

Chair's Message

RWLT's two previous 2020 newsletters had an unfortunate but necessary focus on COVID-19 but those issues are being managed.

In 2021, RWLT celebrates its 25th anniversary and it's time to look ahead. Preserving special places in our community is the core mandate of RWLT, an activity which can be costly as land prices continue to rise. Donations of key properties are ideal but not predictable occurrences. Purchases require significant fundraising and donations take many forms. This summer the Trust was approached by the executors of the estate of Jacqueline Rodger. Her nephews offered to have the estate donate a building lot to RWLT. The property was assessed against RWLT acquisition criteria but did not qualify for long term retention. The nephews quickly agreed that RWLT could accept the donation, sell the lot and use the proceeds for other projects. These types of "trader lands" have been accepted several times in the past 24 years and are one way that helps RWLT to fulfill its mandate. The rest of this story is best told in the words of Jacqueline's nephews.

Have a safe winter and a better 2021.

Peter Hannah

JA Rodger: Making A Difference:

by Scott and Ian Wallace & Family

There is nothing more beautiful than the role of a loving aunt in one's life with her legacy not being about how much wealth she amassed or how many awards she received. In the end, it comes down to the impact she had on the hearts of the people she interacted with every single day.

This past year our beloved Aunt Jackie passed away. Born and raised in Eastern Ontario and a former resident of Township of Rideau Lakes, she was kind, generous, and wise and had a splendid sense of humour. The smile on her face and the twinkle in her eyes were always present when family and friends were near. She was a role model who loved spending time with family; always offering generous instruction on how to be responsible, caring, appreciative, and why it is important to help others. She loved to host dinner parties and gather people at her home. Her exceptional degree of discipline enabled her to meet any challenge and be one of the Ottawa Civic Hospital's most skilled and



Leave a Legacy

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message

Making a Difference

Trail Re-route

Dates of Note

Staff

Property Conservation

Annual Meeting

30 by 30

Donate Today!

RWLT works with:

- American Friends of Canadian Conservation
- Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Trail Re-route

Trail Re-route - In June, only a few weeks after opening the trails at Rock Dunder Nature Reserve, the steep hill descending from the summit to Cabin 2 was starting to show erosion. By August, with the high levels of hiker traffic over the summer, the trail condition was looking grim. An alternative route to avoid the steep hill was identified, and a crew quickly got to work clearing the new trail route.

Hikers were diverted to the new trail in advance of the fall season when hiking numbers typically spike. The re-routed section starts soon after leaving the exposed rock of the summit. The new trail descends gently and passes through a variety of forests until it ties back into the original trail shortly before Cabin 1. The hiking is easier and faster going, and provides new views of nature at Dunder. Most importantly, the rerouted trail is expected to be less prone to erosion. Re-route work included a bridge over an intermittent creek and a short stretch of boardwalk through an area known to be wet in the spring.



Eroded steep slope along former trail route from summit

A program to monitor trail conditions was started. This program will enable RWLT to better understand trail wear and identify problems early for attention. As well, an ecological rehabilitation plan for the steep hill and the rest of the old trail route was developed, and initial erosion control and re-vegetation measures implemented.

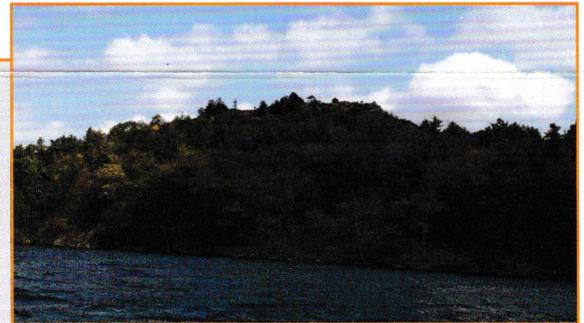
The shoreline trail to Cabin 2 is currently closed. Once restrictions on two-way traffic for COVID considerations are lifted, this trail will be re-opened as a "No Exit" section of trail, allowing hikers to hike in to Cabin 2 and back out on the same trail.

Dates of Note

Trails: November 15 -- Last day to hike Rock Dunder and Fullard hiking trails in 2020. Both close for the season at sunset. May 15, 2021--- Rock Dunder and Fullard hiking trails open for the season at sunrise.

2021 Rock Dunder Pass: December 31, 2020 -- Get that stocking-stuffer gift before the rate goes up; contact RWLT!

Rental Cottage: May 7 to October 18, 2021 – Off-grid, lakefront Covington Cottage available for rent. Many dates already booked; check our website or call for calendar.



View of Rock Dunder Summit

RWLT is a charity that has been conserving important natural lands and habitat in the Cataraqui and Rideau watersheds since 1966 to support our community into the future.

Fall Staff



Staff supported by Canada Summer Jobs and Project Learning Tree Canada Green Jobs programs

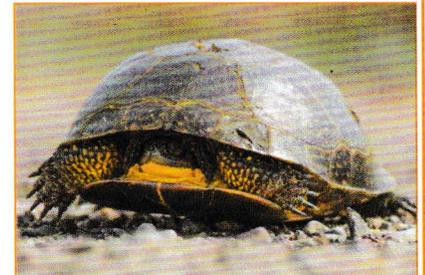
Makayla Dewit, a university graduate, rounded out the group as our Communications & Operations Assistant.

With a grant from Project Learning Tree Canada Green Jobs, RWLT was also able to keep three of our summer staff on into the fall. This includes high school graduate Adam Seabrook, our Maintenance Lead Hand, and Caroline Spang and Alyssa Fiedler, our Conservation Biologists, who continue to steward RWLT's 20 ecologically sensitive properties.

This fall, with the assistance of the Canada Summer Jobs program, RWLT was able to hire four additional young adults for eight weeks at Rock Dunder. Corey Lachy and Rebecca Rothwell, high school graduate and university student, respectively, were our new Trail Maintenance Assistants. Megan McConaghy, a university student, welcomed visitors as our Gate and Administrative Assistant.

Property Conservation

The following is a glimpse into the activity of RWLT's biologists in conserving special places in our community: We have been working at creating property management plans for several RWLT conservation lands. Over several visits to one property, we identified potential human and natural threats to the property, including invasive species and unauthorized hunting, and did species surveys to record the flora and fauna of the area. We planned last-minute camping to allow for multi-day fieldwork; we listened to the birds at sunrise, and surveyed for bats and whip-poor-wills at dusk. We even managed to remove the 16 old car tires that we found in the forest. It's never a dull day doing land stewardship, and we're very grateful for the opportunity to help protect this and the many other RWLT properties.



blandings turtle, a species at risk

AGM (Annual General Meeting)

RWLT's AGM for the 2019-2020 period was held on October 22, 2020. The COVID pandemic resulted in delayed season opening and changes to trail access, delayed and reduced cottage rentals, and cancelled organised hikes and fund and friend-raising dinners.

Achievements include: hiring of full-time biology staff as well as a complement of summer students, continued trail improvements at Rock Dunder Nature Reserve to upgrade visitor hiking and reduce damage to the environment, and a contribution of funds to the Trust's stewardship fund.

Thanks are extended to Doug Lewis, on his departure from the board, for his 15 years of service as a director, board chair and tireless volunteer for the many tasks involved with stewarding the Trust's properties.



RWLT progress in the past year

The RWLT Team

Honourary Chair
Hon. Bob Rae

Chair
Peter Hannah

Secretary
Hunter McGill

Members
Buzz Boles
Erica Kendrick
Steve Knechtel
Jim MacLachlan

Staff
Alyssa Fiedler
Makayla Dewit
Caroline Spang

Vice Chair
John Grass

Treasurer
Peter Walker

JA Rodger Making a Difference (Cont'd)

respected Head Nurses. Always concerned about health and well-being, she had an appreciation for the outdoors enjoying gardening, fresh air, sunshine, and scenery.

The Rideau Waterway area was her life-long home so when deciding how best to dispose of land near Portland that had been in her family for more 50 years, finding a local charity was key. After thoughtful consideration, we decided that Aunt Jackie would have appreciated the land being donated to the RWLT because their work fosters a healthy future for communities and delivers land preservation programs in the Rideau Corridor. The process was transparent and seamless with the Board Chair, Peter, always providing timely and thorough guidance.

Throughout her life, our aunt demonstrated so many positive attributes, including healthy living and the spirit of giving, so it seems fitting that one of her legacies be the donation to RWLT.



Jackie's, land donated to RWLT

30 by 30



*Find your 'sit spot' in nature;
then do what you can to help*

In September Canada announced its intent to protect 25 percent of our lands by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030. The targets are not solely about protecting places; the new targets are intended to drive an intergovernmental (and multi-partner) effort to address the interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, ecological degradation, resilience and climate change. Biodiversity loss and ecological collapse can only be mitigated if we keep habitats and ecosystems intact.

Protected areas also make economic sense. Biodiversity loss is one of the top five risks to the global economy. In the recent paper *Protecting 30% of the Planet for Nature – Costs, Benefits and Economic Implications* 100 economists and scientists indicate that the benefits of protecting ecosystems outweigh the costs 5 to 1.

Progress lags in Ontario on protecting nature, leaving other provinces and territories to pick up the slack. RWLT continues to explore opportunities to help locally.

You can help too! A 'sit spot' is a favourite place in nature that you can visit regularly to relax, be present and give yourself the chance to reflect on the stressors in your life and ways to move forward. It is also the chance to observe patterns as you expand your senses and study patterns of local plants, birds, trees, animals, etc. What you see, hear and experience in nature can improve your mood in a moment. Further, time with nature gives you time to think about how it provides for us, and in turn how you can contribute in caring for it and your local community. Examples include checking in on a neighbour, buying local, supporting organizations, or leaving a legacy. To support RWLT use the donation form insert! To save more taxes, consider a donation in your will or of stocks.



P O Box 91, Seeley's Bay ON K0H 2N0
E-mail: info@rwlt.org Tel: 613.305.3507
www.rwlt.org
Charitable Registration #89233-6348-RR0001



- ✦ To make a **one-time gift** to save natural areas in the Rideau Waterway use the form overleaf; mail it along with your cheque / payment information to RWLT.
- ✦ To set up an **automatic monthly donation**, please contact RWLT.
- ✦ To make a **donation in American Dollars** please see the RWLT website (*How You Can Help* section) to download the form and mail it with your donation to the American Friends of Canadian Conservation.
- ✦ To **donate online** or to **support long-term initiatives** please see the RWLT website for forms.
- ✦ Consider the added tax advantages of a **gift of securities** (stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other publicly traded securities). Contact your financial advisor or RWLT for more details.
- ✦ Contact RWLT about leaving a donation in your will, a gift of life insurance or a tribute donation.

Please enter your one-time donation and contact details on the reverse side of this form

Donation and Contact Details



I've enclosed a cheque payable to Rideau Waterway Land Trust **OR**

I want to charge my donation to my VISA MasterCard

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry: _____ / _____ CVV# _____

Card Holder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Donation Amount: \$1,200 \$600 \$300 \$100 \$60 Other Amount _____

Name: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like Rideau Waterway Land Trust (RWLT) to email me newsletters. I can unsubscribe at any time.