

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCE TRAIL ASSOCIATION TO DEDICATE SIDETRAIL TO HAMILTONIAN
RAY LOWES, FATHER OF BRUCE TRAIL

HAMILTON, ON - May 13, 2004 – In a special ceremony hosted by the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, the Bruce Trail Association will honour Ray Lowes, who guided the Bruce Trail into existence, with a dedication ceremony on Saturday, June 12, 2004 at their Raspberry House headquarters in the RBG Arboretum off Old York Road in Dundas. Mr. Lowes, 94, of Ancaster, will be present to receive this special honour from the 9000-member association he launched.

Ray Lowes was a metallurgist at Stelco in 1960 when he proposed the concept of a continuous footpath following the line of the escarpment from Queenston Heights to Tobermory. “The ... Bruce Trail, is my Geography of Hope for Ontario – only through the continued cooperation of both governmental and public stewardship can this magnificent legacy continue to share its riches to all present and future Canadians,” Lowes says.

Robert Bateman, famed wildlife artist, was an early partner with Lowes in developing the Bruce Trail, and has continued as a patron of the Association. He will come from Salt Spring Island, BC, to join into this celebration. Stressing the national importance of the Trail, he comments that “landowners and Bruce Trail members give generously without a thought of financial reward. As stewards and volunteers, they not only take care of the land with its resident flora and fauna, but share it with other people.”

The Bruce Trail, at 900 kilometres in length, is the oldest and longest continuous footpath in Ontario. It is also the first trail to be developed and maintained by volunteers. Its special features won in the distinguished World Biosphere Reserve designation from UNESCO in 1990, placing it among a small number of the world’s unique environments. The Association works steadily to protect and preserve the escarpment for future generations of humans and wildlife as its principal mandate.

Also invited to the special event will be Ray Gosling and Norman Pearson, founding members of the association. In addition, dignitaries from local and provincial governments, other conservation organizations and media agencies will attend. Major donors to the Association are also invited.

Beginning at 9:00 am, a two-way hike of the 3.9 kilometre trail will allow visitors to enjoy the trail between Raspberry House and the Main Trail. An 10:30 am short hike for families will also be offered. The official dedication ceremony will begin at 1:00 pm in front of Raspberry House.

All members of the public are warmly invited to join the Bruce Trail Association as we celebrate this great event.

Assignment Editors, please note:

Photo and interview opportunities will be best in the period from 12:45 – 2:30 pm.

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