



## 2020 Annual Report



The Northumberland Land Trust (NLT) remains committed to preserving the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County. Our mandate is to establish, maintain and manage protected areas. This annual report highlights our goals and achievements for the year ending December 31, 2020, including our administrative and financial information.

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## **Board of Directors**

The NLT operates under the direction of a volunteer Board of Directors, drawn from across the County. At the end of 2020 there were 8 Board members working under the leadership of President Robert Fishlock. The current members of the Board of Directors are: Grant Elliott (Year 1), Robert Fishlock (Year 2), John Geale (Year 2), George Gordon (Year 3), Richard Holland (Board 2020 appointment), Jane McGrath (Year 2), Miriam Mutton (Year 3) and Bill Newell (Year 1). For profiles of the individual board members please refer to our website, [www.NLTrust.ca](http://www.NLTrust.ca) under the “About Us” tab.

## **Achieving our Mission**

Despite the restrictions due to COVID-19, your Board of Directors is confident that everything possible was done to fulfill their mandate in 2020. We were the grateful recipients of a \$100,000 gift from the estate of Robert F. Massie, which gave us significant financial security. Aside from this gift, both our actual income and expenses were reduced from our budget, which had allowed for a small operating surplus. Of our expenses, 33% of our expenses were for stewardship, which meant that we were able to take good care of our properties. In addition, we continue to collaborate with other conservation organizations, and we have several new volunteers to help with our work.

## **President’s Report by Robert Fishlock**

Last year was a bit of a roller coaster for NLT. We got off to an ambitious start in March when the Board held a special board meeting in Cobourg and invited some friends from outside of the land trust, such as Mark Stabb and Mike Hendren of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to reflect upon our mission and take a hard look at our financial and organizational challenges. We also invited some individuals associated with the Lone Pine Land Trust. The key initiative that resulted from that meeting was a decision to commence discussions aimed at

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strengthening our relationship with Lone Pine (we already collaborate on the Speaker Series). Among various options to consider in that regard was a merger of the two land trusts to combine our natural and human assets.

No sooner were we back in our homes and reading the minutes of that meeting when the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada started to impose COVID-19 restrictions that have waxed and waned ever since. The Board missed several meetings in the Spring of 2020 before we learned how to Zoom. Who doesn't know how to Zoom by now?

Our AGM was delayed until September 9, 2020, but somehow, we were able to hold a live meeting at the lovely Grafton Inn. For this we thank long time supporters Peter and Camilla Dalglish.

The 2020 Birdathon was a great success and raised \$5,657.44. This was a \$1,700.00 increase over 2019. I want to thank fellow director John Geale for his continuing leadership, along with the following illustrious birders: Kurt Appleman, Roger Frost, David Geale, Paulette Hebert, Doug McRae, Richard Pope and Ben Walters. Way to go team!

Throughout 2020 and up to the time of writing this report, a joint committee of four individuals have been working to flesh out the type of merger that could be recommended to NLT and the Lone Pine Land Trust. In February and March of 2021, they reported to the members of each land trust and obtained approval in principle to a merger under the name of the Northumberland Land Trust. I want to thank Rob Kennedy and Doug McRae who represented Lone Pine and John Geale of NLT, for assisting me in this initiative. I also want to thank Mark Stabb of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Jim McGrath, a long time NLT member and former President, for assisting the merger joint committee. Hopefully by this September the merger will be a reality.

As has been reported elsewhere, in July 2020 NLT was graced with a \$100,000 donation from the Estate of Robert Massie, late of Cobourg. We cannot thank Robert enough for thinking of us.

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Another joint committee or working group that I wish to note and thank is the Wesleyville working group that represents NLT, Lone Pine and the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. Its focus is the protection of the significant natural features in the Wesleyville area located in the western section of Port Hope south of the 401 Highway and fronting on the shores of Lake Ontario. The principle landowners in this area are Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One and Cameco. The lands were zoned for Employment uses many years ago in the 1970s when it was expected that an oil fired electrical generating station would operate there. Wesleyville is one of the largest remaining natural areas on the north shore of Lake Ontario and the working group has been documenting its natural significance and informing the County and local planners, as well as our MPP. Thank you, NLT member Jenny Jackman, Past President Miriam Mutton and the other committee members, for all your hard work.



In October 2020 we held our first “Virtual Gala” on Zoom with guest speaker Emily Damstra, a professional Science Illustrator from Guelph, Ontario. Emily highlighted her goldenrod study and her illustrations (one of them shown, left) detailing many of the birds and insects that rely on this plant. She encouraged the presentation attendees to focus on a return to planting native species in our gardens, thus encouraging biodiversity within our backyards. Thank you to Emily, NLT director Grant Elliott and the Northumberland Learning Connection for making this a successful event.

Lastly, I want to thank NLT member Richard Holland for agreeing to join the Board last October and take on the important role of Treasurer. At about the same time we engaged a new bookkeeper, Lynn Jones of Cobourg and said good-bye to our former bookkeeper, Marilyn McGarrell. Welcome Lynn and thank you so much Marilyn for your years of service to NLT.

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## **Speaker Series Committee Report by Grant Elliott**

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared that COVID-19 was a pandemic. We were therefore lucky that our last speaker of the season was scheduled the very next day, before Ontario began to shut down. The speaker on this occasion was Tamara Segal, who spoke about the nutritional and medicinal



benefits of many of our common plants. She was preceded on February 13 by Verena Sesin (left), whose research is concerned with the balance between the need to control invasive plants and the wish to avoid damaging desirable plants when using herbicides. Our first speaker of the season, on January 9, was Gary Pritchard, an expert on aboriginal perspectives on conservation.

This Speaker Series was again presented in collaboration with the Lone Pine Land Trust. Held at the Venture 13 auditorium in Cobourg, these events were free to all members of the public. Our intent is to provide entertainment and education on topics of conservation interest, and we believe the 2020 season accomplished this goal.

## **Acquisitions Committee Report by John Geale**

The NLT Acquisition Committee's mandate is to assess potential properties and make recommendations to the NLT Board regarding their acquisition. The acquisition may be by way of purchase, acceptance of a donation of title, acceptance of a conservation easement or a combination of both purchase and donation. The committee is comprised of John Geale, Robert Fishlock and Bill Newell. Each potential property is assessed using a formal process of weighted value as well as an on-site exploration. All negotiations remain confidential.

The Northumberland Land Trust currently holds secure 262 ha (648 acres) of land in Northumberland County. During the past year, the Acquisitions Committee had three inquiries regarding possible acquisitions. One of these would have involved a purchase that would have been beyond our means.

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Another began as a collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC); it will likely result in a Conservation Easement held by NCC. The third was an e-mail inquiry which was responded to, but no further response was received.

We continue to welcome inquiries from citizens of Northumberland County who may wish to consider donating property, and we will proactively seek out lands particularly well suited for preservation.

### **McEwen Nature Reserve**



### **2020 Financial Statements**

Our 2020 Financial Statements and the report from our financial reviewer, Baker Tilly, are attached to the end of this report as separate PDFs.

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## **Total Donations in 2020**

Total donations or “tax receipted gifts” for the past year amounted to \$19,368.91. For details see our attached financial statements. We can also report that this year (2020) in the month of July, NLT received a very generous gift of \$100,000 from the Estate of the late Robert Massie of Cobourg. We are very thankful for this gift and encourage others to consider NLT when drawing up their wills. We also encourage anyone who is not currently a member to take out a membership (see details at the end of this report) or to make a donation. Current members are also encouraged to make a donation.

## **NLT-Donor recognition**

The NLT wishes to recognize the contributions of its donors who support the on-going activities of the NLT. A matrix was developed under the branches of trees as noted below. As financial donations are accumulated over the calendar year donors will advance from one branch to the next. The NLT treasurer tracks the information and the donors will be recognized on the Website and in our Newsletter. If a donor wishes to remain anonymous that would be respected. We are grateful to the generosity of all of our membership and thank everyone for their gifts.

We also wish to give special thanks to those individuals who donate their time, services and expertise. Although they may not be reflected here, their gifts are valued by the NLT.

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**Graceful Ash (\$100-\$499)**

Marianne Andres

James Blackhall

David Broughton

Karin Fawthrop

Lillianne Denis

Jim Glover

Dorothy & John Geale

Marie Gordon

Janette Johnston

Susan Laing

Molly Leckey\*

Gordon Ley

Simone Merrey

Bill Newell

Irena Orłowski

Sandra Shearer

Nina Szpakowski

Richard Tyssen

Audrey Wilson

Lynda Yielding

Paul Appleman

Tyne Bonebakker

Kathleen Bruce-Robertson

Rober & Michelle Coleman

Diana & Edward Cunnington

Robert & Beverly Carman

Marion & Doug Gellatly

James Graham

Sara Kelly

Whitney Lake

J. Mary & Robert Lee

Jane & James McGrath

Kit Moore

Eva Nichols

Frank Prest

Jay Sherwin

Sue Stickley

Rae & Marilyn Waring

Cheryl Wilson & Robert Leckie

Jane Zednik

Jennifer Atkinson

Marion Boys

Sanglae Cho

Richard Girardin

Marguerite Doritty\*

Frank Godfrey

Sheila Goering

Tom Jackman

Freda Kennedy

Sandra & Donald Lane

Charles Lennox

Virginia McLaughlin

Claire Mowat

Martha Oldham

Iain Scott

Mary Singer

Anne Tesluk

Marlynne Warling

(\*deceased)

**Enduring Pine (\$500 - \$2499)**

Anonymous (9)

Anita De Jong

George Gordon

Edmund Maidlow

Edward Saunders

Mary Bedford-Jones

Robert Fishlock

Barbara Heidenreich

Brian Maxwell

Joan Chalovich

Doug Galt

Russell & Janet Lake

Roger Nainby

**Sturdy Maple (\$2500-\$4999)**

None to Report

**Mighty Oak (\$5000 and over)**

Estate of Robert F. Massie

**HEARTY ACORN (LIVING BEQUEST)**

Marg & George Gordon

Robert Fishlock



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## NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST: MEMBERSHIP FORM

Our members make the conservation work of the Northumberland Land Trust possible. We hope we can count on your support. Members receive:

- A tax receipt (minimum \$20 donation);
- Newsletters and invitations to events such as our dinner, hikes, and lectures;
- The right to vote at the Trust's annual meeting if paid before May 31;
- Memberships are for a Calendar Year - January to Dec or any portion thereof;

If you prefer, you may now submit your membership online using CanadaHelps at <http://nltrust.ca> and select the "You Can Help!" icon. Otherwise

**Please fill out the form below, make cheques payable to**

**Northumberland Land Trust and mail to: P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4**

Or donate online through our web site at [www.NLTrust.ca](http://www.NLTrust.ca) and click on the "pay Your Membership" button near the bottom of the home page.

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Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual: \$25 \_\_\_ Family: \$40 \_\_\_ Supporting: \$50 \_\_\_ Corporate: \$100 \_\_\_  
Donation: \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ 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. To view the NLT privacy policy please visit our website at <http://nltrust.ca>.

*The Board Members of the Northumberland Land Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and contributions. Your volunteer support and guidance is critical to our success as we protect significant natural ecosystems across Northumberland County.*