



THE PRESERVER

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST



Summer 2009

Message from the President



This year the Northumberland Land Trust is celebrating its Fifth Anniversary! With 430 acres of land being preserved on four properties, we are proud of our achievements. This puts us into the top one third of Ontario Land Trusts when measured by acres of land being preserved.

A great deal of responsibility comes with preservation of land and we need your help in many ways. The urgent need today is for stewardship of the McEwen Property, 100 acres of kame forest on the Oak Ridges Moraine, adjacent to the Ganaraska Forest. Fences have been broken down, allowing access by ATVs which are doing untold damage to the precious wetland on the property. The Prairie Buttercup – ranked as S3, Provincially Significant, rare to uncommon, and several Regionally significant species such as Arrow-leaved Violet, Round-headed Bush-clover are in imminent danger from the activity of these motorized vehicles.

Your financial commitment is needed so that we can do our work. Your commitment as a volunteer is needed—please call us to see when our next “*Volunteer Day*” is being scheduled.

We invite you to join us on two walks that are planned on our properties. On the Leckey Property on August 22 and on the McEwen Property on October 17. Please see www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca for up-to-date information on how to register for our walks and events or call 905.349.9990.

On behalf of the Board of Northumberland Land Trust I would like to thank all of you who have made it possible for us to get to where we are today. With your help we are looking forward to continuing the work of preserving Northumberland County, one acre at a time!

James Thomas,

James H. Thomas, President

OLTA, new Executive Director

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance has appointed Ian Macnab as their new Executive Director. From OLTA’s website I quote: “Ian was formerly the Formerly the Chief Administrative Officer of Kawartha Conservation, Ian comes to us with over 35 years working in conservation and watershed management. Since leaving Kawartha Conservation in 2008, Ian has worked as a senior environmental consultant to assist community based associations, municipalities, conservation authorities and private business interests understand environmental processes and link-ages. Ian is very excited to be joining the land trust community.”



The Northumberland Land Trust wishes you well, Ian, and we hope you will attend some of our events.

Hazel Bird – 1920 – 2009

(contributed by Audrey E. Wilson)

Hazel Bird was a well-respected and much loved volunteer, then staff naturalist at the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education centre in the 70s and 80s.

At her death, in-memoriam funds were directed to the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. In memory of Hazel, two directional beige-pink granite rocks have been sand-blasted by Joe Oram, “Carved in Stone”, as indicators at key trail junctions at LLOEC. These will assist some 3,500 students, and staff that attend Outdoor Ed. Classes.



To move these rocks into location, two Percheron horses, each dragging a stone-boat, were up to the difficult task, thanks to Connor Green, a Grade 11 student who is training the horses. The rocks are now firmly in place at LLOEC. You are welcome to visit!

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST BOARD

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Operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca - 905.349.9990
www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca

Two walks are planned on our properties—please come and join us!

Invasive Plant Species

What do you know about “Invasive Plant Species” on your land? In your garden? In Northumberland County?

They are typically non-native plants that aggressively out-compete other vegetation. They have no natural predators, parasites or diseases to control them.

Dog-strangling Vine: is prolific in Northumberland County. It is a non-native herbaceous perennial, first introduced as an experiment for use as a life jacket filling. It likes open, sunny areas and forms dense colonies, smothering short plants and winding its way up small shrubs and trees, very often killing them.

Garlic Mustard, a biennial European species, was intentionally introduced as a culinary and medicinal herb. It likes moist shady areas and competes with our woodland species by flowering and setting seed early and causing native woodland plants to lose vigour.

Norway Maple will hybridize, with serious implications for our Canadian sugar maple.

Manitoba Maple, is native in the prairies but is not native to Ontario. It should be discouraged due to its ability to form dense stands, spread by seeds and roots.

Scots Pine is seriously invasive and should be eliminated or at least controlled at the earliest opportunity.

Common Buckthorn is a European shrub that excludes other understorey species. The seeds are spread by birds that eat the purple berries – and you are doubtless familiar with the purple stains on your car during the berry season!

Lastly, not a plant, is the **Emerald Ash Borer** beetle which has the potential to destroy our Ash trees.

If you would like to get advice on the appropriate way to eliminate these species from your property, please contact:

Northumberland Stewardship Council <http://www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/northumberland/>

Ontario Invasive Plants Council – http://www.stewardshipcentre.on.ca/index.php/oipc_pages

Toronto Parks & Recreation <http://www.toronto.ca/trees/>

Events

Land Trust Events:

Leckey Property Hike

August 22, 10.00a.m.
344 Kelly Drive, Castleton.



McEwen Property Hike

October 17, 10.00a.m.



Photo—Dr. Doug Galt

Please email operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca or call 905.349.9990 to register and get directions.

Partners' Events:

Alderville Black Oak Savanna “Prairie Day”

September 12, 9.30a.m. – 5.00p.m.
—bring the family and make a day of it—environmental exhibits, entertainment, Scienstational Sssnakes, traditional food and vendors.
Tel: (705) 778.1391



Photo—Ken Towle

Rice Lake Plains / Caring for the Moraine (CPA 18) Bus Tour of selected properties on the Rice Lake Plains.

September 23 – all day
Theme “Species at Risk” with MNR talking about new Species at Risk legislation, local SAR, habitat, etc.
Tel: (613) 394.915 x 225



Ontario Land Trust Alliance Gathering

“Solid Foundations: Together We Can!”
October 29 – 31, 2009
Kempfenfelt Conference Centre, Barrie
www.olta.ca

We acknowledge the organizations that have made it possible for us to preserve 430 acres of land.

