

NATURE RESERVES

Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve



The 423-hectare Malcolm Bluff Shores property is located on the Niagara Escarpment on the north shore of Colpoys Bay, an embayment of Georgian Bay, and includes four kilometres of undeveloped Great Lakes shingle beach shoreline as well as an unbroken expanse of forested land. The Bruce Trail crosses the property, running along the top of the escarpment. The views from the trail looking out across Georgian Bay are spectacular.

The Malcolm Bluff Shores property has an amazing physical diversity, with over 110 metres of elevation change from the beach to the highest point at the top of the escarpment. Six distinct geologic formations can be observed, as can wetlands, forests, talus slopes and vertical cliffs. Black bears, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds, wood thrush, Canada warblers and peregrine falcons have been seen on the property, as have a number of rare fern species.



Protection of this incredible property is taking place over a three-year period in partnership with the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). Ontario Nature purchased the initial 233-hectare plot of the Malcolm Bluff Shores in the spring of 2010 with support from Nature Canada. BTC purchased a further 114 hectares of Malcolm Bluff Shores in March 2011. Together, Ontario Nature and BTC have permanently protected 346 hectares, or over 80 percent, of this reserve for its diverse plant and animal communities alongside the Georgian Bay shoreline.

Ontario Nature is now raising funds to buy the final 77 hectares by March 2012. To support Ontario Nature's efforts to protect Malcolm Bluff Shores, please visit: protectyourshare.ca

How to get there

From the centre of Warton, follow highway 6 north three kilometers and go right on County Road 9. Proceed on County Road 9 for 6.2 kilometers and turn right on Purple Valley Road. Follow Purple Valley Road for 5.2 kilometers to an intersection, where Purple Valley Road turns left. Continue straight through this intersection on Wright's Crescent and follow for two kilometers, where Wright's Crescent takes a 90-degree bend to the left. Look for the Purple Valley Access trailhead on the right, at the bend. A parking area is located on the right, just beyond the 90-degree bend. Hiking access to the property is via the Purple Valley Access Trail, which runs approximately one kilometer from Wright's Crescent to the Bruce Trail.