The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996

2012

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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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The RWLT welcomes all its members and supporters to join us Sunday October 14th for the inaugural Take A Hike Day. With events planned at two properties there promises to be something for everyone. Both events start at 12 noon with lunch available followed by an interpretive walk.

The RWLT volunteers will be showcasing their newest walking trail at Sugarbush. The day will begin at the trailhead with a barbeque lunch available by donation. The trailhead is located on Davis Lock Road, turn east from Hwy 15 at Elgin and follow the Davis Lock Road for 7 km. to the well-marked Sugarbush Walking Trail parking area. After lunch there will be a welcome from invited guests as this day marks the Grand Opening of the new trail.

Simon Lunn will lead an interpretive

walk over this 2.8 km trail beginning at 1:30 and the day will end about 3:30.

The second event will be held at Rock Dunder, an RWLT signature property near Morton. The Morton Hall Committee is hosting a low cost lunch at the Morton Community Hall on Judd St in the village. Lunch will include a presentation and photography show by Doug Bond and Robert Ewart highlighting the natural heritage of Rock Dunder followed by a guided walk to the lookout at Rock Dunder.

The Trust would like to thank the sponsors, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Township of Rideau Lakes, Morton Hall Committee, Jane Monaghan Lawyer and George Bracken Surveyors for making this day possible.

For more information www.takeahikeday.ca

Walking Trail at Sugarbush

The staff and volunteers are hard at work putting the finishing touches on the Walking Trail at Sugarbush. The trail is a 2.8 km loop trail and features low slopes with a gravel walkway. It is a gentle walk suitable for all family members. From the trailhead and parking area off the Davis Lock Road the trail meanders through a grassy meadow and passes through a woods before crossing the land bridge to Sugarbush Island.

The trail loops around the island giving guests an opportunity to enjoy the easterly vistas over the wetlands of Murphy's Bay and the views to the west, the length of Lake Opinicon.





The acquisition of Sugarbush Island and the development of the walking trail have brought together many supporters from the local community. With additional support from the Federal Government, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation this project has become a reality.

The RWLT is grateful for all the support it has received from the community. The Trust would like to especially recognize the support from the family and friends of James Fullard. Professor Fullard was a much loved and respected educator that spent summers teaching students at the nearby Queen's University Biological Station and in his honour the island property will be known as the James H. Fullard Nature Reserve.

The trail features resting areas with benches that have been sponsored by local families for a truly memorable experience. There is still one bench available. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor this bench and be part of this lasting legacy please contact Dave Walker at 613-284-2010.

Come out and join your friends and neighbours on Sunday, October 14th for the Grand Opening of this newest treasure in the Rideau Community.

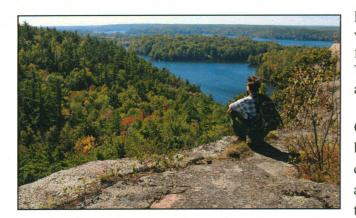
Bring the whole family including the family pet. We just ask that the family pooch be on a leash.



The RWLT Begins Planning For The Next Phase

Since incorporation in 1996 the volunteers and staff of the Trust have worked hard and have protected 19 properties in the Rideau Corridor. Some of these properties are signature properties within their local communities and have enjoyed tremendous popularity. The Trust's volunteers take pride in the fact that they have been able to keep the properties open to the public and do not charge a fee to provide this community enjoyment. There is no government money being made available for the maintenance of the properties or to fund the operating costs of the organization itself. The Trust is totally funded by donations from individuals and businesses from within the community. The Board of Directors is very grateful to all of the supporters from throughout the Rideau Corridor.





But times are changing. With more properties and an aging volunteer base the Trust must begin planning for the future. Without new volunteers and increased revenue the Trust may have difficulties maintaining free public access to all of its properties.

Over the fall and winter months the Board of Directors will begin a conversation with the Trust supporters in the community on where do we go from here. We need your ideas and support. Together we can come up with ideas to ensure that important natural areas in our community are preserved.

RWLT News Briefs

Membership – A quick reminder to everyone to please submit your 2012 memberships. To those that have we thank you for your support. Your continuing support is the backbone of the organization and without it special places in our community would not be preserved.

Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy - The consultants and Parks Canada staff have been busy all summer holding community meetings to gather input as to what you believe to be the important landscapes of the Rideau Corridor. We await the final report, and more importantly what steps the regulatory bodies are going to take to ensure the landscapes we treasure are here for today and tomorrow.

Rideau Canal Budget Woes - Many of you have heard about cutbacks to the Rideau's operating budgets and the effect it may have on the operating season and the maintenance of the system. The Trust has never understood that some management groups think that good management is about cutting costs. Gone are the days when good management was about forming partnerships and getting more accomplished with less. To this end the Trust would like to congratulate MP Gord Brown for organizing public meetings throughout the summer to gather input from the community and talk about solutions. We await the final report from Parks Canada with their decisions which is due out soon.

Ontario Land Trust Gathering - Land trust delegates will be gathering in mid-October in Orillia for three days of workshops and learning. This is always a worthwhile time, not only to learn from the best, but also to meet all the new people who are joining with their community land trusts and making a difference in their communities.

Thanks to the following Individuals and Businesses for their support from January 1st - September 18, 2012

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The Community Fdn. of Greater Kingston

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The Davies Charitable Foundation

The Ontario Trillium Foundation

Town of Smiths Falls Township of Rideau Lakes

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



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Website: www.rwlt.org Charitable Registration #89233-6348-RR0001

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.