



Chair's Message

Spring has sprung, its baseball season and one of Yogi Berra's famous quotes popped into my head: "No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded." He could have been talking about Rock Dunder. At peak times it is crowded but many of our visitors have figured out that going early or avoiding autumn weekends are ways to avoid those crowds. Unfortunately, heavy foot traffic and significant rain events have resulted in trail erosion, exposed roots and muddy conditions. But, help is on the way. The Board has decided to undertake a major trail repair project this summer. Some dedicated RWLT supporters have committed the funds required to make this possible. More information on the project will be available soon.



Amphibians like salamanders and frogs depend on ponds in springtime

The Covid-19 challenges of the past two years have demonstrated the need for more opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy nature. RWLT continues to look for key properties to acquire and help meet this need. Your continued financial support is essential in achieving this -- please note the various supporters of RWLT recognized in this newsletter and use the donation form insert!

In a previous newsletter I mentioned the retirement of two long term Board members from Ottawa and Merrickville and encouraged interested persons from the north half of the Rideau corridor to consider joining the RWLT Board. I am pleased to announce that Andrea Cordonier from Burritts Rapids has joined us, bringing new skills and enthusiasm. We still have room for a few more!

After numerous Covid-19 bumps in the road the Blues on the Rideau music series has resumed at the Cove Inn in Westport. Each event generates support for a local charity. On Friday May 13, 2022, RWLT will be the recipient. Check their web site for details.

On behalf of the Board, have a happy, healthy 2022. Get outside and enjoy it.

Peter Hannah

Blues Tunes for Green Dollars

Join Blues on the Rideau May 13 - The Blues on the Rideau music series resumes at the Cove Inn in Westport. Each event generates support for a local charity; RWLT's night is May 13. For details check www.bluesontherideau.ca



Support local charities by attending Blues concerts

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RWLT works with:

- American Friends of Canadian Conservation
- Ontario Land Trust Alliance

2021 Donor Honours List

The success of the RWLT over the last 25 years is a direct reflection of the loyal and generous support of its many donors. RWLT wishes to thank all its benefactors, whether volunteers, donors of land or in-kind goods and services, or financial supporters, large and small. Your generosity allows the Trust to continue to protect and preserve special natural lands and habitat along the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds! **Thank you!**

The Trust would also like to formally acknowledge the following donors who, through their ongoing and significant contributions to RWLT over the last seven years, have earned a place on our **2021 Donor Honours List**. Congratulations – and most importantly, a heartfelt thank you from RWLT.

VISIONAIRIES

More than \$50,000 in last 7 years

*Alan Covington
Nancy I Covington
Leywood Family Fund*

CHAMPIONS

25,000 to \$49,999 in last 7 years

*Anonymous
Bill Gibbons
Moe & Janice Johnson
Margueritta Kluensch
Malcolm Ring
In Memory of Robert W Van Niel*

LEADERS

\$10,000 to \$24,999 in last 7 years

*Anonymous
The Davies Foundation
Peter Hannah & Daphne Buckley
Doug Lewis & Wendy Simpson-Lewis
Bryce & Nancy Walker
Ken & Pat Watson
Vince & Elaine Watters*

TRAIL BLAZERS

\$5,000 to \$9,999 in last 7 years

*Anonymous (8)
Dr Louis & Jennifer Cardinal
Molly Ellard
Charlotte Gray & George Anderson
William & Nancy Gray
Jim MacLachlan
Hunter & Jane McGill
Ian Skelton & Iara Lessa
Jennifer Trant & David Bearman
Christopher & Katie Wallace*

PROTECTORS

\$1,000 or more in 2021

<i>Anonymous (7)</i>	<i>Mary Ruth & Richard Horner</i>
<i>Don Clinton</i>	<i>Richard Hughson</i>
<i>Dianne Clipsham</i>	<i>Susan McDonald</i>
<i>Jane Craig</i>	<i>Jane Monaghan</i>
<i>Frank & Cathy Douglas</i>	<i>Stephen Monty & Nancy Lane</i>
<i>Dennis & Joan Duncan</i>	<i>John Teixeira</i>
<i>Mike Freeman & Odette Haas</i>	<i>Jean & Richard Van Loon</i>
<i>Carl & Elizabeth Hamacher</i>	<i>Michelle Venance</i>
<i>Jenny & Jasper Wall</i>	

SUSTAINERS' CIRCLE

Making automatic monthly donations in 2022

*Anonymous (3)
Pierre & Nancy Chantraine
Mike Freeman & Odette Haas
Joe & Mary Lou Hamilton
Jonathan Stapleton Hutchinson
Rob & Cait Maloney
Michelle Venance*

RWLT is a charity that has been conserving important natural lands and habitat in the Cataraqui and Rideau watersheds since 1996 to support our community into the future.

2021 Donor Honours List (cont'd)

COMMERCIAL SUPPORTERS

Barker Willson Law Office
Canadian Wollastonite
Jet Signs – Kingston
Kawartha Credit Union
Levac Supply Ltd
Quantum Renewable Energy
Julia Scotland, Real Estate Broker
Simon Lunn Photography
Sweet's Sand & Gravel (G Tackaberry & Sons)
Trailhead Kingston

Thank You!

PUBLIC & NON-PROFIT SUPPORTERS



Nestbox Success

We've mentioned before that RWLT has nestboxes placed at several properties in support of Gray Ratsnakes, a threatened species at risk. The project is sponsored by provincial funding through an environmental contractor. RWLT staff and supporters inspect the nesting structures and replenish the bedding material annually. Last year was the first to indicate use! Remains of eggshells were found at three sites. A great start; hopefully there will be more use this year.

Gray Ratsnake egg remains found in nestboxes



Journaling to Connect with Nature



Journaling can enrich your connection with nature

Nature journaling is a way to record your personal connection to nature. It includes observing, sketching, wondering, and writing. There are no rules, but there are cues and tips. Check out www.naturejournalingweek.com for ideas.

Journaling can be another way to acknowledge appreciation for Nature. For example, change an ordinary 45-minute walk into a 1.5-hour long odyssey of discovery. Note the sounds, views and distinguishing features, and the feelings from wind and sun. It all goes into the nature journal. You will create a more richly lived experience!

Partner Anniversaries

RWLT partners celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2022 include:

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) – 60 years.

USA Land Trust Alliance (LTA) – 40 years;

Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) – 20 years;



The RWLT Team

Honourary Chair
Hon. Bob Rae

Chair
Peter Hannah

Secretary
Jim MacLachlan

Members
Andrea Cordonier
Mike Freeman
Steve Knechtel

Staff
Alyssa Fiedler
Caroline Spang

Vice Chair
John Grass

Treasurer
Erica Kendrick

Doable Actions for Climate Change

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report was released in April. It, unfortunately, is a 'get going, now!' report – collectively we just haven't done enough, yet. There is good hope if actions of varying type (we can't rely on just one or two solutions) and by all people (individuals, business, government) takes place very, very soon (years, not a decade, to avert worst effects). Fortunately, there are some doable actions based on what we know and our technology (so let's hop to it): retrofit cities for walking, bicycling and electric buses; increase solar and wind power, and reduce fossil fuels; patch methane leaks; reduce food wastage; and protect forests and grow more of them. Hey, that last one sounds like something, with your support, land trusts do!



Protecting forests and wetlands is a doable way to address climate change

Provincial Election Ideas

Ontarians will vote in a provincial election later this spring. No doubt there will be many issues worthy of attention, but we suggest 'the environment' should be one of the top ones. After all, the environment supports the economy and our society, health and communities – today and for future generations. Do some homework on issues, voice concerns and vote!

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) has developed positioning – you might want to use it when speaking with candidates. Desired investments are based on respect for Nature and include: increasing protected assets (secure and maintain forests, wetlands and grasslands); building science and policy (technical capacity, monitoring and Indigenous knowledge to identify what to do where to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, and strengthened land use practice—including agriculture, water, housing, roads); and support for habitat rehabilitation and species-at-risk.

There are land trusts across Ontario. OLTA is suggesting to double the amount of protected areas over the next decade, involving an average of 3000 new acres in each county and district/region in the province. To make this happen, for every dollar the Province contributes land trusts would likely need to raise two dollars more! Ontario's 'greenlands' program is just the beginning and OLTA has identified viable enhancements to protect what can't be replaced, for many generations to come.



Encourage candidates to focus on conserving the natural environment, including more protected areas

Trail News

Trails are available May 15 to November 15, sunrise to sunset, at Rock Dunder and J H Fullard Nature Reserves. Outside of that period please let Nature relax!

A Supporter Pass is needed at Rock Dunder. Purchase 'day' or 'season' passes online at www.rwlt.org.

Temporary Trail By-passes at Rock Dunder – RWLT has been fortunate to receive a substantial grant to make trail improvements. Throughout this summer there will be by-passes along portions of trails for the safety of visitors and workers. Locations will change as construction progresses. Please enquire about current trail changes when you check-in at the gatehouse.

