

The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

WWW.RWLT.ORG RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996 FALL 2006



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The Land Trust News is published four times a year by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust, a charitable organization.

www.rwlt.org

AGM & Dinner A Great Success

Again this year, we held our Annual General Meeting and dinner at the Queen's University Biological Station at Chaffey's Locks. The Fall River Pub and Grill chefs treated our taste buds to a plate full of wonderful organic food and our Treasurer/Auctioneer, Dave Walker topped off the dinner with our traditional fundraising Dessert Auction. This year we raised over \$2000 as bidders waged battle for their favourite cakes.

James Raffan joined us as our guest speaker. Earlier this year, James sailed the Northwest Passage on the largest of the icebreakers, Canadian Coast Guard Ship Louis S. St-Laurent. James presented a wonderful presentation of photos and stories from the trip. Not everyone has the opportunity to visit pristine environments like the Arctic. However, as James points out, the lands set aside and preserved by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust can be an important connection to nature for us all. The evidence of global warming was a wake up call for all of us.



Canadian Geographic Magazine will be running a year long series of stories to mark the fourth International Polar Year, which begins in March 2007. The series begins in the Jan/Feb 2007 issue with a cover story and weblog by James Raffan called "Passage to Sovereignty" based on his experience on "The Louis."



RWLT Board Member, Joe Hamilton, presents our Volunteer of the Year Award for 2006 to Matt Saunders of Seeley's Bay. Matt, a teacher at KCVI, has a deep caring for the environment. While on sabbatical this year, he devoted hours of his time, initially by helping us raise funds for Rock Dunder and later when the RWLT purchased the property, Matt was there working tirelessly. Matt, thank you very much for your work!

Worth every cent of the successful bid of \$320 this cake was baked by chef extraordinaire "Janet" at her lakeside home. For the past four years Janet and Richard Weisiger have donated a delicious cake to our Dessert Auction fundraiser. p.s. The recipe is a secret!



RWLT Annual Campaign

Every year at this time we ask our supporters to make a special gift to the Land Trust. This gift ensures that the RWLT remains a vibrant and energized organization. In September, your Land Trust became the first in Canada to complete an organizational assessment using the new Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. The results were encouraging as the RWLT continues to be recognized as one of the leading community based land trusts in Canada. However, to remain at the forefront it is essential that the board, volunteers, and staff continue their ongoing education programs.

This year's Annual Campaign donations will allow the RWLT to continue its program of education and training for board members, volunteers, and staff, as we strive to implement all 94 practices contained in the Canadian Land Trust Standard and Practices.

These Standards and Practices apply to our Land Acquisition and Land Management Programs. Better practices for property acquisitions and conservation easements are covered under these rigorous guidelines. Training for our board and staff is critical to ensure we keep up to date with the latest regulations required for the different acquisition tools we use. The Land Trust now owns and manages over 555 acres of land and protects 15,000 feet of shoreline along the Rideau Corridor for the benefit of the community. The Board agrees with the results of our recent survey. Respondents emphasized the importance of managing these lands well. Your special gift will contribute to our volunteer land management training programs.

All RWLT board members and staff are also trained in the legal and ethical practices of philanthropy and fundraising activities. The RWLT remains accountable to you, our donors.

Our volunteers and staff are always learning. In fact they are frequently asked to serve as teachers for other smaller organizations at regional and provincial workshops. We share our expertise in land acquisition, organizational development and fundraising with new land trusts starting up, as well as other non-profit organizations within your community.

We owe our gratitude to you. Our successes are a direct result of your support. Every year when you give to the Annual Campaign, you make your Land Trust stronger. Volunteers and staff work more efficiently and effectively when well trained as the RWLT strives to reach even higher goals in 2007.

Please donate to our Annual Campaign. When you give to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust you give to your precious environment. The goal of the RWLT is to preserve one great property at a time, forever.



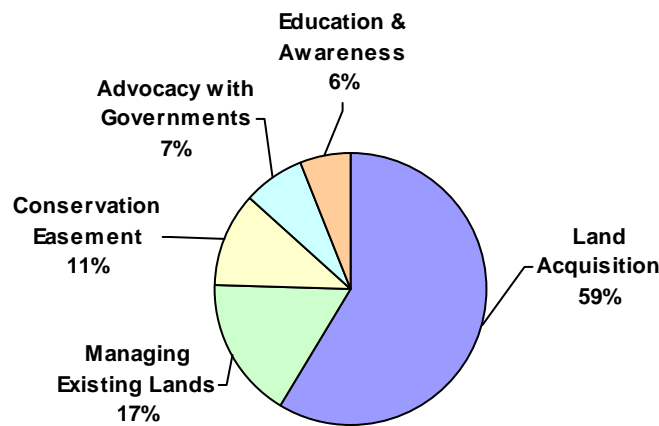
President
Rideau Waterway Land Trust

New Strategic Plan for RWLT

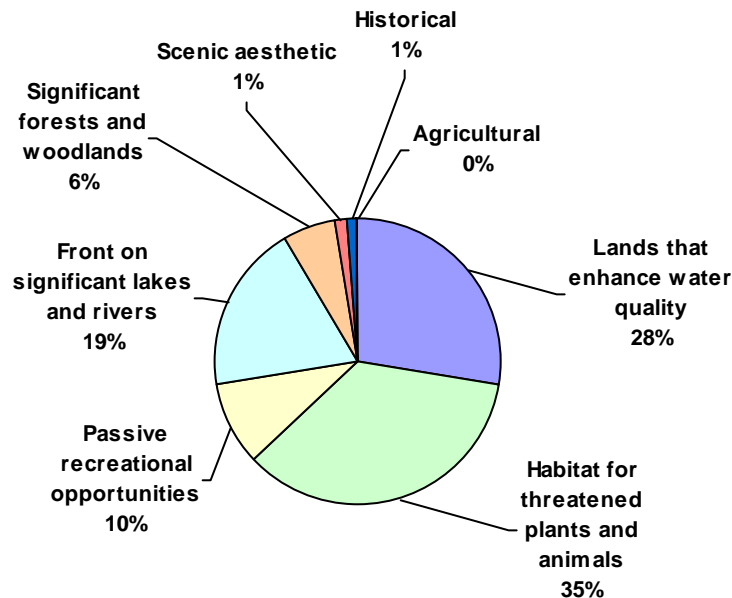
The Board of Directors and staff of the RWLT have recently begun an intensive new strategic planning program. The Land Trust has initiated numerous acquisitions and programs in the past few years and the Board felt it was time to look ahead to the future and our long range planning. The process is expected to take several months to complete. We thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for providing funding for this project which allowed the Land Trust to engage a professional facilitator to aid in this program.

In late October we sent a questionnaire out to over 300 members and supporters randomly chosen from our database. We wanted input regarding the priorities you felt were most important. The first question asked was an important one. Participants were asked to rank their priority for RWLT programs.

Programs ranked most important by respondents:

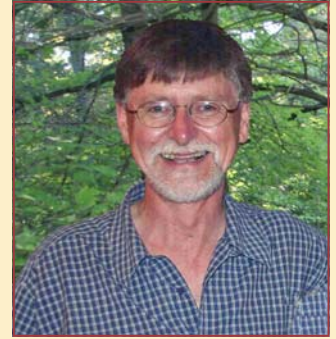


Types of land ranked most important for preservation by the Land Trust:



MEET YOUR BOARD - Director Simon Lunn

Simon Lunn is serving his second term as a Board Member, where, in his words, he feels “privileged to work with members of an organization dedicated to protecting special natural places in our local community”. Simon’s passion for the outdoors and nature began at an early age in rural Ontario. If it wasn’t his parents taking a young family off exploring somewhere on a weekend fieldtrip, it was being the youngest member of the Richmond Hill Naturalists Club or the adventures of being a Boy Scout that offered Simon a venue for his developing naturalists skills. Of course his fate was really sealed 37 years ago when he met another budding biologist, his school sweetheart (and future wife) Carolyn, where they both received M.Sc. degrees at Acadia University in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley.



Since the early 1970’s, Simons’ career as a naturalist, interpreter and biologist (among his various pursuits) took him from the maritime provinces, to Alberta, and back to Ontario, where he worked for organizations like the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada. He and Carolyn feel blessed to have lived in national parks and sites across the country. Before his retirement in 2004, Simon worked as an Ecosystem Scientist for Parks Canada at the Rideau Canal. Simon and Carolyn live near Smiths Falls, and enjoy sharing time with another budding biologist, their daughter Heather who lives in nearby Perth.

Our Board of Directors

Hon. Bob Rae, Honorary Chairman
Peter Hannah, President
Doug Lewis, Vice-President
Frank Symons, Secretary
Dave Walker, Treasurer
Brian Gold, Director
Joe Hamilton, Director
Simon Lunn, Director

New trails at Rock Dunder

By next spring we will be able to enjoy a new trail on Rock Dunder. The Rideau Trail team have been working with our Biologist Simon Lunn to extend the trail by creating a new loop from the top of Rock Dunder back to the trailhead. The loop will allow hikers to experience more of Rock Dunder’s scenic areas. We thank the Rideau Trail team leaders Bill Murdoch and Jim Lorimer for all of their hard work.



Aerial photo courtesy of Ray Wilson

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



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The Rideau Waterway Land Trust believes the preservation of ecologically sensitive and cultural heritage lands is important to protect the natural environment and improve the quality of life in communities throughout the Rideau Corridor for the benefit of present and future generations.

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