

Trail Blazing

Dufferin Quarry: 7 kms with a great view

by Frances Walker

Our second hike is more challenging than the first, but it offers a great view and a chance to see a quarry operation from a unique viewpoint.

Take Campbellville Road (5th Side Road) west from either Trafalgar Road (Georgetown) or Highway 25 (Acton). After crossing Hwy. 25, turn right on Dublin Line (the first intersection). Dublin Line (1st Line) passes the entrance to Dufferin Quarry on the left and then ends at the foot of the Escarpment.

There is a private drive into Greystone Golf Club on the right. Park on the shoulder at the end of the road and proceed on foot up the dirt track, which is the unopened 1st Line road allowance. At the top of the hill, watch for white blazes.

The trail enters from your left and proceeds along the road allowance in the direction you have been going. You want to turn **left** and follow the trail **westward**. As you proceed, note the cedar trees clinging to the Escarpment face. These trees have been shown to be very old — some are 900 years old!!!

After about 1km you will approach a gap in the Escarpment where trucks from the quarry operation enter and leave the site. A sturdy bridge was built over this gap in 1991, with the contributions of many people and Dufferin Quarry. There is a plaque listing donors and an interpretive sign on the east side of the bridge. Rest a while and look around. You could return to your car now for a short walk of 3km or continue over the bridge.

After crossing the bridge, you continue along the Escarpment face for a further 2km before the trail comes out on 6th Line (Milton). Across the street is the Halton Country Inn which is open for refreshments depending on the season.

Turn around and retrace your steps to the bridge and then to the road allowance. This walk is about 7km long. You will want to allow 3 hours to complete the hike and admire the views.

Be careful of the steep Escarpment faces and stay on the trail both for your own safety and to protect the plants. In the summer, there is poison ivy in the area. Hiking this section of trail in the winter is not recommended due to icy conditions.

It takes about 15-20 minutes to get to the starting point from Georgetown and slightly less time from Acton. Running shoes or hiking boots are a must. For a bit of effort, you will be rewarded with a spectacular view.

Would you like to know more about the Bruce Trail? Why not call their 800 number? It's 1-800-665-HIKE.

Frances Walker and her husband, Ian, have been residents of Georgetown since 1974. They have been active Bruce Trail members since then and now maintain the section of the trail that goes through Scottsdale Farm. They can often be found out on the trail with Ian's brother Chris and their dog Maxine - clipping, sawing, chipping the wet spots, and just enjoying the beautiful Ontario countryside.

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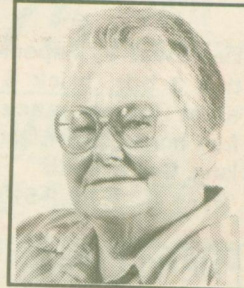
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