



Winter 2026

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



Image: Corina Seceleanu, Sherman Falls

Happy New Year to our trail family!

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Newsletter!

As the new year comes into swing, many of us are busy planning what hikes and adventures to set out. Maybe, you're looking at exploring a new part of the trail, or maybe you want to spend some more time becoming familiar with the local plants and wildlife? Winter is a special time to be out on the trail. There is not as much in the way of plant life but the scenery is as pretty as ever, and the bare branches make finding our feathered friends a little easier.

Hiking in winter does come with a different set of challenges. Always be sure to pack an extra layer, your poles and icers, and keep some extra batteries alongside your flashlight. And always be sure to hike with a group, or let someone know where you will be. Now head out there, breathe the fresh air, and create some new memories!

Here's what you'll find in this edition of our newsletter:

- [First Day Hike](#) - An annual tradition come rain, sleet, or snow
- [Getting the most out of your Bruce Trail App](#)
- [Join our team](#) - Current volunteer opportunities
- [Hikes, Events and more!](#) - Full Moons, Orchids, and Rainbows
- [Save the Date - IBTC AGM and Speaker Series](#) - A sneak peek at this year's AGM
- [Connon Winter Market](#) - Here's your chance to grab some IBTC merchandise
- [Park visits at a Discount](#) - What your Bruce Trail Membership can do for you!

Happy trails!

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club

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

First Day Hike 2026

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club's First Day hikers were treated to blue skies and a fresh dusting of snow on the trails. Four large groups set out to explore Dundas Valley and were greeted with tea, hot chocolate, and cookies upon their return to the Trail Centre. It was truly amazing to see all the smiling faces, young and old, of those who joined us to ring in the first day of the new year out on the trail!

These group events truly show what an incredible community this is. Whether you volunteered to lead a hike, make hot chocolate, helped set up, sell merchandise or came as a participant, you all contributed to the joyous success of our first event of 2026. And for that, we thank you!

If you missed out on your chance to get one of the beautiful First Day Hike Badges, keep an eye on our social media in the next few days!



**Getting the most out of your Bruce
Trail App**

by Freddy Wang

Most people are aware of the Bruce Trail app and how helpful it can be in navigating the Bruce... or more importantly, back to the Bruce Trail! It can also be used to track your hikes, calculate hike distances and report trail issues. These common features (and more!) are highlighted in the [Bruce Trail App 101](#) webinar on YouTube.

As a Hike Leader, I find it to be an invaluable tool in planning my hikes, especially as the app is up to date on most trail changes. I often get questions on some advanced functions, so I thought it would be good to share my three features that may be new to some of you.

Parking lot – Clicking on a parking lot provides a description, parking lot capacity, and any parking fees. I personally love clicking the coordinates which copies them to the clipboard. The other useful feature is “Get Directions” which will open up your favourite navigation app and plot the way to the parking lot from your current location.

Contours – One common misunderstanding that people may have is that contours aren’t available. As hikers, we know how critical elevation is to understand the terrain you are hiking. This information is available by following the steps below:

- Select BTC Maps, select the Available tab, and select the maps you want to download. They don’t take a lot of space, so I download all of them.
- From the Explore view, select the Filter button (⚙️) in the top right corner.
- Select BTC Map as the Map Type

Filters – There are many other useful options from the above, including: parking, campsites, side trail names, trail notices, pet-free zones and my personal favourite – BTC Protected Natural Areas – so you can track the BTC’s progress to preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.



Current Volunteer Opportunities



As we prepare for another busy year, we wanted to share these exciting volunteer opportunities with you. If you're looking to take your passion for the Bruce Trail to the next level, make sure you apply!

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 room for you at the Iroquoia Club!

Current Open Positions

Board Member - Treasurer

To be responsible for the custody of the funds of the Club and all financial matters affecting the Club. For more information about this role, please click [here](#).

Board Member - Director at Large

To participate in the Board's deliberations and decisions in matters of policy, finance, programs, and advocacy. For more information, please click [here](#).

Interested in applying? Please apply for these roles by submitting a BTC volunteer application and indicating your specific interest on the application. Visit: [Apply Online To Volunteer | Bruce Trail Conservancy](#) to apply today!

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[Click here for more details!](#)

Come Hike with Us!

Whether you are looking for a challenge, or a leisurely escape into nature, our hike leaders are sure to have something that suits your needs.

Thank you to our amazing volunteer hike leaders, our [Hike Schedule](#) is always packed with a variety of hikes to choose from. All our volunteer hike leaders are trained and knowledgeable about the area. Be sure to check back often, as hikes are added all the time.

Rainbow Hikes

Rainbow Hikes are offered monthly (sometimes twice-monthly) and provide a safe, welcoming space for 2SLGBTQ+ hikers - including trans, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, Two-Spirit, intersex, asexual, and straight friends - to show up and be themselves in a safe, welcoming setting. The BTC Pride Badge featuring the colours of the Progressive Pride Flag, is complimentary. Please visit brucetrail.org/pride-2026 for more information.

New Hike Series - Full Moon Badge!

Join us on three leader-led night hikes in 2026 to qualify for this new Full Moon Hike Badge! Keep your eyes on our social media for these special hikes to be posted. There are 12 full moons left in 2026 and [Full Moon Night Hike No.2](#) will be happening on February 1.



Peninsula Wildflower Series - June 2026

Join the Iroquoia BTC, Dufferin Hi-lands BTC and Peninsula BTC, on a joint venture in search of orchids and other wildflowers along the Bruce Peninsula. This multi-day hike event will take place June 5 to June 9 with registration opening the week of January 19th. Think about joining? Don't hesitate! This hike series fills up fast!



IBTC AGM 2026

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on May 9th at the Westdale Theatre in Hamilton. As in past years, the AGM will be preceded by hikes, and a lunch will be offered. This year's AGM will also feature the first of 3 Speaker Series planned for 2026!

Stay tuned for more details to be shared in the upcoming weeks.

**Bruce
Trail
Talks**

Conservation & Community Speaker Series

Indigenous Trails:
Martin Cooper & Tim Johnson
May 9, 2026

IBTC at Connon Winter Market



The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is excited to be at the Connon Nurseries Winter Market this year.

Come find us on January 24th, February 21st, and March 21st between 10 am and 2 pm. Here's your chance to purchase some IBTC branded merchandise, such as this mug. Or stop for a chat and share your trail stories. We're always thrilled to meet fellow trail enthusiasts.

Your merchandise purchase helps support our fundraising efforts, which in turn support the Bruce Trail Conservancy in "Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever."

The Winter Market is located at Connon Nurseries at 656 Robson Road, Waterdown, ON L8B 1H1

Your Ad Here!

As one of the largest Bruce Trail Conservancy Clubs, we have a circulation of approximately 4000 subscribers. The eNotes newsletter is distributed quarterly by email.

Please contact Kathrin König, Communications Director at kathrinkoniga@gmail.com to secure your space in our next publication.

The Benefits of Membership

Membership has many benefits. The most important, of course, is that your membership fees will help the Bruce Trail Conservancy in their mission to "*Preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*"

Did you know that BTC Members can purchase their Conservation Halton Annual Membership at a **50% discount**? This includes access to all 8 Conservation Halton Parks.

To find more details on this offer, and additional benefits of a BTC Membership, please click on the link below.

[BCT Member Benefits](#)



**Share your hike photos and
experiences with us**

We want to hear from you!

Instagram page: [iroquoiabrucetrailclub](#) and

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

E-Mail: info@iroquoia.on.ca

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.



Photo: Karen Bergmann

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, scroll to the bottom and you will see where you can sign up on the left hand side.





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