



**Bruce Trail**  
**CONSERVANCY**  

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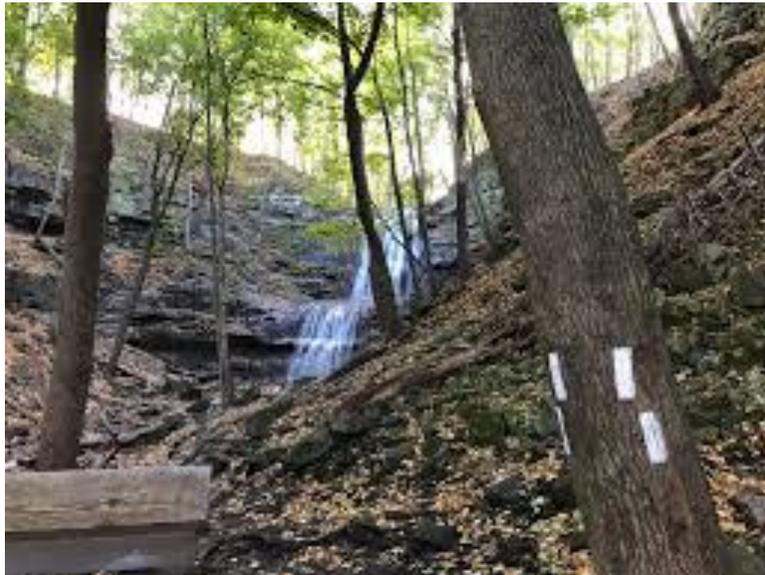
**IROQUOIA CLUB**

***IROQUOIA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB***

***2019-2020***

***ANNUAL REPORT***

***MAY 2020***



**Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday May 4, 2019**  
**St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Dr. Waterdown, Ontario**

1. Welcome: After a welcome from the Club's President, Michael McDonald declared there was quorum and started the meeting. The President noted a number of highlights of the past year contained in the Annual Report. After asking attendees who had volunteered for the Club to stand, they were sincerely and heartily thanked by the President for their dedication and hard work. All present were reminded that the Club is hosting the BTC AGM in September. People are encouraged to attend and/or volunteer with hosting this event.
2. Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.  
*Motion* It was moved by Bob Newell and seconded by Allan Meyer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. Minutes of the IBTC AGM May 15/18: There were no changes to the minutes.  
*Motion:* It was moved by Cecilia Keller and seconded by Peter Rumble that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
4. Club Financial Report: Treasurer Doug Stansbury provided an overview of 2018/19 finances. It was explained that membership in the report may appear to be lower this past year but because of a shift in the Club's fiscal year to align club reports with BTC financial practice, the budget reports covers eleven months only while the previous year covered thirteen months. Consequently, membership has not declined and in fact there was a modest increase. Hike revenue is gradually going up in part to the popularity of the Club End-to-end and the Steeltown Stomp. Savings from publication and mailing costs began midway in the year so more is expected in 2019/20. Trail maintenance costs are going up with more work planned this year. Members were invited to ask question. It was noted that the biggest expense under hike expenditures are the buses used for the end-to-end. The fiscal year for the Club is April 1 through March 31 of each year. Expenses from the BTC AGM have been calculated so that the registration fee for each day covers per person costs. Consequently, there are virtually no overhead costs. Of note is that this year at the BTC AGM, all events will be free of charge therefore seek sponsors to cover all incidental costs including buses.  
*Motion:* It was moved by Bronwen Tregunno and seconded by Lyne Desforges to accept the financials as presented. Motion carried.
5. Nominations for Board of Directors: Gloria Pennycook, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported. The Committee includes two board members, herself and Doug Yungblut and two non-board members Stuart Campbell and Steve Graham. Gloria introduced the new board members; Jakob Kuzyk, and Peter Rumble and noted that several portfolios had shifted noting how flexible members of the Board are. Allan Meyer moved from Publicity and Public education to Fundraising. Bronwen Tregunno moved from Membership to Publicity and Public Education. Samar Smith took on Membership after Jacob Kuzyk joined the Board as Director of Social Media. Peter Rumble joined as Director at Large. Jillian Malcolm is an Honourary Director-at-Large and thus is not on the nomination slate. Included on the nominations slate were: Cynthia Archer, Gary Beaudoin, Lyne Desforges, John Farquharson, Cecilia Keller, Jakob Kuzyk, Michael McDonald, Allan Meyer, Gloria Pennycook, Peter Rumble, Samar Smith, Doug Stansbury, Paul Toffoletti, Bronwen Tregunno and Doug Yungblut.  
  
*Motion:* It was moved by Anne Armstrong and seconded by Ken Lawday to approve the slate. Motion carried.

6. Volunteer awards were given.

- Trail Maintenance Award was given to Rob Stevens. Rob is a sawyer in the Club, always striving to ensure a safe environment for work parties. He is very gracious about sharing his knowledge and a dedicated member of the trail maintenance team. He is passionate about the Trail, knowledgeable about trees and flowers and an expert craftsman with wood.
- Friends of the Trail Award recipient was Matthew de Zoete. Last year Matthew approached the Club with an offer to give a “tribute to the Kinks” concert as a fundraiser for the Trail. It was most successful. Talk is underway to host a second concert.
- Publicity and Public Education Award recipient was Anne Armstrong in recognition of her willingness to promote BTC and hiking and the natural woodlands at events in the region. She also offers a Hiking 101 for people who want to start hiking.
- Land Stewardship Award was given to Laura Tuohy who has looked after the McNally property for many years now.
- Land Stewardship Award was given to Paul Toffoletti who stewards property in the Cedar Springs area.
- Hike Award was given to Dr. Jan Boxal. IBTC is thankful for Jane who volunteers as a Trail Angel providing prompt assistance to people on self-guided end-to-ends.
- Hike Award was given to Allison Griffith. IBTC is thankful for having Allison on the Trail Angel Team. The Club receives many compliments from users of the Trail Angel Program.
- Hike Award was given to Daryl Keays who initiated the winter end to end badge. The initiative brought a surprising number of submissions for the badge.
- Volunteer of the Year Award went to Jeffrey Smith. When Jeff’s Mom joined the Board, Jeffrey leapt into action. He completely revised and updated our web site and helped with the unified hike system. Jeffrey also helped put together promotion materials and assisted with publicity events. All in one year.

New Trail Maintenance workshop - Lyne Desforges highlighted a new trail maintenance workshop for women only to be held July 13. It is an opportunity to learn a little bit more about trail maintenance.

Motion to adjourn by Paul Toffoletti. Motion carried.

# President's Report

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club has had a very busy year since the May 2019 AGM. It feels like the month of March. Came in like a lamb and going out like a lion with the situation around COVID-19. The Club Board members had to make some hard decisions on cancelling hikes and the AGM, but it was strongly felt that was best to err on the cautious side. That has turned out to be a good decision.

We ask all members to please respect the request of the BTC to stay off the Bruce Trail and to follow the closures brought on by our partner municipalities and Conservation Authorities. Trail maintenance crews are not going out to do trail work and reports. Land Stewards have been asked not to go out to their properties to submit spring reports. It is all being done to bring a quick end to the virus spreading around. Ask yourself if it is worth the risk of ending up on a ventilator or worse?

The Club and the BTC will be having discussions over the next number of months on how to reopen the Bruce Trail. Trail Maintenance will have their hands full to cut back fallen trees and summer growth, fix boardwalks and bridges and to reblaze. This may still need to be done in small groups or by individuals, so it could take the whole year or more.

Our club was the host Club for the BTC Annual Meeting held in Hamilton at the Scottish Rite. The Steeltown Stomp and our End to End event saw records number participate. If you were able to get tickets to the Beatles tribute concert in November, you were one of the lucky few who were treated to a spectacular show. We also saw almost 200 people come out for our New Years Day event in Dundas Valley, which we thank the Hamilton Conservation Authority for waiving the fee of the Trail Centre again. Win-win for everyone.

The City of Burlington formed a Public Art Committee to choose a work of art for Cityview Park. Staff contacted me and asked if we would like to have a representative on the Committee. A call went out and I want to thank local artist and Club member Victoria Pearce for representing the Bruce Trail.

Speaking of Cityview Park, I attended a public meeting to give City Staff feedback on a proposed enclosed pavilion that will be constructed in 2021. It will have washrooms, water fountains and a small indoor sitting or meeting area. Something that will be appreciated by hikers in the area.

We have all heard that the escarpment is a UNESCO World Biosphere. Designated in 1990, the Niagara Escarpment Commission has been the overseers of the designation. Having a government body oversee a UNESCO designation is unusual, and UNESCO has told the NEC that the designation has to transition over to a public Board. I was able to attend a few meetings on this and participated in a working group back in the spring 2019. A transitional committee has been formed and have been reviewing the findings of the working groups. This works continues and will report any development on this through our newsletter when I hear more.

Of course, I have to say that I am still thinking about the passing of Dan Welsh. As with many others, he was one of the first persons I met when I started hiking with the Iroquoia Club. A trip with him to hike the Maitland Trail in Goderich is one of my best hiking memories. Thank you Dan.

I want to thank a few Board members who are leaving or already left our Board for all the effort and caring they have given to our Club. Lyne Desforges, John Farquharson, Katie Halsall, Jakob Kuzyk, Jillian Malcolm and Bron Tregunno. Please welcome our new members Samantha Ceci, Joe Gould, Trish Murphy, Jordan Scott and Holly Sluiter.

Please have a read of all the Director's reports in this document. Our Board members deserve a huge

thank you for all their effort, time, expertise and dedication to our Club and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. As a final word, all this would not be possible for the many volunteers in our Club who give their time to make our Club what it is and help it grow. I give you a deep heartfelt "THANK YOU".

Respectfully submitted, Paul Toffoletti

## Vice-President's Report

In January this year, we held a strategic goal setting session. The idea behind the session was to choose three priorities identified by the IBTC Board, then brainstorm new ideas around these priorities, further agree on goals and activities we could implement.

The three priorities were chosen from the five strategic priorities of the BTC (accelerate land acquisition, expand fundraising, build brand awareness, increase impact of membership & enhance stakeholder relationships) plus other goals IBTC Board members identified. Each Board Members was then asked to vote on their top three priorities prior to our strategic goal setting session. Out of the votes, we determined our top three goals to focus on:

1. Volunteers
2. Increase Impact of Membership
3. Relationships with similar organizations

We decided to remove Brand awareness as a priority since the BTC was working on this strategic priority but had not yet issued new guidelines.

During the strategic session, the Board was split into three groups, each group facilitated by one Board Member. One participant of each group was asked to take notes on a flipchart. The groups then were given ten minutes per topic to brainstorm, discuss challenges and ideas. Afterwards, each group chose a presenter to report the ideas back to the entire board. After the session, all notes from each group were summarized and all notes then compiled. In February, we scheduled an additional optional board meeting to discuss next steps. Three tasks force were formed and we agreed on guidelines we would follow. Each taskforce will decide which ideas they want to implement, determine short-term and long-term goals and outline action steps and time-frames.

We postponed the follow up discussion in March and April to deal pressing matters related to COVID-19. The individual task forces will report back at our Board meeting in May.

Overall, the energy during the goal setting session was high and very positive. In addition, our new Board members were able to be integrated more quickly.

We would be happy to share the concept if there is interest.

Cecilia Gibbons, Vice-President

## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Nominees for the Board of Directors of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club for the 2020-2021 term are:

Cynthia Archer  
Gary Beaudoin  
Samantha Ceci  
Cecilia Gibbons  
Joseph Gould  
Allan Meyer  
Trish Murphy  
Gloria Pennycook  
Peter Rumble  
Jordan Scott  
Holly Sluiter  
Samar Smith  
Doug Stansbury  
Paul Toffoletti  
Ashwini Selvakumaran  
Doug Yungblut

# Treasurer's Report

Net Assets The Club's strong liquidity position of the past five years continued in Fiscal Year 2020 ("FY 2020") during which the Club has maintained a steady and consistent source of revenue, scope of operating activities, and expenditures. Both revenue and expenditures increased over the last fiscal year and net assets increased to \$51,777 (FY 2019 - \$41,407).

Special Event Hosting the Bruce Trail Conservancy Annual General Meeting greatly increased overall revenues and expenses with a favourable impact on net activities.

Continuing Operations Hike Revenue, and Donation from Hydro Flask, account for a \$14,000 revenue improvement. Donations to the BTC \$20,000 (FY 2019 - \$10,000), TD&M \$12,934 (FY 2019 \$5,586), and Hike Expenses \$6,618 (FY 2019 \$5,309) account for a \$17,000 expenditure increase. Continuing Operations therefore reflects a net excess of expenditure over revenue amounting to \$2,980. Combined with the \$4,000 favourable AGM result, the Club's net activity \$10,370 (FY 2019 \$9,207) is slightly improved by \$1,000.

The budget was expected to be well within the range of recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic will likely change the club's financial outlook materially and a projection has been made to assess its impact.

FY 2021 Budget & Projection The Club faces uncertainty during the present health crisis, and its strong financial position should be reassuring to all, and enable the Club to plan confidently within the restrictions faced, and also to rely on the conviction of our fellow volunteers to do their best in any circumstance.

The budget plans for net activities amounting to \$10,800 increasing net assets to \$63,000 prior to any BTC donation and continuing activities of the same nature and scale as fiscal FY 2020.

A projection where all events, hike programs and trail maintenance are either cancelled or substantially decreased shows unfavourable net activities of (\$8,650) and a decrease in net assets to \$43,000. In this scenario, revenue decreases to \$19,000 from \$44,000, expenditures decrease to \$28,000 from \$36,000 and the result is an unfavourable (\$20,000) below budget.

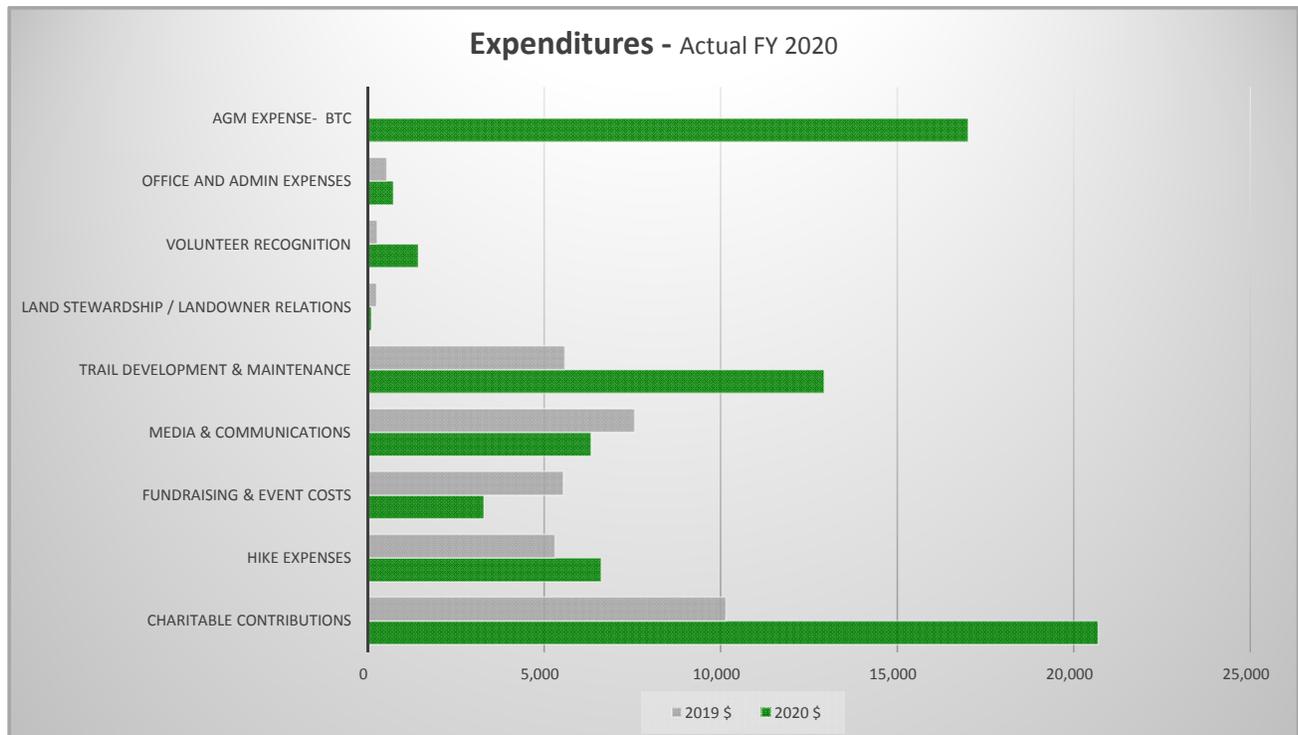
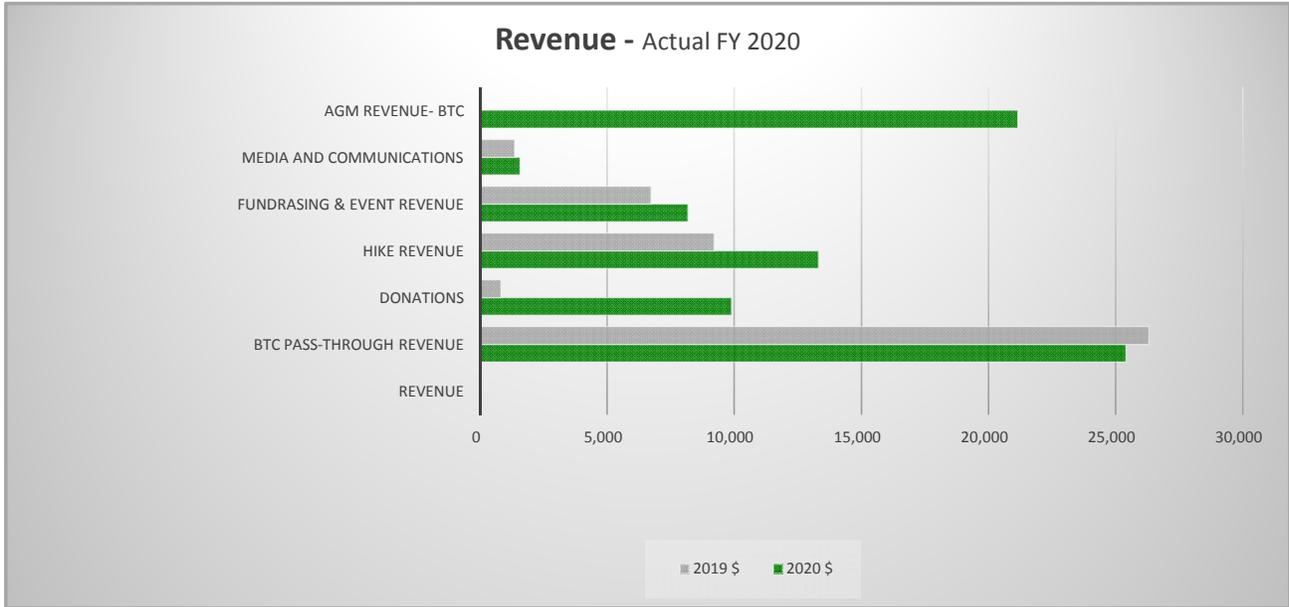
Nevertheless, projected net assets is \$43,000 that is sufficient to continue operations for another year even without any further revenue.

Joseph Gould, Club Treasurer

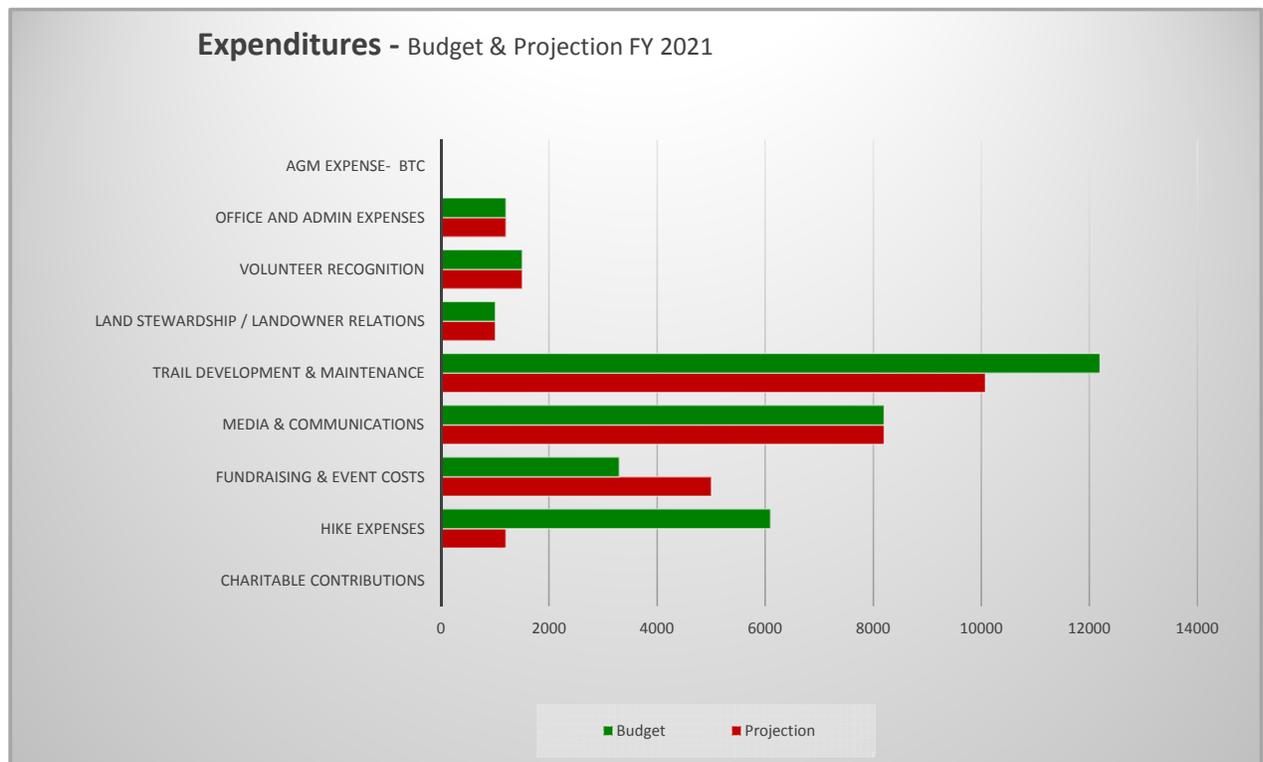
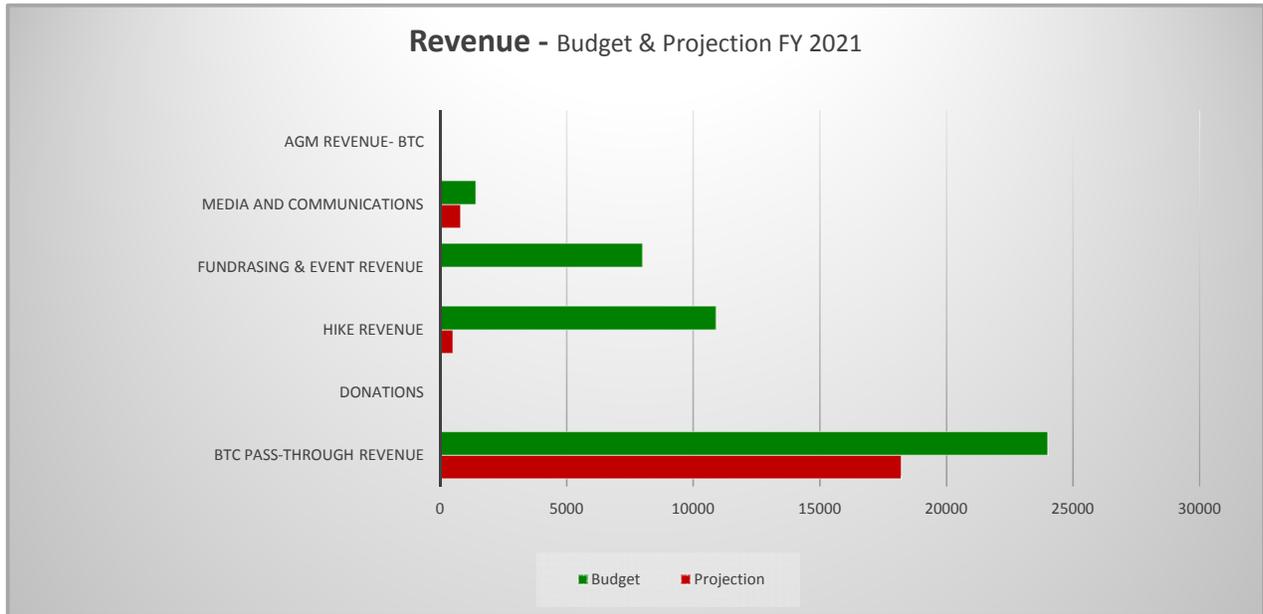


**Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the twelve months ending March 31st**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
BTC pass-through revenue	25,404	26,315
Donations	9,894	815
Hike Revenue	13,315	9,211
Fundraising & Event Revenue	8,175	6,730
Media and Communications	1,570	1,350
AGM Revenue- BTC	21,156	-
	<b>79,514</b>	<b>44,420</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Charitable Contributions	20,690	10,150
Hike Expenses	6,618	5,309
Fundraising & Event Costs	3,291	5,545
Media & Communications	6,329	7,567
Trail Development & Maintenance	12,934	5,586
Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations	109	253
Volunteer Recognition	1,433	264
Office and Admin Expenses	727	539
AGM Expense- BTC	17,013	-
	69,144	35,213
<b>Net Activities - revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>9,207</b>
Net Assets at the beginning of the year	41,407	32,200
Net Activities for the year	10,370	9,207
<b>Net Assets - end of year</b>	<b>51,777</b>	<b>41,407</b>
 <b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash in Bank	50,019	35,812
Accounts Receivable	2,854	3,859
Deposits	-	2,000
Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities	( 1,096)	( 264)
	<b>51,777</b>	<b>41,407</b>



**Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**Budget and Projection**  
**For the twelve months ending March 31, 2021**



The budget was expected to be well within the range of recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic will likely change the club's financial outlook materially and a projection has been made to assess its impact.

Enter changes for the Projection in shaded areas below.

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PROJECTION FY 2020 2021	April 2020 to March 2021				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>					
10000 BTC pass-through revenue	5,550	3,975	4,350	4,350	18,225
30000 Hike Revenues	-	-	-	500	500
40000 Fundraising & Event Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
50000 Media and Communications	-	-	400	400	800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>19,525</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
31000 Hike Expenses	300	300	300	300	1,200
41000 Fundraising & Event Costs	4,000	1,000	-	-	5,000
51000 Media & Communications	2,175	1,825	2,525	1,675	8,200
61000 TD&M	-	-	8,050	2,025	10,075
61500 Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations	250	-	500	250	1,000
71000 Volunteer Recognition	400	-	1,100	-	1,500
81000 Office and Admin Expenses	200	200	200	600	1,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>12,675</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>28,175</b>
<b>Net Activities</b>	<b>( 1,775)</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>( 7,925)</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>( 8,650)</b>

ORIGINAL BUDGET FY 2020 2021	April 2020 to March 2021				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>					
10000 BTC pass-through revenue	7,400	5,300	5,800	5,500	24,000
30000 Hike Revenues	300	300	9,800	500	10,900
40000 Fundraising & Event Revenue	900	-	7,100	-	8,000
50000 Media and Communications	300	300	400	400	1,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>44,300</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>					
<b>Expenses</b>					
31000 Hike Expenses	800	300	4,700	300	6,100
41000 Fundraising & Event Costs	1,200	-	2,100	-	3,300
51000 Media & Communications	2,175	1,825	2,525	1,675	8,200
61000 TD&M	5,475	2,650	4,050	25	12,200
61500 Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations	250	-	500	250	1,000
71000 Volunteer Recognition	400	-	1,100	-	1,500
81000 Office and Admin Expenses	200	200	200	600	1,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>15,175</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>33,500</b>
<b>Net Activities</b>	<b>( 1,600)</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>10,800</b>

WHAT IF	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Enter a number +/-, eg for a decrease of 50%, enter -50				
Membership renewals decline by:	-25%	-25%	-25%	-25%
Badges decline by:	-100%	-100%	-100%	0%
Offer advertisers free space?	0%	0%	0%	0%
Decrease or increase TD&M?				
Trail Costs- Maintenance	-100%	-100%	0%	0%
TD&M - Capital Projects	-100%	-100%	0%	0%
TD&M - Other (training and social)	-100%	-100%	0%	0%
Events are cancelled:	(Y/N)	if "N", event to be held	if held, participation changes by +/- %:	
Steele town Stomp	Y		0%	
End-2-End	Y		0%	
Bruce Trail Day	Y		0%	
Annual General Meeting	Y		0%	
Concert	Y		0%	

OTHER write-in INCREASES OR DECREASES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
enter \$-value increasing or decreasing revenue or expense and a comment.					
<b>Income</b>					
10000 BTC pass-through revenue	-	-	-	-	-
30000 Hike Revenues	-	-	-	-	-
40000 Fundraising & Event Revenue	( 300)	-	( 1,600)	-	( 1,900)
50000 Media and Communications	( 300)	( 300)	-	-	( 600)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>( 600)</b>	<b>( 300)</b>	<b>( 1,600)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>( 2,500)</b>

<b>Expenses</b>					
31000 Hike Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
41000 Fundraising & Event Costs	4,000	1,000	-	-	5,000
51000 Media & Communications	-	-	-	-	-
61000 TD&M	-	-	4,000	2,000	6,000
61500 Land Stewardship / Landowner Relations	-	-	-	-	-
71000 Volunteer Recognition	-	-	-	-	-
81000 Office and Admin Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>
<b>Net write-in increases or decreases</b>	<b>( 4,600)</b>	<b>( 1,300)</b>	<b>( 5,600)</b>	<b>( 2,000)</b>	<b>( 13,500)</b>

THEN	CASH - Beginning ▶			\$ 51,777
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>CASH PROJECTION</b>	<b>50,002</b>	<b>50,652</b>	<b>42,727</b>	<b>43,127</b>
<b>CASH BUDGET</b>	<b>50,177</b>	<b>51,102</b>	<b>59,027</b>	<b>62,577</b>
<b>Favourable (Unfavourable) difference</b>	<b>( 175)</b>	<b>( 450)</b>	<b>( 16,300)</b>	<b>( 19,450)</b>
<b>SUMMARY - Net Activities</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Fav (Unfav)</b>	
Revenue	19,525	44,300	( 24,775)	
Expenses	28,175	33,500	5,325	
<b>Net activities</b>	<b>( 8,650)</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>( 19,450)</b>

Write-in Comment	Comments
Eliminate merchandise sales at events	1 All events canceled
No advertising revenue Apr to Aug	2 Membership renewals declines 25%
	3 Badges decline 100% until December
	4 TD&M restricted April to August
	5 \$5000 spent on new initiatives
Special Events to fund new initiatives.	
Rescheduling costs from April to August	

# Trail Maintenance & Development Director's Report

A very special thanks to the 158 Trail Maintenance Volunteers who have the responsibility of maintaining our footpath of wilderness along the Niagara Escarpment in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Whether one of the 62 trail captains, 66 monitors or 25 trail workers, each contributes freely of their time to the benefit of our community. Thanks to the Zone Coordinators, Paul McLenachan, Art Johnston, Richard Pomeroy and Daryl Keays for the extra work they perform to make Iroquoia Trail Maintenance a success. All of our volunteers can be found any day of the week somewhere along the 82 kms of main trail or 41 kms of Side trail that make up Iroquoia Clubs 123 kms length of the Bruce Trail making a great thing better.

A heart felt thanks to Lyne Desforges for her leadership efforts in guiding the Trail Maintenance program for the past three years. Her positive attitude and friendly smile always providing the incentive to get the job done.

**Work Parties** – Regular work parties are scheduled for each Tuesday throughout the year. Additional work parties may be scheduled on Saturdays or other week days depending on nature of works involved. Activities are planned ahead of time by the 5 Zone Coordinators, who develop and and prioritize work based of needs identified through, trail audits, Trail Status Report's or other reports from trail workers and BTC staff. This year has been the most challenging on record due to the number of rainy (or snowy) Tuesdays which result in the work parties beeing cancelled and rescheduled to a later date. This year over 40 formal scheduled work parties plus additional small local work parties (less then 3 workers), involving some 2400 plus volunteer hours have been carried out. This does not include the hours logged by individual trail captlains and monitors on their own trail sections. In excess of 250 hazard trees were removed by volunteer efforts to keep the footpath open and safe.

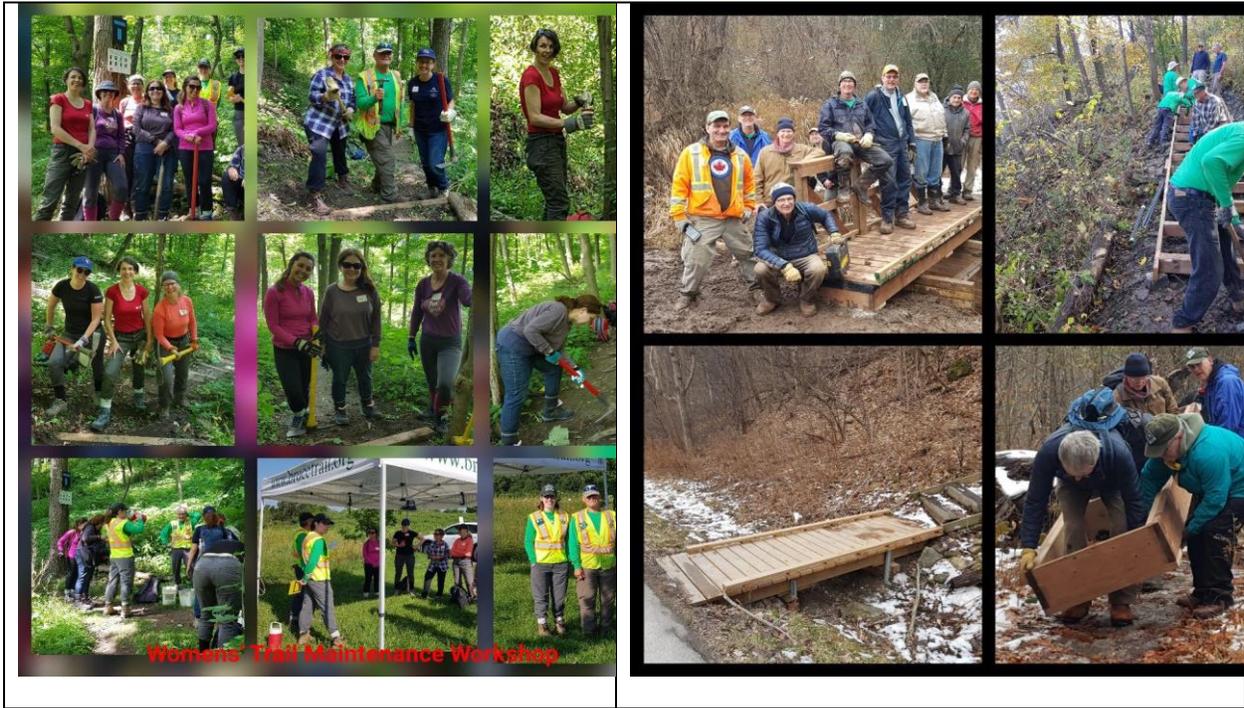
## **SOME OUTSTANDING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

**Trail Maintenance Volunteers Do More** - In addition to their usual maintenance activities, trail volunteers assisted in providing hands on support to a wide range of Iroquoia Club activities including Bruce Trail Day, New Year's Day Hike, End to End, Steeltown Stomp, and George Hamilton Day Hike. Always endeavoring to ensure the trail was safe and the best condition.

## **WOMENS' TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP**

Saturday August 13, 20-19, after several years of planning and discussing the Iroquoia Club held its first Woman's Trail Maintenance Workshop on the Main Trail in East Hamilton. The session was attended by 8 keen Bruce Trail volunteers and under the direction of Trail maintenance Volunteers Peter Morin, Mallory Peirce and Peter Rumble, received an introduction to trail safety and etiquette, blaze painting, benching and installing steps and water bars.

The workshop goals were to expand the trail maintenance volunteer base, diversify membership and to promote the Bruce Trail. An evaluation proved that all goals were met. All the participants worked hard, learned new skills had fun doing it. One individual said the day was harder the workout session at the gym.



**CP Rail/Centennial Overpass** - In Spring 2019, an agreement was reached with CP railway staff to allow the Main Trail to continue under the Centennial Parkway overpass with the construction of an elevated footpath and wire fence. To separate pedestrians from the rail tracks. This cooperative effort saved an extensive rerouting of the Main Trail on distant streets and roads. Thanks to everyone involved.



**HydraFlask Fund** – This past year the Iroquoia Club was fortunate to receive a \$9,000 grant from HydraFlask to apply towards capital works on the Bruce Trail. The \$9,000 was used to purchase materials, Trail maintenance volunteers provided the labour. The benefits of this grant and the works completed will be long lasting and due totally to the teamwork and major efforts put forward by the volunteers. Despite a spring, summer and fall of delayed work parties due to rain, cold and snow all five projects were completed on time and within the approved grant allocation. Special mention goes to Art Johnson, Zone C Coordinator for his leadership in implementing the HydraFlask Project.

All five planned projects were completed on time and under budget. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and commitment. The following is a list of the five projects:

- The Kennedy property stairs
- McCormack Property boardwalk
- Wilson Street bridge
- Sherman Access West stairs
- Snake Road bridge

**Trail Maintenance Volunteer Social** – On Saturday November 9, 2019 some 45 volunteers gathered at Canterbury Hills for an afternoon of reconnecting, meeting new volunteer members and recognizing their achievements during the past year. This is the third year of this annual event. The highlight was an “Open mike with Mike” session let be BTC President Michael McDonald. Opportunities were provided for volunteers to outline what worked well and what might be done going forward. Art Johnston was awarded the trail Director’s “Shovel” for his leadership in the HydraFlask Project.



**Trail Maintenance Award** - The recipient of the 2019/2020 Trail Maintenance Award is Daryl Keays. Daryl performs a great many role in support of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail, when not performing his duties as Trail Captain for Section E46A and B, Daryl is assisting hazard tree cutting as a IBTC qualified cutter and Zone E Coordinator. In addition Daryl is involved with trail audits in the risk management program, has taken a lead role in assisting to update the trail worker’s manual plus assisted the keep the TM&D workshop clean and orderly.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Rumble  
Trail Maintenance and Development Director.

# Hike Director's Report

The past year saw a new Side Trail Badge be introduced to our Club. Those interested in the badge can download a check list of side trails in our area to help them keep track. They are then asked to take photos of certain sections and send them in to our Club.

This was the first full winter that our Winter end to end badge was made available and a lot of people took advantage of the lack of snow to earn the badge. The jack in the pulpit end to end badge was a very popular item as we sent out 170 badges in 2019. The Junior Hiker badges continue to be a popular item.

Our mid-week hikes continue to grow and be popular, however, there needs to be an increase in the number of our weekend organized hikes. We continue to offer Hike Leader Training to many people, but those people are still reluctant to lead any hikes. A big thank you to Anne Armstrong for continuing to organize these hike leader training events. Another big thank you goes out to Bron Tregunno who has been leading wonderful educational hikes in partnership with other organizations and introducing a whole new group to our Club.

## Steeltown Stomp:

This sold-out event with 200 people was held on Saturday, September 21, 2019. This 20 km+2000 step adventure was completed by runners in between 1.5-3 hours, and completed by hikers in about 3-5 hours. The aid station volunteers outdid themselves yet again by hosting another grand display of fruit, snacks and drinks at the peak of Uli's stairs. Fun was had by all! Congratulations to all finishers.

## Bruce Trail Day:

This event was held on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Ontario Power Generation generously sponsored this event across all nine Bruce Trail Clubs, and participated in a social media challenge, whereby every single use of the hashtag #BruceTrailDay2019 a dollar was donated to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Thank you again OPG, for your generous support over the years. There were vendor displays from Cootes2Escarpment, Conservation Halton, Burlington Sustainable Development Committee, Iroquoia BTC Trail Maintenance, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Our Hike Leaders offered guided hikes every hour on the hour beginning at 10 am, with prizes drawn for each hiking group at the end of their hike. Over 20 new members joined the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

## Iroquoia Official End 2 End:

This event was held over two weekends, October 19-20, 26-27, 2019. This event has been growing substantially in popularity over the past few years, and it was sold-out yet again. Four buses were required on the first day. Congratulations to all finishers.

Of course we do have to thank all the Hike Leaders who are taking the time to lead hikes for us. Not only did they lead regular hikes, but they stepped up when the need came to lead hikes for the BTC Annual Meeting, Bruce Trail Day, George Hamilton Day with the City of Hamilton and New Years Day.

The online hiking calendar is turning out to be a big success. The ability to add hikes at any time, cancel or modify hikes and search hikes by other Clubs have made the hike schedule in the newsletter obsolete. On March 9, the IBTC hike calendar was updated to allow hike leaders to submit hike directly, without requiring approval from the board. This has allowed for a faster turn around time between hike submission and posting. It was with this in mind that the Board decided to stop printing the hike schedule in the newsletter starting this summer. Many other Club are also following the same course of

action. We will still post a hike listing, based on the date of the newsletter, as a pdf on our web page. It will not be updated as that what the online calendar is for.

On a final note, we sadly lost a great supporter of our hiking program and our Club in November. Dan Welsh lead many hikes and was always willing to encourage people to enjoy hiking and was always willing to give a helping hand to anybody who was having difficulty. He will be missed.

Samantha Ceci, Hike Director

## Media Director's Report

With your help, our community on social media has continued to grow. In the last year, we increased our Facebook likes from 1500 to 1964. Our Twitter account has gained 60 new followers and our Instagram account has grown from 550 followers to 993!

Our social media has been especially important over the last couple of weeks with Covid pandemic. It has been a great tool to communicate, stay positive and keep our community strong. Thank you to everyone who continues to share their photos and hiking experiences.

Things are going well with our website. We continue to update it as needed. If you have a suggestion for something you would like to see or see changed, never hesitate to contact me and let me know. We continue to work hard to be more environmentally friendly and to be as accurate as we can with hike schedules. In the spring of this year, we decided to remove the hiking schedule from the newsletter. If you are still having the newsletter mailed to you and would like to get an online copy instead please email [info@brucetrail.org](mailto:info@brucetrail.org). Our newsletter is about our club and our hiking community. If you ever have something you think should be added, never hesitate to send me an email.

Thank you to everyone respecting the trail closures, as hard as it is and I wish everyone a great and safe hiking season once the trails reopen.

Holly Sluiter, Media Director

## Landowner Relations Report

- We continue to develop our Landowner Ambassador program. We decided this year to focus on the approximately 50 landowners, identified by the BTC, as having Optimum Rote (OR) on their property that we do not control.
- Due to the more focused list, about 75 calendars were delivered either in person or by mail
- Rather than hold an appreciation event this year we invited our owners to attend the Beatles tribute concert held in November. We had 4 owners take advantage of this opportunity.
- The purchase of the River and Ruin property was an outcome of our contact with the landowner.
- The BTC has created a staff position for Lyndsey Wilkerson to offer BTC services to landowners in order to create good will with them. We are working with Lyndsey to help her to accomplish her goals.

Doug Yungblut, Landowner Relations Director

# Publicity & Education Report

## Educational Events:

First George Hamilton Day Aug 1st, 2019 Worked with Christopher Redford from Tourism & Culture Division, City of Hamilton and Alyssa Gomori, Curator Erland Lee Museum, 552 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek. With much support with these partners, and IBTC Director of Trail Maintenance, Peter Rumble, Samar Smith, Membership Director, Gary Wrathall and IBTC and NBTC hike leaders, we offered a successful experience for 50 hikers who attended. Hikes took place along the BTC section at Dewit Road to Jones or Lewis Road with bus pickup. Hikes included 14 stops where historical facts of Lee family and Women's Institute were presented. Many hikers were already BTC members. Thanks also to BTC head office for providing a tent and support. We hope to offer another in 2020 depending.

100 Hikers 100 Hikes Andrew Camani Speaker Event Dec 14, 2019. Andrew is an avid hiker and wrote and published this book of 100 voices of BTC members. He gave an engaging talk sharing his experiences as a writer/publisher and hiker. Date was moved from Dec 1st due to ice storm so numbers were down but we had almost 50 in attendance. Event was free and refreshments were provided. More speaker events are encouraged to engage our members & public.

## Education:

Developed education walks with team that included Peter Rumble, Samar Smith, Gary Wrathall and Anne Armstrong. Partnered with Marian Toth from Hamilton Aging in Community to offer monthly walks on Thursday's at 10 AM in partnership with and IBTC member starting in October which turned out to be quite popular. Walks were cancelled after March 5th due public health concerns around spread of Covid 19 virus. These will start up again as soon as group restrictions are lifted. Some walks included: History of War of 1812 (Gary Wrathall), History of 16 Mile Creek (Anne Armstrong), Fletcher Creek Fen Walk (Bruce Mackenzie Hamilton Naturalist Club), Eramosa Karst Geology (Rita Giulietta, Friends of The Eramosa Karst-FOTEK), Lichen in the City (Carolyn Zanchetta, Education & Stewardship Coordinator, Hamilton Naturalists Club), Dundas Museum & Town tour & walk (Austin Strutt, Exhibit Coordinator Dundas Archives & Museum & Stan Nowak Dundas Historical Society), History of Crooks Hollow with Rosemary Horsewood, Trees of Ancaster (Catherine Plocz, Natural Heritage Planner, City of Hamilton) Water Quality in Cootes & Bay (Christine Bowen, Bay Area Restoration Council) & History of Spencer Creek (Fraser Forest, Dundas Historical Society).

Some planned walks & events for when Covid-19 restrictions lift: Hiking 101 at Hamilton & Burlington public libraries & Adventure Attic, Dundas Waste Water Treatment Plant & Desjardins Canal walk & tour (Scott Gardin, Process Technologist Dundas WWTP), Red Hill Valley (Green Venture), Stoney Creek historical walk, Coyote Walk (Coyote Watch Canada), Wildflower walks, Waterdown History walk (Alissa Golden, Hamilton Tourism), Preventing Injuries on the Trail (Don Lesar, Dundas Physiotherapist), various location tree walks, Spencer Creek and other natural restoration projects in Hamilton (Jeff Stock, Watershed Stewardship Program HCA) and Nature Day during July 2021 weekend at Dundas Valley CA. Although I'll be leaving the board, I will continue work with Publicity & Education Director to plan & lead education walks for IBTC. Members are welcome to contact me with Ideas and suggestions!

## Publicity:

Used several resources to increase publicity including posting some regular hikes and all education hikes on Facebook and local papers websites. For larger events also sent in press releases to tips lines or reporters who sometimes picked them up like and community TV. Jennifer Moore is Metroland Media contact [jmoore@thespec.com](mailto:jmoore@thespec.com) PH 905-526-3333. A monthly news-blast was started by Jillian Malcolm where people who are not yet BTC members may sign up on our website or at community events where we've participated such as Halton Forest Festival, Compass Community Health Fair, Sustainability Fair in Hamilton and Ancaster Farmers Market.

Many thanks to IBTC board for a wonderful volunteer experience serving on the board!

Bron Tregunno, Publicity and Education Director



## Membership Director's Report

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is the second largest club of the nine clubs of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Membership for the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club has decreased slightly overall by 2% over the past fiscal year, consistent with overall results for BTC.

### Annual Club Membership Growth

Club	March 30, 2020	April 1, 2019	Total # Increase	% Increase
Niagara	919	909	10	1%
Iroquoia	2467	2523	-56	-2%
Toronto	3000	3160	-160	-5%
Caledon	988	988	0	0%
Dufferin	445	434	11	3%
Blue Mountain	680	699	-19	-3%
Beaver Valley	590	605	-15	-2%
Sydenham	538	523	15	3%
Peninsula	758	777	-19	-2%
Members at large	47	49	-2	-4%
<b>Total BTC</b>	<b>10432</b>	<b>10667</b>	<b>-235</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>

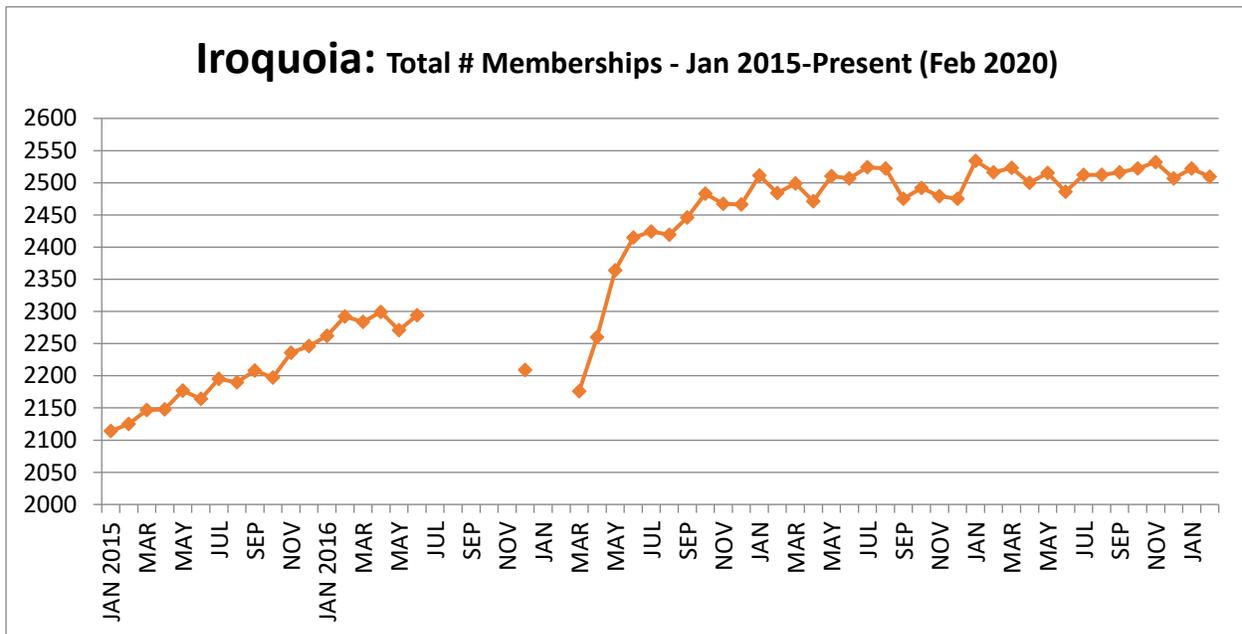
The decline of 2% in membership occurred in the month of March 2020 and is related with challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In mid-March, distancing measures required temporary closure of the Bruce Trail, and cancellation of hiking programs and other events. We recognize that this is an unusual and difficult time for many of our members, and there may be an impact on membership. In response, the BTC and the Iroquoia club will be trying to engage members with new initiatives like the virtual webinars until we can all get back to hiking on the trail.

The BTC mission remains so relevant and it is expected that any membership losses will be temporary. Prior surveys have indicated that most new members first learn about the club from a friend, family or colleague...so spread the word! The key reasons that members join or stay with the club are:

- To support the mission of the BTC
- To connect with nature and enjoy the trails
- To engage in hiking programs
- To support the maintenance of the trails

We continue to work with our many volunteers to manage programs that support the priorities of our members, as you can see in the reports of the other directors.

Over the longer term, the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club has seen steady continuous growth, similar to the overall growth of BTC memberships.



Continue to spread the word about your love of the trail and the importance of the BTC mission...and let's hope to get back on that trail soon!

Samar Smith, Membership Director

## Fundraising Director's Report

We had a success fund raising strategy through the sales of “buffs” and raised well over \$4,000, of which \$1,640 occurred in 2020. Thanks to Mountain Equipment Co-op for their support in selling the buffs at their Burlington store.

Another successful “End-to-End” hike was held this year. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers who made this wonderful occasion happen and also raised \$3,508.

The SteelTown Stomp, a joint effort event with the Niagara Club, raised a total of \$4,246.61, with half of this going to our Club.

We ran our second successful fund raising concert featuring a Beatles Tribute concert with Matt De Zoette. With silent auction items, ticket and alcohol sales we raised over \$5,000. Thanks for all the volunteers who made this a successful social get together. We are planning for the next concert and hope to have it in November in a new even better venue.

The Iroquoia Club hosted the very successful Bruce Trail Annual Meeting (BruceFest) in Hamilton and over \$5,800 was raised through silent auction items. I would like to thank our Sponsors C'est La Vie Wellness, Stansbury and Co., First Asset, Canadian Tire Dundas, Lamont Law, Openaire, RBC PH&N, and Horizons ETF.

Allan Meyer, Director of Fund Raising

## **Land Stewardship Director's Report**

Properties...We have 17 properties, managed by 14 Steward / Steward Teams. We have one other property, no management plan yet, and I will be assigning a Land Steward to it in the coming year.

Reporting...Our Stewards inspect and report on their properties a minimum of twice per year. There were no serious problems this year.

Training...The usual spring Training workshop has been cancelled this year.

Gary Beaudoin, Land Stewardship Director

## **Volunteer Director's Report**

Members and volunteers are the backbone of our organization. The Iroquoia Club is very fortunate to have over 200 volunteers who devote many hours to manage trails, lead hikes, support publicity events, manage our land and land owners, support social media, write our newsletter and much, much more. However, we always need more volunteers particularly in the areas of special events, projects, social media, fund raising and publicity. An important process that we have for volunteers is recognition at the AGM. As a result of our current situation, volunteers will still be recognized but "virtually".

We have a strong Nominations Committee tasked with identifying and selecting new candidates for the Board. We have had several changes this year with a few members stepping down after their term and new members joining our Board. We would like to thank Lyne Desforges, Katie Halsall, Jakob Kuzyk, John Farquharson, for their service on the Board. Doug Stansbury moved from Treasurer to Land Acquisition Director. Peter Rumble assumed the role of Trail Maintenance Director. We welcome the following new Directors: Joe Gould - Treasurer, Jordan Scott - Director at Large, Holly Sluiter - Communications, Trish Murphy - DL, Special Hike Events Coordinator, Samatha Ceci - Hike. We will also be saying good bye and thank you to Bronwen Tregunno, Publicity and Education Director, in May.

We are fortunate to have a enthusiastic, diverse Board who are motivated to make the Iroquoia Club the best it can be. If you have an interest in volunteering, please let me know.

Gloria Pennycook, Volunteer Director

## **BTC Land Acquisition Committee Representative Report**

By the fall of 2019, our Club saw another major land acquisition of 69 acres near the River and Ruin Side Trail near the village of Lowville, in the City of Burlington. The property includes 600 metres of Bronte Creek and the old ruins. Funding also came from the MapleCross Fund and a special program under the Federal Department of Environment and Climate Change.

In March 2020, the City of Hamilton transferred an unopened road allowance to the Bruce Trail. The road allowance is at the very south end of Millen Road where it meets with Maple Drive in Stoney Creek. There was a concern that neighbouring homes may want to purchase the lands for themselves and therefore remove an important side trail that gives residents, trail maintenance, hikers and emergency services quick and easy access in an important section of trail.

The BTC was approached by a property owner in central Hamilton who was interested in selling an unbuildable lot to us. The property was located between the rail trail and the Canadian Pacific railway line in the lower city and was being used for some outdoor storage material. A review by the Committee showed that we would very unlikely place any trail on the property and there were concerns about the stored material. It was kind that this person thought to contact us but we had to pass on it.

The Committee is presently going through a review on an existing “rating system” for properties on the optimum route. This system helps the BTC Board in their decisions to acquire properties.

Doug Stansbury, BTC Land Acquisition Committee Representative

## **BTC Board of Director’s Representative Report**

This has been an interesting year for the BTC organization, its Board and its Membership. I’ve limited my report to three select highlights.

For the second year in a row a large parcel of land within the Iroquoia section was secured, River and Ruin. I love River and Ruin and take children for hikes down the steep hillside to walk through a marsh on a boardwalk and eventually to follow the side trail as it meanders along Bronte Creek.

Two leadership changes took place last year with Michael McDonald accepting the role of CEO and Leah Myers stepping forward in January to Chair the BTC Board.

COVID swept into our lives the last weeks of the 2019-20 year. BTC Office quickly implemented plans that protected staff, volunteers and members. Staff members are drafting scenarios that may help the organization be prepared for a different future imposed by COVID. In the months ahead, we trust people will remember and value BTC’s conservation efforts and continue to support the land acquisition program.

Along with serving as a Director on BTC Board, I contribute to the Board’s Human Resource Committee, chaired the 2019 Nominating Task Force and participate on a newly formed Membership Task Force charged with assisting the CEO in ideating scenarios that may “increase the impact of membership”.

It has been a privilege to contribute to BTC and the Iroquoia Club. Thank you. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 416 573 4236.

Cynthia Archer, BTC Board of Director’s Representative and Club Secretary and Archivist.

## **Director at Large**

I had the pleasure this year of being introduced to the IBTC board as well as the plethora of initiatives and ideas that were being investigated and developed. One initiative was investigating the possibility of student volunteers through the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District Schoolboard through their

Voluntary Christian Service Program, and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's Community Involvement Hours Program. The initiative would allow secondary school students to volunteer for various events and cleaning up the trail and allow those students to use those hours towards their school boards respective programs. We are still working with the school boards and our board of directors to determine the best way to implement this program. Jillian Malcom has contributed greatly to this process.

I was able to volunteer at the Yogashala 4th Annual Yogathon to meet members of our community and discuss the importance of the mission of the BTC. I also gained exposure to the backend of how events are run and look forward to supporting however possible in the future.

I look forward to gaining more understanding of the structure and operations of the IBTC moving forward into the following years, and contributing in greater capacities.

Jordan Scott, Director at Large

## **Special Board Director – Girls on Boards**

In March 2018, I began my time with the Iroquoia Chapter of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. I was matched with the board through Girls20 Girls on Boards program. Throughout my time on the board I have had the opportunity to learn new skills and work on interesting projects and apply what I learned through the Board Governance Fundamental course I completed through the program. This year with the help of Bronwen Tregunno I piloted an online newsletter with the goal of helping to promote club events and hikes to both members and potential members. I also had the opportunity to volunteer at events such as the Bruce Trail AGM, The Iroquoia AGM, and Bruce Trail day. At the end of my term I began the initial stages of a special project working on getting more young people involved on the trail through volunteer initiatives. I'm incredibly grateful for my time on the board and am even more appreciative of the time board members took to help me learn and get involved

Sincerely, Jillian Malcolm

# Celebrating our 2020 volunteers

## 2020 Iroquoia Club Volunteer of the Year Award – Bronwen (Bron) Tregunno

The Volunteer of the Year Award is given to a BTC member who contributed through their volunteer activities to further the interests of the Iroquoia Club BTC.

Bron is a powerhouse in her efforts to expand the Iroquoia’s club involvement in the areas of education and publicity. Highlights including her organization and participation in the inaugural George Hamilton Day Celebration hike with the City of Hamilton. She has led a number of historically and natural science focused, educational hikes with guests from various different organizations, giving IBTC exposure to many new people and creating new connections with interested organizations.



She also organized a very successful speaker event at the Dundas Museum with Andrew Camani, author of “100 Hikers – 100 Hikes” during the winter to get people out and engaged in a different way besides hiking.

## 2020 Trail Maintenance Award – Daryl Keays

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

The recipient of the 2019/2020 Trail Maintenance award is Daryl Keays. Daryl is the proverbial Ever Ready bunny; he is here, there and everywhere. When not performing his duties as Trail Captain for Section E46A and B, Daryl is assisting hazard tree cutting as an IBTC qualified cutter and Zone E Coordinator. In addition, Daryl is involved with trail audits in the risk management program, has taken a lead role in assisting to update the trail worker’s manual plus assisted the keep the TM&D workshop clean and orderly. In his free time? Daryl is also an avid hiker.



## 2020 Friends of the Trail Award – Greg Lenko – The Escarpment Project

This award serves to recognize individuals and community organizations that have made significant contributions to the success of IBTC. **Greg Lenko**, founder of The Escarpment Project has been a true friend of the Bruce Trail for many years.

Growing up in Hamilton he has been hiking along the Escarpment since he was 6 years old. A bit older he started running the Wentworth stairs for exercise, when they were still wood at the time. The Escarpment has always been an important part of his life. It was the Escarpment that brought him back home. In late fall of 2010 while hiking he noticed how much litter and debris was scattered/dumped and



decided to do something about it. He created a short film about the condition of it at Devils Punchbowl and posted it online inviting people to help clean it up. The video went viral and in April of 2011 a group of 75 - 100 people cleaned it up, removing two overflowing dumpster bins and 10 pickup trucks full of garbage. The cleanup has grown larger each year as more sites were added. In its 3rd year it became a not for profit corporation called the Escarpment Project. Since then, annually clean ups take place in escarpment areas from Dundas to Grimsby and have also included areas of Short Hills Park in St Catharines. Greg's efforts have led some volunteers to create their own clean up events such as; Hamilton's Beautiful Alleys clean up and Stewards of the Cootes. Future plans propose expansion further into Niagara as well as North to Orangeville or further. Greg's leadership and energy have certainly earned him the award as a Friend of the Trail.

## 2020 Publicity and Public Education Award – Marian Toth

In retirement [2006] I began hiking and became a member of the BTC, Iroquoia. I joined the weekday hiking group, The Good Companions, for something to do to fill my days, but before I knew it I was hooked, had finished the first 3 sections of the Bruce Trail, and there was no turning back. Between volunteer work with various groups, welcoming grandchildren into the family, and travel, I along with a hiking partner, completed the entire trail in October 2012. I was able to do so due to the terrific end-to-ends run by tremendous volunteers of the various clubs. My hope was to repay their generosity by volunteering for the BTC but I couldn't see a place where I could fit in.



Afterwards, I continued to hike weekly and locally. After a time I found some of that level of hiking too difficult. The original hike leaders I had hiked with were aging and leaving BTC hiking for the same reasons. It was disappointing to have no place to fit into, and sad to see past hike leaders have to leave.

So it was a pleasant surprise to read an article in The Iroquoian about the Education Walks being developed by Bronwen Tregunno. At this point I had become a member of 'Hamilton Aging in

Community', a group of community-minded mature adults and seniors in the Hamilton area who are committed to exploring and initiating approaches to flourish as we age. It seemed that our goals of building connections and developing learning alternatives fit in with those of the Educational Walks. Perhaps, this would be my opportunity to give back and volunteer with the Iroquoia Club.

I contacted Bronwen with my suggestion to join forces and she was open to discussing the possibility of working together. To date, we have held several informative walks, attracting large groups of seniors, some of their children and grandchildren, and people interested in the various topics offered. We have connected with experts within the realms of nature, the environment and local history who have acted as speakers for these sessions.

Through this Iroquoia BTC group, seniors are able to continue to be physically and intellectually active and involved in appreciating and advocating for the natural habits of the area.

### **Hike Award - Holly Sluiter and Vani Rouse**



Holly and Vani saw an opportunity to put their planning skills to the test by creating the Side Trail challenge. Vani created the beautiful badge, which was the second badge she created for the club. 42 people took on the challenge of hiking all of our Clubs side trails in 2019.

### **Junior Appreciation Award - Jillian and Ethan Leaker**

For their motivation and determination to clean up the Bruce Trail. Jillian and Ethan Leaker took it upon themselves to go out on a regular basis to clean up the area around the top of the Glover Mountain Side Trail in upper Stoney Creek. The following is from Jillian:

In the HWCDSB there is a community service commitment of 40 hours required before graduation. I wanted to do something with my hours that would relate to something I am passionate about. I care a lot about the environment and maintaining natural spaces. We are lucky to live really close to the Bruce Trail-the Glover Mountain Access is at the end of our property. It is such a beautiful area and it's a place where people like to gather or walk.

Unfortunately there are often times that litter and waste are left behind. Some people even dump their unwanted garbage there. We've found everything from tires to building supplies to used diapers discarded in heaps at the top of the trail. It is sad to see the trail marred by so much garbage and waste. After talking with my Dad he emailed the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Conservancy and asked if my brother and I could clean the access and trail as part of our community service. We connected with Gloria by email and she was really helpful.

My brother and I were shocked by the amount of garbage we were able to clear over several hours of work. It was a really good feeling to see the bags of contained garbage and to see the area looking so tidy. Over the winter we noticed the area has again become littered with debris and garbage. I am planning an afternoon with my friends once we are able to be out together to do another big clean up. I'm excited that they want to help too and be a part of keeping our area of the trail beautiful. I plan to continue putting in a few hours each week over the summer maintaining it. I really like that I am able to fulfill my community service hours while also being able to do something that is important to me so that others can enjoy the Bruce Trail!

