

# Newsbulletin

*Rideau Waterway*  
**LAND TRUST**  
FOUNDATION

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## December 2001

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2000- 2001 Annual General Meeting and Dinner took place on September 14 at the Queen's University Biological Station, Chaffey's Lock. The dinner was a sell-out with 78 members and guests attending. In addition to accepting the committee reports and financial statements of the Trust, the members thanked the three outgoing board members. Frank Phelan, a founding board member, stepped down after many years of service, promising that he would be back after short rest. Dave Walker stepped down after serving three terms, and John Finlayson left the board due to business commitments but has assured everyone that he will be part of next year's corn roast.

The dinner was followed by a presentation by Colonel John By who told of some of his experiences in Upper Canada and his time spent supervising the building of the Rideau Canal.

### **Meet RWLT's New Board Members**

The members of the Trust elected five new members to the Board, to join the returning members.

Heather Orr is a third year environmental biology student at Queen's University. In addition to her academic background, Heather brings youthful energy and enthusiasm to her new position.

Jeanie Quirt-Brown, a resident of Kingston and cottager from Whitefish Lake, brings many years experience as a financial planner to her position of treasurer of the Trust.

Sharon Walker has rejoined the board after a short absence. Sharon who has shared her marketing experience with the Trust in the past has agreed to chair the fundraising committee.

Doug Lewis is a lawyer with the federal government. Doug accepted a position with the Board and has assumed a role with the finance committee. Doug and his family live near Merrickville.

George Riley, a founding board member, has returned and will lend his experience to the property committee.

These five new board members are joining a strong group of returning members that include Peter Hannah, President, Marty Moir, Vice-President, Frank Symons, Secretary, David Donaldson, and Jamie Laidlaw.

### **RWLT Formally Accepts Donation of Red Rock**

Sue Halpenny and Christie Cass formally presented Red Rock to the Trust at the Annual Dinner. The support of many of our members, in donating to the Endowment Fund, allowed the Trust to accept this donation. Next spring the Trust will do some rehabilitation work and install signage on this magnificent property.

## **RWLT Appoints Interim Executive Director**

The Board of Director's has appointed Dave Walker as the interim Executive Director of the RWLT. Dave served for five years with the RWLT board and brings many years of experience at the provincial level of the land trust movement with him to this position.

This position is part-time and Dave will be splitting his time between the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

## **Ontario Land Trust Alliance Gathering**

The RWLT hosted the 2001 Gathering of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance at the Opinicon, October 19 – 21. The weekend involved formal training sessions on topics including land stewardship and fundraising. It also provided a chance for land trust volunteers from across Ontario to get together to discuss current topics and issues that affect all land trusts.

This year 102 delegates, the largest attendance in the five year history of this event, travelled from as far away as Fort Francis in the northwest, Sarnia in the southwest and Cornwall in the east to attend. Delegates from Washington D.C., representing the U.S. Land Trust Alliance, joined with us as well as representatives from the Quebec land trust movement.

Two individuals from the RWLT, Dave Walker and Jamie Laidlaw, were elected to the 15-member Board of Governors of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Dave Walker was appointed vice-chair of the organization with responsibilities for planning.

## **RWLT Moves Into Its New Office**

After almost five years of operating out of "temporary" facilities, the Trust finally has a home. Through the generosity of Parks Canada, the Trust now has an office and meeting room at the Lockmaster's House in Smiths Falls.

In addition to giving the staff and volunteers of the Trust much needed work and storage space, it gives the committees and the Board a place to conduct their meetings. This office and meeting room space is essential in allowing the Rideau Waterway Land Trust to continue to grow and prosper.

## **Fall Fundraising Drive Under Way**

The Annual Fall Fundraising Drive is underway. The Trust recently sent a mailing to all of its members and donors asking for support for the land acquisition program. With seven properties, like Red Rock and Van Niel Woodlands, already acquired since 1996, I am sure you will agree that this program has been very successful and is deserving of your support.

The response to date has been very encouraging. If you haven't mailed in your contribution I encourage you to take a few moments to do so. It is your support of this program that ensures that further lands can be preserved for future generations.

## **Season's Greetings**

The Board and staff of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season and we look forward to everyone's return to the Waterway next spring.