

Toronto Club's AGM a Big Success

More than 150 members of our club turned out on Saturday for our Annual Meeting, held once again at the beautiful Kortright Centre on a spectacular spring day. The day started with three vigorous hikes led by hike leaders Barbara Euler, Wayne Crockett and Lucy Leung. Following lunch the business of the meeting began. I had the pleasure of reporting on another excellent year for the club, with solid financial results and another year of excellent work by our volunteers across all our areas of activity. The full annual report is available for download on the members' section of our website.

Six new directors were elected: Alina Lin, Liz Bernier, Karim Mishriki, Jenna Nensi, Brigette McCabe and Brenda Brazier. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to their valuable contributions going forward. We reluctantly accepted the resignations from the board of Sima Patel, Magdalena Vander Kooy and Vlad Bosnar. But they are not going far! All three will continue to be involved in volunteer activities on behalf of our club.

Larry Haigh reported on plans for this year's Hike-a-Thon, which will follow on the record fundraising success of last year's effort. Marlis Butcher spoke to our members about the BTC's Legacy Campaign, which provides us with the opportunity to remember the Bruce Trail in our wills.

Peter Leeney presented awards to this year's winners of the Nina Carlisle and Todd Bardes awards. The Nina Carlisle award went to former Trail Director Dave Paape, for his many years of service to the club. The Todd Bardes award was given to Deb Brander for her hard work in developing the club's new website. Both awards are well deserved – congratulations to both.

Our guest speaker was Caroline Schultz, Executive Director of Ontario Nature. Her insightful presentation spoke about the Convention on Biological Diversity ("AICHI"), and Canada's commitment to achieve protection of 17% of our lands and fresh waters. She gave examples of specific policy changes the Ontario Government could make that would help us achieve this target within our province. Land acquisitions made by the Bruce Trail Conservancy within the Niagara Escarpment also play a role in achieving this target.

All-in-all, an excellent day, and we all came away motivated for another year of volunteering and recreation with Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

John Grandy

President