



FALL 2018
Newsletter

Rideau Waterway

LAND TRUST



Chair's Message

Another year is nearly behind us and I am pleased to report on achievements. In each of our recent newsletters I have reported on the various challenges that your land trust has faced over the last three years. While not very exciting stuff it is essential to the smooth operation of RWLT! We have had glitches but we can now report, with the volunteer help of some very knowledgeable experts and some helpful agency staff, every one of these challenges has been met.

We can now move forward with confidence, starting with a review of RWLT's goals and how to achieve them. The Board has mapped out its strategic priorities, focussing on five: **Board Development, Finances, Staff, Property Management and Communications.** More detailed information on each aspect is available on our website. This list will also be helpful to RWLT supporters and volunteers who may wish to help with a particular aspect of the Trust's operations.



The RWLT Board has identified strategic priorities to guide activity over the next few years.

Is anything missing? You might ask “What about land acquisitions”? RWLT is always open to the right opportunity but, as a strategic priority, will not proactively beat the bushes for the next couple of years. There are already four potential land acquisitions that have been discussed with the RWLT Board this year. In time one or more of them might come to fruition. Your Board's goal is to be ready to act quickly when the right opportunity arises.

Other aspects of this readiness involve connections and partnerships. RWLT is well connected having rejoined the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) and the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFoCLT). OLTA provides essential educational opportunities which help your Trust meet its commitment to follow the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. AFoCLT facilitates cross-border land and monetary donations. Partnerships with many other conservation groups result in opportunities and collaborations which are essential to our mutual conservation goals.

As usual, I end with a request for your support, whether financial or volunteering. Both are essential in the continuation of RWLT's work.

Best wishes, Peter Hannah

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Rideau Waterway Land Trust



ROCK DUNDER MONITOR

We have now completed our second hiking season with a supporter pass system at Rock Dunder. Compared to last year, arriving visitors have shown increased awareness of the pass system – many arriving having already purchased supporter passes on line through Eventbrite either directly or via the RWLT website. Passes are still sold at the gate when an attendant is there and can also be bought at Wendy's Country Market near Morton. If you're thinking of Christmas gifts, consider a 2019 season supporter pass!

In 2018 RWLT was successful in obtaining a Canada Summer Jobs grant that enabled us to hire staff to assist with visitor education, maintenance, administrative tasks and pass sales at the gate. The heat and humidity in the early part of the season did “dampen” the visitor numbers, but some of the reduction is also attributed to the requirement for passes and the greater presence at the gate. Littering is noticeably reduced. It seems that manageable levels of use are being restored at Rock Dunder. This will help ensure preservation of this natural resource and its splendour. We believe all this leads to a better experience for visitors.

Revenue from supporter passes was used for improvements at Rock Dunder, such as the following. A second, larger trailer to serve as an office at the gate was set up. Lines were painted in the parking lot to better direct parking and the parking lot was expanded to gain a few spaces. On portions of the trail subject to muddy conditions during the wetter parts of the season, some “plank-walks” were installed. Thanks to a generous donation by a supporter a bench was installed on the Morton Bay Loop in memory of Julia Wagg.

The trails will re-open to the public by May 15, giving Rock Dunder time to hibernate and refresh over the winter. If you would like to volunteer to help with maintenance or visitors please contact **Jim MacLachlan** at 20jrmac@gmail.com or **Susan Janus** at hikersuzy@gmail.com.



New memorial bench on Morton Bay Loop at Rock Dunder, provided by a generous donation.

EcoService and Land Conservation



Support nature conservation so generations of families can experience its wonder and its life-giving features.

Nature is wonderful, providing us with so many benefits. The pleasure of a stroll along a trail illustrates many: a relaxing break from otherwise hectic activity, a chance to stretch-the-legs, time spent with someone special, or time to contemplate things in our lives and the awe of the world around us. These are but a few 'ecoservices' provided by one very small aspect of nature, or natural heritage.

At a broader level, our families and communities depend on nature for life and livelihood. A few examples include drinking water to sustain ourselves, trees providing clean air and wood for heat and shelter, tourism through places to see and explore, and earth and stone that support our buildings and transportation routes. Whether obvious or not, nature supports the various ways on which our society has developed its economy and all the intertwined jobs.

Ironically, we generally discount the ecoservices nature provides, mainly because they are difficult to express in dollars and cents, and they are often considered to belong to us all, or no one, so are 'free'. Fortunately, Mankind is getting wiser with age! A recent example comes from the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) which is promoting the use of natural infrastructure (i.e. ecosystem functions found in wetlands, stream valleys and forests) to reduce flood risk [ibc.ca; *Combating Canada's Rising Flood Costs* (Sept 2018)].

In a previous RWLT newsletter the intent of senior governments to conserve 17% of Canada's land area for nature was outlined. It could be argued that this stewardship target reflects to some degree the Indigenous perspective that decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. And a recent survey by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) reveals that "90% of Canadians feel happier and more productive when they are connected to nature. Yet more than 80% worry that accessible natural areas will not be there for the future."

So what does all this have to do with the RWLT? Well, our mission is to preserve important natural lands and habitats in the Rideau Corridor and foster a healthy future for our communities. RWLT is trying to do its part to retain and promote the ecoservices nature provides. To do so, though, we need your help.

Please consider a generous donation, as part of your year-end giving so RWLT can continue to serve the families and communities, and nature, in the area of the Rideau Waterway. It will pay the property taxes, maintenance and monitoring of the 1085 acres at 19 RWLT properties, including 23 islands. Your donation will also provide a 'kitty' to hire professional services in exploring future land acquisitions and for leveraging enhancement project funding.

Canadian and American supporters may donate online (www.rwlt.org), or Canadian supporters can use the form on the back of this page and mail it to RWLT. Charitable receipts as appropriate will be issued. For the donation of securities or mutual fund shares to RWLT, please **contact us** at rwlt.email@gmail.com.

**Donate
Today!**



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Name: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

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Make a Donation

Yes, I will make a one-time gift to conserve natural space in the Rideau Waterway!

Please find my gift of: \$1,200 \$600 \$300 \$100 \$60 Other Amount \$ _____

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

I want to charge my donation to my VISA MasterCard American Express

Card No: _____/_____/_____/_____ Expiry: _____/_____

Signature: _____ Card Holder Name: _____

Email Address: _____

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

Please 'tick' if you prefer your contribution be kept confidential.

Monthly Gift

Yes, I want to be a monthly donor supporting nature all year round! I authorize RWLT to process a debit to my bank account or credit card in the amount of: \$100 \$50 \$25 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____ on the 1st or 15th (please select one) day of every month beginning in _____ (month) of 20____.

Bank Account – Enclosed is my cheque marked “void”.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ OR

Credit Card – Please charge my gift to my VISA MasterCard American Express

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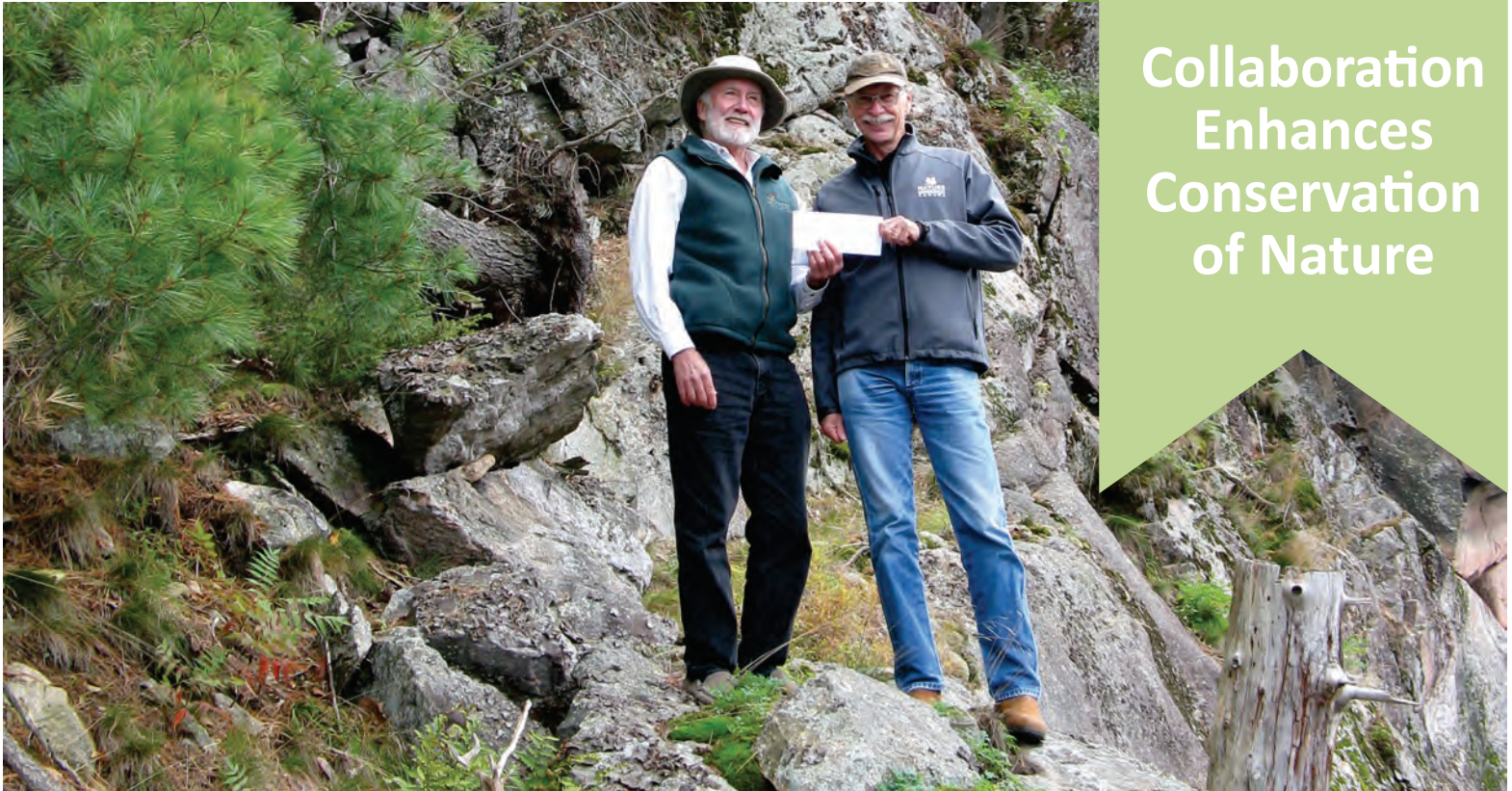
RWLT's pre-authorized debit program: With your permission the RWLT will charge your credit card or make an automatic withdrawal from your bank account each month in the amount selected. Each gift will appear on your credit card or bank statement. You will receive an annual tax receipt for donations of Cdn \$25 or more. You can stop your participation at any time by advising the RWLT. Please keep a copy of this form for your records, and advise us of any change in your account information.

Email Address: _____

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

Please 'tick' if you prefer your contribution be kept confidential.

US donations: Tax receipts for donations of US \$200 or more may be issued through the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. See RWLT or AFoCLT (www.afoclt.org/donations) website for forms and details. Please ensure that you select RWLT as the Grant Recommendation.



Collaboration Enhances Conservation of Nature

RWLT Chair Peter Hannab (left) giving donation to Gary Bell toward NCC's purchase of property on Whitefish Lake, extending natural space holdings by partners in the Frontenac Arch.

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust secures land for its natural intrinsic values, retaining habitat with space for vibrant biodiversity, as well as providing some access to nature. These are laudable actions. But, other organizations do it, too.

How does the work of all these partners complement each other? While each partner may appear to have a cluster of land here and there, the partners collaborate. Collaboration brings many strategic interests together; coordination strengthens the overall achievement. An even bigger impact is achieved when several land securement projects are close to each other. Proximity provides connectivity, allowing the continuance of natural processes over a greater area.

Those who have land to donate or sell for conservation can choose between government and non-government organizations, operating nationally to locally. Rest assured that partner collaboration will secure quality areas for the long-term.

Recently the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) bought another property in the Frontenac Arch. This Whitefish Lake property is visible from the summit of RWLT's Rock Dunder. A portion of 2018 supporter pass proceeds from Rock Dunder was provided to NCC to help retain the natural viewscape for our visitors.

INFORMATION BRIEFS

RWLT AGM: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for RWLT's fiscal-year July 2017-June 2018 was held on September 26, 2018. This edition of the RWLT newsletter provides information on the various accomplishments during that period. At a subsequent Board of Directors meeting, John Grass was named our new Vice-Chair.

Benefit Concert: Mark your calendar and help support RWLT by attending the March 22, 2019 Blues-On-The-Rideau show held at The Cove Inn, Westport. Proceeds from this concert go to RWLT.



Getaway Place!

This beautiful cottage is available for rent from RWLT.

Looking for that off-grid waterfront cabin surrounded by your own woods? RWLT is once again providing access to natural heritage lands through the rental of a rustic cottage at its Bulls Eye Lake property north of Kingston.

Enjoy nature at its best with 31 acres to roam. Only cottage on the private lake; access to Sydenham Lake. Canoes for fishing; private swimming raft. Three bedrooms (sleeps 5). Full kitchenette. Propane fridge, BBQ and fireplace. Close to Sydenham, Gould Lake Conservation Area and Frontenac Provincial Park.

Rented by the week (Sunday to Saturday) May to October. For booking see the RWLT website.

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