

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

SEPTEMBER '09

UPDATES
EVENTS
IDEAS
NEWS



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Now that summer is behind us, it's time to take a look at our trail to see whether or not it has withstood the wear and tear of summer hikers and "vandals". Monitors play an important role in this, helping to keep Trail Captains informed and our trails safe. One club who has a monitor system in place was recently advised by one of its monitors that one of their bridges had 3 platform planks deliberately damaged by vandals. A work crew was immediately dispatched and the bridge was repaired. Monitors are not always available, it takes considerable peoplepower to do this, but for those clubs interested in how it works, here is one club's approach.

TRAIL MONITOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The main objective of a Trail Monitor is to assist the Trail Captain in a geographic section. You are an extra pair of eyes necessary to help discover and report problems

such as overgrowth, erosion, wet areas, damaged blazes, vandalism, graffiti, garbage dumping, tree falls, hazard trees, and broken structures, such as steps, bridges, boardwalks, etc.,

Urgent problems need to be reported to the Trail Captain as soon as possible. When reporting problems to your trail captain, it is important to accurately place the location of the problem using your trail geography and with as much detail as possible.

As a monitor, you are expected to walk your section at least once a month, more often if possible. You are requested to keep track of the time spent on your volunteer duties on the Trail Monitor Report which is to be returned to your Trail Captain in March, June and November. As the Bruce Trail is a volunteer-driven organization, our funding efforts often depend on demonstrating how seriously our volunteers take their commitments.

The Trail Monitor is not required to do any heavy work on the Trail, but you may

assist your Trail Captain if you wish. When inspecting your section it may be helpful to bring some short handled pruning shears to cut back any vegetation that may be intruding onto the treadway. Garbage bags are useful for picking up light litter along the Trail. Any major garbage pick up is the responsibility of the Trail Captain.

Besides monitoring any trail problems, please report any concerns expressed by a trail user or a landowner, so that the concerns may be remedied by the appropriate person(s). Obtain as much detail as possible, including the person's name and phone number. Do not make any commitment other than a promise to pass on the information

As you may know, the BTC is on a campaign to secure the Trail. If you see any land on your section that is up for sale, or any development that may affect the current trail route, please report it to the Trail Captain, so that it can be followed up quickly.

Enjoy your role as a Monitor. You play an important part in maintaining the Bruce Trail for this and future generations.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR DONORS

Here's an idea that one of our clubs has come up with to honour donors who have contributed so generously to the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This hand-crafted obelisk was recently erected on a picturesque



section of the Bruce Trail overlooking the escarpment and Lake Ontario. The structure is to be used to mount donor plaques and can accommodate up to 40 in total.

The obelisk is constructed out of an 8x8 inch hemlock timber, 8 feet high, imbedded into a rock and secured by 4 half-inch thick bolts. The top of the obelisk is tapered and was embellished by hand; the bottom was fitted into a half-inch thick steel support. The surrounding area was cleared allowing a full view of Lake Ontario. Hikers can enjoy a restful pause at this location while sitting on a log bench also constructed by our volunteers. Congratulations for this splendid effort.



Pictures by Richard Pomeroy

A new feature of TREADWAY will be the recognition of members of our Trail Maintenance volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the Bruce Trail and their community. A special issue will be published from time to time honouring these exceptional people. Each club is invited to suggest members of their club whom they feel should be included in upcoming "Honour Role" issues.

Guideline for Treadway submissions:

- should be trail maintenance related
- new ideas and concepts welcomed
- articles should be up to 300 words
- some editing may be required
- pictures can be included

