



## March 2023

*"Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever."*



Welcome,

Whether you're a seasoned hiker or are looking to hit the trails for the very first time this newsletter is the perfect place to learn about happenings regarding The Bruce Trail. Winter has decided to have its last little hurrah but spring is valiantly trying to make an appearance. The days are getting longer and birds can be heard more loudly along the trails. The Bruce Trail Iroquoia club has

been busy at work planning events for this year. Below you'll find all the information you need to know as well as featured hikes and opportunities to join the club. We hope to see you at an event soon!

Happy Hiking,  
The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club

It's recommended to [View this email in your browser](#)

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**Come hike with us.**





**Check out the Iroquoia hike calendar at:**

[http://hikes.brucetrail.org/ecwd\\_calendar/iroquoia/](http://hikes.brucetrail.org/ecwd_calendar/iroquoia/)

We hope you experience the wonders of nature this hiking season has to offer.

## **Wetlands in Focus 2023**

**Free Tickets available now on [Eventbrite!](#)**





During Earth Week, on Tuesday, April 18th at 7 pm, at McMaster Innovation Park, you and your guests are invited to a free evening to enjoy talks by:

- Michael McDonald, CEO, Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Bruce Mackenzie former Customer Service & Conservation Director HCA
- Tys Theysmeyer, Head of Natural Lands, Royal Botanical Gardens
- Scott Peck Director Watershed Management, HCA.

Bring your questions about preservation & restoration challenges, carbon capture, 'offsetting' etc.

Location: McMaster Innovation Park  
15 Longwood Rd S Hamilton, ON L8P 0A1

Doors open: 6:30 p.m.

Event starts: 7:00 p.m.

Parking is free on location

Let us know you're attending by registering at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wetlands-in-focus-2023-tickets-568148947797>

In addition to the evening of talks, keep checking our hike calendar throughout the year for gentle hikes led by wetlands experts along with our trained BTC leaders. *Send your pictures #wetlandsBTC on social media.*

[http://hikes.bruce trail.org/ecwd\\_calendar/iroquoia/](http://hikes.bruce trail.org/ecwd_calendar/iroquoia/)

**We hope you will join us!**

## 2023 New Year's Day Hike Follow up

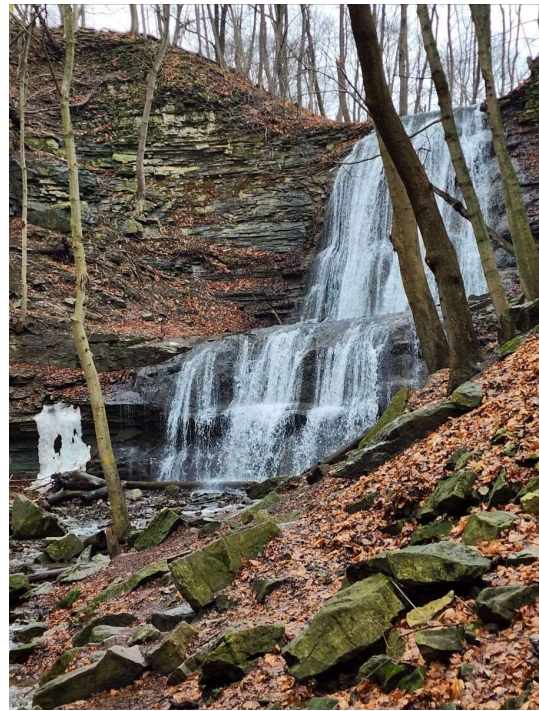
The New Year's Day Hike and Volunteer Appreciation Event was a big success!

Mother Nature definitely smiled on all the hikers and volunteers that showed up to start 2023 off with some hikes along the trails in and around Dundas Valley. Several groups set out to enjoy various hikes ranging from leisurely to brisk pace, including a children's hike and scavenger hunt which allowed the younger hikers to earn their Winter Junior Hiker Badge!

The day's activities concluded with the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Volunteer Appreciation Event with prize draws, cookies and cider. Thanks to everyone who supported all our fundraising activities in 2022, we were able to present the Bruce Trail Conservancy with a donation of \$20,000 to further their efforts in preserving the ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Pictured below are The Bruce Trail Conservancy CEO, Michael McDonald receiving the donation from our Fundraising Director, Allan. Additional photos are of Sherman Falls, and group shots from two of the hiking groups.





## Trail Maintenance Update

At the beginning of October, our trail maintenance volunteers began construction on a 130 metre boardwalk along a side trail on the BTC River and Ruin property.

Construction of the final 7 sections, each being 12 feet long, will resume this spring. A lot of compliments and positive feedback has already been provided by hikers visiting the area.

We are excited for the completion of this boardwalk as it will help hikers enjoy a section of the trail that has poor drainage at certain times of the year.

A big thank you to our trail maintenance volunteers who help keep the trails in great condition for all to enjoy!



## Some Restoration and Conservation Projects

**Buckthorn busting** continues into 2023 with a focus on finishing River and Ruins property as well as Fisher Pond land.

**Controlled burn of Tall Grass Prairies** is being nurtured at Fisher Pond. It was seeded in 2019 and is now ready for a controlled burn this April. Volunteers will be delivering flyers to 4 people in the neighbouring suburbs alerting them of the controlled burn and what to expect.

**If you are interested to join the Iroquoia Restoration and Conservation team please email Cynthia Archer/Land Steward Director at: [archercynthiab@gmail.com](mailto:archercynthiab@gmail.com)**

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# Volunteer Opportunities





## Volunteers Needed

As we head into spring, we wanted to share a number of exciting volunteer opportunities with you. These amazing positions would allow you to take your passion for the Bruce Trail to the next level!

Our Bruce Trail volunteers enjoy:

- meeting like-minded people
- helping the club by sharing their skills and talents
- contributing to our mission of preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever

**There's a place for you at the Iroquoia Club!**

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## Current Open Positions

### **Board Member - Director at Large**

A Director/Member at Large becomes fully informed on organizational matters, and participates in the Club Board's deliberations and decisions in matters of policy, finance, programs and advocacy. The DAL is expected to assume a specific Board role after 1 year.

### **Board Member - Secretary and Archivist**

The secretary-archivist is responsible for the recording and safekeeping of the proceedings of Club and Board meetings and activities, and, for sending pertinent information pertaining to the Club to the archives, thereby safe keeping all of the important records of the club.

### **Volunteer Newsletter Co-ordinator**

The volunteer position is responsible for assembling all of the exciting Iroquoia news for our seasonal digital newsletter. This role is not an official Board Position and the work can be done completely on your schedule.

*Interested in applying? Visit: [Apply Online To Volunteer | Bruce Trail Conservancy](#) or email us at [info@iroquoia.on.ca](mailto:info@iroquoia.on.ca)*

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**EcoPark System Ecological Corridor Pilot –  
Parks Canada Announcement January 26, 2023**



## **Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System receives \$3.5 M investment from Parks Canada**

Ecological connectivity between the Niagara Escarpment and Cootes Paradise in Hamilton and Halton has received a boost thanks to a \$3.5 million investment from the Government of Canada to the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy and Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club are proud partners in the EcoPark System - a voluntary alliance of nine government and not-for-profit agencies that collectively protect nearly 2,200 ha of open space and nature sanctuary between Cootes Paradise Marsh, Hamilton Harbour, and the Niagara Escarpment.

On January 26, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announced over \$3.5 million to support the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Ecological Corridor Pilot Project. The project is one of the first initiatives funded by the Parks Canada National Program for Ecological Corridors, formally launched in 2022.

Protected and conserved areas play an important role in fighting the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, but to be fully effective, these areas must be connected. Ensuring that our cities and infrastructure allow animals and plants to thrive through well planned and strategically placed ecological



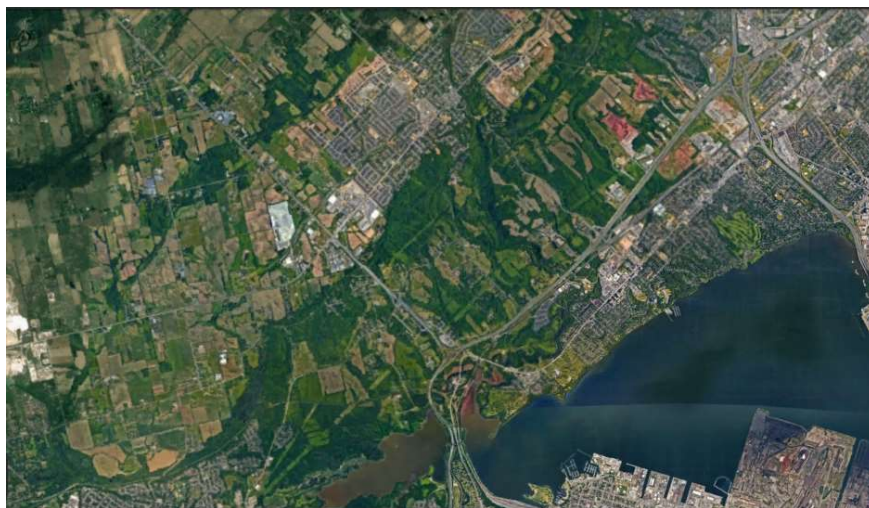
corridors is integral to effective nature protection and conservation.

Ecological corridors support the uninhibited movement of species between conserved areas, allowing them to interact and find habitat. They also allow other natural processes, like pollination, to occur across the broader landscape and provide opportunities for people and communities to access greenspaces close to home and to co-exist responsibly and sustainably with nature.

As a partner of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, the Bruce Trail Conservancy collaborates to preserve and enhance the natural lands in this important ecological corridor by using sustainable approaches to protect biodiversity and enable responsible human connection to nature.

## Related Links

- Parks Canada News Release: [Government of Canada to protect nature in Ontario](#)
- [Parks Canada National Program for Ecological Corridors](#)
- [Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System](#)
- [Ecological Connectivity: Pathways for Nature](#); winter 2022-23 issue of *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine* (pages 12-13)



# Tales from the Trails

## Iroquoia E2E with Ethan and Matthew ... and mom Lyndsay

"We started hiking during the pandemic. While so many things were put on hold, hiking was something we could go full steam ahead on. It was a goal to reach no matter what happened in the rest of the world."

And so began the Iroquoia E2E adventure for Lyndsay and her two boys, Ethan and Matthew. Breaking the trail up into sections that the little legs could handle, their longest hike being about 3 to 3.5 hours. Lyndsay used the time to teach her boys about trail etiquette from an ecological perspective such as leaving only footsteps and taking only memories.

The hikes were spent learning about the different plants along their way. The fact that bloodroot has its name from the colour of its roots to learning to identify different species of trees by their leaves and, some by their bark. The rich orange/blush colour of the beech trees in the fall, earned them the name of fire trees. Learning that the bark of the black cherry looks just like burnt cornflakes made this an easy tree to remember. They also learned about what plants not to go near such as poison ivy.

Along with the changing colours of the seasons came the varying trail conditions. From frozen leaf litter to slippery rocks to ephemeral streams, the trail was full of surprises. They learned quickly how to navigate safely, what to step on and what to avoid. Days in the fresh, deep snow proved challenging but also offered a nice, tasty snack. The kids really enjoyed the different structures along the trail or challenges including the ladder at Rattlesnake Point, various bridges, tricky stairs, or a lookout. They were lucky to enjoy the views off the cliffs at Kelso next to a majestic bald eagle. Deer, large mushrooms and a "really cool centipede" were among some of the memorable sightings along the trail. In urban sections near Hamilton, the kids learned about how urbanization can impact the escarpment comparing how the water is moved through pipes rather than streams. The boys also noticed more noise pollution and litter compared to the more rural sections of the trail.

Preparing for the hikes included checking the maps, estimating distances, arranging drop-off and pick-up if needed, packing water/food and picking the

best footwear and attire for the day. “Thank goodness for patient and supportive husbands,” Lyndsay mentioned she had mistakenly given him the wrong pick-up location on at least one occasion. She was grateful for the kind BT hikers with better cell phone plans as well when this occurred in sections with limited cell coverage. Trail snacks included a basic sandwich, or a granola bar as needed. The most important in the summer was to remember to bring lots of water. It’s easy to underestimate how much you need on a 3-hour hike. They were usually ready to get out of the house, move, and discover something new; always in awe of the beauty of the escarpment so often hidden away yet so close to home.

When asked on how they stayed motivated on the trail, Lyndsay replied that the brothers definitely supported each other along the way. In the summer, the promise of a cooler filled with freezies in the vehicle at the end of the hike may have helped a little, too. The kids loved following the blazes. Lyndsay would ask “are we still on the trail?”, and the boys would check to make sure they could still find the blazes.

Each hike presented its own unique adventure. In the end, Ethan’s favourite thing were the streams crossing the path and Matthew’s was to climb up the rocks along the trail.

Congrats to Lyndsay, Matthew and Ethan on your incredible adventure in completing the Iroquoia E2E. Thank you for sharing your story!







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## Share your photos and hike experiences with us!

Share with us your photos and trail experiences.

We want to hear from you!

Instagram page: [iroquoiaBruceTrailClub](#) and

Facebook page: [Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club](#).

E-Mail: [info@iroquoia.on.ca](mailto:info@iroquoia.on.ca) and/or [onthetrails.ibtc@gmail.com](mailto:onthetrails.ibtc@gmail.com)

Let's do our part to respect and protect nature by staying on the marked trails and leaving plants, trees and wildlife untouched for others to discover and admire. Please leave the trails, forests, meadows and wetlands as you find them.

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**The Bruce Trail provides joy to so many.  
If you aren't already, consider becoming a member today.  
Help preserve this wonderful trail system.**

**Become a Member today**

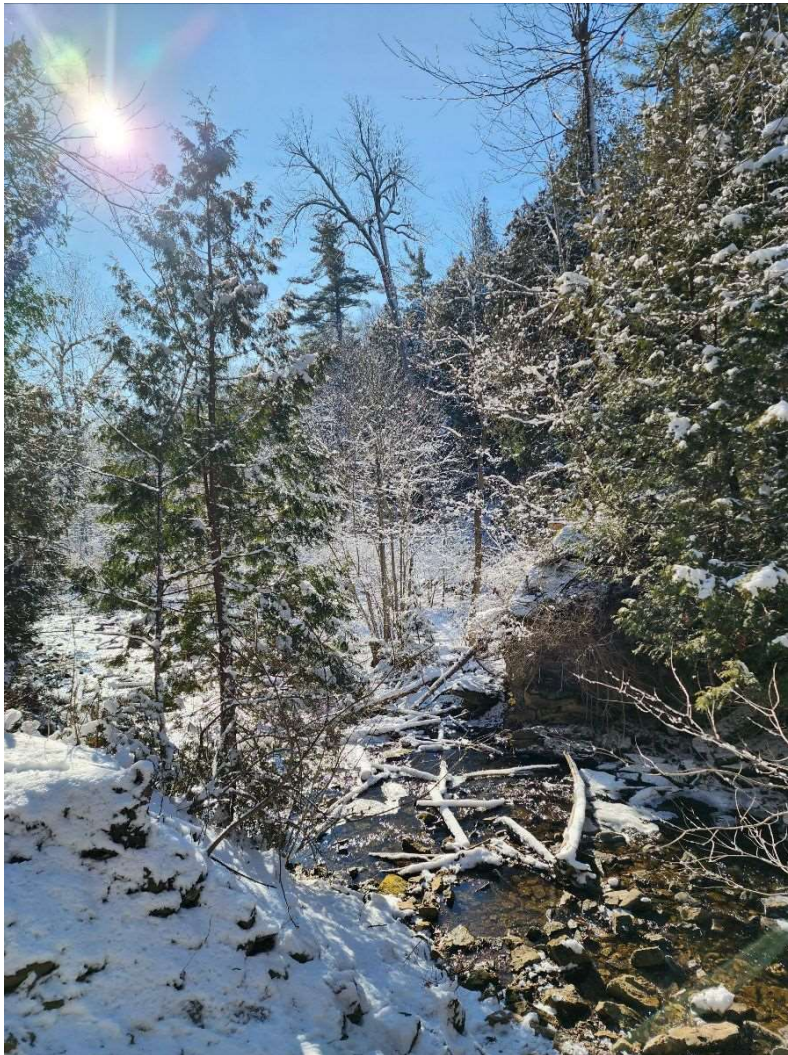
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## Sign up for the Iroquoia E-notes.

Iroquoia E-notes are for members and non-members. Our E-notes are sent out by email to your inbox regularly. Signing up is easy; go to the Club webpage [www.iroquoia.on.ca](http://www.iroquoia.on.ca), scroll to the bottom and you will see where you can sign up on the left hand side.

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Thank you for reading.  
We hope you had a great start to 2023.  
Can't wait to see you on the trails this season!



**Bruce Trail**  
**CONSERVANCY**  

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**IROQUOIA CLUB**





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