

Chair's Message

Another successful summer has come and gone. The Trust was fortunate to have received funding for four students under the Canada Summer Jobs program and we were thrilled with the result. Lots was accomplished by this hard working group. The sold out RWLT dinner held in Kingston on October 2 was also a success, bringing together a keen group of supporters to share stories and hear from speaker Dr. James Raffan about the significance of our area and the important work that we do. See more information on these topics and others in this newsletter.

In the Spring 2019 newsletter I mentioned the variety of circumstances that have led to the Trust's acquisition of its twenty properties. RWLT was established in 1996 and an immediate opportunity arose. Dr. John Keith Besley and Mrs. Shirley Louise Besley approached the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), interested in donating a property in the Kemptville Creek Wetland Complex. RWLT and RVCA had already been discussing the possibility of working together so this was ideal. The donors would be comfortable in knowing that their property would be jointly protected by two organizations, working together for the benefit of the Rideau corridor. RWLT was off to a great start.

A Memorandum of Understanding was completed between RWLT and RVCA, the administrative steps (title search, appraisal, site assessment, Environment Canada Certificate of Environmental Sensitivity, survey, legal work) were completed and the land transfer occurred in the Spring of 1997. Costs and responsibilities were shared between both organizations. Besley Woods has been protected ever since.

In addition to being part of a Provincially Significant Wetland Complex, a substantial part of this 25 ha property is within the Rideau River Flood Plain. Besley Woods has a diverse range of vegetation communities, contains important fish habitat and is home to numerous species of birds and amphibians.

RWLT learned a great deal from its first project. As a new organization, it was important to work within its capacity and strategically. It was quickly realized that volunteers couldn't do everything. Professional services would need to be hired from time to time, and RWLT would need to align its landholdings in a broader ecological system of holdings with partner organizations. Also, the RWLT Board was pleasantly surprised by the interest being expressed by persons wishing to donate land. There was a need to establish clear acquisition criteria. Ecological criteria could be modeled on the Federal Ecogifts program and the Provincial Conservation Land Tax Incentive program. But more was needed -- fundraising. Financial resources were and are essential to long term success to acquire, manage, monitor and steward properties. Your continuing support will allow RWLT to carry-on with its important conservation work.

Best wishes, Peter Hannah



*Land protection partnership
between RVCA and RWLT*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message:
Land Lessons

Wonderful Students

Accessible Wild-Ness

Trail Improvements

News Briefs:

- Trail Season
- Blues Music Date
- Plan for Cottage Next Summer

We Can Do,
and Must Do More

Donate Today!

Wonderful Students



Students hired in summer 2019 by RWLT thanks to federal funding.

Thanks to the Federal Canada Summer Jobs Program funding was provided to RWLT to hire four summer students for 2019. Adam Seabrook and Deserae Ball were our operations assistants, greeting visitors at Rock Dunder and helping with property maintenance at both Rock Dunder and James H Fullard Nature Reserve, two of our community lands. Adam is a grade 12 student at Regi and Deserae is a 1st year biomedical science student at the University of Ottawa. Katryna Seabrook, a 4th year toxicology student at the University of Guelph, was our science and technology assistant, who's main task was to work towards improving RWLT's social media and online presence. Erika Kendrick, a recent graduate in ecology from the University of Guelph, was our biologist helping to review and update property monitoring and management reports.

Overall, it was a very successful and productive summer for RWLT. Next spring, check RWLT for summer 2020 employment opportunities.

Accessible Wild-Ness



RWLT supporters enjoying conversation and dinner before a presentation by Dr. Raffan

In early October over 80 enthusiastic RWLT supporters enjoyed a delicious meal at the River Mill restaurant in Kingston, overlooking the Rideau Canal. Dr James Raffan, canoeist, educator and researcher, provided an impassioned presentation and slide show. He linked his experiences in the Marshall Islands and on Baffin Island to RWLT's work locally. Raffan outlined wild-ness as an interaction between land (eg. rock, soil), nature (eg. biodiversity of trees and wildlife) and culture (eg. settlement history, food, economic business). He applauded and encouraged attendees to 'love places and get involved'.

Trail Improvements



New direction signs along trail at J H Fullard Nature Reserve

J H Fullard Nature Reserve: New direction signs were placed along the trails to guide visitors to vistas and back to the parking lot.

Rock Dunder Nature Reserve: Rock Dunder has become an extremely popular hiking spot due to its remarkable views. Unfortunately, with high levels of use comes unintended consequences for the local natural environment. Examples include: trampling of vegetation, soil erosion and root exposure. This summer RWLT identified areas along the Summit Loop that need some 'love and attention' and made a trail remediation plan.

The initial project phase included a couple of "pilot" projects. A set of steps was constructed to prevent any further erosion and root exposure on a small section of trail with a slight incline. A short boardwalk was constructed in a low laying area to prevent further erosion and for the ease of hikers during the wet season.

The next phase of trail improvements involves constructing a boardwalk roughly 45m (150 ft) in length to cover an area of exposed roots. Our fundraising goal is \$20,000, and RWLT will be seeking grants to assist with this phase. Most grants require the applicant contribute to the project -- *if you would like to help RWLT raise its share towards grants please indicate on the donation form in this newsletter.*



Pilot project to control erosion of trails at Rock Dunder - Sections of steps above and boardwalk below..



Funding for more boardwalk sought

News Briefs

Trails Resting: A reminder that RWLT community lands (Rock Dunder, J H Fullard, Nicholson's Point) are closed to the public from November 15 to May 15 annually. This allows rejuvenation on the properties in advance of the next season-on-the-trails.

Updated RWLT email address: If you want to get in touch with RWLT please use our new email address, which is info@rwlt.org.

Share the Blues (Save the Date): Once again, enjoy an evening of blues music at The Cove in Westport. Proceeds from the March 20, 2020 performance will go to RWLT. Check www.BluesOnTheRideau.ca for tickets.

Rent Covington Cottage (plan next summer's vacation time): Rent this RWLT off-grid, 3 bedroom waterfront cabin located near Sydenham by the week during May to October. For booking see the RWLT website.

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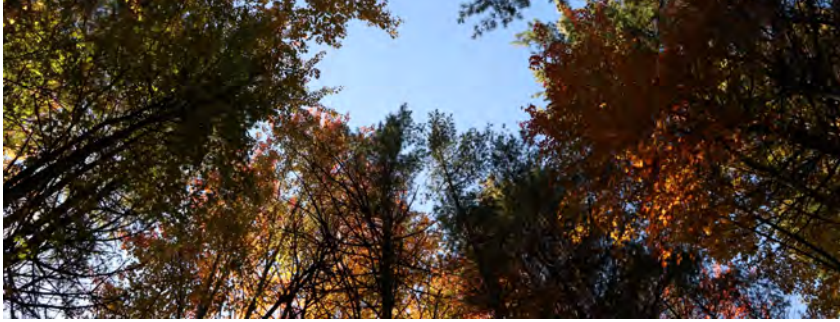
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We Can Do, and Must Do, More



Information is released at an increasing rate about the environment. Topics include student strikes related to climate, burning of the Amazon rainforest, loss of species, and threats to biodiversity from development. What is common with all of these is human activity.

Nature and its biodiversity supports humans – our food, shelter, health and community. The recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report noted that the loss of nature is as significant as climate change. These are linked threats: as we lose habitat we lose biodiversity and we lose the planet's ability to hold carbon; climate change, in turn, stresses habitat and its resilience to adapt.

Protecting nature is a good way to help our changing planet.

Humans can adapt. New technologies and other measures will help. So, too, will continued protection of nature, just as RWLT has been doing. We need to do more than meet our national pledge toward world targets for land protection; otherwise is to fail the next seven generations!

Please send your financial support to RWLT (see form below or donate online www.rwlt.org). Contact RWLT about also including a donation in your will.



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www.rwlt.org
Charitable Registration #89233-6348-RR0001
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Donation Form

Name: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Make a Donation (Please mail completed form and cheque / payment information to RWLT)

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 would like \$ _____ of my donation directed to the trail improvement project at Rock Dunder.

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: _____/_____ CVV# _____

Signature: _____ Card Holder Name: _____

Email Address: _____

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

For monthly, online or US donor gifts please check the RWLT website for the appropriate forms.