

## Chair's Message

I had hoped to be writing a very different spring message! As we all do our part to physically distance ourselves from others and follow the advice of health care professionals, the RWLT Board continues to monitor the situation and anticipate the new normal. Safety of our staff, volunteers and supporters is paramount.

As long as the 2m physical distancing policy remains in effect, **RWLT properties will remain closed to the public**. The trails are not wide enough to accommodate this practice because hikers travel at different speeds and typically pass one another. Damage to sensitive adjacent areas needs to be avoided. Environmental protection of the lands entrusted to RWLT is a primary responsibility. Check our website for updates on Rock Dunder and J H Fullard Nature Reserves and Covington Cottage.



*RWLT properties remain closed to the public for now*

March 20<sup>th</sup> was to have been a fundraising event for RWLT as part of the Blues On The Rideau series at The Cove in Westport. Many events have been cancelled and charities and livelihoods have been dramatically affected. Through prudent management, RWLT will get through this. We welcome your support (*use the donation form insert*) but know that there are many competing needs in our communities. Do what you can to support something or someone in need.

I was going to suggest that you **save the date for dinner**, good company and an enlightening speaker in Perth on October 8, but perhaps you should put it on the calendar in pencil! We'll see.

On a brighter note, there are tasks that RWLT is able to continue with, working remotely and/or in isolation. Scientific study, property monitoring, updating management plans and some physical work such as building additional board walks at Rock Dunder, will continue as conditions and resources allow.

Thank you for your past support. I hope to deliver better news in our summer newsletter. We know that nature is resilient, and when allowed to heal can return stronger than before; by-the-people our communities can do the same. Stay safe.

Peter Hannah

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**Help Pollinators**

**Donate Today!**  
(Use Insert)

## News Briefs



*Enjoy the awe of nature if you can, and hike safely.*

### Spectacle and Safety:

Contact with nature, even if we have to keep our distance from others we may encounter outdoors, can be good for our health - fresh air, sunshine, physical exercise and lowered stress. Enjoy its awe if you can!

Remember, too, while enjoying the outdoors include measures to minimize exposure to ticks. Cover up, stay on designated trails and check yourself after outings.

Check local public health websites for details.

**Nature Walk:** (subject of course, to the Covid-19 pandemic) Enjoy an easy walk and learn about species at risk that call our community home, including a captive Gray Ratsnake.

This passport to nature event will be held on Saturday July 18 from 10am to noon at the J H Fullard Nature Reserve (1408 Davis Lock Dr, Elgin). Long pants and bug repellent are recommended. Light refreshments will be provided.



*Learn about species at risk, like the gray ratsnake, at RWLT's nature walk*

**RWLT AGM:** The required annual general meeting (AGM) of the RWLT was held on November 13, 2019. Achievements during 2018-2019 included: the preparation of a strategic plan, hiring of regular staff (part-time), improvements to the trails at Rock Dunder and renewing several features at the rental 'Covington Cottage'.

## Gardening for Pollinators

Gardening is one of the simplest and most profound ways you can connect with nature. Thankfully, you have pollinators as allies to support you in your efforts – from various bee, butterfly, moth and hummingbird species.

Without pollinators our food supply would suffer drastically. Equally important, pollinators help keep ecosystems healthy by maintaining a diversity of plants (including genetic diversity) and keeping various insect populations in check.

Many of our pollinators are in decline, but you can help. Find varieties of pollinator-friendly native plants for your gardens from the Canadian Wildlife Federation – see <https://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/gardening-for-wildlife/plants/buy/medallion/>.



*You can help bees and butterflies by including certain plants in your gardens*

## RWLT Board of Directors

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- ✦ To make a **one-time gift** to save natural areas in the Rideau Waterway use the form overleaf; mail it along with your cheque / payment information to RWLT.
- ✦ To set up an **automatic monthly donation**, please contact RWLT.
- ✦ To make a **donation in American Dollars** please see the RWLT website (*How You Can Help* section) to download the form and mail it with your donation to the American Friends of Canadian Conservation.
- ✦ To **donate online** or to **support long-term initiatives** please see the RWLT website for forms.
- ✦ Consider the added tax advantages of a **gift of securities** (stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other publicly traded securities). Contact your financial advisor or RWLT for more details.
- ✦ Contact RWLT about leaving a donation in your will, a gift of life insurance or a tribute donation.

**Please enter your one-time donation and contact details on the reverse side of this form**

*Donation and Contact Details*

I've enclosed a cheque payable to Rideau Waterway Land Trust **OR**

I want to charge my donation to my  VISA  MasterCard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation Amount:  \$1,200  \$600  \$300  \$100  \$60  Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like Rideau Waterway Land Trust (RWLT) to email me newsletters. I can unsubscribe at any time.