actual | 2026 - 27 Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| BTC member and trail fess | 23,082 | 23,400 |
| Donations | 11,196 | 34,300 |
| Hike events and badge | 14,913 | 18,350 |
| Fundraising and events | 12,117 | 23,250 |
| Interest revenue | 180 | 150 |
| Total income | 61,488 | 99,450 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| BTC donation | 20,000 | 0 |
| Hike events and badges | 5,875 | 10,300 |
| Fundraising and events | 6,094 | 6,830 |
| Media and communications | 1,732 | 2,750 |
| Trail development and maintenance | 24,265 | 56,600 |
| Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations | 1,253 | 2,700 |
| Volunteer recognition | 863 | 1,300 |
| Office and admin | 1,046 | 1,250 |
| Total expenses | 61,128 | 81,730 |
| Net activities | 360 | 17,720 |

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Board takes great care in managing funds entrusted to us, while delivering on the various initiatives and activities planned for the year. We've donated over \$220,000 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy over the last eleven year (for which records are available).

I have enjoyed the role of Treasurer for the last three years, continuing the legacy of Joe Gould, who unfortunately passed away this year. I will continue as the Acting Treasurer until a new Treasurer is identified.

Freddy Wang, Treasurer



VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TIFFANY IVEY, VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

This past year has been one of meaningful transition, renewed energy, and continued dedication across our volunteer community. **We had an impressive 72 people submit applications to volunteer with the IBTC**, with more than 41 of them expressing interest in trail maintenance, trail monitoring, and trail captain roles. The next most popular area was Land Stewardship, which drew interest from 10 applicants. It's encouraging to see so many people wanting to get involved in caring for the trail and the land around it.

We also experienced quite a bit of movement in board roles this year, reflecting both the natural evolution of volunteer commitments and the resilience of our club as new leaders step forward. At the moment, we have **three IBTC board positions open: Fundraising Director, Treasurer, and Vice President**. If you—or someone you know—has the passion and time to step into one of these roles, we'd be thrilled to hear from you.

Several board members completed their terms or moved on to other roles this year. After three years as President, **Al Dundas** has finished his term. Al has been instrumental to IBTC's success during his term and will bring knowledge and experience in his next role as Land Securement Director. **Alana Giustizia** moved on from her role as Vice President, while **Freddy Wang** stepped out of both the Treasurer and Land Securement positions, to assume the IBTC President role and **Parvinder Sachdeva** wrapped up his time as Hike Director. We are deeply grateful to **Alana** and **Parvinder** for everything they've contributed during their time with us.

Several other board members stepped into new roles; **Joe Borges** is leading our hiking program as the new Hike Director. **Shayne Ward** stepped into the Membership Director role earlier in the year, **Phil Miller** took over Publicity and Public Education, and **Dan Lawlor** has assumed the role of Secretary and Archivist.

We were also excited to welcome three new Directors at Large: **James Jennings**, who has been doing a great job leading the Speakers' Series, along with **Deb Denman** and **David Munford**. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives have already made a positive impact.

The strength of the Bruce Trail Conservancy lies in the people who give their time, talent, and passion to protect and steward the land we all care about. **To all our volunteers—whether you're maintaining trails, serving as land stewards, leading hikes, monitoring trail conditions, acting as landowner ambassadors, helping with events, supporting board work, or contributing in your own quiet way—thank you.** Without you, none of our conservation work would happen.

And to the rest of the board members who weren't mentioned by name here: your hard work and commitment do not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything you do.



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Objective: To build on recruiting, engaging, and recognizing a diverse and active volunteer base that serves as ambassadors for the trail and the club. This objective remains aligned with the club’s longterm sustainability, leadership development, and community impact.

3-YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS (2025-2028)

| | |
|---|---|
| Volunteer Development: | Establish and maintain a strong pipeline of emerging volunteers to ensure continuity and succession across all major club functions. |
| Board Support: | Expand volunteer support for board members by building teams around each director to distribute workload |
| Structured Volunteer Onboarding: | Develop and implement a clear, accessible onboarding process that makes it easy for volunteers to get involved and understand expectations. |
| Enhanced Volunteer Engagement: | Strengthen the volunteer experience through recognition, communication, and opportunities for meaningful involvement. |
| Director-Level Sufficiency: | Ensure each director has the volunteer base needed to meet current and future operational requirements through both attraction and retention. |

3-YEAR GOALS KPI

| | |
|--|---|
| Leadership Identification: | Each director identifies key members who can assist their base. |
| Organizational Clarity: | Improved understanding of club structure and processes across the volunteer base. |
| Improvement in Annual BTC Survey Results: | Demonstrated yearoveryear improvement in volunteer satisfaction and engagement metrics. |
| Volunteer Self Assessment Survey: | Integration of a volunteer selfassessment component into the annual survey cycle. |

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR GOALS (2025-2026)

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Strategic Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a volunteer base to support fundraising activities. • Enhance the overall level of volunteer engagement. • Expand the volunteer base for club activities beyond TD&M and Land Stewards. • Determine succession plans for key Board roles and positions. |
| Quantitative Targets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteers to support fundraising (director) activities. • Achieve measurable improvement in volunteer survey results. • Identify volunteers with additional skills and interests. • Enable early and proactive identification of volunteer needs and potential successors. |

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

The committee has made strong progress in strengthening our onboarding structure, including the creation of a standardized template that will be sent to all individuals who apply to volunteer. Results from the annual BTC survey show that volunteers continue to rate the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club as a great place to volunteer. However, the survey also highlights areas where we can improve—particularly in our communication with prospective volunteers. We acknowledge this feedback and remain committed to addressing these gaps.

Key next steps include: Improving communication with volunteer applicants. Advancing the volunteer base sufficiency survey for directors. Expanding volunteer recruitment for fundraising and broader club activities. These actions will support both the current fiscal year goals and the longterm strategic direction of building a resilient, engaged, and diverse volunteer community.



TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE REPORT

PETER RUMBLE, TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Thanks to the efforts of our 142 trail maintenance volunteers including 63 trail captains, 56 trail monitors and 35 unassigned trail workers for their ongoing efforts to maintain our ribbon of wilderness along the Niagara Escarpment. Their volunteer job of maintaining a safe and accessible footpath has not been easy during the past several years due to substantially increased trail use (a good thing) combined with at times a volatile weather environment with excessive winds and rain. Trail maintenance activities of maintaining the footpath, blazing, trimming, benching, garbage collection and hazard tree removal all must go on.

Thanks to our Iroquoia trail management team: Joe Verhaeghe, Paul Ford, Art Johnston, Daryl Keays, Richard Pomeroy, Christine Nicole, Peter Morin and Mike Koster. Everyone's volunteer effort is much appreciated by the Iroquoia Club, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Bruce Trail hikers and other trail users.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Trail Maintenance Volunteers: 140 +/-
- Trail Captains: 63
- Trail Monitors: 56
- Trail Workers: 35
- 2025 Trail Status Reports: 100% submitted
- 2,680 Volunteer Hours (trail captain & monitors)
- 2025 Work Parties: 21 work parties / 115 trees / 732 volunteer hours
- 2025 ITD&M Committee: 2,380 volunteer hours

Trail captains are required to submit a formal report (TSR) on the status of their section of main and side trails annually, fall and spring. These are used by the club to plan work and also passed on to the BTC for risk management. The Iroquoia Club has continued to maintain a 100 % completion rate. Thanks to the data management team of Christine Gibson and Richard Pomeroy.

TRAIL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

With the goal of ensuring a safe pathway, hazard tree removal continues to be important job for all. In addition to the Club's seven certified sawyers, John Flatt a professional arborist is hired to remove difficult trees. Over 200 trees are cut each year.

Replacing old infrastructures has become a growing challenge. Projects completed include new stairs at Smokey Hollow; bridges at Hopkin's Creek and Battlefield Park; and boardwalks at River and Ruin and Fisher's Pond.

Project and Crew Photos on the following pages.

Peter Rumble
Trail Development and Maintenance Director



Removing Hazard Trees for the Trail



Stairs at Smokey Hollow



IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB

Rockcliffe Side Trail and Fisher's Pond Boardwalks



IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Hopkin's Bridge Replacement



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB



Battlefield Park Bridge Replacement



IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

**VOLUNTEERS
AT WORK...
AND PLAY**





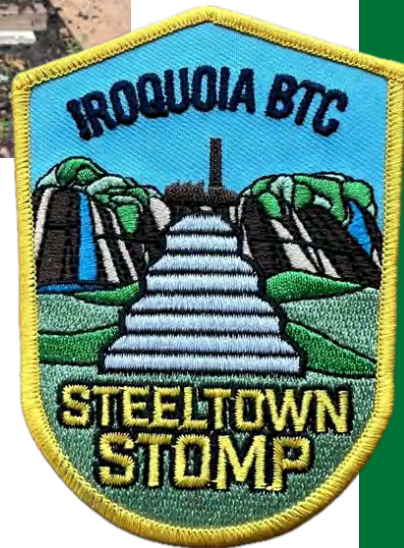
IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026



STEELTOWN STOMP 2025

Another successful Saturday, October 4th event. Some 200 hikers registered for the 9th annual 2025 Steeltown Stomp. A enjoyable day going up and down some 2,000 escarpment stair steps and 23 kms seeing waterfalls, city views and natural areas. All along the Niagara Escarpment. Thanks to the hard working 12 Iroquoia Club volunteers under the guidance of Leslie Ho, Event Coordinator.

Event net proceeds approximately \$6,220.



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
IROQUOIA CLUB

HIKE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARVINDER SACHDEVA, HIKE DIRECTOR

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

OVERVIEW

This report covers my tenure as Hike Director from May 2025 through January 2026. I want to begin by thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve in this role and for the support shown throughout. It has been a privilege to contribute to the hiking program, and I am genuinely pleased to be passing the role to Joe Borges, a capable, creative, and deeply committed member of our community who I am confident will take the program to new heights.

HIKING PROGRAM

The hiking program continued to grow during this period, building on the strong foundation established under Ruth Moffatt's leadership. Hike volume remained high across the spring and summer months, with particular strength in End-to-End and special event hikes.

Monthly Hike Volume (April 2025 – March 2026): 391 Total Hike Entries*

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| April'25: 28 hike entries | August'25: 30 hike entries | December'25: 24 hike entries |
| May'25: 32 hike entries | September'25: 32 hike entries | January'26: 28 hike entries |
| June'25: 32 hike entries | October'25: 42 hike entries | February'26: 40 hike entries |
| July'25: 15 hike entries | November'25: 38 hike entries | March'26: 50 hike entries |

**One entry may have multi-day hikes*

Hike volume grew year-over-year across the reporting period, with particular strength in End-to-End and special event hikes. The program continued to diversify in meaningful ways, with strong participation in Rainbow Hikes, nature and educational outings, family-friendly hikes, and evening hikes, all contributing to a broader and more inclusive offering. Special-interest hikes such as Yoga Hikes and the Camino series added further variety, and demand remained strong across both weekdays and weekends throughout the season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Iroquoia End-to-End (September 20–21 & 27–28, 2025)**
 After 25 years, the Iroquoia End-to-End introduced a new badge featuring the Hooded Warbler, a species at risk in our region and found within the Iroquoia section of the trail. The badge was designed by Joe Borges and replaces the legacy design that had been in place for the past decade or more. Final registration reached 52 participants. Checkpoint coordination was managed diligently by Joyce despite last-minute volunteer changes, and trail conditions were prepared in close collaboration with Peter Rumble and the Trail Maintenance team.
- Steeltown Stomp (October 4, 2025)**
 The Steeltown Stomp sold out, reflecting continued strong demand for this signature event. This is a credit to the hike leaders and volunteers who make it run smoothly each year.
- Bruce Trail Day (October 5, 2025, City View Park, Burlington)**
 This year's theme was "Connections on the Trail," celebrating how the Bruce Trail brings people together with nature, with one another, and across the Escarpment. Several hike leaders led themed hikes spanning



birdwatching, photography, geology, and family-friendly options. A trail run, the Smokey Hollow Hustle, was also organized as part of the celebration.

- **Lost Valley Trail Race (November 15, 2025)**

Happy Trails Racing organized a trail race on our section of the Bruce Trail, with \$10 donated to IBTC per participant. The event featured a 25K (Cityview Park to Dundas Valley) and a 10K (Rock Chapel to Dundas Valley). Feedback from the organizers was very positive, with runners consistently praising trail quality and blazing. The event generated \$1,560 in donations to the Club, a meaningful new fundraising stream worth building on in future years.

TRAIL ANGELS PROGRAM

The Trail Angels program continued to perform well throughout my tenure.

Annual Summary (April 2025 - March 2026):

Total ride requests: **109** Requests filled: **96** Fill rate: **88%**

| Monthly Breakdown: | Requests | Filled | Fill Rate |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| April'25 | 8 | 8 | (100%) |
| May'25 | 13 | 10 | (76.9%) |
| June'25 | 17 | 17 | (100%) |
| July'25 | 9 | 9 | (100%) |
| August'25 | 6 | 6 | (100%) |
| September'25 | 6 | 6 | (100%) |
| October'25 | 27 | 21 | (75%) |
| November'25 | 12 | 11 | (91.7%) |
| December'25 | 1 | 1 | (100%) |
| January'26 | 1 | 1 | (100%) |
| February'26 | 5 | 3 | (60%) |
| March'26 | 4 | 3 | (60%) |

The primary reasons for unfilled requests were insufficient notice, multi-dog requests, or no driver availability for specific time windows. **The program had 37 active Trail Angel volunteers as of mid-year.** October saw a significant spike in requests, which is worth monitoring as a seasonal pattern for future planning.

HIKE LEADER TRAINING & RECRUITMENT

Ruth Moffatt conducted a Certified Hike Leader training session in January 2026 under the Hike Ontario framework. The following individuals attended: **Lois Corey, Muskan Sidana, Robert McArthur, Shayne Ward, Igor Trusov, James Jennings, Kathrin König, Kathy Rymal, Kirsten McCarthy, Kristen Rose, and Howard Cheng. And we just added Jennifer DeBoer who completed her training directly with Hike Ontario.**

Several of these leaders began posting hikes shortly after completing training. Ongoing recruitment and retention of hike leaders should remain a priority, and continued coordination between the Hike Director and Volunteer Director on this front is encouraged.



PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- New Official End-to-End Badge: Hooded Warbler**

The new E2E badge design was approved and introduced for the 2025 event. The Hooded Warbler was selected as a species at risk recognized by Conservation Halton and present within the Iroquoia section. The badge introduces a bird species to complement the existing lineup and modernizes a design that had been in place for over a decade. Credit to Joe Borges for the design work.
- Stained Glass Badges: Independent Hiker Access**

Following feedback from multiple clubs, we confirmed support for opening Stained Glass badges to independent hikers, reducing dependence on hike leader availability. Freddy Wang developed a proposal outlining three options: independent completion, a paid fundraising hike, or a non-fundraising hike where either the Stained Glass or traditional E2E badge may be earned.
- Badge Committee Relaunch**

The Badge Committee was relaunched with the following members: Joe Borges, Steven White, Freddy Wang, Asia Shin, and Corina Seceleanu. The committee will meet twice per year to provide guidance on badge design, restocking, and overall program direction.
- Let's Hike! Workshop**

The Let's Hike! workshop for new hikers continued in 2025, with sessions held in June. This program, introduced under Ruth's tenure and supported by a \$1,750 municipal grant from the Town of Grimsby, remains an important pipeline for newer members and first-time hikers.
- BTC Paid Hike Refund Policy**

The BTC finalized a standardized refund policy for paid hikes across all clubs. **Key terms: refunds considered on request with a 10% processing fee, must be submitted more than 30 days in advance; full refunds if cancelled by the Club; no refunds for no-shows.**

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: HIKE PROGRAM FINDINGS

Out of 2,878 survey respondents, 949 (33%) participated in at least one club hike. Satisfaction was very high, with **over 90% satisfied or very satisfied**. Common areas for improvement included difficulty judging pace and distance, variability in difficulty ratings, and fewer options for slower or shorter hikes. **Suggestions included regular new-member hikes, clearer hike descriptions, and expanded difficulty and pacing options, all worth factoring into 2026 planning.**

2026 EVENT DATES DATES FOR OUR KEY EVENTS ARE:

- Iroquoia End-to-End: September 19-20 and 26-27, 2026
- Steeltown Stomp: October 03, 2026
- Bruce Trail Day: October 04, 2026

CLOSING NOTE

Serving as Hike Director has been a rewarding experience, and I leave the role with deep appreciation for the volunteers, hike leaders, and Board members who make this program what it is. The hiking program is in excellent hands with Joe Borges. Joe brings creativity, dedication, and genuine care for this Club to everything he does. I look forward to continuing to support the Club as a volunteer, and I wish Joe and the full Board a strong 2026.

Parvinder Sachdeva
Hike Director (May 2025 – January 2026)

INTRODUCTION

Thank you Parvinder for helping transition the Hike Director role over, your knowledge and guidance is greatly appreciated—you leave a great Hike Program. Stepping into the role in early 2026, I'd like to thank all our hike leader volunteers, and ask for their continued support and new ideas. Iroquoia has a vibrant program supported by Badge Keepers, Trail Angels, and the dedicated Hike Leader team.

PROGRAM INNOVATIONS & UPDATES

- **Naturalist Hike Series “Discovering Nature, One Hike at a Time”** – with Wetlands (Apr 30), Nature Sketching (May 30), Forest Bathing (May 31) Ideas in development: fern walks, fungus hikes, nature ID apps, raptors, trees, butterflies, geology. Thanks Ruth Moffatt and team for this series!
- **Themed Series Growth** – Boots and Books (monthly trail-based book club) and Rucking (functional fitness hiking) attracting new participants. Thanks Ruth Moffatt and Karen Capindale-Smith.
- **Full MoonNight Hikes** – Booked through May with strong attendance of 40+ per hike; we’re exploring later or earlier summer start time, including the Strawberry Moon on June 29.
- **IBTC what3words APP CHALLENGE** – potentially late fall 2026
- **BTC Passport to Nature** – Summer 2026–2027 program targeting first-time/new hikers; four Iroquoia events have been submitted March 10
- **Rainbow Hike**: Pi Day on March 14 (International Pi Day)

OPERATIONAL

NEW Bruce Peninsula National Park / Parking Coordination + Process.

We are now using a shared spreadsheet when planning any organized hike that requires parking at one of the Bruce Peninsula National Park (BPNP) lots. This document is shared with BPNP Staff, allowing them to anticipate demand for parking spaces and prepare gate staff accordingly and avoid parking conflicts.

Our Hike Leader List has been reviewed, vetted and adjusted, we currently have 51 Iroquoia Hike Leaders. Thanks to Anne Armstrong for assisting with the audit. And thanks Ruth Moffatt for her continued work on recruiting, education and getting Leaders off to a great start.

HIKE BADGES PERFORMANCE

TOTAL BADGES ISSUES: 703 (Jan-Dec 2025) / 285 (Jan-Mar 2026)

Year-over-year results show growth:

| Period | 2025 | 2026 | Change | % Change |
|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| JAN-MAR | 168 | 285 | +117 | +59% |

City of Waterfalls had a winter series completed in March; with April + May booked, energizing participation / CoW also now has the self-directed option. Two club-led E2E in Six events drove badge sales, while BTC wide adoption of self-directed Stained-glass Series should increase sales. New Full Moon Badge increased sales and hike participation, including new members and first time hikers. 2026 outlook: Spring/summer will be very active with some new innovative hikes. Also, with the addition of the Passport to Nature as a new promotional channel to increase new hikers/new members. we hope to have a strong E2E in September. And October 2025 saw peak seasonal demand (236 badges) with another successful Steeletown Stomp and holiday/fall season hike opportunities.

Joe Borges
Hike Director (February 2026 - current)

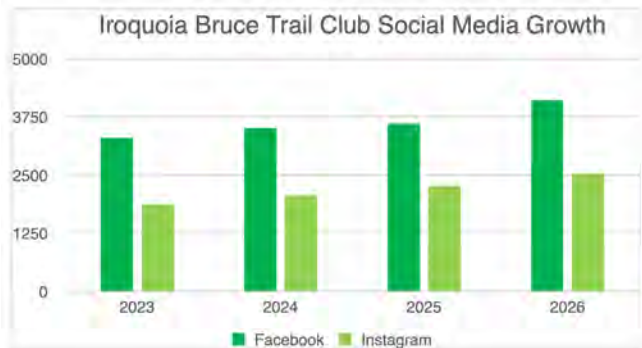


COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

KATHRIN KÖNIG, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

GROWTH HAS CONTINUED ACROSS OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

- **Facebook has grown almost 18% in last 3 years, and we now have over 4,100 followers!**
Follow us on Facebook at: Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club
- **Instagram has grown over 23% in 3 years, and we now have 2,532 followers!**
Follow us on Instagram at @iroquoiabrucetrailclub



Our goal is to offer pertinent content related to hikes, conservation efforts, news from the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Club News and Events, and stories from the trail. Reels are being incorporated more regularly as an engaging way to share information, footage from events and more.

CURRENT INSTAGRAM FEED



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA EFFORTS?

- 1. Follow us on social media.** “Like” and “Share” our content to help us increase our reach and engagement.
- 2. If you have stories and photos from the trail** that you would like us to share on our official channels – please reach out and we can work together.
Email: info@iroquoia.on.ca
- 3. Tag us! If you post about the trail on your personal social** media accounts, add our account name or hashtag #iroquoiabrucetrail to help drive awareness and engagement.

E-NOTES/NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly digital newsletter is running strong, and in 2025-2026 we continue to have paid advertisers. Thank you to our advertisers who help us fulfill our mission. **Missed a newsletter?** Please ensure your membership information is up to date as we base our electronic newsletter distribution on this. **Not subscribed yet?** Past newsletters are available on our website at: www.iroquoia.on.ca/about-us

WEBSITE

We are looking at a complete website refresh for 2026. Stay tuned for some exciting updates and don't forget to check our site regularly for news, events, and club information. www.iroquoia.on.ca

Kathrin König, Communications Director

LANDOWNER RELATIONS REPORT

SUSAN O'LEARY, LANDOWNER RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Landowner Relations focuses on land securement for the preservation of Niagara Escarpment lands from Niagara to Tobermory. We work to maintain and develop relationships with landowners to help fulfil the longterm BTC goal of preserving a ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever. Landowner Relations Ambassadors are key to achieving this goal. The attainment of Kilbride Pass and Hollow Oak are good examples of successful land securement based on longterm relationships with landowners.

LANDOWNER AMBASSADORS WORK TOWARD THE BTC GOAL OF LAND SECUREMENT. STRATEGIES IN LANDOWNER RELATIONS INCLUDE:

- Division of IBTC landowners into sections, with ambassadors responsible for a small number of landowners
- Identification of target landowners and development of strategies to build and maintain relationships
- Maintaining relationships with IBTC landowners, responding to concerns and encouraging conversation related to BTC land securement
- Collaboration with BTC staff on opportunities and strategies for land acquisition

THE IROQUOIA LANDOWNER RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS ACTIVE IN 2025/26:

- Regular touchpoints with landowners including
- Calendar delivery in the fall
- Honey delivery in the spring
- Responding to landowner questions or concerns
- Hosting a landowner appreciation event at Backed by Bees

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- Developing strategies for priority IBTC properties in conjunction with BTC Landowner Relations staff
- Collaboration with TD&M in working with landowners
- Refining ambassador skills through BTC workshops and the sharing of ideas and resources
- Continued progress toward a shared IBTC/BTC landowner database
- Progress toward IBTC year one and two strategic goals
- The Landowner Ambassador team grew to a total of thirteen ambassadors.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR LANDOWNER RELATIONS?

- Continue with and expand current landowner relationship strategies
- Work with BTC on a landowner database for information sharing
- Ensure all Iroquoia landowners are reached through review of current BTC landowner data
- Maintain focus on landowners identified as priority by BTC
- Continue to build skills in landowner relations and have fun doing so

As Landowner Relations Director, I would like to thank the ambassadors for their commitment, time and energy. Thanks also to BTC staff, the Iroquoia Board and all members for their continued support.



PUBLICITY REPORT

PHIL MILLER, PUBLICITY & PUBLIC EDUCATION DIRECTOR

SELECTED EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2025-2026:

Nicola Ross – Oakville Public Library, Oakville: Our second event with Nicola for 2025 was a sold out crowd at the Oakville Public Library consisting of an audience of seasoned hikers including many members. Nicola praised the organization and attendance and hung around until the very end selling books to a large portion of the audience.

Happy Trails Lost Valley Trail Race – Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Dundas: We were very excited to partner with the folks at Happy Trails and they generously donated a portion of each participant’s entry fee to the club. We spoke with many members at the finish line and the organizers praised the quality of the trails. We look forward to more Happy Trails events in the future!

Community events – various locations: We had info booths at many community events this year including: Hamilton Welcomes the World, McMaster Community Engagement and Volunteer Fair, Banff Film Festival, MEC Burlington, Hamilton Civic Museum’s Apple Festival, and a few appearances at the Connon Winter Market.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES:

IBTC Speaker series – Westdale Theatre, Hamilton: Our inaugural event in the speaker series will immediately follow this year’s AGM on May 9th. **Indigenous Trails: Forerunners of Today** features Indigenous Leaders Tim Johnson and Rick Hill and Archaeologist Martin Cooper discussing historic trail systems and present day education, engagement and reconciliation. The second event in the series (Oct 18): **On the Trail of Wellness: How Nature Improves Cognitive, Physical, and Social Well-being**, features Dr. Marc Berman, world leading environmental neuroscientist, and Dr. Jennifer Heisz who directs McMaster University’s NeuroFit Lab and its Physical Activity Centre of Excellence. We’re very excited to continue to grow and evolve this series.

Pride Hamilton – Pier 4 Park, Hamilton: We’ll have a table for both days (Aug 21 - 22) of Pride Hamilton this year. This should be a great event given the success of our recent Rainbow Hikes. Any volunteers who would like to be involved are highly encouraged! 🏳️‍🌈

Biodiversity: One area of focus for 2026 is providing more awareness and public education on all the things the club is already doing to protect and promote biodiversity. If there’s anything you’d like to highlight, please reach out. 🌿

In addition to the above, we’ll continue to have info booths at various community events, so keep an eye on our newsletter and social media for updates.

Thank you to all the people who volunteered, promoted events, and engaged with the community!



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT

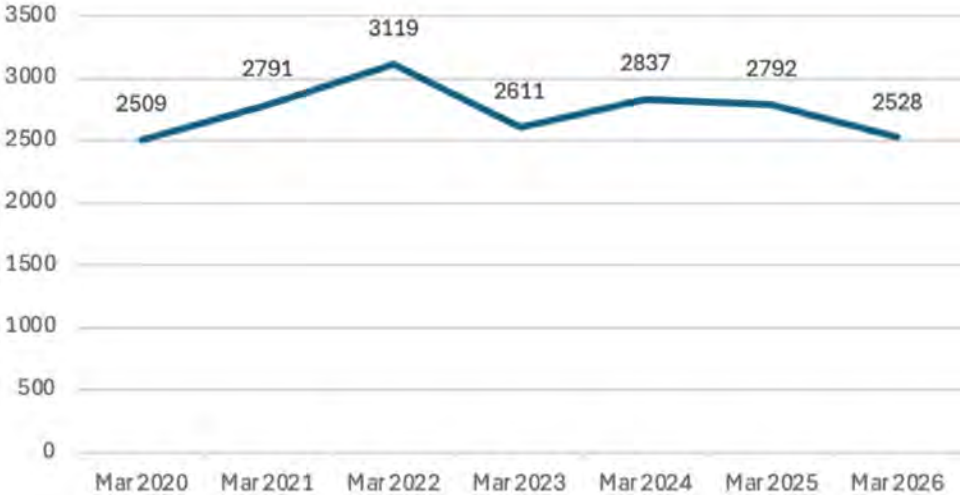
SHAYNE WARD, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

I joined the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Board in October 2025 and am pleased to provide my first Membership Report. Over the past year, the focus has been on understanding our membership trends, supporting BTC initiatives, and increasing community engagement—particularly with the Rainbow Hike programming.

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Membership numbers remain generally stable, with strong renewal activity and predictable lapses among short-term and Canoo memberships.

7-year IBTC Memberships / Activity Highlights



Auto-renew continues to be an important stabilizing factor in retention.

BTC MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

BTC has advanced several initiatives that support club-level membership engagement:

- New Member Welcome Email Series**
 A refreshed 5-part onboarding sequence will introduce new members to resources, hiking opportunities, conservation, and volunteering.
- Membership Referral Program**
 The referral program will continue with no end date and awards digital map access to referred members. I am exploring ways to incorporate referral codes into Hike Leader materials—such as business cards—to encourage trail-side promotion.
- Square Payment Integration**
 BTC is building a standardized Square platform to support club event and merchandise payments with reduced fees.

MEMBERSHIP INSIGHTS

The 2025 BTC survey highlighted that Iroquoia continues to serve a loyal and long-term membership base—67% of respondents have been members for 5+ years, and 95.6% intend to renew. Top membership drivers include conservation support, connecting with nature, and learning about the trail.

Members expressed interest in:

- More beginner-friendly and accessible hikes
- More evening and weekend options
- Better visibility of hike opportunities
- Improved transportation/parking support for events

These insights continue to guide program planning across the club.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

Over the past number of months, I have supported several outreach initiatives including:

- **Rainbow Hikes**— Participation has been consistently near or at capacity, strengthening our inclusive community presence.
- **Toronto Pride 2026**— Volunteering at the BTC booth to support newcomer outreach and visibility.
- MEC Burlington Events— Engaging the public, answering questions, and encouraging both membership and volunteer interest.
- **Pre-AGM Rainbow Bird Hike**— Organized to welcome attendees and celebrate World Migratory Bird Day using Merlin Bird ID and eBird.

I am also supporting early conversations with Hamilton Conservation Authority regarding potential partnerships for future programming.

Thank you to the Board and volunteers for the warm welcome and support. I look forward to continuing to enhance membership engagement, broaden outreach activities, and strengthen connections within our diverse hiking community.

Shayne Ward
Membership Director, Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

JOE BORGES, INTERIM FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club (IBTC) has built a diverse portfolio of fundraising initiatives aligned with its mission to maintain and promote the Bruce Trail.

Despite challenges with many Committee changes over the past year, our new merchandise, increased ability to sell at more events, offering pre-sale through Zeffy for pick ups at events and hikes—our merchandise sales were strong. A great Steeltown Stomp plus new innovative events, partnerships and programs show strong potential for growth with less volunteer hours required for fundraising.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- After launching the Iroquoia Trail Angel Program in Spring 2024, the increase in donations this year has been significant. Total shuttle **donations raised were \$1,547.**
- The 2025/26 City of Waterfalls fundraising hike **generated \$2,975**, while the first Happy Trails Run event partnership **earned \$1,560** with no volunteer commitment from the IBTC.
- Previous merchandise stock, plus new items like cooling towels, two wicking shirts helped total **merchandise sales reach \$3,447.**
- And the the Steeltown Stomp continue to be successful **generating \$6,802.**

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

The Bruce Trail Talks series, a new conservation and community speaker event with the first event after the AGM, positioning it as a sustainable fundraising pillar. Badge programs, including the Volunteer Badge (earned via hikes, work parties, and events) and City of Waterfalls Challenge, drive steady revenue at \$10–\$30 per badge. AGM donations and sponsorships from local businesses like Delux Hiking Tours and more sponsors on the way will help further diversify income.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Three-year goals focus on 10% annual fundraising increases, sustainable events, corporate donations, and high-margin merchandise. One-year priorities include additional hikes, non-hike events, volunteer engagement, and prototyping ideas like “Buy a Metre” campaigns and perhaps even online 50/50 draws. The committee is optimizing efforts through innovation and subcommittee building for resilience.

PATH FORWARD

IBTC’s momentum from events like Steeltown Stomp, City of Waterfalls, renewed interest in the Official E2E, Trail Angels and Bruce Trail Talks inspires confidence in exceeding targets. While focusing on less, but higher quality merchandise will continue to make merch desirable. With updated goals emphasizing integration, the club is poised for resilient growth and meaningful BTC contributions. Continued prototyping and volunteer energy will turn potential into sustained success.



LAND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CYNTHIA ARCHER, LAND STEWARD DIRECTOR

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Land Stewards preserve and enhance the Escarpment's ecosystems by protecting species at risk and their respective habitats while also eliminating or reducing the threat of invasive species. In 2025, 23 land stewards spent a total of 347 hours stewarding 394 acres of BTC managed lands. This does not reflect the additional hours provided by a roster of Conservation Volunteers. We thank you everyone for their generous contributions of time and support.

What follows are some examples of our accomplishments and efforts to preserve and enhance the natural splendor of the Niagara Escarpment this past year.

SMOKEY HOLLOW AT WATERDOWN

Smokey Hollow property, which lies north of Waterdown Road, was selected to host an indigenous healing garden. In preparation, BTC and associated volunteers have been striving to restore the natural wilderness. In a bowl like depression and along the hillside native tall grasses and wildflowers are being encouraged. Last fall, a number of Conservation Volunteers, Land Stewards and BTC Ecologists & Staff worked together planting flowers in the field as

well as strategically placing new shrubs to provide privacy for neighboring landowners. Photos demonstrate that the splendor of the fall flowers can match that of woodland spring blossoms.



GRINDSTONE CREEK BELOW SMOKEY HOLLOW WATERFALLS IN WATERDOWN

A planting project took place one warm day the fall on Bonta and Robinson properties along Grindstone Creek. One of the primary causes of erosion in the area is the trampling of vegetation by trail users. Plants can play an important role in reducing soil erosion on the slopes along Grindstone Creek. Volunteers and staff planted shrubs and other woodland plants to simultaneously restabilize some





of the slope and deter hikers from wandering off the trail. Additional strategies will require collaborative among BTC Ecologists, Club Trail Maintenance and Development Volunteers and Land Stewards.

Tree, shrub, and herbaceous planting along Grindstone Creek at the Bonta property, Friday October 3rd .

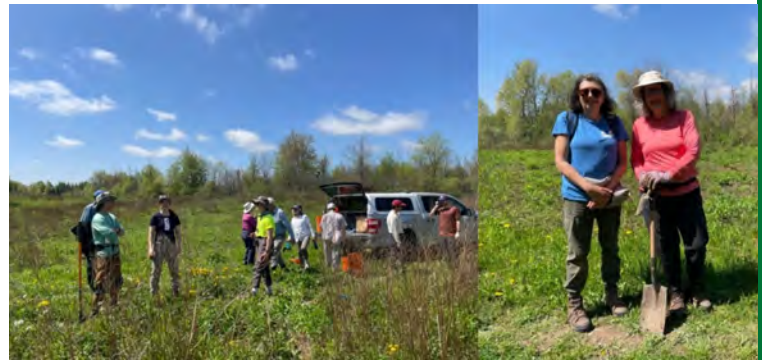
ADAM DOPKO PROPERTY AT GRIMSBY.

The 1st North Grimsby Venturers are actively involved in the restoration and preservation of the Adam Dopko Property. They began a year earlier with the removal of invasive species carrying out bags and bags of garlic mustard and greater celandine. In 2025 they returned to plant shrubs and saplings with the goal of reintroducing native species before aggressive invasives like garlic mustard take control. The Adam Dopko Side Trail is a favourite among many hikers.



FISHER POND GRASSLANDS PROJECT

Conservation Volunteers, Land Stewards, BTC Ecologists and BTC Conservation Ambassadors assembled at Fisher Pond to work on the grasslands restoration project. For several years at Fisher Pond we have been trying to reduce the footprint of invasive plants through controlled burns, thistle cutting, pulling garlic mustard, etc. On this beautiful sunny day volunteers and staff assiduously planted native flowers and shrubs in an effort to give native plants a kick-start in getting established. Thank you so much for coming out to plant native wildflowers and grasses at Fisher’s Pond!



Together, we planted, mulched and watered 255 plants of 11 different species.

Many of Ontario’s threatened and endangered plant and animal species are restricted to native grassland habitat, but less than 3% of Southern Ontario’s native grassland habitat remains today.





MILLEN ROAD IN STONEYCREEK

This newly secured property has been the focus of much effort. Land stewards, conservation volunteers & ambassadors along with BTC ecologists had already removed many invasive plants including the dreaded periwinkle. The day started planting seedlings followed by a hike where Ecologist Lyndsey pointed out local invasive species that ended with an invitation to pull a few more periwinkle, etc. before leaving for home. The entire outing was a great success. Thank you everyone.

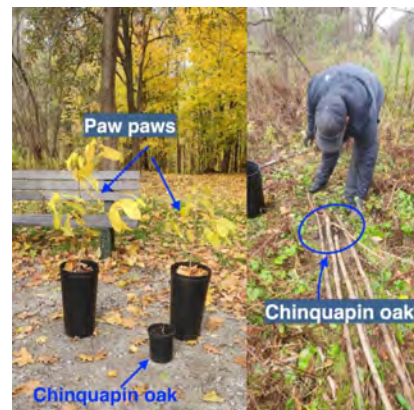
SMALLER PROJECTS MAKE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES TOO.

Lyle Beaudoin quietly and routinely pulled garlic mustard at two smaller properties in the Hamilton area' Greenfield and Rymal Easement. After a number of years where he took several shopping bags of garlic mustard out, Lyle was happy to report less than half a bag only was removed in 2025. Lyle stepped down in the fall of 2025. Thank you, Lyle, for your steady stewardship of these properties. A new steward, Deb Lacourse, is building on Lyle's success.

INCREASING DIVERSITY AT RIVER & RUIN

Stewards often embark on independent projects to restore or conserve their properties. River and Ruin benefits from a collaboration between its land steward Martin and his colleague Chris. Chris gathers seeds from nearby forests, cultivates them and and has, once again, let us re-introduce some saplings on River & Ruin. Because of poachers , we must keep the location a secret. The paw paws are from the Niagara region, approximately 2.5 feet tall, grown by Chris the past 2/3 years.

Chris said he's never seen a Chinquapin oak north of Dundas street (Highway 5) and Cedar springs. So, that's cool! As per Chris's suggestion, we laid branches around it, making it more difficult for animals to dig at.



LAND STEWARD TRAINING

Stewardship is a journey of lifelong learning. For example, we have learned about more invasive species, new protocols in handling well established invasives such as garlic mustard or how to use our cell phones to contribute to the record of animals and plant populations along the escarpment. This spring, Land Stewards met at Fisher Pond for a "hands on" workshop that brought us up to speed on monitoring trees, ensured we all knew how to "buck buckthorn" and taught us how to record our findings of flora and fauna on our properties using iNaturalist and Merlin.



BTC LAND SECUREMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

FREDDY WANG, BTC LAND SECUREMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

The Land Securement Committee (LSC) supports the BTC’s mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. The LSC comprises representatives from the nine Clubs and the BTC Board, and provides oversight and direction to the BTC staff in land securement activities. Those activities follow both a proactive strategy and timely reaction to opportunities that arise, often identified by Landowner Relations volunteers. We work diligently to acquire properties that will enhance hikers’ enjoyment of the trail by moving additional trail onto the “optimum route” and off of roads wherever possible, while also preserving a natural corridor for ecological health.

Land acquisitions are challenging in the Iroquoia section, given the high cost of property, the significant and constant threat from development activity, and the volume of properties on which the Optimum Route sits. We are fortunate in the number of Conservation Areas within our section, which contribute to 82% of the Optimum Route being secured in the Iroquoia section; however, 92 target properties remain.

While no land acquisitions closed in the current fiscal year, there are a number of acquisitions identified through the efforts of our Landowner Relation volunteers and BTC staff that are expected to close in the upcoming year.

While I have enjoyed the LSC Director role for the last two years, the LSC Director role will be moving to Al Dundas, who will continue our collective efforts to secure the entire Bruce Trail.

Freddy Wang, BTC Land Securement Committee Representative



BTC BOARD CLUB REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

DOUG STANSBURY, CLUB REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BTC BOARD

As the IBTC's representative on the Bruce Trail Conservancy Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on a year marked by steady progress and continued commitment to the Conservancy's mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever. Over the past year, the Board has focused on advancing land securement priorities, strengthening financial sustainability, and enhancing the trail experience for all users. Despite ongoing pressures related to land values and increased visitation, the Conservancy remains well-positioned, supported by a dedicated staff and an engaged volunteer network across all clubs.

A key area of emphasis over the past year has been the acceleration of land acquisition and protection efforts. The Board has approved several strategic purchases that will contribute meaningfully to securing the Trail and safeguarding ecologically sensitive areas. Attention has also been given to stewardship and responsible trail use, including education initiatives aimed at minimizing environmental impact while improving safety and accessibility.

From a governance perspective, the Board has continued to strengthen its oversight practices and long-term planning. This includes ongoing work related to diversity and inclusion, risk management, and alignment of resources with strategic priorities. I have endeavored to bring forward the perspectives and priorities of our Club in these discussions, and I appreciate the input and engagement from our members throughout the year. I welcome any feedback or questions and look forward to continuing to represent the Club's interests at the Board level in the coming year.

Doug Stansbury





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VOLUNTEER AWARDS



COMMENDATION AWARD (*HIKE*)

KAREN BERGMANN

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Commendation Awards are given to active volunteers in recognition of their specific and significant contributions to the Iroquoia Club over a period of years.

Karen began hiking in 2013, with a friend taking her along many parts of the Bruce Trail. From there, she discovered more trails and the many parks and conservation areas through which the trail winds its way. In the spring of 2018, she took the hike leader training course and led her first hike that April. Over the past few years, she has completed 5 of the 9 sections and says that's enough for her – she's happy hiking the hikes she wants to hike in all the sections.

After retiring in the summer of 2020, Karen steadily increased the number of group hikes she led, introducing popular afternoon hikes in spring, summer, and fall. Between March 2025 and March 2026 alone, she led an incredible 89 hikes – a true inspiration to new and seasoned hike leaders alike. She loves to plan and lead hikes and enjoys sharing her knowledge of the trail, its changing seasons, and especially the fascinating world of mushrooms.

Karen delights most when hikers in her group are discovering a trail for the first time. Most of her hikes are between Waterdown and the top of the Toronto section, with a few excursions into the Caledon and Dufferin sections. As she says, since she's going to hike anyway – she may as well bring people along for the adventure. Her smile and passion for the Bruce shine through on every hike, reminding us that the trail is as much about joy and connection as the miles we cover.

Thank you, Karen.





COMMENDATION AWARD (LAND STEWARDSHIP)

HENRIETTE JANSEN

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Commendation Awards are given to active volunteers in recognition of their specific and significant contributions to the Iroquoia Club over a period of years.

Hennie Jansen was delighted to take on stewardship of the Fisher Pond property in 2021. She quickly embraced its many ecological niches ranging from a pond and wetlands to forest and grasslands. With the assistance of BTC staff and Conservation Volunteers this 86 acre property is gradually returning to its natural state. Since taking on stewardship of Fisher Pond Hennie has among other things removed garlic mustard, cut thistles, busted buckthorn, planted trees and wildflowers, etc. She is particularly interested in the animal life at Fisher Pond; bees, wetland animals and birds. Thank you, Hennie for your many contributions to the stewardship of Fisher Pond.

Thank you, Henriette.





COMMENDATION AWARD (LAND STEWARDSHIP)

MARTIN MCSWEENEY

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Commendation Awards are given to active volunteers in recognition of their specific and significant contributions to the Iroquoia Club over a period of years.

Martin McSweeney's connection with the beautiful River & Ruin property began as a member of Trail Development and Maintenance for the side trails on this property. When the 69 acre property was acquired in 2021, Martin quickly expressed an interest in stewarding this property and demonstrated a passion for restoring its natural splendor beginning with Buckthorn and extending to periwinkle, wild parsnip, greater celandine, etc. He also collaborates with Chris who sources and germinates seeds to plant native trees such as paws paws and black cherry. Thank you, Martin for your many stewardship volunteer hours and leadership in making this property a gem along the trail.

Thank you, Martin.



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FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL AWARD:

1ST NORTH GRIMSBY VENTURERS

The Friends of the Trail Award serves to recognize individuals and community organizations that have made significant contributions to the success of IBTC.

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is proud to present the Friends of the Trail Award to the 1st North Grimsby Venturers, whose hands-on commitment to restoring local ecosystems has made a lasting difference along the Bruce Trail.

Under the leadership of Scout Leader Terri Bulman, the Venturers dedicated their time and energy to improving the natural health and beauty of Bruce Trail land near the Adam Dopko Side Trail. Their work embodies the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission of conservation and stewardship—rebuilding environments where native species can once again thrive.

During their first year, the Venturers rolled up their sleeves to remove bags upon bags of invasive plants, including garlic mustard and greater celandine. This hard work opened the space for native plants and wildlife to return. In their second year, they took their restoration efforts further by planting native trees and shrubs designed to outcompete those sun-loving invasive species and stabilize the habitat for years to come.

The Club greatly values the enthusiasm and care these young volunteers bring to the trail, and we hope this connection between the 1st North Grimsby Venturers and the Bruce Trail Conservancy continues to grow for many years ahead.

With sincere appreciation, we thank Scout Leader Terri Bulman and every member of the 1st North Grimsby Venturers for their dedication, teamwork, and inspiring environmental leadership.

Thank you, 1st North Grimsby Venturers.



FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL AWARD: **AL MERLO**

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Friends of the Trail Award serves to recognize individuals and community organizations that have made significant contributions to the success of IBTC.

The 2025 Friends of the Trail award goes to Al Merlo, for his assistance with the Battlefield Park bridge project. Al owns the farmland located at the end of Webster Road on the north side of the CNR at the Centennial Parkway bridge. His grandson Jacob, who lives in his grandfather's farm house allowed Iroquoia Trail Development and Maintenance volunteers to travel across Al's fields to a location close to the bridge.

From there materials to construct the new bridge were carried to the construction site. The old bridge (in pieces) were then carried back across the farm land to vehicles parked on Webster Road. Without their support, the Battlefield Park bridge replacement would have been far more difficult and complex. Al Merlo's support was key to the success of the project.

His contribution allowed the integrity of the Main Trail to be maintained for which we are very grateful. The actions of such supporters goes a long way to assisting in preserving the ribbon of wilderness for everyone, forever.

Thank you, Al.



HIKE AWARD:

LYNN MIGHTON

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Hike Award is given to an active volunteer in recognition of their contributions over time to enhance the hike experience through their hard work, dedication, leadership, dependability, commitment and teamwork.

Lynn became a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) in 2023 and, along with her husband Duncan, has been steadily working toward their End-to-End hike of the iconic Bruce Trail. Passionate about all things outdoors – whether hiking, paddling, gardening, or even hugging a tree – she embodies the spirit of nature connection. An avid traveler and yogi at heart, Lynn brings a balanced, joyful energy to every adventure.

Having been involved with Hike Ontario back in the 1990s, Lynn’s love for trails runs deep. Now settled in Burlington, where prime sections of the Bruce Trail are right at her doorstep, she channeled that passion into giving back. In June 2024, alongside Freddy Wang and Parvinder Sachdeva, she co-launched the Iroquoia Club’s Trail Angel program – a vital shuttle service for hikers tackling longer distances with just one vehicle. As coordinator ever since, she’s built an outstanding team of 36 dedicated Trail Angels, helping so many hikers explore safely and supporting the club’s mission, while raising over \$1,400 for the Iroquoia Club this past year.

Lynn’s enthusiasm and organizational skills have helped build this program, making the Bruce Trail more accessible for everyone.

Thank you, Lynn.



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HIKE AWARD:

BILL REILLY

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Hike Award is given to an active volunteer in recognition of their contributions over time to enhance the hike experience through their hard work, dedication, leadership, dependability, commitment and teamwork.

Born in Hamilton in 1948 Bill, along with his brothers, hiked the escarpment long before the Bruce Trail's blazes were painted, exploring familiar paths through Hamilton and Dundas that would later become part of the official route.

After retiring from the electrical union in 2013, Bill set out to complete his Bruce Trail end-to-end – a journey he finished in November 2014 after 64 hiking days. At that time, Trail Angels weren't yet established, so he relied on his wife Judy to drop him off carefully and again with perfectly timed pick-ups, often arriving within minutes of his planned finish. Later, he and his brother used two vehicles to shuttle between sections, and as the distance grew Bill and Judy would move their trailer from Earl Rowe, to Owen Sound, Wiarton, and Miller Lake.

One of Bill's proudest memories was nearing Tobermory, where his two grandchildren surprised him just a few kilometres from the Northern Cairn so they could complete the journey together.

Today, Bill continues to give back to the trail community as a dedicated Trail Angel, offering rides to fellow hikers and always greeting them with his trademark humour and kindness.

"As volunteers, the only reward that we want is the appreciation that we get from the people that we help to get to the trails." – Bill

Thank you, Bill.



PUBLICITY & PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD: **DOUG O'NEILL**

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Publicity and Public Education Award is given to an active IBTC volunteer in recognition of their contribution over time to improve the experience for members and non-members and to help the education of all people in the area about the Bruce Trail.

Current volunteer roles: As a Hike Leader, I'm currently focused on developing and strengthening Rainbow Hikes and fostering 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion. I also serve as an Outreach Volunteer and recently produced the Bruce Trail's first Rainbow Hike Leader's Handbook.

Biggest change since joining the Bruce Trail in 1987: Since my first Bruce Trail hike in 1987 (with the TBTC—a few decades before joining the IBTC), what strikes me most is how the club has evolved—especially the growing diversity of people and backgrounds now represented on the trail.

Proudest achievements in the last year: With the support of BTC staff and leaders within the Iroquoia Club, we offered 14 Rainbow Hikes in 2025 alone, welcoming hikers onto the trail who had never before joined a Bruce Trail hike.

What motivates my commitment to inclusion? "Helping ensure the outdoors is welcoming to everyone—and that 2SLGBTQIA+ hikers have a safe space to show up on the Bruce Trail as their true selves. And to have a laugh or two!"

What makes this Rainbow Hike Leader misty-eyed? "Recently on a hike, a transgender man told me he never thought he'd spend the day hiking with a group where he could truly be himself, without concern. Just another hiker in the woods, finally feeling he belonged out on the trail."

Best ingredients for a successful hike: Humour and electrolytes. In that order.

Best post-hike rehydration: A pint of IPA.

Favourite quote: "Nature loves diversity. In nature, diversity means strength."— queer naturalist Sylvia Earle

Thank you, Doug.



IROQUOIA TRAIL MAINTENANCE AWARD: **PAUL FORD**

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Trail Maintenance Award is given to an active IBTC trail worker, recognizing their contribution over time to improve the trail experience in terms of quality and safety, through their hard work, dedication, leadership, dependability, commitment and teamwork.

Paul has been a volunteer with the Iroquoia Club for over 10 years. He learned of the BTC and volunteering opportunities through his wife, an avid hiker. He thought it was a good way to fill in some free time in his recent retirement and enjoy the outdoors at the same time. In 2018 he became trail captain for section C19- "a nice challenge to take on the responsibility of a Bruce Trail section close to my home". He moved up to Zone C Coordinator in 2021 and an Iroquoia Club "cutter" in 2022. Paul has continued his leadership skills and pleasant personality on all the Iroquoia club activities he has been involved with.

From Paul "it has been a lot of fun to date and all the other volunteers in the TD&M group make it a pleasure to be part of it all".

Thanks Paul.





GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD:

STEVE BROWN

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Trail Director's Award aka "Golden Shovel" Award was created almost 10 years ago from a broken, rusted shovel found behind a lunch log used by the Iroquoia volunteers on a lunch break. It is awarded annually by the Trail Development and Maintenance Director to recognize an active volunteer for their outstanding contribution to maintaining the Bruce Trail during the past year.

The award for 2025 is presented to Steve Brown for his leadership and organization skills in leading the team responsible for repainting and improving the McNally Barn.

From Steve... "I have been a Trail Maintenance volunteer in the Iroquoia Section for 10 years. During this time, I have gone from Trail Monitor to a Trail Captain and participate in work parties on a regular basis. (Added to this is the management of the McNally Barn tool and material storage depot). I started out knowing relatively very little about the role but joined out of passion for hiking and being outdoors. I quickly learned that there is more than meets the eye when it comes to maintaining a trail and building many of the trail structures.

My experience on work parties has been very fulfilling. I have learned something every time I have attended a work party. The more seasoned Trail Maintenance folks have been generous with their time in teaching their building techniques. One of most rewarding take always has been getting to know the other workers and sharing life stories. I always leave a Trail Maintenance morning/day feeling more fulfilled. I would highly recommend this volunteer activity to anyone who appreciates the outdoors".

Thanks Steve for those inspiring words.





PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

AL DUNDAS

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

President's Award *An occasional award when merited. Awarded to past president for their leadership of and dedication to the IBTC.*

Al was introduced to the Bruce Trail 37 years ago by his wife, Joyce Van Dop, and that introduction sparked a lifelong connection to the trail and the people who love it. He began volunteering with the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club in early 2022, after COVID restrictions were lifted, and joined the Board later that year as a Director at Large. When unexpected changes occurred, Al stepped up with quiet grace, taking on the roles of Vice President, interim President, and then President in April 2023. His steady, thoughtful leadership and collaborative spirit have helped guide the club through a period of transition, and his encouragement of new ideas and shared responsibility has strengthened the work of the entire Board.

Although Al is stepping down as President, he will remain deeply involved with the club as the new Director of Land Securement, while continuing as a Land Steward, the Iroquoia representative on the Hamilton-Burlington Trail Council, and an active supporter of club and BTC events. Al is passionate about the mission of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and that passion shows in everything he does, from the careful way he approaches land stewardship to the patience and kindness he brings to volunteers and hikers alike. Volunteering with the Iroquoia club and the BTC is one of the great joys of his life, and the entire club is grateful to have benefited from his time, energy, and unshakable commitment. We celebrate Al's leadership as President and look forward to his continued support as he carries on this important work for the trail and the community.

Thank you Al for your guidance, your steady leadership, and your enduring dedication to the trail.





VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

JOE BORGES

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Volunteer of the Year Award is given to a member of the IBTC who has made a specific and significant contributions to the IBTC during the previous year.

Joe Borges has been an active member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 2020. He's been an Iroquoia hike leader since 2021, board member since 2024, and now serves as Club Hike Director. Joe and his wife Margot share a deep passion for the Bruce Trail's conservation mission, having hiked much of the trail together with family. He completed his first Bruce Trail End-to-End in the fall of 2024.

He has supported many IBTC and BTC initiatives, finding the most enjoyment in leading hikes—day, night, multi-day, and challenge events—and in collaborating with fellow board members on fundraising efforts, merchandise design and sales, communications, marketing, AGM report design, and improvements to the club's payment systems and website.

Joe's creative vision shines most in the club's badge program. He designed the stained-glass series with Christine Hanley and Ruth Moffatt beginning with Iroquoia's E2E in 10 and E2E in 6 badges, which were later adopted trail-wide by every BTC club. Together, this initiative has raised nearly \$44,000 for conservation as of March 2025, and the series culminates with the new BTC stainless badge for final completion. Other notable badges include the Hamilton Stomp redesign, the official E2E in 4, the self-directed IBTC Fox Badge, the new Full Moon Night Hike badge, the IBTC and Toronto Club 60th anniversary badges, the Volunteer Badge, and the First Day Hike badges.

Passionate about hiking, nature, conservation, and stewardship through creativity and community.

Thank you, Joe.



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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

RON GRANGER

IBTC AGM / SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to a member of the IBTC, who has made a significant contribution of their time and expertise to the work of IBTC over a sustained period exceeding ten years.

Ron Granger's volunteer contribution spans decades, crosses club boundaries and encompasses a variety of activities. Ron has been a BTC member since 1990. Since then, hundreds of hikers have followed Ron while he remarkably completed the full end-to-end a total of 24 times, as well as leading hundreds more on multiple club end-to-ends. Today, Ron hosts an Iroquoia club end-to-end check point where he can continue to encourage and support others in achieving their hiking goals.

Ron is currently the Land Steward for the Red Oak property in Iroquoia and participates in many Iroquoia conservation work parties, driving in from Ingersoll each time. Ron looks at the big picture and has never limited his contributions to a single club. Even now, in the Toronto section he also stewards a property and serves as a Trail Captain.

Thank you, Ron, for your significant contributions over many years and over the entire Bruce Trail!





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IN MEMORIAM



Gary Beaudoin

Gary became engaged with BTC 50 years ago while working at Stelco. Gary and Ray Lowes worked in neighbouring offices. Gary asked Ray Lowes to contribute to a program for “young members” of the American Society of Metals at Stelco. Ray graciously led them on a hike. All of which led Gary to join BTC and became an active volunteer initially helping with trail support.

However, in the late 1990’s, BTC had been securing more land which in turn created a need to put in place a new team of volunteers who would be caretakers of this land, Land Stewards. Gary was actively involved in its implementation. He volunteered to be a land steward himself but as Iroquoia had no property available to steward, he graciously accepted property in Toronto. Eventually Gary accepted another property, this time closer to home in the Iroquoia section and a third closer to his cottage in Beaver Valley. During this time Gary also assisted BTC in the organization of the first Land Steward Workshop in 1999 and took on the role of Director of Land Stewards for the Iroquoia Club. In 2022. Gary stepped down from serving as Land Steward Director. That year the Club’s Board of Directors approved the creation of “Land Steward Emeritus” and Gary was granted the title. Gary Beaudoin passed away in December 2025.



Joe Gould

Joe Gould passed away October 25, 2025 at the age of 74. Joe was active in the Iroquoia Club BTC in a wide range of roles in the areas of financial management and trail development and maintenance. In 2024 he was awarded the Iroquoia Club Commendation Award.

As a trail maintenance volunteer Joe was responsible for the care of Section B17, B17A in west Hamilton as trail captain for 5 years. He also volunteered as a trail captain for the Sydenham Club, Section 24, Sydenham Forest East for three years. As if that was not enough, Joe took on the role of Club Treasurer using his financial knowledge and skills gained in his working career. In this capacity Joe improved the budget process and financial reporting and introduced electronic payment.

His financial reports were completed on time and easily understood. He was always prepared to answer any questions. In addition, he improved hike badge processing and added a certificate of congratulations in pdf format which accompanied badge. As a member of the Steeltown Stomp Committee he created an All Trails route map for participants and was always active during this important fund raising event. After stepping back he continued to administer the hikers badge process and as a Trail Monitor at Large.





Graham McCallum

Graham led a full and extraordinary life over his 98 years. Born in Goulburn NSW, Australia, he arrived in Hamilton in 1961. He taught business at Barton Secondary School in Hamilton for close to 30 years. One of the highlights of the job was taking students on canoe trips which developed into a passion for the Canadian wilderness and white-water canoeing. With a group of fellow teaching friends, he went on white-water canoe trips across Canada each summer for the next 45 years, hanging up his paddle at 91.

After retirement one of the things he enjoyed most was volunteering on the Bruce Trail in a crew which maintained the Iroquoia section of the trail from Grimsby to Kelso. He joined the Bruce Trail Conservancy in 1977. He was awarded the BTC Susan Oleskivitch Award in 1999 and Iroquoia Club Trail Worker of the Year in 1992. A highlight of recent years was meeting weekly with the retired Bruce Trail volunteers, walking on Tuesdays and the Senate meetings on Thursdays.

At 72, Graham took up backpacking and hiked some of the world's great trails with friends and family including the Chilkoot Trail, the Bruce Trail End to End, the Milford Track (NZ), West Coast Trail and the Torres del Paine circuit (Patagonia), culminating in the Kungsleden Trail (Sweden) at 91. A great sense of humor, Graham was healthy, independent, and curious and engaged with the world right up to the end. He will be missed and lovingly remembered by family, friends, fellow hikers and paddlers.

*Parts taken from his obituary published on November 8, 2025 in the Hamilton Spectator



Dennis Chamberlain

1952- 2025. Dennis passed doing something he loved – hiking on the Bruce Trail, surrounded by many hiking friends. Dennis enjoyed nature, friendship, woodworking, serious and light-hearted discussion, and was always ready to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Many stories are told keeping his memory and spirit alive by those that loved him and or came to know him along the trail.

Dennis held a Bruce Trail Conservancy Lifetime Membership and was working on his 15th Bruce Trail End to End. Dennis had collected more than 200 badges and hiked many trails in Southern Ontario, including Elgin, Grand Valley, Thames, Avon, Oxford and Wellington County Trails, Frontenac and others. Dennis started hiking in 2018, completing his first of five Caminos and a Coast to Coast across Costa Rica. Dennis volunteered with Iroquoia BTC as a Trail Captain, member of the Trail Maintenance Crew, and also on the Grand Valley Trail.

Friends remember Dennis' wit and sense of humour, and still share Dennis' favourite sayings as we plan and hike along the trail – "we're burning daylight!" is still heard. Dennis is remembered as having a sweet tooth, enjoying many cookies, treats and candy or ice cream stops after a hike. Dennis could be counted on to join a club skit, play a practical joke, share stock market updates, MacGyver broken hiking equipment and could even be a good listener to his many friends along the trail. Dennis was usually the first hiker to show up at any hike but was sure to race home to share a happy hour with his sweetheart Susan on Friday evenings. Hike On Denny!!





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**THANK
YOU**

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