



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

IROQUOIA CLUB

2021 Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club Awards



Volunteer of the Year – Samar Smith



She joined us six years ago and was instantly willing to take on anything we threw at her. Like many of us who did not know much about social media or web page design she took it on with the help of her children Jeffery and Monica. Samar is our Membership Director, which is not an easy position. Her manners were a perfect fit for this role, as she is the “voice” of our Club when getting in touch with new or lapsed members. She is the one who would always be standing at our membership table at various events eagerly waiting to talk with someone. Samar would also take the initiative to go out on the trail with a table and set up a “pop up” information booth for people passing by. She is also a hike leader and just recently became a Trail Monitor. Finally, she is our representative / organizer, along with Peter Rumble, on the very successful Steeltown Stomp

fundraiser. It should be noted that her son Jeffery, was awarded our Club Youth Award a number of years ago. Thank you for everything Samar.

Words from Gloria Pennycook:

When Samar joined the Iroquoia Board as the Communications Director, she admitted that she knew little about social media but was willing to learn. And she did!! Samar enlisted the help of her children and together, they accomplished a great many improvements to our communications. Above and beyond that, Samar volunteered for almost everything! She was always the one who put up her hand to help out. Samar is very passionate about the Bruce Trail. She made great contributions to our Board. Thanks so much for your service on the Board and beyond. See you on the trails!!

Words from Cynthia Archer:

Samar actively contributed to the Iroquoia Club community on many fronts – filling a variety of Board positions, providing leadership for the Steeltown stomp, volunteering to assist at check points, BTC promotion tables, etc.

I will miss Samar as she so often in board meetings shared thoughtful alternative views to problems, issues and solutions that helped us grow intellectually and make wiser decisions for the club’s community.

I am glad she will stay involved so we may continue to benefit from her sage perspectives on issues.

Iroquoia Club Trail Maintenance Award

- Harry Vanderveen



The Iroquoia Club Trail Maintenance Person of the Year is awarded to Harry Vanderveen for 2020.

Harry has been a BTC member for 7 years and has been volunteering with Trail Maintenance for over half that time. The past year has been very challenging for Iroquoia Trail Maintenance. In this time of restrictions and reduced activities on the trail, Harry stood out. For the last few years, he has taken over the unenviable task of grass cutting in the top half of Iroquoia. 2020 was no exception; Harry was out every week throughout the grass cutting season making sure the grass was cut back and helping out countless other Trail Captains who might have had a much more difficult time in maintaining their sections.

Harry is also the Trail Captain at the BTC MapleCross Nature Reserve at River and Ruin in Lowville. Harry was instrumental

in helping get the new Squire Cleaver and Dan Welsh Side Trails established on the property.

Harry's energy and enthusiasm for the Bruce Trail is highly contagious and as a result he is very well known to local hikers in the areas that he maintains.

Land Stewardship Awards

Volunteers are a vital component of the Land Stewardship Program. The primary volunteers in this program are the Land Stewards who are the caretakers and eyes of the land. Land Stewards visit their assigned properties at least twice a year, complete annual reports on the conditions of the property, provide input into the stewardship plans, and help to organize and carry out stewardship activities such as tree planting in abandoned fields, garbage removal, and installing signs and fences.

This year we wish to recognize the following people for their dedication:

Sheryl Johnston and Doug Johnston – Cline Bench property in Grimsby for seven years.

Kathleen Lawday – Burlington Easement property (Cityview Park) for five years.

Junior Appreciation Award - Ashwini Selvakumaran



Ashwini joined the Iroquoia Club Board in June 2020 as part of the Girls on Board organization. This group pairs up young women with Not for Profit Boards to provide them with training and experience. Ashwini immediately became involved by supporting the social media efforts - an analysis to make improvements, creation of Spotlight Mondays amongst other things. In addition, she has reached out to all Board members and the CEO to determine opportunities for increasing youth engagement in the Bruce Trail. As a result, Ashwini is now involved in the Youth Engagement Team being lead by the BTC. Ashwini has provided a helping wherever it has been needed including the organization of our first virtual AGM. It is important to note that she is also the winner of the Hamilton YWCA Youth Trailblazer Award for Halton Region. Congratulations!!

