

# Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

The Preserver, November 2017

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: News and Upcoming NLT Events     Miriam Mutton**

In this edition of The Preserver, there are articles on the very successful Gala Dinner and Fundraiser, an update on Stewardship Activities, a report on work in progress by the Governance Committee, and notes on recent outreach activities.

And, I am pleased to introduce our newest Board member, Grant Elliott. Welcome Grant!

Hold the Date: The popular and free speaker series dates for 2018 are January 18, February 15 and March 15. Topics, speakers and locations will be confirmed soon. Check the NLT web site at [nltrust.ca](http://nltrust.ca) early in the new year for more information.

I would like to extend greetings to our readers from the NLT Board of Directors. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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## **GALA DINNER 2017**

John Geale

On October 25, over 140 NLT supporters gathered at the Best Western Inn and Convention Centre for our annual gala fundraiser. The star attraction of the evening was guest speaker David Phillips, Senior Climatologist with Canada's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

David presented a very entertaining mix of humour, fascinating trivia and statistics, and, as promised, a forecast of "warmer, wetter and wilder" weather for the coming decades. We were left with the impression that, although some useful efforts are certainly being made to adapt to these climate changes, most parts of the world will have to do much more to maintain reasonable living conditions - but the necessary changes are indeed possible.

Thanks to many generous donors, we had over 50 items up for bids in the silent auction. The most sought-after items turned out to be lunch and a tour of the House of Commons donated by MP Kim Rudd, a beautiful Phyllis Erwin clay pot donated by Robert Fishlock, and a spectacular bee hive made and painted by Grant and Judy Parnell. Each of these fetched winning bids of \$200. In total, the auction netted over \$2400, well above previous years' earnings.

We were very pleased that local elected officials were so well represented at the dinner: Alderville First Nation, Northumberland County, and the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board all had representatives, as well as Cobourg, Port Hope, Brighton, Cramahe and Trent Hills Municipal Councils.

The Northumberland Land Trust thanks everyone who attended this successful evening. Over \$8000 was raised, which will help enormously with our Stewardship activities in 2018, allowing us to continue to take very good care of our six properties.

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### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:**

#### **MEETING WITH KLT AND KIM RUDD, MP**

Miriam met with Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) Executive Director Mike Hendren regarding future opportunities in working together towards common goals. One of our first initiatives was a meeting together with Northumberland-Peterborough South MP Kim Rudd at her constituency office in Cobourg. In addition to introducing the work of the respective land trusts, we asked for Ms. Rudd's support on a nation-wide matter of interest. Land Trusts and other like-minded organizations across Canada are working collaboratively to request continued and enhanced Federal Government commitment to land conservation under NACP, the Natural Areas Conservation Program. We will report back on any progress. Many thanks to Ms. Rudd and her staff for their time and interest in our work.

#### **CANADA LAND TRUST ALLIANCE STANDARDS AND PRACTICES**

Currently underway is an update by the CLTA of its standards and practices document. We are keeping informed, especially since the NLT Governance Committee is reviewing our own policies for any needed updates. The CLTA project will continue next year and eventually we expect any revisions to filter down to various land trust organizations through OLTA, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

#### **PRAIRIE DAY UPDATE**

NLT continued our annual role as a participating organization at the Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna and Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative 10th annual Prairie Day in Alderville September 9, 2017. NLT Director and OLTA Secretary George Gordon organized both the informative display and NLT volunteers to help at the display table. Visitors were interested in the work of the NLT and several people expressed interest in learning more about the organization or joining as volunteers.

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#### **THANK YOU TO A NEW DONOR!**

Thank you Robert Massie for your generous gift to NLT. The funds will help us with important stewardship work at existing nature reserves and with new acquisitions.

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#### **NLT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Governance Committee has identified the main tasks in updating the Board of Directors' Handbook. The Handbook contains essential founding documents such as the organization By-

laws, Mission Statement and Objectives as well as policies which guide the Board and its work. Updates may reflect legislative changes and revised standards and practices by umbrella organizations such as OLTA. Currently several policies are posted on the NLT web site and we aim to post all NLT policies. Any major recommended revisions would need approval at the next NLT AGM.

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## STEWARDSHIP NOTES



Barred Owl Nest Box  
Installation at Pelton NR

Pelton - A rough trail is now marked out so that it is easier to get around the property and those who need to get to the stream or the marsh no longer have to bushwhack. And, all six nest boxes built by last year's Fleming College team have been installed. A wren box was damaged by some unknown visitor, likely a raccoon, but the box has been repaired.

McEwen - All nest boxes have been cleaned in preparation for new occupants next spring. The firebreak has been prepared for next April's prescribed burn. Most of the loop trail has been scouted and much of it flagged.

LLOEC - Several large Norway maples and many smaller ones have been removed. Student volunteers have been very helpful with some

buckthorn removal. The vernal pool studies are being revived in collaboration with the Trent Community Research Centre, guided by Dylan Radcliffe, who is actually our Jack van Nostrand Steward.

Leckey - Work is to continue next year on DSV control. This past summer there was significant work on spraying of DSV and purple loosestrife, as well as removal of some buckthorn and Scots pine.

Jack van Nostrand - Steward Dylan Radcliffe reports that lake levels are back to normal and the barrier beach is fully restored at this point. Turtle nesting habitat was expanded along the top of the beach. Cattails have been knocked back slightly and *Phragmites* removal is progressing: nearly all seed bearing stalks have been removed from the site.

Chub Point - Work has begun to control and hopefully eliminate the invasive *Phragmites* along the west road.

Stewardship activities can often need volunteers to help. If you'd like to help please let Bill Newell (bill.newell@xplornet.ca) know.



Turtles have been digging, and presumably making nests, among the willow shrubs on the barrier beach at Jack van Nostrand NR

## NORTHUMBERLAND BIOBLITZ RESULTS - AN UPDATE

The first annual Northumberland Bioblitz was a resounding success! Over 50 biologists, skilled naturalists, environmental students and avid nature lovers scoured over 200 acres to determine what species they could identify, and the results are impressive!

We promised a full report for this newsletter. However, the results and findings have not yet been formally prepared. Hopefully, the report will be available for the next newsletter. The Northumberland Bioblitz was organized by the Willow Beach Field Naturalist Club, in cooperation with the Northumberland Land Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada. However, an event like this brings many organizations and individuals together. Lower Trent Conservation donated the use of their tents for this event, and experts from Rouge National Urban Park, Blazing Star Environmental, University of Guelph, Sir Sanford Fleming College, York University, Trent University and other groups assisted with surveys during this blitz.

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### MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

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Please fill out the form below. Make cheques payable to  
"Northumberland Land Trust", and mail to:  
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Renewal

New membership

Dr.  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Donation:  \$100     \$250     Other \_\_\_\_\_

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