

The LAND TRUST NEWS

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST - EST. 1996

WINTER 2005



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

www.rwlt.org

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust What A Year!

The year 2005 began with business as usual for the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. However, in February our Board of Directors recognized the need to act quickly to save one very special property from development. No one could have anticipated this would lead to our largest fundraising campaign ever...

Dave Walker Accepts Position with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Our treasurer, Dave Walker, became the Program Manager for the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) early in 2005. The staff at the RWLT have divided their workload for the past three years between the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. The Ontario Land Trust Alliance has 44 member organizations, representing land trusts in Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. OLTA delivers education and training programs for the volunteers and staff of member land trusts. The RWLT staff provides OLTA with administrative services on a contract basis including website maintenance, writing monthly newsletters, co-ordinating educational workshops regionally across Ontario and at the OLTA annual conference.

This year, Dave has kept the staff very busy. When OLTA took the lead in the development of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices, the RWLT staff edited and published the document for distribution. These standards and practices are considered to be the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust. OLTA worked with land trusts from across Canada, in national consultations, to develop this essential document.

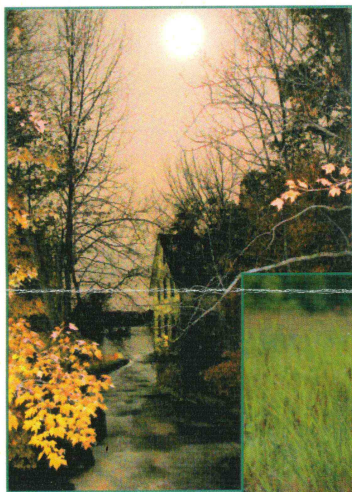
The RWLT Board of Directors will be adopting these new standards and practices to guide the operation of our Land Trust.

Annual General Meeting & Dinner

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust Annual General Meeting and Dinner was well attended this year. The Fall River Pub and Grill from Maberly catered the event which was held, once again, at the Queen's Biological Station. The dinner selection featured organic produce from eastern Ontario. After the main course, the desserts went up for auction. The tradition of auctioning cakes, donated by our Board members, Parks Canada, Janet Weisiger and the Fall River Pub, is an annual fundraiser for the RWLT. The auctioneer (Dave Walker) sized up the "chocoholics" in the audience quickly and drove their competitive bidding streaks through the roof.

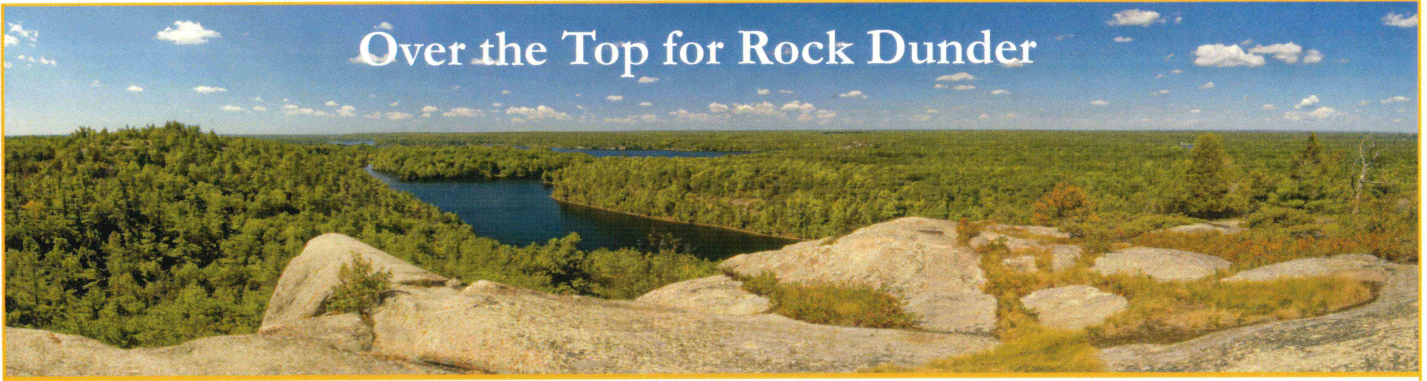
The Parks Canada cake (the only one with *Parks Canada* written on the top) sold for a whopping \$275. The price some people will pay to take a bite out of Parks Canada. The highest amount paid for one cake was \$340. The \$2100 in proceeds from the auction went to a good cause, the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. Thank you everyone for joining us and having fun. We enjoy meeting our members at this annual outing and we hope to see you there again next year.

The highlight of the evening was not just the cake auction, it was a presentation by Board members Dave Walker and Simon Lunn. Simon, as many of you know, is a biologist, but he is also a wonderful photographer. Dave and Simon led us visually along the Rideau Canal from Chaffey's Lock to Morton Bay with photographs of places, people and wildlife that delighted the audience. The next series of photographs they showed were taken at Rock Dunder, one of the most outstanding pieces of property on the Rideau Waterway. They then announced to a standing ovation that the RWLT had signed an agreement to purchase this special property. As you read on you will understand why Rock Dunder is a treasure that must not be lost and why our campaign *Over the Top for Rock Dunder* must not fail.



Photos copyright 2005 Simon Lunn.

Over the Top for Rock Dunder



The photo above was taken from the top of Rock Dunder. Rock Dunder has been owned by Scouts Canada for over 37 years. In late 2004, when Rock Dunder was declared surplus by Scouts Canada, the community looked to the Land Trust for help. Our Board of Directors, working with the Kingston area Boy Scouts, convinced Scouts Canada not to list the property with a real estate brokerage firm. Our Board feared the property would be sold for development and lost to our community forever. After months of negotiations, the RWLT signed an agreement in late September 2005 to purchase Rock Dunder with a closing date set for March 31, 2006.

Rock Dunder is of great ecological importance. It is a provincially significant ANSI (area of natural and scientific interest). Our biologist recently completed the baseline inventory report for the property (*a baseline inventory report is used to list the flora, fauna and other components of the property's ecosystem*). This report has identified five different Species at Risk in addition to several locally rare species. Rock Dunder is 238 acres and over 7000 feet of shoreline on the Rideau Canal, a National Historic Site and Heritage River. Its shoreline provides a significant fish habitat which is so important to our lakes and rivers.

Rock Dunder is a treasure that lies within the internationally recognized Thousand Islands Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. Rising 275 feet above Morton Bay, with trails leading to one of the highest points of land in the area, Rock Dunder provides breathtaking views of the surrounding lakes and woodlands. Today, these trails and vistas are enjoyed year round by countless local residents, organizations and visitors to the area. Many childhood memories of hiking trips to Rock Dunder remain fresh in the minds of residents of our community.

Located at the portage leading to the Gananoque River system and down through the heart of the UN Biosphere, Rock Dunder provides sites for low impact camping for canoeists traveling the Rideau Waterway. By purchasing Rock Dunder we can ensure this valuable gift of nature remains home to its precious wildlife and a beautiful natural retreat for the people from our community.

As we write this letter, today, our land trust continues to work hard to acquire Rock Dunder. The environmental audit has been completed, the survey of the property has been commissioned and the lawyers are working together towards the March 31st closing. The fundraising campaign *Over the Top for Rock Dunder* has begun.

Watch for the *Over the Top for Rock Dunder* campaign information package, which will arrive in your mailbox in early January. This will be your opportunity to make a significant difference. You will be saving one of the most beautiful and beloved properties on the Rideau Waterway. For additional information please call Sharon Walker at 613-284-2010 or visit our website at www.rwlt.org.

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust Staff

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust *Volunteer Management Handbook* is complete. This handbook includes policies and procedures which were developed to assist our staff and Board on all aspects of managing volunteers from recruitment, training and development, support and recognition to risk management. This handbook will help RWLT staff and volunteers both in the office and in the field. The development of this handbook was made possible through a generous financial contribution from the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston. The RWLT will offer this handbook to other land trusts, and non-profit organizations for the cost of printing and mailing. *The Volunteer Management Handbook* has provided the basis for a workshop at the OLTA annual conference.

The RWLT Annual Campaign

It is that time of year again, when many of you make that extra gift to ensure that the Land Trust remains a vibrant and energized organization. The volunteers and staff of the RWLT enthusiastically partake in special events, attend training workshops to learn the latest land preservation skills and meet with members of the community to ask for support for the Land Trust programs. The Land Trust staff share their skills and knowledge with many other non-profit organizations within the community.

Every year, at this time, we ask our supporters to consider making a special gift to the Land Trust. Through your continuing generosity, and that of over 500 of your friends and neighbours, the Land Trust has been able to protect over 300 acres with over 10,000 feet of waterfront. You can take credit knowing that you have done your part to preserve some of the special places in the Rideau Corridor.

Your gift to the annual campaign makes this possible. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed donor card and mail in your gifts. With your support the Land Trust has accomplished a great deal, but there is much more to do.

By donating to the Land Trust you are helping our environment one great property at a time.

Canadian charitable receipts will be issued for all gifts.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



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The Rideau Waterway Land Trust believes the preservation of ecologically sensitive and cultural heritage lands is important to protect the natural environment and improve the quality of life in communities throughout the Rideau Corridor for the benefit of present and future generations.

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