



The Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve 2017



Annual Report 2017

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 2016/2017 including our administrative and financial information.

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Board of Directors

The Northumberland Land Trust (NLT) operates under the direction of a volunteer board of directors; drawn from across the County. For this 2016/2017 annual report there were 10 board members working under the leadership of President John Geale. The current members of the Board of Directors are: John Geale, Joan Chalovich, Whitney Lake, George Gordon, Janette Johnston, Jane McGrath, Robert Fishlock, Bill Newell, Bill Crowley, and Miriam Mutton. For profiles of the individual board members please refer to our website, www.NLTrust.ca under the “*about us*” tab.

Achieving our Mission

The Northumberland Land Trust is committed to preserving the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County. This board of directors is pleased to announce that it has accomplished its mandate to establish, maintain and manage protected areas in 2016/2017 by obtaining and investigating new property acquisitions while providing continued stewardship for our existing properties. This board has raised public appreciation of the Trust, acquired and sustained valuable volunteers, is building new and collaborative partnerships and fundraising for monies necessary to ensure continued sustainability.

President’s Report by John Geale



John Geale

Near the end of last year’s President’s Report, I stated 5 goals I thought were appropriate and achievable by June 2017. I think this is a good time to see how we’ve done.

1. We hoped to acquire one new property as an eco-gift. – On December 30, the final arrangements were made for the donation of the Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve. Obviously, John and Kate van Nostrand were primarily responsible for this gift, but Joan Chalovich, Jim McGrath, and Laura Kucey of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change all played major roles in sorting out the details of what I found to be a rather complex procedure. We were able to officially open this latest reserve in May of 2017.
2. We wished to maintain a financially sound position. – If you have a close look at the financial portion of the Annual Report, you will see that we are in solid shape. For this I wish to give thanks to all our supporters, as well as to Joan Chalovich and Marilyn McGarrell for keeping things in good order.
3. We wanted to document at-risk species on some properties and use this knowledge to get some grant money. Largely due to John Urquhart’s work and aided by the observations of a few others, we now have documentation for 10 species at risk (SAR) on the McEwen Nature Reserve, 6 on the Pelton Reserve, and 9 on the Jack van Nostrand Reserve. With this knowledge we successfully applied for a grant from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and received just under \$3000. I think it is safe to say that we will be able to use our SAR knowledge to help with more grants in the future. We should not forget that the Species at Risk surveys were possible because of a generous \$7000 grant from the Cobourg Rotary Club.

4. It is important for our Stewardship Team to continue to be active and productive. Under Bill Newell's leadership, the stewardship crew had a busy year; you can see the highlights in the Stewardship portion of this Annual Report.

5. We hoped to increase our membership. We seem to have maintained a pretty stable membership, having gained a few new members and lost a few; some of the losses are "forgetful renewals", and we will continue to work on this. This is something that always needs attention, for as we continue to acquire more properties we will need additional support.

Our major fundraisers, the Wallace Birdathon and the Gala Dinner, both saw their most successful years. The Birdathon owes its success to both the six expert birders who contributed their time and expertise to the project (Roger Frost, Margaret Bain, John Urquhart, David Geale, Ben Walters and Doug McRae) and to our generous sponsors, and we thank all these folks. Many thanks also go out to Doug Galt for his leadership and enthusiasm for the Gala Dinner and to Whitney Lake for her superb organization of the event.

During the past year the winter Speakers Series was held in collaboration with the Lone Pine Land Trust. This proved highly successful, and we plan to do the same again next winter. Bill Crowley will once again be taking a lead role in this program. I want to thank Marlynne Warling for providing goodies to begin each of last season's events – they were always much appreciated!

Our new website ran into problems when it was the object of some sort of cyber-attack. It took a little while to get it sorted out and repaired, but it seems to be fully functional now. I have been pleased to receive some positive comments about it.

We look forward to repeating the bat surveys that were carried out at the McEwen and Pelton Nature Reserves last year with help from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Although no at risk species were found, there was lots of bat activity, and you never know what we'll find this year.

- Our speaker at this year's Gala Dinner will be noted climatologist David Phillips. Reserve October 25 on your calendar now!
- We will be working on another eco-gift project. If all goes well, it should be wrapped up sometime in 2018.
- On July 8 and 9, 2017, the first (annual, we hope) *Northumberland Bio Blitz* will be held. It will be based at Peter's Woods, but it will include our adjoining Pelton Nature Reserve.
- In April 2018 we hope to carry out a second prescribed burn on the south part of the McEwen Nature Reserve.

June 2017 sees the end of my third and final year as President of NLT. They have been interesting, busy, and educational years during which I have acquired significant knowledge on land trusts in general, NLT in particular, and Northumberland County. I have two years remaining as a Director of NLT, but it is my belief that all the jobs carried out by the Board should be moved around regularly to share the workload and to get fresh perspectives and ideas in play.

I wish to thank all the current Board members for their support and help during the past three years. It has been pointed out to me that we have on the Board a group that works well together to get things done and I am confident that this will continue.

One Board member will be leaving us this year. Janette Johnston has served as Membership Secretary for three years, and it has been great to be able to rely on her for up-to-date lists and useful suggestions. Many thanks, Janette!

Our members are, of course, at the heart of the Northumberland Land Trust, for without them and their ongoing support we would be able neither to acquire properties nor to protect them properly. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you, and I do hope our numbers will grow in the coming years. Thank you all.

Achieving our mandate requires successful fundraising strategies. The total money raised in 2016 was \$39,293.32 from seven different sources.

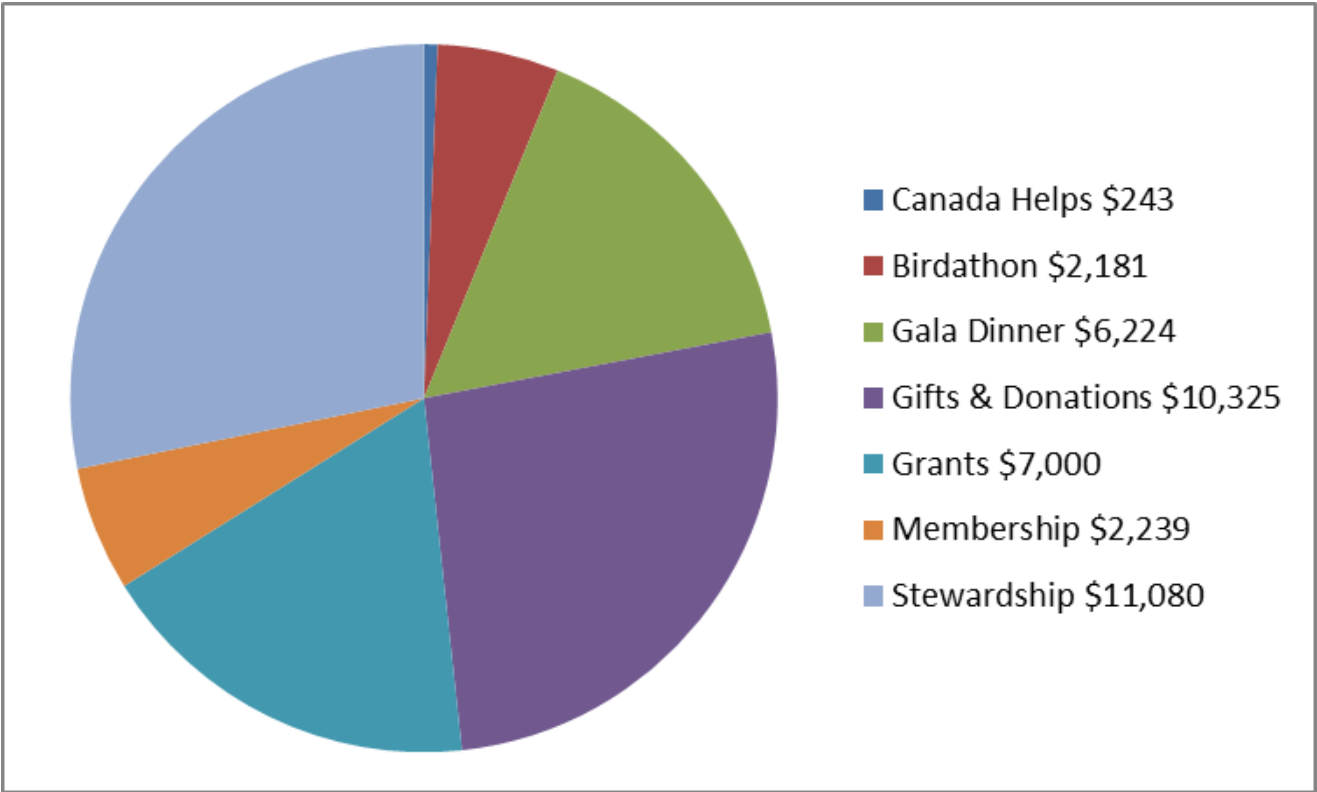


Figure 1: Total money raised in 2016 from our seven sources.

The Northumberland Land Trust raises funds through our partnership with **Canada Helps**. Their mission is to promote easy and accessible charitable giving in Canada. They are a non-profit organization designed to benefit Canadian donors, charities and corporations. In 2016 the NLT raised \$243.18 through Canada Helps. Please take a look at our website connection to Canada Helps through this link.

<http://nltrust.ca/how-you-can-help/cash-donation/>





A successful **Silent Auction and Gala Dinner** was held on Wednesday October 26, 2016 at Dalewood Golf Club. We enjoyed music by James Ferth; a tremendous amount of support was received for our silent & live auctions with a doubling of funds raised. Talented speaker and naturalist Michael Runtz presented for us a *Natural History of Beavers and their Ponds*. Best of all we had 30 new guests at our dinner, including local politicians. That is an increase of 40% in 2016 over our increase of 20% in 2015; this attendance boosts our visibility in the community.

Whitney Lake and Doug Galt at the Gala: Photo courtesy of Fred Gouveia of Snapd Northumberland.

Gifts and Donations are received by the Northumberland Land Trust throughout the year. It is important to develop a significant and gratifying charitable plan that reflects your values, traditions and experiences. Giving to the Northumberland Land Trust can be both meaningful and rewarding and is easily done by mailing a cheque to the Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4 or by visiting our website <http://nltrust.ca/how-you-can-help/cash-donation/> all gifts above \$20 receive a charitable receipt. The Northumberland Land Trust has a comprehensive recognition program recognizing its supporters in print and online. Of course if you wish your membership or donation to remain anonymous, this is acknowledged and respected at the time of your contribution.

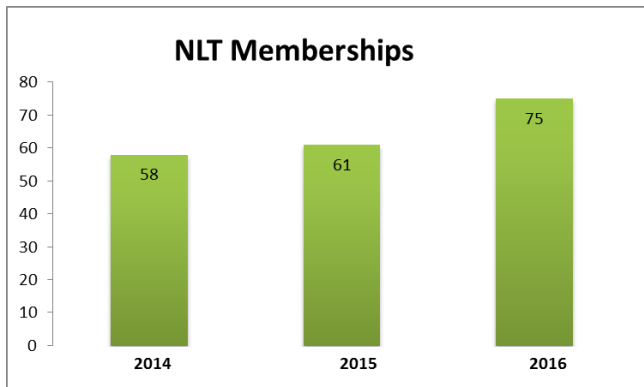


Figure 2: NLT membership for the past 3 years.

Membership in the Northumberland Land Trust provides access to our newsletter, coming events, updates on Trust activities, as well as the knowledge that you are part of a community of dedicated individuals preserving lands of special interest in the County. Membership provides voting rights at the Annual General Meeting and a receipt to claim as a tax deduction. Our total membership was 58 in 2014; this improved to 61 in 2015 and has increased again to 75 total memberships for the 2016 year. A trend we would like to see continue. You can renew your membership in person at the

Annual General Meeting, by mail, or on-line. MEMBERSHIP FORMS can be found on our website: <http://nltrust.ca/how-you-can-help/renew-membership/> Information can be mailed to the Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, K9A 5A4

Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Other: ☐ _____

Last name _____		First name(s) _____	
Address _____		Postal Code _____	
Telephone _____		e-mail _____	
Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family: <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Supporting: <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Corporate: <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to remain anonymous			



The Wallace Birdathon is a favourite fundraising event for the Northumberland Land Trust. It raises funds to support its stewardship mandate while staying connected to the lands of the County and its wildlife. Inspired by Charlie and Norma Wallace, the Birdathon adopted a new format in 2016 which was extremely successful and has grown in 2017. We added a sixth birding expert in 2017 and we owe much of our success to these six birders who donated their time and expertise to the project. **Roger Frost, Margaret Bain, John Urquhart, David Geale, Ben Walters and Doug McRae.** Each of these birders explored one of the Northumberland Land Trust's Nature Reserves in the hopes of seeing as many different species of birds as possible. Members of the public who donated to the Birdathon were encouraged to record a best guess as to the total number of bird species the birders identified to win a prize.

There is still time to contribute to the Wallace Birdathon in support of our stewardship activities. Please mail a cheque to the Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4 or visit our website <http://nltrust.ca/how-you-can-help/wallace-birdathon/>.

Grants & Stewardship Activities The NLT directors apply for funding from various agencies as they are announced. In 2016 a generous \$7000 grant from the Cobourg Rotary Club was received and used for Species at Risk surveys.

SPEAKER SERIES COMMITTEE REPORT by Bill Crowley & Whitney Lake



The 2016/2017 Speaker Series embraced a collaborative partnership with members of the Lone Pine Marsh and changed its location to accommodate the higher attendance we have been experiencing. The Lone Pine Marsh hosted our first speaker Don Sutherland, Zoologist with the MNRF and NHIC on November 17 at the Keeler Centre in Colborne. Don presented *Species of Concern in Ontario - the Natural Heritage Information Centre's role* which was a hot topic this year for the NLT. The next speaker was Erica Nol. A professor of biology at Trent University, Erica spoke on February 16th to a large crowd at the Cobourg Public Library on the topic *Can*

Humans Co-exist with Songbirds in Southern Ontario? Our last speaker was James Conolly, Professor of Archaeology at Trent University. James was our guest on March 23rd, at the Cobourg Public Library where he enlightened us on *the Archaeological History of Northumberland County, with a special focus on the Rice Lake and Trent River region.* This talk connected nicely with our NLT mandate which includes preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County. Refreshments were provided at all of the events as well as engaging materials on both the Lone Pine Marsh and the Northumberland Land Trust.

Achieving our mandate to establish new properties to preserve the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County.

The Northumberland Land Trust currently holds secure 482 acres of land in Northumberland County. Part of our responsibility to these protected areas including paying property taxes, planting seedlings, removing invasive species, sustaining a network of well-maintained trails, and signage. The total property expenses (including taxes) in 2016 were \$17,845.81 divided between our six nature reserves.

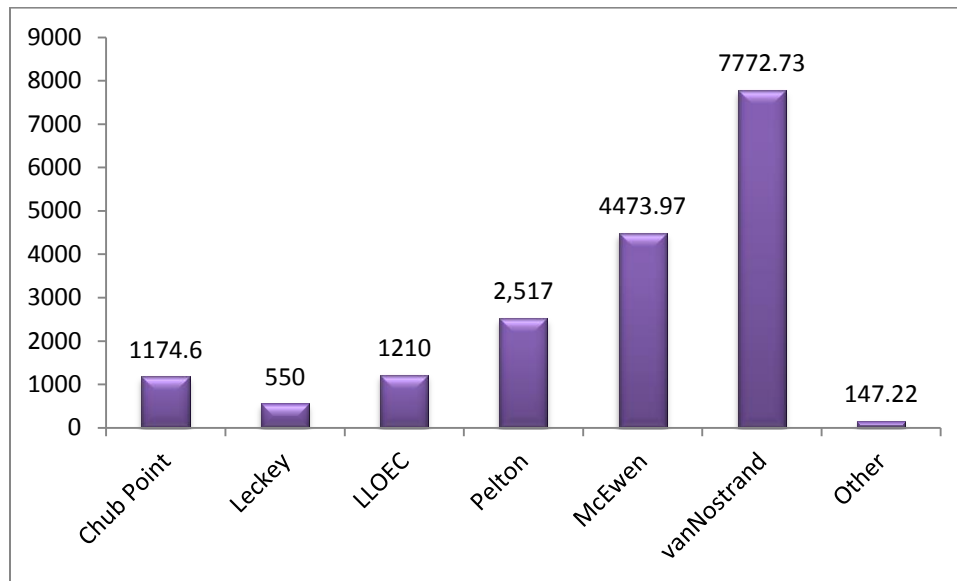


Figure 3: The total stewardship expenses in 2016 totaling \$17,845.81.

Leckey Nature Reserve – Steward Bill Newell: 177 acre Conservation Easement in Cramahe Township, Part of lots 28 and 29, Concession 9, Township of Cramahe.

At the Leckey Nature Reserve we believe we have essentially eliminated the current crop of Scots Pines and more of the Dog-strangling Vine has been sprayed. There are the two nest boxes on the property which have been occupied by tree swallows. Our thanks go out to Frank Prest and Jeff Devine the current owners of the property who have proven to be a pleasure to work with.

Pelton Nature Reserve – Steward Tom Jackman: Alnwick/Haldimand, adjacent to Peter's Woods Provincial Park.

Three students from the Sir Sandford Fleming College collaborated on a project to create artificial bird nesting habitat for the Winter Wren, Barred Owl, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Wood Duck, Pileated Woodpecker and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Providing artificial nesting habitat helps to alleviate stress from human encroachment onto natural habitat.

Students: Kieran Sharkey, Jennifer Nieuwland and Daniel Featherstone.





The controlled burn at the Pelton Nature Reserve, spring 2017.

The NE and SW quadrants of the old agricultural field at the Pelton Nature Reserve were burned and we sowed a couple of kilograms of prairie species seeds throughout the burned areas. Most prairie species are well adapted to withstand fire; however, by burning diagonally opposite quadrants the unburned site is able to repopulate the burn site with any species which may have suffered declines as a result of the burn.

Our herpetologist has cover boards positioned at the Pelton Nature Reserve for us to continually monitor the land for species-at-risk reptiles and amphibians. Four Garter snakes and one Red-bellied snake have been seen under the boards this spring.

McEwen Nature Reserve-Steward John Geale: 100 acres in Hope Township donated by the McEwen family to the Nature Conservancy of Canada and transferred to the Northumberland Land Trust

At the McEwen Nature Reserve our stewardship team has been removing the current crop of Scots Pines and hopes to be able to complete this job with one more work day. The fight against Dog-strangling Vine has been an on-going challenge. The 12 nest boxes installed here have been very successful. Two of the nest boxes are being used by tree swallows, three boxes by bluebirds, and one by house wrens.

Through a generous grant from the Cobourg Rotary Club the NLT was able to contract a herpetologist in the fall of 2015 to do a species at risk inventory. Cover boards (sheets of used metal and plywood, about 2 X 4 feet each) were placed in groups of 5 or 6 at five locations on the property. These boards are monitored regularly and John Geale has seen Garter snakes under them on 2 occasions this spring.

The Chubb Point Nature Reserve-Steward Ted Nasmith: 17 acres of wet woodland complete with many vernal pools located on the northeast corner of Station Street, south of Grafton.

At the Chubb Point Nature Reserve a temporary fence line has been set out along the east boundary and signage has been put up along the roads on the west and the south boundaries. The invasive species of European



The Chubb Point Nature Reserve

Buckthorn and Dog-strangling Vine have been removed along with some garbage that had been dumped along Station Road. This Nature Reserve is experiencing high water levels this spring.

Laurie Lawson-Steward Mark Rupke: The Outdoor Education Centre is a 100 acre woodlot at 8000 Telephone Road. It is a wonderfully diverse area with a cold water creek, vernal pools, riparian zone forest, mature forest, and early successional forest.



At the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre more exotic invasive species have been removed and more native trees and flowers have been planted. This occurred in part with the help from some local high school students.

There is a project to map the vernal pools that has been on-going with the co-operation of both Sir Sandford Fleming College and Trent University. Two students Sarah and Shantandu are completing habitat

[The Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre](#) suitability indexes for each of the vernal ponds for salamanders. They have staked out each of the ponds and started to create maps to see how they change as the season progresses.

The Laurie Lawson continues to host to over 2500 students and almost 600 teachers each year from local schools who take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a day of outdoor studies at the Centre. This outdoor centre is also appreciated by many other local residents and visitors who use the trails for walking and connecting with nature.

The Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve-Steward Dylan Radcliffe. Jack's Marsh consists of 20% mature deciduous and mixed forests and 80% great lakes coastal wetland that includes a cedar swamp, thicket swamp and cattail marsh. All these wetland types are part of the Wicklow Bay provincially significant wetland that is recognized in the Northumberland County Official Plan (2015). This 35-acre property is considered to be an important contributor to connectivity and biodiversity due to its proximity to other intact environmental areas nearby on the Lake Ontario shoreline.



[Jack's Marsh-Photo by Dylan Radcliffe](#)

The Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve was first brought to our attention by NLT Director Robert Fishlock in 2015 after a chance encounter at the property with John van Nostrand, then the owner (with his wife, Kate). At that time the land was up for sale, but after exploratory visits by NLT Board members, an appraisal by a real

estate professional and a determination by our environmental consultant that the land had significant environmental sensitivity, the van Nostrands decided to take advantage of the Eco-gift Program administered by Canada's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to donate the property to NLT. This was a very generous gift which satisfied the van Nostrands desire to see it remain undeveloped.

On December 30, 2016, the final arrangements were all in place, and NLT became the owner of the property. The Nature Reserve was officially opened on a beautiful sunny afternoon in May with the assistance of John and Kate van Nostrand, their family and 25 spectators. Blazing Star Environmental, under the direction of John Urquhart, is now conducting a thorough biological survey and inventory. We expect to receive a complete long-term management plan in 2018. Stewardship has already begun on our newest Nature Reserve under the direction of Steward Dylan Radcliffe. Some European Buckthorn has been removed and the main sign has been installed.

NOMINATION REPORT TO THE 2016 AGM

Nominations to the Board of Directors: Two members of the board of directors have accepted the nomination to be elected for a three year term.

Bill Newell serves as Chair of our Stewardship Committee, has been a guest speaker on invasive plants for the NLT and is actively involved in maintaining all of our NLT properties. Bill grew up and attended high school in southwestern Ontario. From there he graduated from SSFC as Fish and Wildlife Technologist. His first job was under contract for the Lindsay MNR before being hired by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority as resource technician.



Bill Newell

Currently Bill is semi-retired enjoying self-employment in woodlot management and invasive plant control invasive plant work. Bill and his wife Ann have three daughters – I Trish, Amanda, and Megan and together delight in their four grandchildren. Living on 39 acres in the north end of old Haldimand Township near Burnley, Bill manages his own woodlot and is currently restoring 6 acres of prairie there. Special interests include heritage poultry and tractors, land conservation, hunting, shooting, flying, bird and plant identification.

Whitney Lake has enjoyed three years on the Board of Directors serving as recording secretary, chair of the Gala Dinner and member of the Speaker Series Committee.

She hopes to dedicate the knowledge she has acquired through her Honours degree in Environmental Science as well as her Masters degree in Education (in progress) to actively engage the public in concepts of environmental sustainability. A passionate beekeeper, Whitney introduced honey bees to Trent University campus creating the Trent Apiary Club designed to engage and educate students in sustainable farming practices in a co-operative and nurturing environment. She also teaches an apiary course through the continuing education program of Trent University. Professionally, she has



Whitney Lake

appreciated a long career at the Northumberland Hills Hospital where she is currently the Patient Care Manager of the Medical and Surgical programs. Whitney devotes her vacation time to enjoying the company of her four adult children.

Directors continuing with two years remaining of a three year term:

John Geale, Robert Fishlock, Jane McGrath, Bill Crowley

Directors continuing with one year remaining of a three year term:

Joan Chalovich, George Gordon, Miriam Mutton

Directors retiring their position: Janette Johnson

Please take this opportunity to consider a position as a board member with the Northumberland Land Trust. Our meetings are held monthly on Wednesday evenings in Cobourg. Board members donate an average of 2-6 hours a month to the successful operations of the organization. There are a variety of challenging and rewarding positions you could fill. Join us at Board meeting or approach a member of the board for more information.

Financial Report

INCOME AND EXPENSES DETAIL January through December 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income: Tax-receipted gifts

Birdathon 2, 181.50 Corporate 6, 380.00

Individual 3,200.00 Other 745.00

Total Donations 10, 325.00

Memberships

Family 800.00 Individual 889.06 Supporting 550.18

Total Memberships 2, 239.24

Gala Dinner Receipted 4, 485.00

In Kind Donations 306,000.00

Stewardship 11, 080.00

Total Tax-receipted gifts 336,310.74

Other gifts - not rctd by NLT: Canada Helps

Canada Helps Birdathon 96.50 Canada Helps Membership 75.18 Canada Helps Donation 71.50

Total Canada Helps 243.18

Other gifts - not rctd by NLT-Auction 1,576.00

Total other gifts not rctd by NLT 1,819.18

Fundraising Income - not rctd: Gala Dinner Tickets 4, 828.64

Total Fundraising Income - not rctd 4, 828.64

Grants 7,000.00

Total Income 349,958.56

Expense

Advertising and Promotion	463.26	Annual Meeting	350.26
Bank Service Charges	48.90	Dues & Fees	1,020.00
Gala Dinner Expenses	4,285.24	Lecture Series Expense	471.52
NewsLetter Expense	1,425.74	Office Expenses	4, 087.78

Property Expenses

Chub Point	1, 108.53	Leckey	550.00
LLOEC	1, 210.00	Pelton	2,000.00
McEwen	4, 473.97	van Nostrand	7,772.73
Other	147.22		

Total Property Expenses \$ 17, 262.45

Property Taxes: Chub Point 66.07 Pelton 517.29

Total Property Taxes 583.36

Webinars & Workshop Fees 1, 559.40

Total Expense 31,557.93

Net Ordinary Income 318,400.63

Other Income/Expense: Other Income

Interest Income	783.28	Other revenue	35.10
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Total Other Income

818.38

Net Income

\$319,219.01

June 2, 2017 "Northumberland Land Trust: I have reviewed Northumberland Land Trust year-end Financial Statement as at December 31, 2016 and I have found that they fairly reflect the financial position of the organization and are in good order. Thank you Don Nicholson."

BALANCE SHEET-As of 31 December 2016

ASSETS: Current Assets: Chequing/Savings

Chequing Account #6	\$782.50
Premium Savings #1	\$14,791.85
Stewardship Restricted 003	\$37,786.74
Member Shares Held #2	\$58.17
Total Chequing/Savings	\$53,419.26

Accounts Receivable	\$4,283.06
Total Accounts Receivable	\$4,283.06

Other Current Assets: Short-term investments

Term GIC #1 – Stewardship	\$10,690.94
Term GIC #2 - General	\$10,690.94
Term GIC #3 - Legal Defense Fund	\$1,012.53
Total Short-term investments	\$22,394.41
Total Other Current Assets	\$22,394.41
Total Current Assets	\$80,096.73

Fixed Assets: Land	\$823,162.58
Total Fixed Assets	\$823,162.58

TOTAL ASSETS **\$903,259.31**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity: Retained Equity	\$459,922.74
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Unrestricted Net Assets	\$124,117.56
Net Income	\$319,219.01
Total Equity	\$903,259.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$903,259.31

Communications and Outreach Activities

The Northumberland Land Trust continues to explore ways to effectively use a range of communication techniques to connect with our stakeholders in meaningful ways.

- ✓ The speaker series in collaboration with the Lone Pine Marsh generates much public interest
- ✓ The Gala Dinner attracts new community members and provides fellowship for all
- ✓ Please join us on our Facebook page
- ✓ The newsletter is either mailed or e-mailed to our membership and local politicians
- ✓ Our website is regularly up-dated with news and events
- ✓ Media releases of events of significance are in local newspapers, radio and Northumberlandnews.com
- ✓ Board members could be seen with a booth at various community events like the volunteer fair
- ✓ Enlightening hikes on the properties bring like-minded individuals together
- ✓ Our members attend provincial meetings and workshops where they can network with others
- ✓ Distribution of brochures
- ✓ Letters to the Town of Cobourg and the Province have been sent on items of significant interest

Governance

In 2015 we received our Certificate of Continuance from Industry Canada fulfilling our obligation to the “Not for Profit Act”. Orland Conservation facilitated a strategic visioning session in 2015 which has become the strategic plan as the NLT Board works towards its targeted goals. One such initiative was the development of a new scoring formula which we have found useful in evaluating new properties for acquisition.

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 grasslands, wetlands, forests, water sheds and other significant natural ecosystems across Northumberland County.

