

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

Northumberland Land Trust Members...



Thea Silver

Please plan to attend our **Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 17, 7 p.m. at Palisade Gardens, 240 Chapel Street in Cobourg.** We are fortunate to have Thea Silver, Executive Director of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, as our guest speaker. Thea's education and experience with Scientists in Schools and the Nature Conservancy of Canada in addition to her current role and responsibilities, will provide our land trust members with an excellent learning opportunity regarding our work in Northumberland County.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership by May 31, 2013. Only members in good standing will have a vote on the important business matters to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting. Membership form attached.

Here's an opportunity to support Northumberland Land Trust

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2013

Once again this year, Roger Frost will choose a suitable 24-hour period in May and set out to find as many bird species as he can within Northumberland County. And once again we hope that many supporters of the Northumberland Land Trust will sponsor him in our efforts to raise a record amount of money to be used for stewardship of the four Land Trust properties.

Last year, Roger found 134 species, which was lower than usual. But thanks to all our generous supporters, the total raised was just over \$1800, more than ever before. This has allowed the Land Trust to proceed confidently with our stewardship programs, including control of dog-strangling vine and other exotic invasives, boundary marking, trail maintenance, and planting native trees and wildflowers. This year we have set a goal of \$2000 - a nice round number that we think is attainable.

Some sponsors offer so many cents (or even a dollar) per species, although most sponsor Roger for a flat amount regardless of his species total. We hope that you will choose one method or the other to help the Land Trust cause.

You can most easily make your sponsorship by contacting John Geale at 905-342-3851 or johngeale@yahoo.com. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation and a report letting you know about all the day's sightings. In advance, many thanks!

Mark your calendar:

Wednesday October 16th is the date for the **NTL Annual Fund-raising Dinner**, to be held at Dalewood Golf and Country Club this year. Mike McIntosh from Bear With Us will bring us facts and entertaining tips on living peacefully with bears in Ontario.

Contact any Board member for further information on this dinner - a very important and entertaining way to support the Northumberland Land Trust.

Stewardship Activities, Spring 2013

Leckey Property: Julie Munro, our point person, has arranged with her volunteer team to:

- keep the trails cleared and marked (May 22, and one other date yet to be decided),
- garlic mustard removal -(May 22, and one other date Methods being researched),
- spray to control dog-strangling vine (June),
- continue the removal of Scots pine (Sept./Oct.).

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre: Mark Rupke has several ongoing projects, including:

- transplanting many native flowers and other plants to the property,
- maintaining the trails in good condition,
- controlling buckthorn and periwinkle,
- thinning the red pines and planting oaks in their place,
- continue our dog-strangling vine control project (spraying in June).

McEwen Property: Jesse Harnden, our point person, plans to:

- extend the trail, currently going 200 m west and 400 m north from the gate, (July 20),
- remove more Scots pine, (May/Sept.)
- spray to control the dog-strangling vine (June),
- install some signage, at least at the corners of the property (July).
- continue development of a long term plan. Should we use controlled burns to keep some or all of the current grassland areas as grassland; or permit the whole area to revert to forest?

Pelton Property: Russ Lake, with help from George Gordon, planted 260 trees (100 white spruce, 100 white pine, 60 red oak) in April. Some border signage is now in place, and the Willow Beach Field Naturalist's President's Walk takes place here on May 25th.

**To participate in any stewardship activity please contact::
John Geale at 905-342-3851 or johngeale@yahoo.com.**

Your Board

PresidentJoan Chalovich Past President.....Jim McGrath
First Vice-presidentJohn Geale SecretaryEva Nichols
Directors: Mary Bedford-Jones, David Fischer, Janette Johnston,
Bill Newell, Suzanne Sticklely

The Board would like to thank all the volunteers who help out with various projects such as, meeting organization, tree-planting and trail maintenance. New Board members would be welcome, especially someone who would be willing to help out as Treasurer. We would also like to have a Second Vice-President on the Board to help spread the work around a bit. Please give us a call if you would like to help out.

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

Getting to know your Directors

Mary Bedford-Jones

Mary came to Cobourg in 1972, and had a general medical practice in Cobourg for 34 years. She and her husband had an interest in outdoor education, and after the death of Dr. Laurie Lawson they supported the outdoor education programme of the public school board on the property on Telephone Road, until the land was transferred to the Northumberland Land Trust in 2005.

She has been a director since 2010, and continues to encourage public education through the lectures arranged by the Land Trust.

She has one son in Ottawa, and one daughter in Toronto. Her other interests include languages, hiking, travelling (finally!), and spending time at the family cottage property, where she first knew the lure of wild spaces.



John Geale

John joined the Land Trust Board in 2008 after spending three years in New Zealand following his retirement from Trinity College School. At Trinity he taught mathematics, science and geography, and coached cross-country running and Nordic skiing.

His years from 1965 to 2002 at Trinity were broken up regularly by a return to the University of Toronto to complete a B.Sc. in biology, five months spent as a scuba-diving biological research assistant in the high arctic, a winter ski-bumming in the Kananaskis Valley in Alberta, a summer working as a cowboy on an Alberta foothills ranch, a year teaching in Whitehorse, a sabbatical spent studying mathematics and biology at the University of Guelph, and a year on exchange to Australia. While teaching, he also spent many summers in the Canadian arctic working for the National Museum of Natural History and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

In retirement, John is an active birder. He helps with local Christmas and summer bird counts, conducts marsh surveys for birds and amphibians, and surveys eight lakes by canoe each summer to collect data on Common Loon breeding success. He has also visited over 40 countries on birding trips. When not birding, his interests include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, camping, badminton, electoral reform and keeping his firewood pile ready for next winter.

John Geale (continued)....John's wife, Dorothy, is a veterinarian with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Their son lived in Cusco, Peru for 10 years, and guides birding tours in many South American countries. Their daughter is currently teaching mathematics, science and physical education in Vancouver.

All of his travels and love of outdoor activities have convinced John that increasing human population will continue to put pressure on natural spaces. He believes that the only way to protect such spaces so that our great-grandchildren's great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy them is through preservation by land trusts and similar organizations. He is therefore an avid supporter of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and is proud to serve on the Board of the Northumberland Land Trust, where he is now Vice-President. His responsibilities on the Board include regular e-mail communication with members, assisting the Treasurer by mailing out tax receipts to our donors, organizing the Wallace Birdathon, and chairing the Stewardship Committee.

President's Report

Spring has arrived with its frenzy of activities. During the winter months, your Board members have kept busy, presenting our Lecture series and preparing work plans for our properties, including habitat restoration for biodiversity conservation. In fact we are now in process of preparing an application for a grant to cover costs of spraying of dog strangling vines at the Hope Township site. Again we invite our members to join the work parties for tree planting, cutting of scots pines and trail extension.

Our Governance Committee, chaired by David Fischer has reviewed and developed a series of Board policies that will be brought to the Annual Meeting for ratification. These policies relate to Members, Volunteers and Staff, Fundraising, Privacy Issues, Financial Management, and Property Acquisition and Disposal. If you would be interested in reviewing these policies in advance of the annual meeting we could arrange to mail or e-mail them to you upon request. Copies will be available at the Annual meeting for review also. The Board is also reviewing the responsibilities for Not-for-Profit Corporations under new regulations of the Canada NFP Act to ensure that we will be in compliance when the Act comes into place in 2014.

I greatly appreciate the work of the members of Board who share the responsibility of management for the Board. As we prepare for the Annual Meeting on June 17th, I invite anyone who wishes to let their name stand for board membership to contact me. Our monthly meetings at Victoria Retirement Home are productive and pleasant and we are grateful for the hospitality extended to our organization.

We would like to thank all those who honoured Terence Neville Challenger, husband of Margaret Challenger, who passed away February 12, 2013, with contributions to Northumberland Land Trust. Terry's longtime hobby was photographing nature's beauty. Our sympathy is extended to his family and we are grateful for the donations made in his honour.

I'm also overjoyed to report that recently the Northumberland Land Trust has been the recipient of a \$5,000 contribution from The Dalglish Family Foundation, Toronto. Peter Dalglish, President of that Foundation, is owner of Grafton Village Inn and he and his wife have been strong supporters of Land Trust initiatives over the years. Our gratitude is unbounded.

Joan Chalovich President