

## Mayor Marolyn Morrison ? Check out the sections of the Bruce Trail in Caledon



The Bruce Trail is Canada's longest, and one of its oldest, marked footpaths.

It runs 885 kilometres from Queenston Heights on the Niagara River to Tobermory at the top of the Bruce Peninsula. There are 49 kilometres of the main Bruce Trail in the Town of Caledon, entering the Town at Winston Churchill Boulevard and exiting the Town as it crosses Highway 9 between Airport Road and Glen Haffy Road.

The Trail was built and is maintained by volunteers of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its nine member clubs. The Conservancy is a charitable organization committed to establishing a conservation corridor containing a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment, in order to protect its natural ecosystems and to promote environmentally responsible public access to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The Niagara Escarpment is the most significant landform in southern Ontario. It is a largely forested ridge of fossil-rich sedimentary rock (dolostone) which is 725 kilometres in length and, at its highest elevation, soars 510 metres (1,625 feet) above sea level. It traverses the most heavily developed and densely populated region of Canada. Six million people live within a 90-minute drive of the Escarpment. The Escarpment was declared a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1990.

The Escarpment is home to an astounding variety of flora and fauna, including 300 species of birds, 53 mammals, 36 reptiles and amphibians and 90 species of fish. It also includes 37 species of wild orchids and the cliff faces of the Escarpment have eastern white cedar trees that are more than 1,000 years old. While at the University of Guelph, I worked with the professor who discovered the oldest Eastern White Cedar on the Niagara Escarpment. You might imagine that because of its age it would be huge, but, in fact it was a small, distorted looking tree.

Each of the nine member clubs of the Conservancy is responsible for maintaining a section of the Trail. Two Bruce Trail Clubs operate in Caledon, the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club (40.7 kilometres of main trail) and the Toronto Bruce Trail Club (8.3 kilometres of trail). Both clubs have side trails in the town; side trails provide access to viewpoints, parking lots and areas of special interest such as wetlands. For more information, check the club or conservancy ([www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org)) websites. You can download maps of the Trail to your computer or smartphone for a nominal cost.

The Bruce Trail is a public footpath. Any member of the public can walk, hike, snowshoe or ski on the Trail. Mountain bikes and all-terrain vehicles are not allowed, for a number of environmental and legal reasons.

The Bruce Trail is a valuable component of the outdoor recreation opportunities available to the residents and citizens of the Town of Caledon; I encourage you to take advantage of this world famous attraction.