



CANADIANS CONCERNED ABOUT LAND PRESERVATION

Letter from Dr. Doug Galt, President

As Canadians we have around us vast areas of wilderness without a trace of a human being. So why would we need ever increasing numbers of Land Trusts? Why have governments, federal and provincial changed financial rules and regulations to assist Land Trusts and residents to protect some of these lands? In Southern Ontario particularly around the GTA those areas of wilderness are disappearing quickly as our provincial population increases. There are ever increasing pressures for construction of roads, factories and homes on our sensitive lands.



“many generous people have a genuine concern for their lands...”

The popular media would have us believe that all is doom and gloom for the environment and we as Canadians are not responsible. Not so. We do have environmental challenges. However, we have, walking in our midst, many generous people who have a genuine concern for their lands and our collective future. They are willing to donate their special marsh or woodlot to a Land Trust to ensure that it will be there for many generations to come. Consequently these land owners/donors have a very high expectation of how a Land Trust will act and look after their land. They are willing to give one of their most valued assets to us; what an awesome responsibility for a volunteer board of directors of a Land Trust.



(L-R) Rick Norlock, MP; Dr. Doug Galt, NLT President; Simone Mery, WBFN President & Janette Johnston, Treasurer

Northumberland Land Trust started three years ago with no money and no land, but with some great ideas and an enthusiastic board of directors. We germinated from an idea of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and they are providing matching funding dollar for dollar that we receive in donations. This has indeed been a solid base from which to start. I have found it interesting to learn that most Land Trusts have evolved from an environmental controversy and when that controversy was over there was this pent up desire by a large number of people to move on and do something else for the environment, particularly the protection of land and so Land Trusts would be formed.

At present we own 100 acres known as the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre. We are currently negotiating four other properties and hopefully by the years end at least two of them will be in our possession.

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST BOARD

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Mark your calendar for the NLT Gala Dinner & AGM January 31 “An Evening on the Burning Plains”

Some would ask, “what takes so long?” and rightly so.

Let me describe some issues. First, there are several steps that need to be taken in the process. These are expensive and sometimes time-consuming. The costs below are approximate:

- The appraisal \$2,500
- The survey \$2,500
- Legal and conveyancing costs \$5,000
- With the appraisal and survey, the donor will receive a tax receipt
- Donor/NLT negotiations on how the land is to be maintained



So you see, it can cost as much as \$10,000 to accept free land! And right up until the last minute the family can change their mind... These are only a few of the issues that the board faces in land transfers.

The land donated to a Land Trust will be protected into the foreseeable future. Should anything happen to the Northumberland Land Trust and it is unable to maintain the lands, the properties would by law go to a like organization where the protection would continue. Automatically these protected lands ensure a protected habitat for animals and plants, many of which may be at risk.

I'm very proud of the board members that I've had the pleasure of working with. They truly are volunteers. They travel miles to visit landowners and potential properties for NLT and seldom charge any out-of-pocket expenses. We have indeed accomplished a lot in the first three years of our existence.

Recently, we have engaged Elisabeth La Fontaine who has a background in Association Management to work on a part-time, contract basis for us. She has given our board members a great boost as the work-load was starting to tell on some of our members. We have plans, as you will see in this newsletter to provide more services to our members including:



Elisabeth La Fontaine

- A quarterly newsletter
- An illustrated talk about the role of the NLT and the Oak Ridges Moraine
- A Gala Dinner to be held in Alderville in January
- Fall nature walks, with a knowledgeable naturalist, to see some NLT properties

You are always welcome to attend any of our regular board meetings held on the 4th Thursday evening of the month at 7:00 PM, in the dining room at the Victoria Retirement Living, 100 University Ave., in Cobourg.

So that we may sustain the valuable work of the Northumberland Land Trust, I invite you to become a member, renew your membership or make a donation - for which a tax receipt will be issued. The membership/donation form is attached to the Newsletter.

Many thanks for your support. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

Doug Galt,

douggalt@sympatico.ca

LANDOWNERS AND DONORS WELCOME!

If you are interested in learning more about the Northumberland Land Trust with a view to donating a property or selling a piece of land to us for conservation, please let us know. We will put you in touch with the relevant Board Member who will meet with you and explain how you may be eligible for a significant tax benefit and the costs involved in setting this up for you.

Check out the Fall and Winter Events Calendar to join us!

ACQUISITION OF TWO NEW PROPERTIES ALMOST COMPLETE ...

*Paul Peterson, NLT Executive Vice-President &
Mark Stabb, Nature Conservancy of Canada*

The Northumberland Land Trust is working on finalizing conservation easement over more than 100 acres on Molly Leckey's property in Cramahe Township. The Survey has been completed. Once registered, this agreement will protect a combination of high open hills and a portion of the forested slopes and valley of Salt Creek. This is a significant natural area identified by the Lower Trent Conservation Authority.

The transfer of the second property is being negotiated between the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Northumberland Land Trust. The McEwen property, located in Hope Township, is a tract of rolling wooded kame* forest and open fields directly adjacent to the Ganaraska Forest. It also contains some prairie elements. The habitats include meadows, Oak Pine Forest, White Cedar Coniferous Forest, a birch-poplar mixed swamp, a creek and a rich pond. The property directly abuts the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority lands to the west, and contributes to forest interior conditions on surrounding lands, and includes a headwater tributary of the Ganaraska River.



Eastern Hognose Snake

The area around the property is known to have the threatened Eastern Hognose snake. Areas of appropriate habitat are present on this property for this species. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail runs along the concession road along the south end of the property. The Nature Conservancy of Canada received the donation of this land from the McEwen family last spring, with a plan in place to negotiate the transfer of this property to the NLT. Discussions are underway to settle on the terms of a land-holding agreement between NCC and NLT that will ensure long-term protection for the property.

*Kame or kam, low, steep, rounded hill or ridge of layered sand and gravel drift, developed from glacial deposits. Kames were probably formed by streams of melting glacial ice that deposited mud and sand along the ice front. The subsequent retreat of the glacier left them as more or less isolated hills and ridges.

THE BIG PICTURE ON LAND TRUSTS...

Northumberland Land Trust is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) and as such is automatically a member of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, (CLTA). The Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices, are the guidelines by which all Land Trusts are operated.

OLTA is a non-profit organization with a mandate to encourage the Land Trust movement throughout Ontario. It provides professional support to a province-wide network of members.

The scope of OLTA encompasses wilderness, agricultural and other lands, water and facilities that have a natural, cultural or heritage significance to communities throughout Ontario.

Land trusts and conservancies are generally local in scope and operation, but may be provincial, regional or even national. Most land trusts focus on conserving the biological values of land, but across the continent land trusts have been established to protect scenic, historical, agricultural, and recreational lands as well.

For more information please refer to the websites:

Canadian Land Trust Alliance: www.clta.ca
Ontario Land Trust Alliance: www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org

Volunteers welcome for fund-raising, special events and stewarding committees

N.L.T. Fall and Winter Schedule of Events

Please register on the attached registration form or on the website at www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca.

Saturday Sept. 22 Nature Walk through the scenic Leckey Property
10:00 am - 12 noon

This walk will be led by Audrey Wilson, a general naturalist, who both pioneered and coordinated the outdoor education program for Northumberland County for many years. Audrey confesses to specializing in birds, moths and butterflies but her knowledge of "all things natural" is extensive.

Saturday Oct. 27 Nature Walk through McEwen property
10:00 am - 12 noon

This walk will be led by Dr. Brenda Beck, a Board Member of the Northumberland Land Trust. She and her husband have owned property in Northumberland County for many years. Brenda is a scholar and writer with wide interests. She has an appreciation for the natural beauty of the County and a concern for the care of the environment. She will be joined by a representative from Nature Conservancy Canada.

Thursday, Nov. 15 "Northumberland Land Trust's Role in the Preservation of the Oak Ridges
7:00 pm Moraine"

We are delighted to be able to bring you Debbie Crandall, Executive Director, STORM Coalition. She is a hydro-geologist and has worked on the Moraine for more than 30 years.

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, 2216 County Road 28 (At Hwy 401) Port Hope, ON

Thursday January 31, 2008

Annual Gala Dinner: "An Evening on the Burning Plains" at the Alderville Community Centre.

Please mark your calendars now, more details will follow!

Fourth Annual Northumberland Dry Stone Wall Festival

Thanksgiving Weekemd - October 6, 7 and 8 from 9.00 am - 4.00 pm daily

Garden Hill Acres, 2505 Ganaraska Road, 4km west of Garden Hill north of Port Hope.

A group of 12 international wallers will construct a stone "Sheep Shear" complete with two Gothic Arches, and also a Double Helix. **Seminar students** will learn how to construct a 30' long wall. A local group will provide musical entertainment.

Admission for the viewing public is by donation. Bring your own picnic and make a day of it!

Evening presentations at the Capitol Theatre, Port Hope. See Website for schedule.



To register for the **Seminar** call John Shaw-Rimington at 905.885.4298 - www.dswac.ca