



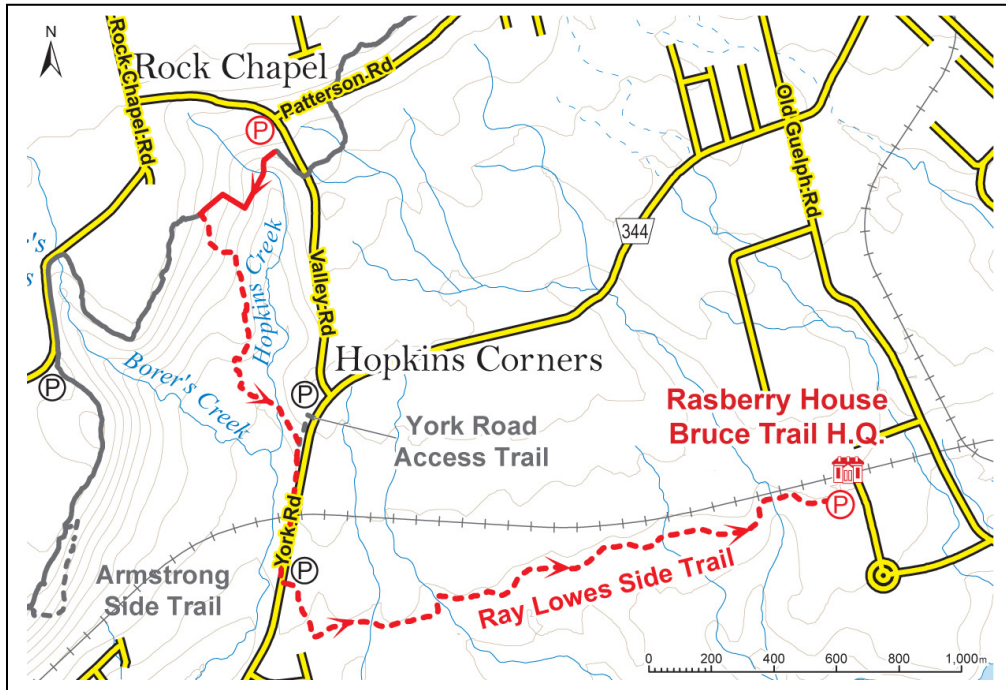
Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

Ray Lowes Side Trail

Hike Length: 4 km

Section: Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club



How to get there and Where to Park: This is a linear hike, rather than a loop, which means you will need two cars (one at each end), or have someone drop you off at the start and/or pick you up at the end. Both cars should meet at the Bruce Trail headquarters at Raspberry House, in the Arboretum area of the Royal Botanical Gardens on Old Guelph Road. Old Guelph Road intersects Plains Road/York Boulevard just north of the main Royal Botanical Gardens building on Plains Road.

Once in the Arboretum, take the right hand laneway up the hill to Raspberry House. Leave one car near the old stone silo at the parking lot by Raspberry House, and use the other car to take the hikers to the parking area at Valley Road. To get there, turn left on to Old Guelph Road from the Arboretum, and at York Road (not to be confused with York Boulevard), turn left. Turn right at Valley Road and go up hill to a small parking area at the west side of the road.

Description of Hike: From the parking area on Valley Road, take the main Bruce Trail (white blazes) on the west side of the road down into the forest, roughly half a kilometre to the intersection with the Ray Lowes Side Trail. Turn left and follow the Ray Lowes Side Trail down the valley of Hopkin's Creek. The Trail emerges at York Road, follows it south for about 1 km, and then crosses the road and turns onto the grounds of the Royal Botanical Gardens. In this next section there are several RBG trails, part of the Cootes Paradise North Shore Trail System. Take care to follow the blue blazes. Near the end of the side trail you will reach the old silo at the parking lot at Raspberry House. You can purchase maps, books and other products from the Bruce Trail General Store, open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

The side trail is named after Ray Lowes, the Founder of the Bruce Trail. Ray's concern for conservation of the Niagara Escarpment in 1960 lead him to the idea of providing a public footpath on Escarpment so that people would explore it and see the need to conserve it. From his original idea, the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its member Clubs now develop and manage more than 1,200 kilometres of main Trail and side trails, and are active in preserving and stewarding thousands of hectares of land along the Escarpment.