

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

The Preserver, August 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Turn, turn, turn...

John Geale

Sometimes it's hard to know when one cycle ends and the next begins. But this time of year can feel like a winding-down and new beginning period: the bluebirds and swallows have long since abandoned their nest boxes at McEwen; the trails at Leckey are all clear and the Scots pine removal has only one more session scheduled for the year; the LLOEC is ready for a new influx of students happy to be outdoors for a day; the Pelton seedlings, some of them now more like saplings, are almost ready to go dormant for the winter; and the vernal pools at Chub Point are quite dry, waiting to be replenished by the coming snows.

Your Land Trust is in a bit of a wind-down mode as well. The past few months have been busy and productive: we've had a successful prescribed burn and sown seeds of prairie plant species at McEwen; we've removed dozens of Scots pines and continued our control of dog-strangling vine at several properties; we've cleared trails and worked on fences; we've completed bird censuses and searched for species at risk; the project to accurately map the vernal pools at the LLOEC has wound up; and we enjoyed a well-attended public hike co-sponsored by all the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative partners.

We have three major events in the near future (see "Save These Dates", page 2), but before we know it we'll be in full planning mode as we get ready for 2016. I hope you have been able to participate in some of the activities during this spring and summer. It's very satisfying to be out at our properties and see the results of our efforts - and this satisfaction is part of what drives us to plan for an even better future for these Nature Reserves and perhaps others as we investigate possible future acquisitions.

We have had wonderful support this year from individuals, charitable foundations, corporations, and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. For this we are most grateful, and we are already looking forward to another productive year in 2016 as the cycle continues.



Northumberland Land Trust - Board of Directors 2015-16:

Back row, left to right: George Gordon, Bill Crowley, John Geale.
Front row, left to right: Miriam Mutton, Joan Chalovich, Janette Johnston, Whitney Lake. Missing: Jim McGrath, Bill Newell.

Any Board member may be contacted by phone at 905-342-3851 or e-mail at operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca.

SAVE THESE DATES!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – At 2:00 p.m. we will begin a celebration and official opening of the Chub Point Nature Reserve, and we hope you can be present. Here's how the event will unfold:

2:00 p.m. – President's opening remarks, followed by the official unveiling of the Nature Reserve sign and an opportunity to view the property from the road - or by walking into the woods for the more adventurous.

2:30 p.m. – please join us for refreshments at the Grafton Village Inn; Peter Dalglish, the Inn's owner, is a generous supporter of NLT and has offered the Inn to us free of charge.



The location is at the corner of Station Road and Orchard Grove Road directly south from the Grafton Village Inn. Follow Old Danforth Road, which becomes Station Road, and go 2.2 km to the first intersection past the railway tracks. Parking will be along the roadside just south of Orchard Grove Road.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 – This is our annual dinner date, once again at Dalewood Golf Club. We will begin with a silent auction and music by Deborah Henderson (violin) and



Spotted Turtle

Fred Cory (flute) – the Arcadian Duo. After dinner we will be treated to a presentation by the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, with live specimens for you to observe. We have held ticket prices the same as last year – \$65 per ticket, and you will receive a tax receipt for \$40. Tickets can be reserved by contacting any Board member, by phoning 905-342-3851, or by e-mailing operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – This will be the first of this season's Speakers Series. Our speaker will be Alderville's Rick Beaver, an internationally known artist and a scientist and naturalist. A number of years ago Rick and an Alderville Band Councillor approached the Band Council with a proposal to preserve the Alderville Black Oak Savanna and Prairie, and the Council agreed. Rick will speak on the many significant features of the savanna and the efforts to develop it into the outstanding property it is today. We have reserved the same room as last year at the Cobourg Community Centre, and we will begin with refreshments at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

For more information on any of these events, see our web site (<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/>), or phone (905-342-3851) or e-mail (president@northumberlandlandtrust.ca) John Geale.

Did you know ... that of the eight species of turtles in Ontario all but one are considered to be at risk? By the time our grandchildren are our age, they might be able to see only Painted Turtles. See <http://cottagelife.com/environment/how-to-identify-ontarios-8-species-of-turtles> for more information on all of our turtle species.

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2015

Despite some bad birding weather, Roger Frost again did a wonderful job of finding birds in the name of fund-raising for us - many thanks, Roger! Below is an abbreviated version of his report; the full version is available by request (905-342-3851), or on our website (<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/index.htm>).

I started the birdathon at noon on Wednesday, May 27 at Candlewick Woods, hoping for a grounding of migrants similar to last year. But the sunny skies and strong southwest winds produced few grounded migrants. The few birds present included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Some side roads north of the woods added Vesper Sparrow, American Kestrel, Willow Flycatcher and Clay-colored Sparrow.

In the Port Hope harbour I found a few Ruddy Turnstones, a small flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers and a single Dunlin. At Cobourg Harbour, there were 12 Whimbrel (right), an American Black Duck and a Bonaparte's Gull.



Inside Presqu'île Provincial Park were breeding Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler and Downy Woodpecker. The Gilmours' cottage added Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Orchard Oriole and Nashville Warbler, while Owen Point produced Gadwall, Black-crowned Night Heron and Semipalmated Plover.

At my traditional Whip-poor-will spot, in the Northumberland Forest, I added Common Nighthawk, Field Sparrow, American Woodcock and Whip-poor-will.



The next morning was overcast, and the wind now blew strongly out of the northwest. A walk at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna produced all the target species: Blue-winged Warbler (left), Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Broad-winged Hawk.

At Peter's Woods I added Barred Owl, Pine Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Winter Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, Canada Warbler and Red-breasted Nuthatch. At the Nature Conservancy property along Tucker Road a Hermit Thrush was singing in the woods, and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks displayed overhead.

The final total was 137 species, which is my lowest total in several years. A better strategy and improved weather will be needed for next year!

Pledges for this year's Birdathon totaled about \$1300, which will be a great help with some of our activities, like improving our fencing and signage, and controlling dog-strangling vine. Thank you, all our sponsors! By now, you should have received your tax receipt and your copy of the full report. If you have not yet contributed to this effort but would like to do so in recognition of Roger's work, you may do so by mailing us a cheque (see page 4 for the address) or by going to our website (<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/index.htm>) and clicking on "Donate Now".

RLPJI HIKE AT THE McEWEN NATURE RESERVE



On May 30, we joined with all the other Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative partners to coordinate a hike at our McEwen property. It was attended by about 20 people, aged from 6 to over 70, and the sunny weather was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Val Deziel of the Nature Conservancy of Canada was on hand to



point out the effects of the prescribed burn in the north field, especially how quickly everything had greened up. Bird guide David Geale pointed out many species, including nice telescope views of a singing Grasshopper Sparrow. Many particularly liked seeing the Eastern Bluebirds around their nest box and the many Eastern Newts and frogs at the pond. The view from the top of the drumlin was another special feature, as we were treated to a beautiful overview of the grasslands below that had been burned last year. Between birds, insects, plants and amphibians, photographers had a field day!



Eastern Newt
©Rob Lonsberry

Many thanks to Val and David, as well as to Becky Lyon, who, as outreach coordinator at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, organized the whole event.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

You may now submit your membership and make donations by using Canada Helps: please go to <http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/index.htm> and click on the blue "Donate Now through Canada Helps" button; this will allow you to use your credit card. Otherwise:

Please fill out the form below. Make cheques payable to
"Northumberland Land Trust", and mail to:
Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4

✂ -----

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other: _____

Last name _____ First name(s) _____

Address _____

Number and Street

City/town

Postal code

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

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

Donation: \$100 \$250 Other _____

I wish to remain anonymous

The NLT recognizes its supporters in print and online. If you wish your membership or donation to remain anonymous, please indicate this at the time of your contribution by ticking the box above.

To view the NLT privacy policy please visit our website.

<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/>
e-mail: operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca

Phone 905-342-3851