

# The LAND TRUST NEWS



PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Lady Kingsmill Nature Reserve
- Sugarbush Island Walking Trail
- Land Preservation - A Community Affair
- RWLT News Briefs
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Membership 2012

## RWLT Board Members

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The Land Trust News is published two times a year by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust, a charitable organization.

[www.rwlt.org](http://www.rwlt.org)

## Lady Kingsmill Nature Reserve

With the generosity of donors Bob and Arlene Perly Rae, the Rideau Waterway Land Trust has established its 19th nature reserve. This 6 acre island is located in Big Rideau Lake in the area of Grindstone and Plum Islands. The island is covered in mature trees, both deciduous and coniferous, that have been virtually untouched by humans in almost 100 years. The shoreline is in its natural state. With the exception of a small marshy inlet, the lake bottom adjoining the island is a mixture of sand, clay and occasional cobble stone which provides spawning areas for many varieties of important fish species found in the Big Rideau Lake.



The island was originally part of the Kingsmill Estate established in the early 1900's, until purchased by the Rae family just over a decade ago.



Sir Charles Kingmill was the first Director of the Royal Canadian Navy and he and Lady Kingsmill developed the estate on adjoining Grindstone Island as their summer residence. Sir Charles Kingmill used this well known estate until his death in 1935. Lady Kingsmill continued the tradition of using Grindstone Island as a meeting place for family and friends until her death in 1956.

Bob and Arlene Perly Rae have made this generous donation to the RWLT and the Rideau community and have asked that it be known as the Lady Kingsmill Nature Reserve in recognition the Kingsmill family's significant contribution not only to the Rideau community but also to Canada.

The RWLT would like to thank the Rae's for this generous gift on behalf of the Trust and the community.

## Sugarbush Island Walking Trail



As many of you will remember, with significant support from RWLT members and the community the RWLT purchased Sugarbush Island in 2010. This ecological gem is located in the east end of Lake Opinicon near Chaffey's Lock. Situated at the entrance to Murphy's Bay Wetland, the island and its shorelines provide habitat to many species at risk and is well documented as an important natural area in protecting the biodiversity of the Rideau community.

The island provides impressive vistas both over the acres of wetland as well as Lake Opinicon.

In 2011 the Trust worked with Mr. Bryan Gentry, our neighbour to the south, who has generously donated a permanent right of way from the short land bridge that connects the island and the mainland to the Davis Lock Road. This will allow the Trust to develop a parking area and walking trail to give the community an opportunity to enjoy the vistas this property has to offer.

Development of this trail will take place over the summer of 2012 with an open house planned for October 14th.

Trail route planning and design began in 2011. It required various approvals from authorities. The objectives of the trail are based on promoting healthy lifestyles in our community while enabling conservation education. A professional landscape architect was retained and with input from Orland Conservation Services and our own volunteer ecologist, Simon Lunn, the drawings were completed. Special care was taken to identify all conservation values of the land and then design a trail that would not impact on these identified values while allowing the community to enjoy the vistas offered by this property.

To enable all members of the community to enjoy the trail it will be built 6' wide with low slopes. Crib stairs will be built in the three areas where the slope exceeds 8%. There will be viewing areas established with interpretive signage. Opportunities are available for donors who wish to sponsor benches in the resting areas. With trail plans in place approval was sought and obtained from the authorities.

The trail development costs have been estimated at \$85,000 and in early 2012 fundraising began. At the time of this newsletter 69% of the goal, or \$59,000, has been reached. Leading off the campaign was The Ontario Trillium Foundation who have given the Trust a grant of \$40,900. Supporters from the community have started to get behind the project. The volunteers from the Trust will be contacting our members in the near future to give them an opportunity to be part of this legacy project.

The Trust is committed to completing the trail by early fall and looks forward to welcoming the community to the Open House, October 14th, to enjoy some of the best vistas the Rideau area has to offer.



## Land Preservation - A Community Affair

Watch for our Annual RWLT Dinner and Benefit Auction

### Land Preservation - A Community Affair May 17, Minos Banquet Hall, Kingston *Our Special Invitation To You*

Once again we wish to invite you to join with fellow members and supporters of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust at our upcoming Dinner and Benefit Auction

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Gerard Phillips, an internationally acclaimed ornithologist and award winning photographer. Gerard will lead us on a photographic journey of his bird watching adventures with a special emphasis on his work with Ontario school children introducing them to the marvels of nature.



We will be offering three meal options, with a starter salad, dessert and coffee. Our evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with an informal reception, followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. and an after dinner auction. Dinner attire is business casual. Cost per ticket \$50.00.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. Go to [www.rwlt.org/events](http://www.rwlt.org/events) to register. The RWLT would like to thank the sponsors, CIBC Wood Gundy Kingston Office, Brent Burns Chartered Accountant and Lafarge Aggregates for making this evening possible.

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## RWLT News Briefs

**Job Creation Partnership** - The RWLT has been approved by the Ontario Ministry of Universities and Colleges for the creation of 2 trail technician positions for the Sugarbush Island Walking Trail for the summer of 2012.

**Partnership Difficulties** - Unfortunately some of our land conservation partner groups are experiencing financial difficulties due to government cutbacks. The RWLT has had to adjust its operating methods with this loss of support. Although our programs continue and the RWLT remains strong, we have lost some shared staff in the office. This is one area we have had to adjust, by reducing office hours to enable our staff to attend to responsibilities on our lands.

**Healthy Communities Partnership** - The RWLT was invited and has accepted an invitation to join with other organizations and individuals to work together to make our communities as healthy as possible. Working under the leadership of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit we are excited to be part of this vibrant group and hope to be able to report on some great projects in the near future..

**Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy** - As part of the ongoing development of the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy the public is encouraged to participate in the Landscape Character Assessment portion of the project through ways including: via social media, contributing to an online photographic library of the Rideau Corridor's landscapes, and attending the next round of community workshops to be held in the summertime. Information about participating in these opportunities and about the project itself can be found on the web site [www.rcls-sacr.ca](http://www.rcls-sacr.ca).

**Volunteer Opportunities**—With 19 properties the Trust has volunteer opportunities for all. Please consider helping out .

## Volunteer Opportunities

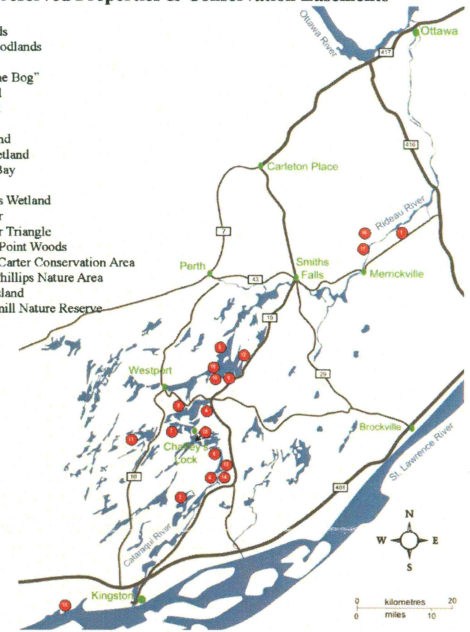
Your land trust now manages 19 properties throughout the corridor. In addition we have an active and robust membership and group of supporters. This requires people to manage and maintain this level of activity to ensure your Trust remains vibrant and successful. For example, without volunteers the trails at Rock Dunder would have to be closed to the community. The land acquisition program would have to halt denying landowners in our community the opportunity to see their lands preserved for the benefit of the community and future generations. No one wants to see this happen.

The RWLT has a new page on its website, [www.rwlt.org/volunteer](http://www.rwlt.org/volunteer), to let our members and the community know about opportunities to help your Trust implement the programs that benefit the whole community. This site will inform you of opportunities and enable you to sign up on line. Come and spend some time out in nature and help make a difference in your community. The Trust has a need for all types of volunteers, including volunteer leaders, if it is to remain the important institution it is today.

Volunteer days begin May 2nd with trail clearing at Rock Dunder. Go to [www.rwlt.org/volunteer](http://www.rwlt.org/volunteer) and sign up today.

### Preserved Properties & Conservation Easements

1. Besley Woods
2. Van Niel Woodlands
3. Red Rock
4. Island in "The Bog"
5. Kate's Island
6. Jack's Island
7. Island 296
8. Ken-Yen Island
9. Edwards' Wetland
10. Sherwoods Bay
11. Island #8
12. MacDonald's Wetland
13. Rock Dunder
14. Rock Dunder Triangle
15. Nicholson's Point Woods
16. The Brenda Carter Conservation Area
17. The Carter-Phillips Nature Area
18. Sugarbush Island
19. Lady Kingsmill Nature Reserve



## Membership 2012

The RWLT's success is in the strength of its membership. While other non profits struggle as a result of government cutbacks RWLT's strong membership enables the programs to thrive, our properties to remain open to the community and gives us credibility with institutional funders and local government.

The Trust maintains an annual membership program. New members are always welcome. Membership renewals are carried out twice a year, spring and fall, depending on the anniversary of your membership. Shortly we will be sending out membership renewals for those members who traditional renew their memberships in the first half of the year. The membership renewals will also be sent to those who may have misplaced or forgotten to renew last year.

The membership package will also give you an opportunity to go on our monthly program. Many of our members have taken advantage of this. It allows them to pay their membership with safe monthly automatic withdrawals from their bank accounts or credit cards. It means that you save time and money by not having to mail in your membership gifts. Its cost effective for your Trust by reducing our volume of mail. By keeping our administration costs low we can direct more of our resources to on the ground projects. Most importantly it provides your Trust with a stable and reliable source of funding to ensure the long-term future of the Trust's programs.

When your membership renewal arrives please give the monthly donor option consideration, it benefits both you and your land trust.



1 Jasper Avenue, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 4B5  
Tel: 613-284-2010 Fax: 613-284-8093  
Email: [davew@rwlt.org](mailto:davew@rwlt.org) Website: [www.rwlt.org](http://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.