

The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996

2015

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Thank you for your Support

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

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From the Advocacy File

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust started an advocacy program in 2015. Advocacy for the RWLT simply means working with the various levels of government to encourage legislation or programs that would enable the organization to better do its work in preserving natural lands in our community. It must be remembered that the RWLT is a registered charity and as such is restricted by legislation to spending no more than 10% of its annual revenues on this activity.

As with any program the wish list is often longer than the resources available but it was decided that a priority list of three items would be decided upon. The initial list included:

1. A request to the Township of Rideau Lakes to allow for free dumping of brush gathered from the community trails and delivered to the municipal brush depot by volunteers. To date it should be noted that the Township of Rideau Lakes charged tipping fees to accept brush from the community trails located in the township.
2. The RWLT is monitoring and has made representation to the County of Leeds and Grenville encouraging a policy within their new Official Plan to encourage municipalities to waive the planning fees and parkland fund allocation for lands designated under their natural heritage systems that will be donated to land trusts.
3. Finally the third priority was to the Province of Ontario to deal with applications to the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) in a more timely fashion. Currently some RWLT applications have been languishing on government desks' for 4 years waiting for the Province to issue a recommendation as to whether certain natural lands should be exempt from property tax, which is causing financial hardship for many land trusts as they struggle to pay the property tax on their lands while expecting no services in return.

The committee is pleased to report that the Township of Rideau Lakes has agreed to accept up to 300 kg of brush from RWLT lands in their municipality for the 2015 year. Future years will have to be discussed. The other two items have still not been settled.

The first item was replaced with another issue that involves the Township of Rideau Lakes. The Committee of Adjustment for the township recently approved a minor variance for construction of a dwelling on a waterfront lot

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of less than a ¼ acre and in fact the entire dwelling is within the required 30 meter set back from the water as the lot is only 21 meters deep. I am sure you will all agree that our lakes have to be protected and the ways of the past are not acceptable in the current environment. This decision will be appealed to the OMB by the Big Rideau Lake Association supported by the RWLT. This decision cannot be allowed to stand as it will open the gates for further applications for minor variances and will mean all undersized lots and all islands, no matter the size can be built on.

The Land Acquisition Program

The Land Acquisition program always seems to be busy. We are mostly successful in completing projects, as evidenced in 2014 with the completion of the acquisition of the Edwards property on Big Rideau Lake and the Covington property on Bull's Eye Lake. The Edward's property acquisition was rather complicated and was first proposed in 2004 while the Covington property was transferred much quicker as it was offered to the RWLT in September of 2014. The Trust recently ran into legal complications on one potential donation that it is unable to resolve but is currently working on two others that are still on schedule. In fact as of the writing of this newsletter the RWLT is submitting an offer to purchase on some natural lands along the Rideau Waterway with the financial support of one of its staunches supporters.

The committee wants to remind all supporters that land acquisition is very expensive and even if the land is donated there are still many costs, both acquisition costs and future land management costs that must be considered. The RWLT is always happy to talk with supporters who wish to make a special financial contribution to ensure all lands offered can be secured for future generations.

Equipment Needs

The RWLT has 7 properties that are only accessible by water and it had no boat. A long-time supporter has stepped forward and donated an aluminum boat and motor to the Trust. However, by his own admission, the trailer is questionable. The Trust needs another supporter(s) to help us fund a trailer. A brand new roadworthy trailer is \$1,260 including all taxes. Can you or someone you know help us with this need? Once we receive the trailer the volunteers will be on the lakes and rivers to monitor our properties and help with the acquisition of further properties. Email Dave Walker at davew@rwlt.org with your support.



Please Contribute

Included with this newsletter is a request for support. Many of you have donated for 2015, if so please consider further support as the need is great or pass this on to a friend and encourage them to support. All donations of \$25 or more will be receipted with Canadian tax receipts. We have to keep the programs going as we owe it to future generations.

Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction

The 2015 Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction was held on May 12 at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Kingston. We enjoyed the largest attendance to date and the guest speaker, Bill Kilborn, delivered a powerful message that



society needed to get children involved with nature if for no other reason than the health benefits. Clarke Day and his team put on a great meal, our sponsors Johnson Investment Group, Clear Creek Windows and Brent Burns Chartered Accountant supported the event and had many of their clients in attendance. The Auction went well making the evening a financial success. Planning for the May 2016 event has already started. Details will be posted on the website shortly.

Rock Dunder Volunteer Day

May 9th saw many new volunteers under the able leadership of Jim MacLachan, tackle the cleanup of the trails at Rock Dunder to ready the property for its opening day of the 2015 season, May 15th. A core group of volunteers will continue to monitor the site over the summer, cleaning the restrooms, stocking the literature rack and picking up the litter. The next volunteer day will be in the fall of 2015. If you can spare some time contact Jim at jrmac@gmail.com He will welcome all new volunteers.

The RWLT wants to give everyone a friendly reminder that there is no camping, no fires of any kind and to please stay on the marked trails. All community lands are open May 15 to November 15 from dawn to dusk. We want everyone to have a safe experience during their visit to Rock Dunder while safeguarding the natural features of the property.



Thank you to the following Individuals and Businesses for their Support January 1 to December 31, 2014

Circle of Leadership

Janice Ley & Eric Usherwood
Maurice Johnson
Michael and Elaine Davies
Anonymous
Doug & Wendy Lewis
Harry Burgstaller
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\$500 - \$1199

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Estate of Elizabeth Edwards
Alan Covington
Nancy Covington

If your name is missing or misspelled please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records



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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.**