

The LAND TRUST NEWS



PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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2014 Annual Dinner and Auction



A tradition since 2002, the 2014 RWLT Annual Dinner and Auction returned May 1 with an enthusiastic crowd getting together at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Kingston. The team of chefs, led by Clark Day, served a meal of locally sourced foods that people are still talking about. Our sponsors including The Johnson, Johnston and McCrae Investment Group, Clear Creek Windows, Brent Burns Chartered Accountant and LaFarge Aggregates not only supported

the event financially but also worked hard and invited their clients and customers to join us as their guests. In addition to the opportunity to thank the community for their continued support the evening also featured a silent auction with gifts donated by many supporters of the Trust. The evening raised over \$5,000 for the Trust as well as attracted many new supporters.

The RWLT thanks its many supporters and looks forward to the 2015 Dinner.

RWLT Is Moving

After 12 years at 1 Jasper Avenue in Smiths Falls the Rideau Waterway Land Trust is moving its office to Elgin. The new address will be 54 Sand Lake Road, Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0. Its telephone number and email contact will remain the same.

In its quest to increase its revenue, Parks Canada-Rideau Canal served notice on the RWLT that it would be increasing the occupancy costs for office space at 1 Jasper, effective November 2014, to a rate that makes it impossible for the RWLT to stay in the building past that date. The move to 54 Sand Lake Road, Elgin is well underway and will be completed shortly. Mail sent to Smiths Falls will be forwarded by the Post Office until November 1, 2014.

The new office allows the RWLT to, not only save on its future operating costs, but also it will be closer to its community lands.

Please keep this address change in mind when you mail in your donations.

Community Lands and Conservation Lands

The RWLT is classifying its growing portfolio of lands as either Community Lands or Conservation Lands. Community Lands are those lands where public access will be encouraged while Conservation Lands are lands that are preserved by the Trust but public access will not be encouraged. This has become necessary because of the increasing demand on resources to keep lands open and safe for public access. At this point Rock Dunder, Sugarbush Island and Nicholson's Point Woods are considered Community Lands while other preserved lands will be Conservation Lands.

The Trust will have a process in place that will allow Conservation Lands to become Community Lands. This will involve identifying a group of people that agree to maintain the property according to the management plan and a source of funds that resource the extra costs of maintaining public access to the lands for a multi-year period. If this form of support can be found then additional lands will become Community Lands where the public will be welcome.

Please watch for more details on our new website currently being developed.

RWLT Developing New Website

With our legal requirements involved with applying for Continuance under the new Canada Not for profit Incorporations Act and the details of our pending move behind us, the RWLT is turning its attention to updating its website. The new website will not only provide more details about our lands and programs but it will also make it even easier to support the RWLT using the new suite of on line tools available to us now. You will not only be able to find details for such things as Planned Giving instruments, including ways to donate land, but you will also be able to make contributions and support special events on line.

Watch for this new website to be launched late summer as we work diligently to move the organization forward while controlling our operating expenses.

Conservation From Behind the Desk

Bob Barnett, the Executive Director of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, an Ontario based community land trust, has written an article entitled "Conservation From Behind the Desk" in which he ponders the withdrawal of government funding while they pass even more legislation and regulations which land trusts must follow. Bob's methods of creative fund raising may have always been looked at with some suspicion but his results are impressive. He has devoted his life to land conservation working diligently to preserve over 9,160 acres of the Niagara Escarpment for future generations. He laments the fact that he has to spend so much time "behind the desk" preparing paperwork to satisfy legislation and regulations instead of getting at the task at hand, working in the field meeting landowners who only want to preserve their lands. Go to www.escarpment.ca/images/Visionary.pdf to read more about this man.

Trails Open

The RWLT Walking Trails at Rock Dunder and Sugarbush are open for the season. The trails opened for the 2014 season on May 15th and will close November 15th. They are open from dawn to dusk for day use only. Please remember that the Trails at Rock Dunder will be closed to the public the morning of September 27th for the Annual Walk, a major fundraiser to support the RWLT Trail Program.





New Properties Under Consideration

The RWLT has three additional properties under consideration. The RWLT has conditionally agreed to accept the properties providing the funds can be raised to not only fund the acquisition costs but also to ensure that future costs of ownership can be met. The properties are all natural lands that site visits have shown have critical habitat for species important to our area. If you would like to make a special contribution to ensure these properties are preserved in perpetuity contact Dave Walker at davew@rwlt.org

Fundraiser At Rock Dunder September 27.

Once again the volunteers are busy planning the Annual Pledged Walk in support of the RWLT and the Walking Trail Program. This year's Walk will be held on the trails at Rock Dunder, the morning of Saturday September 27. Last year's teams are all committed to return and new participants are encouraged. Last year's inaugural event exceeded its goal of raising \$10,000 and the organizers are hoping to beat that number this year. The Vagabonds lost their leader, Beau, over the winter but Little Clara has stepped up to lead that team and has already started to raise funds. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Annual Support

Please take a minute to complete the enclosed donation sheet and return it to the Trust in the envelope provided. We do need your continued support to ensure the RWLT can continue *Preserving Special Places in Our Community*. To those that have already donated we thank you very much.

Please consider joining our monthly giving program. It's easy and spreads your donation out throughout the year. The Trust will issue one tax receipt at the end of the year which can be used on your annual tax return. It also helps the Trust as our costs are year round and each month the funds will be available to the Trust to help support its monthly costs.

Community Support Continues To Grow

The RWLT continues to enjoy the support of the community it serves. We would like to thank the following business and organizations for their support in 2013.

CanadaHelps.org
Choose the Blues Productions
Contrary Club (1927)
Golfview Lands Development Inc
Harley House Consultants Inc.
Homestead Land Holdings Limited
Hungry - Rosal Cottager's Association
Hurst Marina
Jane Monaghan

Lafarge North America
Leslie M. Higginson Surveying Ltd.
Morton Friendship Club
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Rivington Associates
The Cove Country Inn
The Toronto Dominion Bank
Township of Rideau Lakes

Community Support Continues To Grow

Thanks to the following individuals for their support in 2013

\$10,000 +

Anonymous

Circle of Leadership

Harry Burgstaller
Karen Cooper
Peter Gillespie
Daphne Buckley and Peter Hannah
Doug & Wendy Lewis
Janice Ley & Eric Usherwood
Bryce & Nancy Walker
Vince & Elaine Watters

\$500 - \$1,000

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Donald Ferguson
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Joe & Mary Lou Hamilton
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David Honeywell
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Neal Ritchie
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James Ley
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Diana Wright
Henry Wright
Gerard & Mary Wyatt
Nancy Young

If your name is missing or misspelled please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records.



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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.