



Welcoming New Board Members

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Citizen Science

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Chair's Message

Canada Day and July 4th have passed and we're now into the summer holiday season. Things have been busy with Rideau Waterway Land Trust and we are excited that our community use properties have had more school trips in June than we have ever experienced before. RWLT's mission is conservation focused and the more young people we can inspire to care about our environment the further ahead we all are!



John Grass
RWLT Board Chair

That said, we also had something that has never happened since the Trust's creation. Not only did Rock Dunder Nature Reserve close for a day or two but much of Ontario was affected by poor air quality because of forest fires in Ontario and Quebec. Clearly this is another indication that global warming is happening and it's coming closer to home. Our mission to conserve lands in the Rideau Waterway corridor has never been more important! We all need to work together to preserve species at risk and help with carbon capture.

As an organization we are beginning strategic planning sessions this summer to review what we have achieved and to chart a course for RWLT's future. With 25 years behind us it's time to consider how we will go forward. Topics will include financial sustainability, land acquisition, community engagement and fundraising to list just a few. I am quite excited to enter into this process and looking forward to what will come out of it! I'll advise, probably in the Fall newsletter, some of the results of these planning sessions and how you can partner with us to achieve our goals!

Please note one of the articles included in this issue is about estate planning and charitable giving. I highly encourage you to give it a read and consider RWLT. If you have any questions regarding a property, shares or other ways you would like to partner, please contact us and we'd be happy to discuss this with you. We have the ability to come alongside like-minded individuals who want to leave a legacy by preserving their treasured natural spaces in the Rideau Corridor.

Thank you.
John Grass - Board Chair



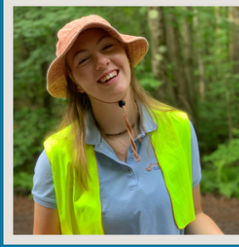
One of the most useful features of a digital newsletter is the ability to include clickable links. These links will lead to websites outside of the newsletter itself. Next time you see this symbol, don't hesitate to click and discover more!

Seasonal Staff

RWLT is excited to introduce a few of the friendly faces you'll be interacting with at Rock Dunder this season. Introducing, Gemma and Nicole!

Gemma is a local high school student who has returned for her second season with RWLT.

Nicole is a local resident and outdoor enthusiast with experience and education in Recreation, Parks and Tourism.



Gemma Caron
RWLT Seasonal Staff



Nicole McLean
RWLT Seasonal Staff

We're glad they've joined our team!

Welcome New Board Members



Scott Parker
RWLT Treasurer

Scott joined the RWLT Board of Directors in 2022 and has taken on the role of Treasurer in 2023. Scott holds a BSc. degree in Earth Sciences. In addition to Scott's scientific background, he has been a business leader with experience in providing technical, commercial, and strategic planning insights. He has been a long-term supporter of conservation trusts and grass-roots advocacy for the integrity of provincial and national parks.



Nick Betts
RWLT Board Member

Nick moved to Kingston in 2001 and has enjoyed the many opportunities for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, camping and cycling that the Frontenac Arch has to offer. He joins the RWLT as a new member in 2023, after retiring from a career in the public service. As a strong believer in the importance of preserving our natural environment, Nick values the opportunity to support the RWLT's conservation efforts.



Amber Blewitt
RWLT Board Member

Amber Blewitt is a new board member as of 2023 who has worked across southern Ontario in the conservation field with turtles, trees, plants, birds and more. She has a background in ecology and forestry and is a Registered Professional Forester. She currently lives in Perth and is passionate about community building and protecting the natural areas and wildlife habitat along the Rideau River.

RWLT is composed of a dedicated volunteer board of directors, an executive director, a conservation biologist, seasonal staff and volunteers. To meet the rest of the team visit <https://www.rwlt.org/Directors-&Staff>.

The RWLT Team

Honourary Chair

Hon. Bob Rae

Chair

John Grass

Secretary

Jim MacLachlan

Treasurer

Scott Parker

Members

*Peter Hannah
Erica Kendrick
Amber Blewitt
Nick Betts*

Staff

*Sara Warren-Roberts
Caroline Spang
Sydney Caron*

Charitable Giving and Estate Planning

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust has benefitted from and relies on charitable donations for its continuing success. These can take many forms including land, goods, appreciated securities, life insurance payouts and cash. Each has its own benefits and considerations.

One common method is to include a bequest in your will, which directs a specific amount or percentage of your estate to a charity. This type of donation allows you to support a cause you believe in and can also provide tax benefits for your estate. The following three examples highlight these benefits.

Recently a couple approached RWLT to explore options to support the Trust through bequests in their wills. They were advised to secure independent financial and legal advice and to consider discussing it with the four persons who were the beneficiaries in their current will. This step can help avoid misunderstandings at a later date.

The couple sought advice from their financial advisors at *Assante Capital Management* and agreed to share the advice they were given. The following analysis was completed and now appears on Assante's website. The calculations are based on a hypothetical situation where the couple passed away at the end of 2022.

"They each have the following investment accounts: \$250K RRIF, \$150K non-registered account, and \$100K TFSA, and these make up their estate. We assume that each non-registered account has a cost base of \$100K.

Example 1:

No charitable giving; four beneficiaries in the will: In addition to the CPP, OAS, RRIF payment, and investment income, the entire value of the RRIF account is added to the income on the final tax return. Also, capital gain taxes must be paid on the \$50K gain for the non-registered account. The tax bills on the two final tax returns will total \$242,039; therefore, each of the four beneficiaries will receive \$189,490.

Example 2:

In addition to the four beneficiaries, \$150K is given to a charity in cash:

In this example, all of the six investment accounts of the deceased are liquidated, and distributions are made out of the estate in cash after taxes are paid. Because of the donation tax credit, the total tax bill drops to \$167,259, and after the \$150K cash given to the charity, each of the four beneficiaries receives \$170,685.

Example 3:

In addition to the four beneficiaries, \$150K is given to a charity in kind:

In this example, the executor takes advantage of the capital-gain tax exemption when a donation is made in kind. As a result, the total tax bill drops to \$154,876, and after the \$150K given to the charity, each of the four beneficiaries receives \$173,780.

Obviously, the four beneficiaries in Examples #2 and #3 would each receive a bit less, but the charity receives a significant amount.

When considering making a charitable donation at death, working with an experienced attorney or financial advisor is essential to ensure that your wishes are carried out most effectively. It would be best to research the charities you wish to support to ensure a strong reputation and that they are truly making a meaningful impact in their field. Also, it is recommended that you talk to your beneficiaries and executor about your intentions.

In conclusion, charitable donations at death can be a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy and support the causes you care about. By researching and collaborating with a trusted advisor, you can ensure that your donations have the most significant impact possible and help improve the world for a better tomorrow."

RWLT is grateful for this couple's interest and support and for sharing this information with others.

View the completed analysis online on Assante's website:

<https://advisor.assante.com/james-schofield/blog/213479-Charitable-Donations-at-Death>

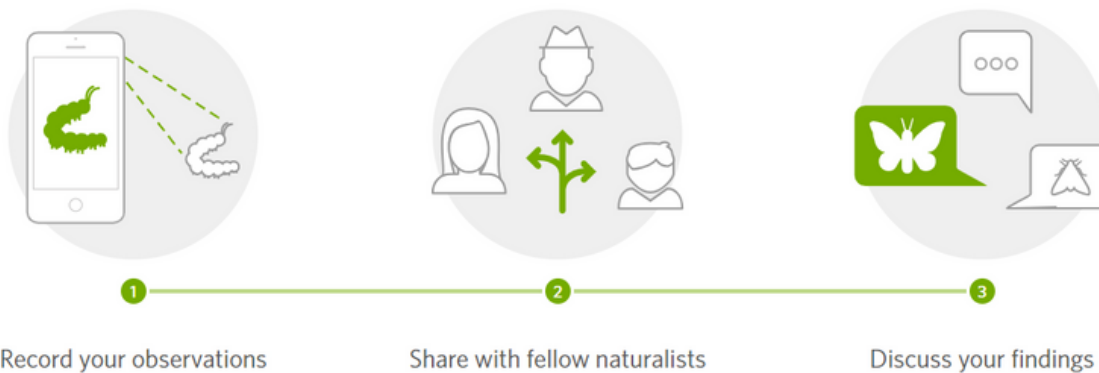


Have you ever wanted to get involved in citizen science? You're in luck because with apps like iNaturalist, it's never been easier! All you have to do is download the iNaturalist app and upload your species observations that you find while exploring the Rideau Corridor.

Not sure what you found? No problem! The iNaturalist community will help identify your observations.

Why join our community of science?

When citizen scientists upload their finds onto apps like iNaturalist, it helps science professionals (like our conservation biologist Caroline) gain a better understanding of what species are on the landscape and how their populations are changing over time. With this knowledge, we can better manage our properties; it can also help us identify biodiversity hotspots along the Rideau Corridor for future acquisition projects.



Explore and share your observations from the natural world at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>.

Habitat Restoration in Progress

Dog-strangling Vine

Dog-strangling Vine (DSV) is an invasive plant that lowers native biodiversity. This plant grows aggressively by wrapping itself around trees and other plants, and can grow up to 2m high.

A new management action in the James H. Fullard Property Management Plan is the control of DSV through invasive species management. The focus of this year's control is a small patch near the lookout at the lake. The area will be sprayed in late spring/late summer of 2023 and a small area will be tarped in fall 2023.

This area will be the focus of native planting in 2024. Invasive species control takes time and commitment and this project is the first step in a multi-year effort to control DSV at the property.



More information on DSV can be found at: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/dog-strangling-vine/>.



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 @RideauWaterwayLandTrust
#RockDunder
 Rideau Waterway Land Trust
Rock Dunder RWLT

Volunteer with RWLT

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust owes its longevity and continued success to the volunteers in our community. Without these dedicated individuals, it would be impossible to take on the ambitious programs and projects that we have planned!

If you enjoy the outdoors and would like to contribute to the preservation of natural spaces in our community, please fill out our volunteer form. Once you submit this form, we will add you to our volunteer program and contact you when opportunities arise.



Visit <https://www.rwlt.org/Volunteer> to complete our volunteer intake form.



- ✓ Rock Dunder Gate Assistance
- ✓ Invasive Species Management
- ✓ Trail Maintenance
- ✓ Grass Cutting at Fullard
- ✓ Property Monitoring Visits
- ✓ Maintenance Tasks
- ✓ Newsletter Distribution
- ✓ Volunteer Board of Directors



Join the volunteer Board of Directors

We are looking for persons with an interest in the environment who share the Trust's objective of protecting key properties through acquisition. Skills, knowledge, and experience of particular interest to the Trust include: property management and administration (land use planning, law, appraisal); financial management and accounting; biology, ecology, forestry, and engineering; fundraising; community outreach; marketing; communication; education/training; and personnel management.

**Interested in applying? Please forward your resume and cover letter by email to info@rwlt.org.
Questions? Email our Executive Director Sara Roberts at swroberts@rwlt.org.**

Letters to the Conservation Biologist

These photos were taken by visitors to RWLT properties. They were shared with Caroline, RWLT's Conservation Biologist.



Gray Ratsnake



Edwards Wetland Nature Reserve

"As a close neighbour to one RWLT's properties, we were thrilled to find this visitor in our yard today. My wife has a new helper in her garden. This snake was about 5 feet long!"

It is always exciting to see or hear about species at risk seen near our properties, especially as Edwards Wetland is host to four of our ratsnake nest boxes! Hopefully, this snake will help to start the next generation.



Round-leaved Sundew



Mosquito Lake Islands Nature Reserve

"I spotted this plant while volunteering with RWLT on a property management visit. The Round-leaved Sundew is a tiny wetland plant that has evolved to be carnivorous as a result of nutritionally poor soils in their habitat. They secrete a sweet, sticky substance which attracts insects to their hairy leaves!"

I've been visiting this property for three years now, and I've never noticed the sundew plants until they were pointed out to me! Another reason why volunteers are so important.



Pileated Woodpecker Feeding Cavity



Rock Dunder Nature Reserve

"Hi! My name is Emily and I have a question. While me and my family were going hiking in rock Dunder, we saw this tree that had three holes in it. My mom said it might have been from a beaver. The weird thing was there were wood shavings at the base of the tree!"

Although you'd be surprised that a bird could do so much damage to a tree, this hole was actually most likely created by a Pileated Woodpecker looking for lunch!

From the tiniest insects to the grandest landscapes, our guests have captured it all and generously shared their experiences with us. Spotted something you'd like to share? E-mail us at info@rwlt.org. We'd love to see it!

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.

RWLT works with: [Ontario Land Trust Alliance](#)  [American Friends of Canada Conservation](#) 

Next RWLT newsletter out online and by mail in Fall 2023. Subscribe at <https://www.rwlt.org/Subscribe> 