



Rideau Waterway
LAND TRUST
FOUNDATION INC.

I was very pleased to be elected as the Rideau Waterway Land Trust's new President at the September 17, 1999 AGM, held at the Opinicon Resort. This year a social hour and a great dinner followed the AGM. There were more members in attendance than ever before so I assume the format is one we should continue with next year, probably in mid September.

1999 has been a very successful year. Some highlights include:

- two new properties donated
- membership increased over 200%
- completion of our waterfront property owner database
- continued growth of the endowment fund
- a very successful first annual corn roast (mark August 5, 2000 on your calendar!)
- our first annual report.

We continue to receive new enquiries from potential land donors. The Property Committee is currently working on five active files. When the Trust was first being established, it was often assumed that we would have to raise funds to purchase property. It is now clear that there are many conservation-minded individuals who want to donate land if they can be assured we have the financial and technical resources to look after their property in perpetuity.

We need to refocus our energies on substantially increasing the endowment fund so that the interest income it bears can be used to meet our obligations – property taxes, liability insurance, maintenance, monitoring, etc. With the decision to accept a property donation, the Trust immediately embarks upon a fund-

November 1999
RWLT NEWSLETTER

raising campaign to raise the money needed to meet these long-term obligations. We recently completed a mailing to property owners in the southerly part of the Rideau Waterway to raise the endowment to support the Cranberry Lake and Whitefish Lake property donations.

Over the coming year, we intend to build upon the successes that the Rideau Waterway Land Trust has achieved under the dedicated leadership of the many individuals who have served on past Boards of Directors. We will continue to grow, continue with those initiatives that have proven successful and pursue new activities that help the Trust to achieve its goal of preserving lands of natural, aesthetic or historic value. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Peter Hannah

President, Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation Inc.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Peter Hannah was elected President of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust at our September AGM. Peter has been a Board member since 1997 and is a landowner on the Big Rideau Lake. When Peter is not volunteering for the Trust he is the Assistant Director of Planning for J.L. Richards & Associates in Ottawa. With his land trust experience combined with his professional experience in land use planning, we all know the Trust will prosper under Peter's guidance.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Land Acquisition Committee has been renamed the Property Committee. This change in name reflects the responsibility this committee now has to manage the increasing number of properties that the Trust owns. Marty Moir returns as the chair of this

committee assisted by Peter Hannah, Frank Phelan and Simon Lunn.

At our AGM, held in September, the Trust acknowledged the generous donation of two parcels of land. The first is a 23-acre parcel of land on Cranberry Lake near Fiddler's Elbow. This tract of land includes in excess of 3000 feet of pristine shoreline and a small island that sits immediately adjacent. The entire area is well wooded and has remained untouched for generations. The property committee has completed the scientific inventory of this donation and their report shows a significant variety of plant and animal life on this property. The VanNiel family have generously donated this property in memory of their parents who vacationed at Fiddler's Elbow beginning in the 1920's. The property will be known as VanNiel Woodlands.

The second land donation acknowledged at the AGM was an island situated in Whitefish Lake near the entrance to Morton Bay. This island, with its towering pine trees, provides a natural habitat for the resident ospreys of Whitefish Lake. The Brown family, in memory of their mother Katherine, has donated this island to the Trust.

Just as this newsletter was being written the Brown family offered to donate a second island to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. This island is in Whites Bay on Whitefish Lake. This one-acre island is well wooded with a very gentle terrain. It has been used in the past by day-trippers as a resting place as they explored the Waterway. The Board of Directors of the Trust have agreed to accept this generous donation and the island will be named Jack's Island in memory of the Brown family's father who spent many years vacationing at the family cottage on Whitefish Lake.

In addition to these donations the Property Committee has an additional four active files regarding property donations.

The year 1999 has been a very successful year for the Property Committee and with many opportunities in the Year 2000 in appears the successes for the Trust will continue to grow.

ENDOWMENT FUND

With the continued successes of the property acquisition program comes the added responsibility to care for these lands. In addition to the monitoring duties, which are carried out by the volunteers of the Trust, are the costs of maintaining these lands. These costs include property taxes, insurance, signage and other routine maintenance expenses. As many of you are aware the Board of Directors of the Rideau Waterway Land

Trust set up the Land Management Endowment Fund in the fall of 1998. This is a capital account and only the interest income from this account is used to maintain our lands with the principal remaining to ensure that monies are available to maintain our lands in perpetuity. In the first year our members and donors have donated in excess of \$4,000.00 to this Fund.

As you can see by the successes of the property committee during 1999 many landowners are willing to donate their lands to the care of the Trust. In order that the Trust can accept these lands and preserve them in perpetuity the Fundraising Committee, under the capable guidance of Dave Donaldson, is going to make the raising of funds for the Endowment Fund a priority for 2000. For every \$10.00 that the members of the Trust raise 1 foot of shoreline along the Rideau Waterway will be preserved. We can pass these lands onto future generations knowing that the money is available to maintain them. For a contribution of \$100.00 a donor will know that 10 feet of our Waterway has been preserved.

During the fall of 1999 and in celebration of the millennium we will be asking our members, donors and landowners along the Rideau to contribute what they can to this fund to ensure that the Trust can continue to preserve additional lands along the Waterway.

IN MEMORY OF LESLIE ORMSBEE-BRANDT

The members of the Trust would like to extend their sympathies to the family and parents of Leslie Ormsbee-Brandt who recently passed away. Leslie had spent every summer of her young life at the family cottage on Newboro Lake. Her love for the Rideau led several of her friends and family members to make a contribution to the Trust's Endowment Fund in Leslie's memory.

CORN ROAST

Chaffey's Lock lockstation was a busy place on the evening of Saturday July 31. The volunteers of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust organized the first annual corn roast. As the date drew closer the organizer's realized that the community support was beyond their expectations. We quickly expanded the facilities and ordered more supplies as the ticket sales climbed over 700 one week before the event. By the evening of the event ticket sales reached 900, a sell-out.

The event featured 50's and 60's music supplied by two bands, corn donated by the Dwyre family, hot dogs, sausages and refreshments. The event attracted people of all ages with grandparents bringing their grandchildren and all age groups in between.

Vince Watters and Dave Walker were the convenors and along with the 24 volunteers from the Trust and the Chaffey's Lock community put on an event to be remembered. Vince deserves special recognition for his efforts at ticket selling. He personally sold 461 tickets to the event.

The space has been booked and the bands lined up for next year's event, which will be held on August 5, 2000. The event will definitely be a sell-out so you'd better get your tickets early.

FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Once again this Foundation, which is supported by Canada Trust and its customers, continues to give considerable support to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. During 1999 this Foundation contributed \$10,000 to the Trust, which allowed us to increase the activity of our Property Committee.

They are the first Foundation to commit funds for our 2000 program when the Kingston Chapter granted the Trust \$4,855.00 for our programs in the southern region of the Waterway.

ONTARIO NATURE TRUST ALLIANCE

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust continues to play an active role in this province wide alliance of land trusts. Six board members and volunteers will be travelling to Orillia in November to attend the Second Annual Fall Gathering. This event will feature the introduction of the Land Trust Manual, a cooperative effort of land trusts from across Ontario. Our own Peter Hannah was responsible for writing the chapter on land planning issues. Workshops on fundraising, conservation easements and administrative issues involving land trusts are scheduled.

Georgian Bay Land Trust has been working on behalf of all members of ONTA to have some form of property tax relief granted to land trusts on the ecologically sensitive lands they hold on Ontario. A representative from the Province of Ontario will be making an announcement at the Gathering regarding

their new policy on this issue. Hopefully Georgian Bay has been successful in getting our tax burden lowered.

Our membership in this Alliance continues to pay dividends for the Rideau Waterway Land Trust.

OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

John Finlayson's first exposure to the Trust was as a volunteer at the Corn Roast. The enthusiasm of the volunteers of the Trust impressed John so much he agreed to lend his talents to the Board. John is a business owner from Kanata and with this background has agreed to chair the Finance Committee. John and his wife, Janet, have recently purchased a property on the Big Rideau Lake and have become landowners on the Rideau Waterway.

For those of you from the Upper Rideau Lake area Dave Donaldson needs no introduction. Dave is the past president of the Upper Rideau Lake Association and he brings his enthusiasm and energy to the RWLT Board and his position of chair of the Fundraising, Publicity and Membership Committee.

Our third new board member is Jamie Laidlaw. Jamie lives in Ottawa, is a past board member with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and is currently involved with Natural Step, a national group looking at ways to achieve sustainability in the environment. Jamie brings his land trust experience at the national level to the Board of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust.

The Trust is fortunate to have people with such a high level of experience step forward to serve on its board.

DIRECTORS' WORKSHOP

Another first for 1999 was our first annual Director's Workshop. This event was held at the Opinicon on October 2, 1999. The Directors of the Trust were joined by many of the dedicated volunteers at this daylong retreat to discuss policies and programs for the upcoming year. In addition to a discussion on such topics as financial record keeping and budgeting, appointments and terms of our advisors and our committee structure several policy decisions were made and recommended to the Board for their approval.

The emphasis for 1999 will remain our property acquisition program with a special emphasis being placed on increasing donations to the Land Management Endowment Fund. The formal Board Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis and their purpose will be to

decide policy and make financial and property acquisition decisions. The committee structure will be reinforced with a special effort to involve more of our members at the committee level. It will be the responsibility of the committees to develop programs for approval by the Board and then to implement the programs. The building of a land trust is a multi-generational task and it is important to develop a strong committee structure to ensure that volunteers gain the necessary experience in order to step into the leadership roles in the future.

It was also decided the Corn Roast and Annual Dinner will become annual events.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER

The 1999 Annual General Meeting of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust took place on September 17. It was held at the Opinicon in Chaffey's Locks. The format was changed this year to include the annual meeting, followed by a dinner and presentations. Fifty-one members were present in addition to several guests.

In addition to the business of the AGM the members of the Trust acknowledged the donation of VanNiel Woodlands and Kate's Island. These presentations included a slide show showing the features of the properties as well as the unveiling of the signs that will be placed on each property acknowledging the generosity of the donors.

The format of the evening was a success and the Board has made a decision that this format will be continued in years to come. We expect attendance to climb even higher as more of our members and donors take this opportunity to meet their neighbours and join in the celebration of the successes of the Trust.

VOLUNTEER (S) OF THE YEAR

At the September AGM the Board of Directors started a new tradition by recognizing the Volunteer of the Year. This annual award will be presented to the individual or organization that made the greatest contribution in a non-monetary way to the success of the Trust during the previous year. Although the Trust has been fortunate to have many volunteers who help out with their programs and special events there are always several individuals who put in that extra effort.

There was a tie for this award in its inaugural year. Sharon Walker and Ken Watson shared the award.

Sharon has been a volunteer with the Trust since in incorporation in 1996. She has helped manage the student program, publish the newsletter and has volunteered at all the special events. But in 1998 Sharon went beyond what can be expected of any volunteer when she convened of the First Annual Gathering of the Ontario Nature Trust Alliance. This conference was hosted by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and attracted delegates from across the province. The conference was given rave reviews by all participants and the credit for this has to go to Sharon and her committee of volunteers.

The co-recipient was Ken Watson. To many of you Ken needs no introduction. He is Mr. Rideau when it comes to the Internet and the Rideau Waterway. Go to any search engine, type in Rideau Waterway, and travel to Ken's website. Ken constructed and maintains this website on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all users and organizations along the Waterway. Ken has constructed a page within this site for the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. On this site Ken posts our newsletters, keeps people current of our activities and helps us with the promotion of our special events. Although this is an ongoing project with Ken during the year 1998 Ken efforts were especially appreciated for his work in publicizing the Gathering.

To these two dedicated volunteers the members of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust would like to express our appreciation for their efforts to ensure the continued success of the Trust.

Board Of Directors Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation Inc.

<u>President</u>	Peter Hannah
<u>Vice-President</u>	Martin (Marty) Moir
<u>Secretary</u>	Frank Phelan
<u>Treasurer</u>	Dave Walker

Members of the Board

Andy Greiner, Dave Donaldson;
John Finlayson; James Laidlaw

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