

The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996

SPRING 2008



Northern Map Turtles - Species at Risk

Winter Workshop on Species at Risk... Black Rat Snake Steals the Show!

In March 2007, the Ontario Government announced a four year Species at Risk Stewardship Fund designed to encourage and support public stewardship activities. In response to this urgent need, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF), a non-profit organization in the Kemptville area, offered presentations to interested groups on the topic of Species at Risk.

The Land Trust staff felt this workshop would be of interest to our many supporters and we invited Heather Lunn, from EOMF to present a workshop at the Chaffey's Lock Community Hall on March 10th. Although the snow was piled high and parking was a challenge, 38 attendees were not deterred. We were pleased to see many young people join us that night.



Heather Lunn introduces "Snakey" to guests

Heather brought "Snakey" (an alias) a Black Rat Snake along for us to see and touch. Snakey and her friends are listed as "Species at Risk". This visit provided us with more insight into the need to protect these precious creatures.

Please contact the office at 613-284-2010, if you would like a copy of the presentation Heather gave that evening. We will email or mail you this four page information handout.



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DOUG LEWIS



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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

Rideau Waterway
LAND TRUST

Land Stewardship Committee

Our Land Stewardship Committee met at the RWLT office recently to prepare for this seasons' work.

Simon Lunn is the Chair of the Land Stewardship Committee and a board member of the Land Trust. Simon worked for Parks Canada for 29 years, most recently as a Biologist. He is an avid photographer with a gift for capturing the beauty of nature. Simon has spent the past 5 years with the RWLT monitoring our properties and conservation easements. The Land Trust requires monitoring reports for each property on an annual basis. The monitors file detailed reports and recommendations regarding their findings to the office and participate in follow up solutions. Simon's team will soon begin work on the RWLT properties for 2008.

Holly Bickerton is a Biologist with a masters in environmental studies. Her particular interests are birds and plants. We are pleased to have Holly join our Stewardship Committee.

Stew Hamill has accepted the role of *Advisor* to this committee. Stew is a Wildlife Biologist who was with the National Capitol Commission for 20 years before retiring. His specialty is plants and birds.

We will soon be organizing training sessions for volunteers who have an interest in assisting with our 2008 property monitoring . If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please contact us at 613-284-2010 or 1-800-588-9887.



From left to right: Simon Lunn, Holly Bickerton and Stew Hamill

Email distribution list for news and events

The Land Trust has created an email distribution list to keep our members and supporters informed of current news and events.

This is not meant to replace our newsletter, but rather to keep you informed of special events and successes that occur between our quarterly newsletters. For example, the Species at Risk presentation which took place in March.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please send your current email address to Anne at anneb@rwlt.org or call Anne or Sharon and the Land Trust office at 1-800-588-9887 or 613-284-2010.



Meet Your Board

Vice President - Doug Lewis

Born and raised in southwestern Ontario, The Lewis family settled in London where Doug attended the University of Western Ontario, and has degrees in geography and law.

Doug moved to Ottawa in 1973. In 1975 Doug and his wife Wendy moved to an old stone farm house in the country west of Merrickville and started to put down rural roots. Nearly 20 years ago they built a home on the banks of the Rideau with Osprey nesting in the back yard.

April 16th 2008, marked the first day of retirement after 35 years practicing law, 32 of those years having been spent with the Department of Justice.

His interests are eclectic and Doug is hoping to be able to spend more time this summer poking around the waters in his canoe and kayak, or exploring the country side on a mountain bike. Of course there will be time to read and to play some blues on his guitars.

He can remember as a child roaming the fields around Port Credit and the banks of the Credit River – an area that was mostly farmers' fields and orchards and which is now built up as part of the extended bedroom community of greater Toronto.

Doug has also watched the growth of Ottawa and the surrounding area, and appreciates the need to take action to try to preserve some special places along the Rideau corridor before they disappear forever.

Doug points out that as Bob Rae noted at the RWLT annual dinner, preserving special places along the Rideau is not something that can be left to government to achieve and that is where the RWLT and our working together comes into play.

Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair - April 19, 2008

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust recently participated in the Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair.

Our non-profit organization was represented by three of our Board Members: Doug Lewis, Brian Gold and Chris Fleming. They were amazed by the thousands of visitors who attended the event.

This was a wonderful opportunity for Land Trust leaders to meet people who care about the environment and were interested in learning more about how the Land Trust preserves and protects lands and species along the Rideau Corridor.



RWLT Board Member Chris Fleming talking to visitors

The Eco-Stewardship Fair was a one day event but it provided the RWLT with a unique opportunity to deliver our message to many new faces.



“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

- Thomas A. Edison

Our Board of Directors

Hon. Bob Rae,
Honorary Chairman

Dr. Frank S. Symons, President

Doug Lewis, Vice-President

Joe Hamilton, Secretary

Dave Walker, Treasurer

Chris Fleming, Director

Paul Gervan, Director

Brian Gold, Director

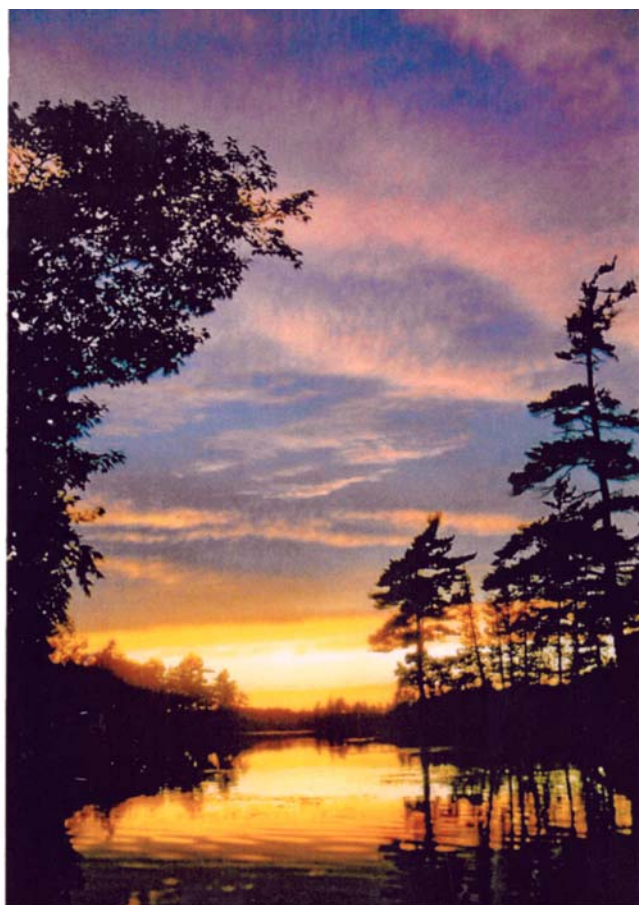
Peter Hannah, Director

Simon Lunn, Director

Neal Ritchie, Director

Michael S. Runia, Director

Sharon Walker, Executive Director



Sunset Opinicon Lake

A.A. COX

Membership Renewals

Your membership now runs for a one year period from the date of your renewal.

Your contribution as a member is valuable to the RWLT. A strong membership enables us to continue our work of preserving special places in the Rideau Corridor.

Your support has made the RWLT one of the most successful land trusts in Ontario and has led to the securement of fourteen properties and an additional 180 acres through conservation agreements.

We wish to thank Avery & Terry Cox for sending us the note card shown above. This photo was taken by Avery. Avery and Terry are from Maryland and have been members of the RWLT since 2003.



Do you have a nature photo or story about the Rideau you would like to share? Please mail to the attention of Anne Bristow or email to anneb@rwlt.org.

Photos used in this edition of our newsletter are courtesy of: Simon Lunn, Brian Gold, Sharon Walker and Avery Cox.



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The mission of the RWLT is to preserve important natural lands and habitat in the Rideau Corridor and foster a healthy future for our communities.