

The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996

FALL 2007

Winter at Rock Dunder

The Future and the Annual Campaign

- Nature has a future because our communities care

First of all, I want to pay tribute to Peter Hannah, our President for almost eight years, a steady hand at the helm through our growing years and many successful acquisitions. During these past few years the RWLT has increased its membership, sponsorship and land protection. On behalf of our members I would like to thank you Peter for your contribution to that growth.

I consider it an honour to carry on as your new President. We have recently expanded our Board of Directors. New director Chris Fleming of Ottawa, together with Board Members Doug Lewis and Brian Gold, will anchor our interests in the northern sector of the Rideau Corridor. New directors Neal Ritchie and Paul Gervan will join current director Joe Hamilton in the southern end of the corridor. Paul, Neal and Chris offer a great range of skills including fundraising, business and finance, land acquisition, non-profit organization management, and community service work. Our three new leaders will strengthen our board and raise the profile of the RWLT in the community.

But that is not all that is required to secure our future. There are ever increasing complexities in running a land trust. To overcome these complexities we consulted many of you last spring through surveys as we created the RWLT Strategic Plan 2007-2009. This plan spawned our new Mission Statement "To preserve important natural lands and habitat in the Rideau Corridor and foster a healthy future for our communities." As well we created new Action Plans and six volunteer committees. These Committees are: Governance, Finance, Fundraising, Land Acquisition, Land Stewardship, as well as Communications and Membership.

We will also continue to grow in relation to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices (S & P's). We are the first Land Trust in Canada to complete an organizational assessment using the new S&P's. We are systematically putting into place the indicator practices contained in the S & P's. These will become our guide to managing the organization and stewarding the 555 acres of land and 15,000 feet of shoreline we protect.

Last but not least, please do not forget to support our Annual Campaign. Each year at this time we ask for your support to help our Land Trust to become even stronger. We are all working together in preserving these very special areas and we ask you to help make a difference. Please support our Annual Campaign 2007. If you did not receive your Annual Campaign request please contact our office and we will mail or email one to you. Thank you again for your ongoing support of the RWLT.



Frank Symons PhD, President
Rideau Waterway Land Trust



PAGE 2
AGM & DINNER:
A GRAND SUCCESS



PAGE 3
DONATIONS & GIFTS
OF LAND PRESERVE
NATURE



PAGE 3
ROCK DUNDER
CONTINUES TO
EVOLVE



PAGE 4
MEET YOUR PRESIDENT
DR. FRANK S. SYMONS

And more inside...

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

 Rideau Waterway
LAND TRUST

AGM and Dinner: A Grand Success

The tickets to this year's Annual General Meeting and Dinner sold like hot cakes. The presence of our Honorary Chair, Bob Rae, as Guest Speaker, the culinary reputation of "Two Carats Catering" who prepared the wonderful dinner, and our traditional fundraising Dessert Auction were the big drawing cards. This year the AGM and dinner was held at the Chaffey's Lock Community Hall, a heritage building, this certainly played a role in making this year's event another success.



While the Community Hall was being transformed from a meeting room to a cozy banquet hall, RWLT Members and guests were treated to a walk along the new "Marion Dunn Heritage Walking Trail". Members followed Neil Patterson in an interpretive walk along the Trail, created by the Chaffey's Lock Heritage Society and recently completed for the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal.

As our Honorary Chair and Guest Speaker, Bob Rae was relaxed and spontaneous. He spoke about how his love of the Big Rideau stems from his growing-up years on the lake. He explained what the lake and its surrounding countryside means to him and his family. Mr. Rae often drew laughter from the room with his pointed comments and downright funny stories. One such story described how, as newly elected Premier of Ontario, when he returned to Portland he received a hero's welcome from acquaintances. He was, however, informed by one well wisher that no one in the town had actually voted for him or for his party! Mr. Rae shared his view of the role today's governments are willing, or not willing, to undertake regarding public programs such as land trusts. Governments, he said, are more inclined to step up to the plate with services and funding if we, the public and volunteers, undertake leadership and pave the way. We must not expect or wait for governments to undertake this leadership if we want things done. In his closing remarks, Mr. Rae promised to continue supporting and helping the RWLT as much as possible.



Our Volunteer of the Year Award for 2007 went to David Delisle. Members met David through the profile published in our Summer 2007 newsletter. David has a 40-year history with Rock Dunder where he served as Warden for years. We are grateful to have had David's indefatigable guidance and help in making the many improvements at Rock Dunder. We are even more fortunate in that we will continue to benefit from David's experience and knowledge as he continues his role as Warden of the newest and one of the most important of RWLT's recent land acquisitions.

Our Dessert Auction has become a fun and story-filled battle over favourite cakes. This year we raised over \$2,500, and the highest bid for one cake reached a record of over \$500! Donated by Doug and Wendy Lewis, this cake, "Chocolate Paradise", we are certain, at one sitting, increased the cumulative body weight of those at the buying table by at least 30 lbs.



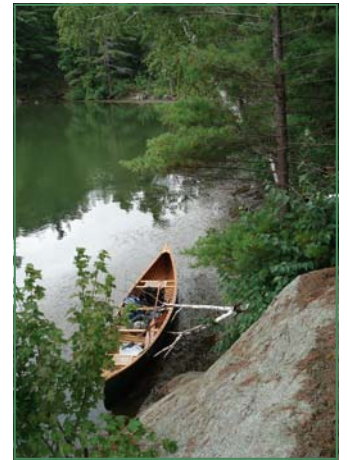
Donations and Gifts of Land Help Preserve Nature for Generations to Come

The success story of acquiring Rock Dunder in 2006 was a direct result of the wonderful financial generosity of our RWLT friends, members and supporters.

There is another special donor upon which our Land Trust relies. This is the donor who offers his/her land to the RWLT for preservation in perpetuity. These donors give the RWLT a sense of purpose. The lands offered may require fundraising campaigns to raise additional funds to ensure the costs of land ownership are covered. Once donated, the property is managed by our network of volunteers.

One such donation came from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Van Niel, residents of Rochester, N.Y. who donated part of their property to the Land Trust approximately seven years ago. The property, now known as Van Niel Woodlands, is a mainly wooded area with waterfront on the peninsula between Dog and Cranberry Lakes. The land has been in Mr. Van Niel's family since 1949 but he and his siblings were pleased to give the RWLT this portion of their land because they felt the RWLT was a worthy and respected organization. They were interested in seeing the land stay in its natural state for generations to come. Mr. Van Niel wholeheartedly supports the work the Land Trust is doing and he tells many of his friends about it so that, they too, will donate their land to have it preserved.

If you are fortunate enough to own a very special piece of land in the Rideau Corridor that you would like to see preserved, please consider the option of donating it to the Land Trust. The Land Trust has a criterion for accepting land or easements, so we recommend that you contact our office to find out more about this great method of preserving lands along the Rideau for generations to come.



Van Niel Property

Rock Dunder Continues to Evolve

The Rideau Trail team, working with our Biologist Simon Lunn, has now completed the new loop from the top of Rock Dunder back to the trailhead. A new trail map is in the works. This large scale map will be mounted on the sign board at the trail entrance along with pocket-size maps to take with you. Our goal is to have these available in January. The new map will replace the existing 11 X 17 map currently on the board. We will publish a copy of the map in the next newsletter and make it available on our website.

There is, however, further welcome news for Rock Dunder trail lovers. Thanks to funding from The Community Foundation of Greater Kingston, Rock Dunder now sports a comfort station. In plain language, we mean washrooms. As Sharon Walker, our Executive Director, said when accepting the \$4,120 from the Community Foundation, "You have no idea what a relief this is." We are certain that all those who walk Rock Dunder will share this sentiment. The RWLT is grateful for the support The Community Foundation of Greater Kingston has provided our Land Trust.



New Comfort Station

The success of improving this site so that lovers of nature now, and in the future, may enjoy Rock Dunder's many splendours is a direct result of the community spirit of volunteers who have come forward to help, and who continue to maintain this site and the other sites under our protection.

Are you interested in volunteering your time, knowledge and expertise to the Land Trust?

There will be volunteer opportunities available in spring 2008. Call Sharon for more information at 613-284-2010.



Meet Your Board President

Frank Stuart Symons

Born in Montreal, Frank Symons spent his summers at cottages in the Laurentian Mountains. He studied at McGill and Queen's Universities, and holds a British PhD in geography.

Frank worked at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell in Toronto before joining the federal public service in Ottawa where he played a significant role in the Abolition of Capital Punishment, and led international projects with the European Union and the United Nations.

Frank enjoys messing about in his sailboat, a Bayfield 25. For exercise he pretends to love rowing his St. Lawrence skiff equipped with Olympic running gear. But he definitely loves cross-country skiing, and writing fiction from his home on the Rideau.

In 1983 Frank built a year-round home on the Big Rideau, where he lives with his potter wife, Krystyna. He dreamed of preserving as much land and shoreline as possible along the Rideau. As Frank says, "the RWLT gave me the creative framework I needed to help make that dream come true."

A director on the RWLT Board since 1999, and its Secretary since 2000, the Board elected Frank as President in November 2007.

World Heritage Designation

In June 2007, the World Heritage Committee met in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Rideau Canal, including Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada and Kingston fortifications, was officially designated as a World Heritage Site.

This designation is the most significant global recognition any site can achieve. The Rideau Canal is now the fourteenth Canadian site to be inscribed to the World Heritage List and is Ontario's first World Heritage Site. Canada's existing World Heritage Sites include: Nahanni National Park Reserve (N.W.T.), Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo Jump (Alberta), Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Alberta and B.C.), Historic District of Old Québec (Quebec), Gros Morne National Park (Newfoundland and Labrador), Old Town Lunenburg (Nova Scotia), and the Rideau Canal (Ontario).

Our Board of Directors

Hon. Bob Rae,
Honorary Chairman

Dr. Frank S. Symons, President

Doug Lewis, Vice-President

Dave Walker, Treasurer

Joe Hamilton, Secretary

Chris Fleming, Director

Paul Gervan, Director

Brian Gold, Director

Peter Hannah, Director

Simon Lunn, Director

Neal Ritchie, Director

Sharon Walker, Executive Director

Seasons Greetings

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year!



We wish to thank Krystyna Chelminska for volunteering her time and talents to this year-end newsletter.



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