

The LAND TRUST NEWS



PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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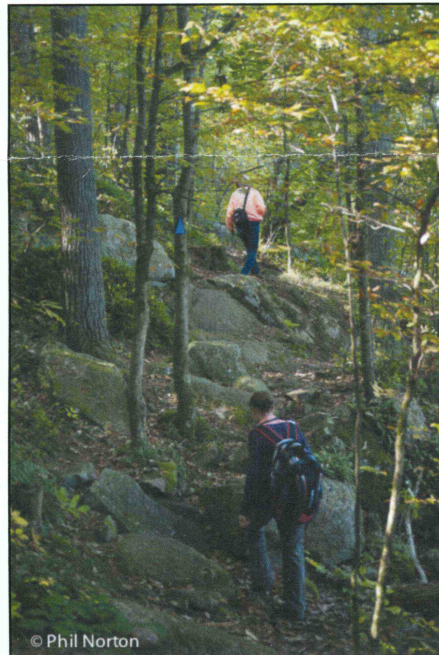
Dave Walker



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Take A Hike Day A Resounding Success



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A sellout crowd enjoyed Take A Hike Day on October 5 at Rock Dunder.

The day began with a Walk-a-Thon. Twenty one RWLT supporters met for breakfast at the Morton Community Hall and then set out to walk to the summit and back raising important funds to ensure the trails at Rock Dunder would be open for the community to enjoy in 2014. Together this devoted group of supporters raised \$9,500 for needed projects at Rock Dunder. Leading the way in pledges was Beau, an elderly Black Lab – Great Dane mix, who made the trek with his friends and in doing so raised a whopping \$5,400. The RWLT would like to thank everyone who supported the walk, not only the walkers but the 72 supporters who donated and sponsored the walkers.

The afternoon walk started with a lunch at Morton Hall put on by the Morton Hall Committee. Following lunch a capacity crowd of 85 enjoyed a photographic tour of Rock Dunder presented by Simon Lunn. After lunch and the presentation the group set out on an interpreted walk led by Simon and Jim MacLaughlin. The reviews by the participants were excellent, the weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Be sure to set aside October 4th for next year's event and remember to get your tickets early. This event has sold out each year and unfortunately we had to turn some people away this year but the Morton Hall can only hold so many.



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New Legislation and Regulations are Upon Us.



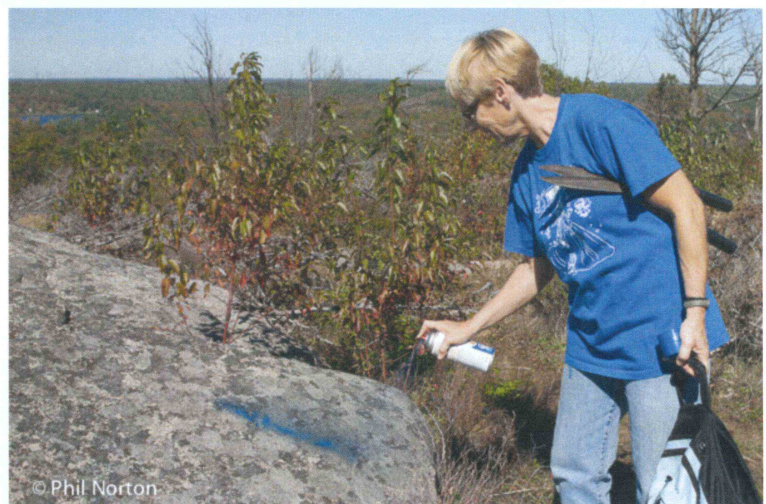
For several issues the RWLT has been telling their supporters of pending changes to the legislation and regulations charities in Canada and Ontario operate under. The number of new pieces of legislation and supporting regulations that are currently being implemented are unprecedented in the 17 years the Rideau Waterway Land Trust has been in existence.

The changes include the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act being implemented by Industry Canada. This Act replaces the former Act which was implemented a century ago. It may modernize the way we can do business but it does require all federally incorporated Not-for-profits in Canada to file Articles of Continuance, including new By-Laws, by October of 2014. The Board of the RWLT is working with its volunteer lawyers and this process is well underway. The Board hopes to have a draft set of by-laws that not only meets all the requirements of the Act but that will also serve the organization well into the future ready to share with its supporters shortly.

Next up is Revenue Canada with new regulations regarding responsibilities of board members as well as new guidance regarding fundraising which leads to increased auditing requirements. The RWLT's lawyers and auditors feel the organization has always been and remains to be in full compliance with these new regulations but training has to take place to bring all Board members and key volunteers "up to speed" on what is required and what is expected. Many key volunteers and Board members may be hesitant to put in the time on administration details preferring to spend their donated time delivering the programs. If fingers can be pointed, the media spent considerable time several years ago exposing what they believed to be improper fundraising practices including the cost of fundraising being used by some large and well known charities in Canada. The powers to be felt the problems could be solved by implementing new regulations. Unfortunately all charities, both large and small, are now put in a position of implementing these regulations if they want to retain the privileges that come with charitable status.

Finally the Ontario Government has brought in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. This Act requires that all organizations that have contact with the public must have a policy in place to deal with people with disabilities, including both physical and cognitive disabilities. The RWLT has such a policy but a requirement of the Act is that all staff and volunteers that have interaction with the public must attend training and be made aware of the policy and best practices.

Although the RWLT's advisors believe the RWLT has always been in compliance with these new regulations and legislation due to its adherence to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices, formally implementing them is taking valuable resources in both volunteer time and funds. We have to be honest here, not every volunteer enjoys the administrative side of things, but fortunately the RWLT has some volunteers who not only enjoy this work but are also very experienced in it through their professional lives. The organization would like to thank these people and will certainly owe them deep thanks at the end of this round of new regulations.



Training Workshop

Not only due to the requirements of the new legislation and regulations but the running of a land trust, with their multi-million dollar balance sheets, requires significant financial management. The RWLT was fortunate to be awarded a grant by TD Canada Trust to develop and implement some of these systems and the required training.

Over the winter a dedicated group of volunteers with the required financial skills will develop and recommend an enhanced budgeting program for the RWLT. A need has been identified within the land trust community to develop a budgeting process that identifies and differentiates between operating, program and project costs. This will be followed up with a plan to make sure operating costs are in place. Operating costs are those costs that have to be met each year if a land trust is going to stay in business. The variability in managing a land trust can be found in the program and project costs. Although it would be unfortunate, if the funds are not available for program or projects in any given year, a land trust could still stay in business even if programs or projects had to be delayed or cancelled. This is not the case for operating costs.

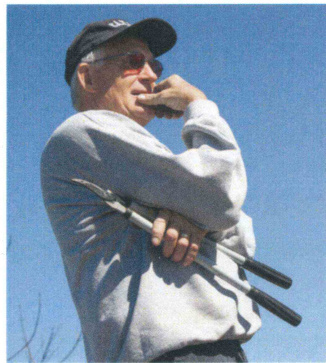
This project will conclude with a training workshop to be held in Westport on March 27th. The lawyers from Carter's Professional Group - Ottawa as well as staff from CIBC Wood Gundy have agreed to donate their time and expertise to lead this workshop. They will guide key land trust volunteers and staff through not only the budgeting process, but also the new legislation and regulations affecting land trusts. Attendance will be limited and RWLT volunteers and staff will get first priority but any extra space will be made available to land trusts from Eastern Ontario, an agreement the RWLT made with the sponsor. The RWLT has many people to thank for this opportunity including the funders and all those volunteers who have agreed to donate their time and expertise to leading the workshop.

Spring Dinner and Auction

Next on our social calendar is our Spring Dinner and Auction. Each year this event only gets better. The donation of auction gifts has already begun with enthusiastic supporters donating art work, overnight hotel stays and spa treatments. If you would like to donate an item please contact Dave Walker at davew@rwlt.org. The 2014 event will be held in May. The venue is still to be decided. The 2013 event in Perth was the best yet and that venue is certainly being considered for 2014. Over the next short while the RWLT will huddle with its sponsors, both returning and some new ones that have approached the Trust, to get their input and planning will begin in earnest.

Walking Trail Program Continues to Grow

Several years ago the Board of the RWLT agreed to expand its mandate to provide for a healthy community. The trails at Rock Dunder were improved and a new trail system was developed at Sugarbush. These trail systems have proven to be immensely popular with the community. In 2013 Rock Dunder welcomed more than 8500 visitors and Sugarbush, in its first full year of operation, had over 2000 visitors. With this number of visitors comes added maintenance and the need for some capital improvements to the properties including parking and signage. In early 2013 the Board made the decision that if the trails were to remain open to the public more volunteer help and more funds would be required. Joe



Hamilton and his wife Mary Lou stepped in and have formed the Friends of Rock Dunder. With 22 dedicated volunteers, a team visited Rock Dunder once a week for the entire season to maintain the washrooms; stock the literature racks and do a general clean-up. A volunteer day was organized for September and 12 volunteers attended. Joe and his wife have committed to organizing two volunteer days for 2014. Not to be outdone and when challenged with a goal of raising \$7,500 the volunteer fundraisers raised in excess of \$13,000 thus ensuring not only did the property stay open in 2013 but it will open for the 2014 season on May 15th 2014. The RWLT is committed to organizing a similar team for Sugarbush.

If you would like to participate in this program contact Dave Walker at davew@rwlt.org.



The Rideau Waterway Land Trust – November 20th, 2013

“A land trust is a promise...a promise that we, as a community, make to ourselves, our children, and their children, to ensure that in the next hundred years those natural spaces will still exist and that the quality of life and the legacy they represent will remain forever”

Many of you will recognize this quote. It was sent to us a few years ago by one of our friends from the Land Trust Alliance in the US. We use it as a wonderful reminder that captures the essence of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and our mission to protect these beautiful lands for generations to come. Each year the RWLT moves closer to fulfilling this dream.

The financial assistance of our supporters is essential to our goal. Without your commitment and ongoing support, we would not be able to continue this work. Your contribution during this Annual Campaign plays an important role in the ability of your Land Trust to make a difference in our community by protecting those special places. Our Board of Directors, Doug Lewis, Simon Lunn, Neal Ritchie, Doug Stewart, Krystyna Chelminska, Hunter McGill, and staff Dave Walker, need your help to grow our supporters to greater heights by encouraging your friends and family to consider supporting the RWLT. It is so important that we continue to increase our number of supporters and raise more awareness of the work being done by the RWLT. We believe the Rideau corridor and beyond are worthy of protection in perpetuity.

What can you do to help? I am asking each of you to begin by making a meaningful contribution to this 2013 Annual Campaign. Together we can make a difference.

Please take a few moments to complete the enclosed donor card and return it with your generous donation.

Thank you for your support of this most worthy cause.

Doug Lewis

Doug Lewis



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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.