

THE PRESERVER, AUGUST 2012

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

Your new Board

At our Annual General Meeting, the following Board members were elected:

Past President..... Jim McGrath
President Joan Chalovich
First Vice-president John Geale
Secretary Eva Nichols
Directors: Mary Bedford-Jones
David Fischer
Janette Johnston
Bill Newell
Suzanne Stickley

Advance warning: our lecture series will begin again on November 8, with coffee and cookies at 7:00 p.m. and our speaker at 7:30. Save the date and join us!

We would like to thank Daphne King for taking on the position of Bookkeeper.

Any Board member may be contacted by leaving a phone message at 905-342-3851 or by e-mailing us at operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY

Leckey Property: Bill Newell teamed up with the Stewardship Committee on May 12 for some trail maintenance and Scots pine removal; this work will continue in August. We will also have a closer look at the dog-strangling vine (DSV) which is definitely present - we may decide to begin a control program next year.

McEwen Property: it took three sessions for Bill to spray all the DSV he could find here. An inspection near the end of July showed good results, but for best effect a second round of spraying will be undertaken in August - this is a long-term project! Trail marking has begun, and bluebirds have been spotted near the nest boxes kindly built by Bill.

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre: Mark Rupke is planning to eliminate the yellow flag iris and replace it with native water plants.

President's Report

On June 18, members of Northumberland Land Trust gathered at Palisade Gardens, Cobourg for our 8th Annual meeting. Letters Patent were issued September 11, 2003 under the Canada Corporations Act to Bryan Baxter, Dr. Margaret Bain, Russell Lake, Robert Short and James Tedford, all of whom were members of Willow Beach Field Naturalists. At the 2004 Annual meeting the following members were elected to the Board of Directors: Dr. Doug Galt (President), Paul Peterson (a lawyer who continues to be very active with land trusts across Ontario), Frankie Liberty, Dr. Brenda Beck, Russell Lake, Bill Logan, Audrey E. Wilson, Lew Dunk and Joan Chalovich. For the following nine years, Board members have continued to build our land trust to become one of the many Land Trusts across Canada with affiliations with the Ontario and Federal Land Trust Alliances striving to retain significant lands in their natural state for future generations.

Our annual meeting speaker this year was Rory Quigley, Cobourg Arborist. He provided an overview of the Cobourg Tree Program. Communities have realized that trees are an important community asset that must be properly cared for, and new plantings must be continuous. Rory reminded us to be sure to remove burlap bags from newly planted trees and water well, especially through hot, dry periods. He cautioned us to watch for insect infestations, such as the Emerald Ash Borer that is expected to reach our area soon.

We welcome new Board members, Sue Stickley, Bill Newell and David Fischer, and thank our retiring president James McGrath for his contributions to our Land Trust. It is only because of the dedication and interest of our members that we are able to continue our active stewardship programs for our properties, corporate responsibilities and our lecture series. We do need a second vice president to groom for future years, and new committee members are always welcomed: *please contact any board member if you are interested.*

38% of our financial assets are held in a "restricted account" to be used specifically for stewardship purposes and as "seed money" if and when a new property acquisition is being processed. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Joan Chalovich, President.

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2012 - this year's Wallace Birdathon was a great success.

Although our guest birder, Roger Frost, found "only" 134 species on May 24 (compared to last year's 158), our generous sponsors set a record of over \$1600 in pledges. If you haven't yet seen it, the full report can be found on our web page at <http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/>, by clicking on the appropriate link on the home page. If you would like a paper copy, please call John Geale at 905-342-3851.

Preserving a gift for the future - by Jim McGrath, Past President

This is a very new story. It only seems old because our lives are so short.

In Canada, and in Ontario, we have been graced with some of the most beautiful wilderness regions in the world. But those regions are in danger. We are constantly building, paving, developing and consuming our land. Development can be a good thing, but it can also be very destructive. The problem is that once a piece of land is developed, it can never be returned to its natural state. For many thousands of years this land had been in a state of nature, but in the last 150 years we have eradicated a large portion of the most beautiful land in our country.

When I was young, there was a portion of Erin Mills Road that was agricultural and semi-wild. When I first got a driver's license I used to enjoy driving up that road with my cousin. There was a one lane wooden bridge that was a joy to cross, at slow speeds. On returning to Mississauga a few years ago, with the hopes of traveling that road again, I found that it was gone. Completely vanished. In its place were very large single family homes. Now I don't begrudge these people being able to purchase or build such homes. But that little piece of heaven can never be recreated. It is gone forever.

When I was a child in Toronto there was a creek, the Mimico Creek, that ran through a park a short bicycle ride from my home. I can remember being in the park, catching frogs and tadpoles. Wading in the creek and generally being a kid outside. Now that area is covered with high-rise buildings. Again, that creek can never be brought back.

We can't, nor should we try, to halt progress. But at some point we must take steps to save the best for our children and grandchildren. Farmland is already somewhat protected and has many advocates seeking to protect it. But land in its natural state has few advocates.

Let me introduce myself. I am now the Past President of the Northumberland Land Trust. Our purpose is to acquire land that meets certain criteria for preservation in its natural state. We are, in essence, advocates for the preservation of natural environments in this county. Land that has heritage, cultural or environmental value is of interest to us. We currently have about 400 acres under our ownership or management. Our crown jewel is the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre. If you have school age children they have probably been to this facility.

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Right - Past President Jim McGrath discusses trees with arborist Rory Quigley, guest speaker, at the Annual General Meeting, June 18, 2012



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Land that we control is intended to remain in its natural state, or be remediated as close as possible to that state, and kept in perpetuity for our descendants. It is my hope that my granddaughter's children will have some place to learn about the way Northumberland County was before we paved it over.

The Northumberland Land Trust is not interested in stopping development. It is very interested in preserving some of the most valuable and beautiful tracts of land in the County, as our gift to the future. The scope of our endeavours is not huge in the broader scheme of things. However, it requires constant vigilance and work. This is a small Board of volunteers and we need the community's help. If you are interested in preserving some of the natural landscape of Northumberland County, please encourage your family and friends to contact the Land Trust and join us. We have room on our Board and committees for willing people. If you find a little extra time on your hands, ask yourself: What will I leave behind? This might be just the way to accomplish that task.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2012 MEMBERSHIP

We hope we can count on your support in 2012. If you have not already sent in this year's membership form, please use the one below. Members receive:

- A tax receipt (Charitable Registration #89257-5930 RR0001)
- The right to vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Newsletters, invitations to events such as our dinner, hikes, and lectures

And if you have the time and/or expertise, we would love to have you join us as a volunteer!

Please make cheques payable to "Northumberland Land Trust", and mail the form below to the address at the bottom of the page.

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Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms.

Last name _____ First name(s) _____

Address

Number and Street

City/town

Postal code

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Single: \$25 Family: \$40 Supporting: \$50 Corporate: \$100

Donation: \$250 \$500 Other _____