



## Chair's Message

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Rideau Waterway Land Trust. I have been an active member of the board since 2014 and am excited for this new role as we work to conserve important lands in the Rideau Corridor. This is a crucial time for protecting our environment and it is important we ALL do our part to abate the global climate crisis. I appreciate the help/support that former Chair, Peter Hannah continues to give and know his presence will ensure continuity for RWLT.

That said, we have lots going on! Due to a generous donor, we have been able to acquire new solar to power Rock Dunder operations. This was badly needed! We have opened our new offices in

Elgin which offers us more space and affordable rent, and puts us in the middle of our territory and we welcome you to stop by! We are working hard on community engagement with local CEC's, municipalities, area schools and local businesses and will update as things develop. We want to be a visible part of the community and provide opportunities for people to enjoy greenspace and be a part of what we are doing.



*John Grass, Chair of the Board*

One of our greatest challenges is finding people to volunteer with RWLT. We would like to expand our board with experienced professionals with skill sets in such areas as land use planning, legal advisement and fundraising. As well, we have ongoing needs for people to help greet guests at Rock Dunder or participate in work parties for the care and stewardship of our properties. Please contact Sydney Caron our volunteer coordinator ([scaron@rwlt.org](mailto:scaron@rwlt.org)) if you are interested and she will connect you to a way to help! If we work together, we can make a big difference!

The last couple of years have been good to the Trust in the sense that government programs have supported our ongoing work with property monitoring and acquisitions and even summer student employment. Sadly these funds are not as available as they once were. Our Canada Summers Jobs request for 6 eight week positions was cut to 1 position. You will see a thermometer at Rock Dunder this year which hopefully inspires you to help with our latest planned land acquisition and the ongoing stewardship and care of our other existing properties. If you have not donated before, please consider giving for the first time. Similarly, if you are a current RWLT supporter please consider becoming a monthly donor. Only with your financial help, can we do the work we do. Giving options are available on our website. By the way, while you are on our website, check out our team - we are a friendly bunch excited to work together for change. Together, let's build momentum to keep the good work going!

Thank you.

John Grass - Board Chair

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### RWLT works with:

- **American Friends of Canadian Conservation**
- **Ontario Land Trust Alliance**



# 2022 Donor Honours List

The success of the RWLT over the last 25 years is a direct reflection of the loyal and generous support of its many donors. RWLT wishes to thank all its benefactors, whether volunteers, donors of land or in-kind goods and services, or financial supporters, large and small. Your generosity allows the Trust to continue to protect and preserve special natural lands and habitat along the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds! **Thank you!**

The Trust would also like to formally acknowledge the following donors who, through their ongoing and significant contributions to RWLT over the last seven years, have earned a place on our **2022 Donor Honours List**. Congratulations – and most importantly, a heartfelt thank you from RWLT.

## CHAMPIONS

*25,000 to \$49,999 2016-2022*

*LEYWOOD FAMILY FUND*

*Beth Malcom and Alan Ring*

*Bill Gibbons*

*Margueritta Kluensch*

*Jamie Benidickson*

*In Memory of Robert Van Neil*

*Mo and Janice Johnson*

*In Memory of Jacqueline Rodger*

## LEADERS

*\$10,000 to \$24,999 2016-2022*

*Peter Hannah & Daphne Buckley*

*Bryce & Nancy Walker*

*Ken & Pat Watson*

*Doug Lewis & Wendy Simpson-Lewis*

*Vince & Elaine Watters*

*Crystal Cannon and James Middleton*

## TRAIL BLAZERS

*\$5,000 to \$9,999 2016-2022*

*Christopher & Katie Wallace*

*William & Nancy Gray*

*Jennifer Trant & David Bearman*

*Frank Phelan*

*Ian Skelton & Iara Lessa*

*Heather MacDonald*

*Peter and Joan Gillepsie*

*Anonymous*

*Jim MacLachlan*

*Charlotte Gray & George Anderson*

*Molly Ellard*

*Dr Louis & Jennifer Cardinal*

*Fred Hunter*

*Donald Clinton*

*Diane Clipsham*

*Donald and Kersti Rasmussen*

## PROTECTORS

*\$1,000 or more 2016-2022*

*Carl & Elizabeth Hamacher*

*Michelle Venance*

*John Teixeira*

*Dave Thomson*

*Helen Campbell*

*Mike Freeman & Odette Haas*

## SUSTAINERS' CIRCLE

*Making automatic monthly donations in 2023*

*Pierre & Nancy Chantraine*

*Mike Freeman & Odette Haas*

*Joe & Mary Lou Hamilton*

*Jonathan Stapleton Hutchinson*

*Rob & Cait Maloney*

*Michelle Venance*

*RWLT is a charity that has been conserving important natural lands and habitat in the Cataraqui and Rideau watersheds since 1996 to support our community into the future.*

## Let's Warm Things Up!

As the temperature rises outside, we are hoping our funding thermometer also rises to help us with a new exciting land acquisition project and the ongoing stewardship of our Nature Reserves. RWLT has been given the opportunity to secure 90 acres in rural Rideau Lakes Township. This property was identified in our own acquisition criteria as a top priority for securement, as it combines a variety of different ecosystem types including large contiguous forest (including a notable Pitch Pine stand), wetland, grassland, rock outcroppings and alvar area all in close proximity to each other, creating habitat for a multitude of species. It is also a headwaters, an area with high groundwater recharge, and contains small wetlands that could impact the water quality and flood control for nearby areas.

**RWLT has been awarded \$23,200.00 in grant funds to help with the acquisition if (and only if) we can secure matching funds that ensures its stewardship. We are hoping to raise \$70,000 this Spring in order to meet that goal and help in the care and stewardship of our other 21 properties.** We are off to a solid start with \$15,000 already raised!

Want to be part of the movement to conserve 30% of Canada's rich and biodiverse natural land by 2030? Make a donation using the insert in your newsletter and send it to our new address in Elgin (PO box 42, Elgin ON K0G 1E0), go to our website [www.rwlt.org](http://www.rwlt.org) and click on "donate", or stop by Rock Dunder after it opens May 15th and make an in person donation and watch the thermometer heat up as our funding grows!



*Peter Hannah, with the thermometer he handcrafted*

## Volunteer Spotlight

Last summer, using new equipment acquired with assistance from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere, RWLT collected 180 hours of audio recordings at the Warren Property. In the cold winter months, a small group of excited volunteers began to listen to the audio files, hour by hour, recording the time of any sounds they heard and their best guesses about what species was inhabiting this particular Nature Reserve.

When asked to share her experience, one of our volunteers, Sue Bastien reported, "I'm retired and I love nature so when there was a call for help I was willing and able. Listening to audio files in the comfort of your home is very interesting and challenges your knowledge of nature's sounds. I found it interesting to be listening to Ospreys, Robins and many other sounds you would typically hear during the summer months but looking out my window at snow. With Spring in the air I now find myself listening more carefully to the sounds around me and identifying them."

With the spring and summer season approaching, RWLT has lots of exciting projects we're working on and we'd love your help! To volunteer, complete the volunteer intake form at this link <https://arcg.is/10bynC>, and we'll be in touch or reach out directly to Sydney Caron at [scaron@rwlt.org](mailto:scaron@rwlt.org).



*Volunteer Sue Bastien*

## The RWLT Team

**Honourary Chair**  
Hon. Bob Rae

**Chair**  
John Grass

**Secretary**  
Jim  
MacLachlan

*A special thank you to Alyssa Fiedler for the pictures taken at our Nature Reserves.*

**Treasurer**  
Scott Parker

**Members**  
Peter Hannah  
Erica Kendrick

**Staff**  
Caroline Spang  
Sara Warren-Roberts  
Sydney Caron

## Rock Dunder Opening 2023

Every year, Rock Dunder closes to the public for 6 months -November 16 to May 14. This gives the natural environment some rest and recovery time.

This year, Opening Day falls on a Monday May 15th, just after Mother's Day. In the weeks leading up to opening, lots of preparatory work will be undertaken. As usual, the trails will be inspected for trees and limbs that have fallen over the winter. These will be cleared away. Additionally, we are reopening the Scout Cabin Trail.

Some additional improvements will be completed before opening this year. The office trailer will be moved a bit and reoriented to better serve hikers arriving in cars and on foot. Also, a solar array will be installed to provide power to the office trailer. An improved receiver for the internet will also be installed. With these special works, following on the heels of the major trail improvements last year, Rock Dunder will be well positioned for the new hiking season.

Please note, we are moving toward being cashless at the entrance. Please buy your passes online or come prepared with a card. We look forward to seeing you soon!



*Conservation Biologist, Caroline Spang monitoring in an area of Wetlands at Rock Dunder*

## Cottage Availability

### *Looking for a quiet escape from the busyness of life?*

There are still some spots available this Spring and Fall at our off-grid cottage rental. Stay at RWLT's waterfront 3 bedroom cottage on private Bull's Eye Lake. Enjoy nature at its best with 31 acres of private woods and the only cottage on Bull's Eye Lake with access to Sydenham Lake. Canoe or kayak (provided) to quietly observe nature or swim off the private raft. Pets are welcome. Check our website for availability. [www.rwlt.org](http://www.rwlt.org)



## We have Moved!



*Board and staff having a paint party in the new office digs!*

### **We have moved our headquarters to Elgin in Rideau Lakes, ON!**

With many of its Nature Reserves in the Rideau Lakes area, RWLT has relocated to 15 Main Street in Elgin, upstairs above Service Ontario. This new space allows for a place to work and meet while collaborating more closely with the community and special places we care deeply about. Office hours coming soon! If you are interested in meeting with any of our staff please contact [swroberts@rwlt.org](mailto:swroberts@rwlt.org) and we would love to sit down in our new space and have a chat!