



George Gordon, Wesleyville, 2018



Annual Report 2018

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 2017/2018 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 2017/2018 annual report there were 10 board members working under the leadership of President Miriam Mutton. The current members of the Board of Directors are: Joan Chalovich, Bill Crowley, Grant Elliott, Robert Fishlock, John Geale, George Gordon, Whitney Lake, Jane McGrath, Miriam Mutton and Bill Newell. For profiles of the individual board members please refer to our website, www.NLTrust.ca under the “*about us*” tab.

Achieving our Mission

The NLT is committed to preserving the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County. Our board of directors is an engaged team of fiscally responsible individuals who are pleased to announce that they accomplished their mandate for the 2017/2018 year by obtaining and investigating new property acquisitions while continuing to provide the necessary stewardship for our existing properties. This board has raised public appreciation of the Trust, acquired and sustained valuable volunteers, is building new and collaborative community partnerships and fundraising for the monies necessary to ensure continued sustainability.

President’s Report by Miriam Mutton

My first year as President of the Northumberland Land Trust Board of Directors and it has been a busy one! I am grateful for the solid foundations set by past boards and also the continued service and guidance from current Directors.



Miriam Mutton

My goal for this past year was simple and singular. With a number of Board members actively focused on various aspects of the organization like budgets, fundraising and property stewardship, I set out to update the Board of Directors Handbook. The project involves a Governance Committee composed of me, and Directors Robert Fishlock, George Gordon and Jane McGrath. We quickly realized that although the basics were intact, with time, a number of revisions were necessary. As the policies are updated they will be posted on the NLT website as a resource. And as mentioned in the May NLT newsletter, George is also a member of the Expert Review Committee updating the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices documents. The final report is due this fall and our policies will be modified to reflect any changes which affect us in Northumberland.

A highlight for me this year was gaining more appreciation of the importance of collaborating with the public, our partners and like-minded organizations (see cover photo). This happens in a number of ways, including NLT outreach events like our Speaker Series (co-hosted with Lone Pine Land Trust) and new display banner designed by Director Whitney Lake. Our regular participation in Prairie Day, lead and hosted by the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative, provides a great opportunity to meet others. I also appreciate regular correspondence from our original parent organization, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

At a meeting last fall including Kawartha Land Trust Executive Director Mike Hendren, we met with Northumberland–Peterborough South MP Kim Rudd. 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. Good news arrived earlier this year. Together we can help reach Canada’s Aichi Pathway Target to protect 17% of natural lands and inland waterways by 2020. This experience showed me that even as one of the smaller land trusts, NLT can have impact on many levels – locally and nationally.

In this Annual Report you will find reports from NLT committees. The prescribed burn at McEwen Nature Reserve made front page news in local paper Northumberland News with a photo and story. I hope to see everyone at the 2018 Gala Fundraiser Dinner on October 24. The guest speaker is Adam Shoalts, Canadian Explorer and Adventurer, who will describe for us his exciting 4,000 km solo canoe journey across Canada’s North.

I would like thank all the Directors for their dedication and work on behalf of the Northumberland Land Trust; as well I thank our very organized bookkeeper Marilyn McGarrell. A heartfelt thanks also goes out to our members and donors who support the NLT in many ways - providing refreshments at our events, volunteering time as part of our work crews on NLT properties, and financial donations which help us carry out a variety of projects on all NLT properties and to pursue and secure new land acquisitions for present and future generations.

Achieving our mandate requires successful fundraising strategies. The total money raised in 2017 was \$33,294 from seven different sources.

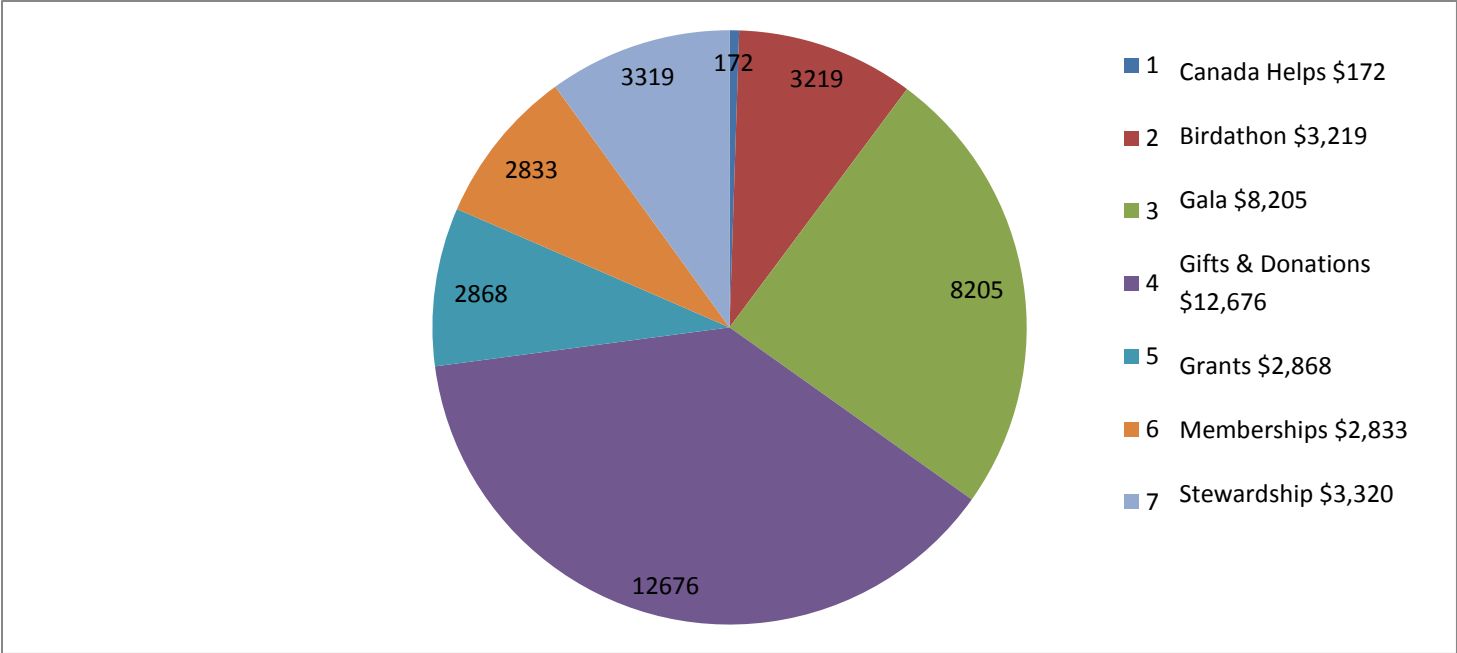



Figure 1: Total money raised in 2017 from all seven sources \$33,294

1.

The NLT 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 2017 the NLT raised \$172 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/>
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2. **The Wallace Birdathon** is a favourite fundraising event for the NLT. It raises funds to support stewardship while keeping us connected to the features of the County and its wildlife. Inspired by Charlie and Norma Wallace, the Birdathon grows more successful each year. In 2017 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. There is still time to contribute to the 2018 Wallace Birdathon. 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/>.

3. Our highly successful **Gala Dinner** was held on Wednesday October 25, 2017 at the Best Western in Cobourg featuring guest speaker David Phillips. As one of Canada's Senior Climatologists, David entertained the crowd on issues related to our environment and climate change. The evening was good fun with great food and an opportunity to celebrate with some familiar faces as well as meet some new people from across Northumberland County.

David Phillips

4. **Gifts and Donations** are received by the NLT throughout the year. It is important to develop a significant and gratifying charitable plan that reflects personal values, traditions and experiences. Giving to the NLT can be both meaningful and rewarding and is easily done by mailing a cheque to the NLT, 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.

5. In 2017 our **Grant** monies were graciously received from **The Nature Conservancy of Canada** and were used towards stewardship activities at the Jack Van Nostrand Nature Reserve.

6. **Membership** in the NLT 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 held each year in June as well as a receipt to claim as a tax deduction. Our total membership in 2017 was 85 and we are pleased to announce that it has been steadily increasing each year, an important 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.

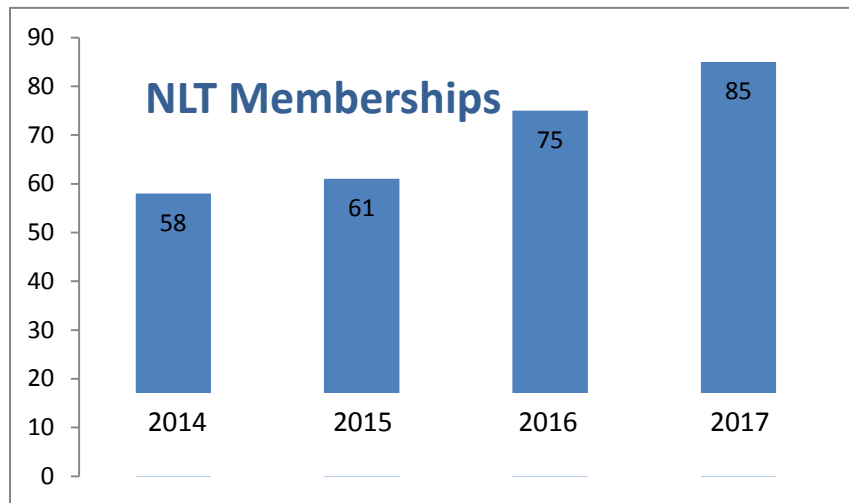


Figure 2: Yearly NLT Memberships.

7. Sometimes funds are received specifically designated for **Stewardship** projects. In 2017 Stewardship dollars of \$3,320 provided opportunities for the NLT to improve our nature reserves and protect the flora and fauna living there.

Speaker Series Committee Report by Whitney Lake

The 2017/2018 Speaker Series continued with a collaborative partnership with members of the Lone Pine Land Trust (LPLT). The speaker series is intended to be entertaining as well as educational, as we endeavor to expose our community to a diversity of thought provoking topics so that we may develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues. Our first event was *How to be alive: A Guide to Happiness that Helps the World* presented by Ewa Bednarczuk. Ewa is an ecologist at Lower Trent Conservation. Our second speaker was Jeff Bowman from Trent University with *Flying squirrels in Ontario* and our final guest, Justin Johnson, presented on the *Spatial Distribution & Hybridization of Wolves & Coyotes in Ontario*. We had record attendance for all three speakers. Refreshments were graciously provided by Marlynne Warling as well as engaging materials on both the LPLT and the NLT.

Governance Committee Report by Miriam Mutton

The Governance committee is formed of NLT Board members Miriam Mutton, Robert Fishlock, Jane McGrath and George Gordon. In addition to reviewing changes in regulations which may affect our existing policies, the committee is undertaking a methodical review to ensure all policies and related documents are up to date. A main project is the preparation of a current Directors Handbook. This is followed by posting of policies to the NLT web site as a matter of organization transparency and as information for members and the public. Another project is work templates and electronic formatting, such as a master template for a new policy or scoring criteria for a potential property acquisition. NLT policies are aligned with standards and best practices of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) and Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA). NLT also has a governing By-law and changes are not contemplated at this time. Changes to a By-law require member approval at an AGM. Policies inform day to day function and are dealt with at the Board level by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Acquisitions Committee Report by John Geale

The NLT Land 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, Joan Chalovich and Whitney Lake. Each potential property is assessed using a formal process of weighted value as well as an on-site exploration. All correspondence and negotiations remain confidential within the Board.

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, maintaining or installing fencing and signage, planting seedlings, removing invasive species, sustaining a network of well-maintained trails, and developing management plans. The total property expenses (including taxes) in 2017 were \$15,247 divided between our six nature reserves.

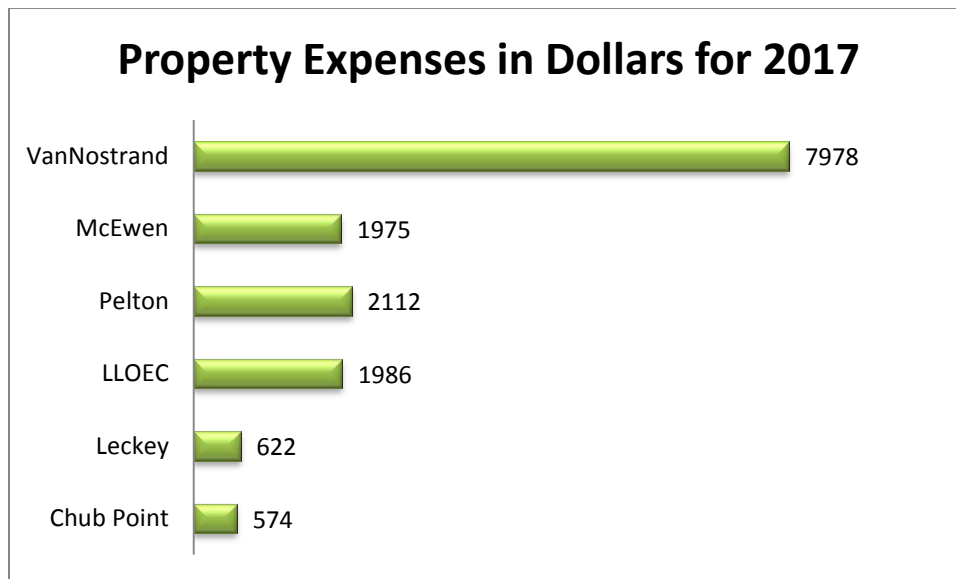


Figure 3: The total stewardship expenses in 2017 totaling \$15,247 including property taxes for Chub Point, Pelton and McEwen.

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



Our thanks to Leckey owners Frank Prest and Jeff Devine. They keep the trails maintained very well and are a pleasure to work with. The invasive and non-native Scots pine has been cut out of the property. We now have to monitor it for seedling germination and control. The control of dog-strangling vine is an ongoing maintenance operation. Each year there is less and less of this problem invasive plant so we are winning. There are two nest boxes on the property, with plans to erect 3 more.

Work Crew at the Leckey Nature Reserve



Barred Owl nest installation at the Pelton Nature Reserve

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

Significant activity took place at Pelton during the last 12 months (2017 June - 2018 May). Pelton together with the adjacent properties of Peter's Woods and NCC-Schultz was the focus of an intense BioBlitz organized by Willow Beach Field Naturalists. This effort has provided NLT with a snapshot of the birds, woody & herbaceous plants, mammals, fungi and herptiles found in a 24 hour period in July. In addition, the annual bird survey was conducted by David Geale as part of the NLT birdathon. A total of 91 species have been observed in the annual surveys.

Four work parties occurred during the period and focused on the following: installation of the final 3 Fleming-built bird boxes (Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker & Red-breasted Nuthatch), the creation of a loop trail that permits much easier access to the marsh and stream environments and finally continued thinning of the red pine plantation.

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

One of the major concerns is the extensive occurrence of dog-strangling vine, which is scattered sparsely but widely in the south field and is present in more concentrated clumps in many spots, including in the woods. We will be mounting a significant offensive against this scourge in July, 2018. We also discovered a small patch of Phragmites on the edge of the pond; we will begin work to eliminate it this summer.

On a more positive note, our 2017 Grasshopper Sparrow survey revealed a healthy population of this "special concern" species, and the nest boxes were heavily used by Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and even Black-capped Chickadees. The Stewardship Team has sown seeds of many prairie species (including gray-headed coneflower, Indian grass and butterfly milkweed) in all the grassland areas, extended the hiking trail, cut down the



Prescribed Burn, 2018

remaining Scots pines, and improved the west fence. The property continues to be enjoyed by some neighbours: the Ganaraska Horse Club cuts across it to avoid the bike traffic on the road allowance to the south, and a group of hikers from the Canadian Federation of University Women visited, although it was too wet to actually walk comfortably through the tall grass. In November the south field was prepared for this year's prescribed burn, which was carried out successfully on April 24. The cover boards that we hoped might reveal the presence of various snake species, including eastern hog-nosed snake, have so far attracted only garter snakes.

The Chub 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.

The Stewardship Team has continued its attacks on invasive species by spraying dog-strangling vine, mostly in areas not far from the roads. We also began work to control Phragmites along Station Road by cutting down the plants and bagging the seed heads for burning; this summer we plan to cut them again before the seed heads mature and treat the regrowth. Western Chorus Frogs have been reported in April at this property. This species is listed as "endangered", so this is very good news.



Chub Point signage

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre (LLOEC)-Steward Mark Rupke: The LLOEC 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.



Building a Boardwalk at the LLOEC

At the LLOEC 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. We have found the native trees and shrubs filling in the gaps where buckthorn and Norway maple have been removed.

The project to map the vernal pools by Trent University students Sarah and Shantandu who completed habitat suitability indexes for each of the 116 vernal ponds for salamanders was concluded. They staked out each of the ponds and created a map to see how they change as the season progresses. They concluded the area was suitable for the Eastern red-backed, Spotted and Blue-spotted salamanders. They also noted that we should work to create more connectivity with surrounding forests.

Work continues to try and find a source of salamanders whose habitat is going to be threatened. We would like to introduce those species at the LLOEC as a way to

enhance the connectivity with other areas. We recently had a generous donation of lumber and have been working to enhance the bridges and boardwalks around the centre to make it easier to use for those with mobility issues as well as protect the property's most sensitive areas from trampling. 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. This 35-acre property is an important contributor to connectivity and biodiversity due to its proximity to other intact environmental areas nearby on the Lake Ontario shoreline.



Installing a Turtle Basking Log at JVN

The volunteer group has been active at JVN cutting and treating the invasive buckthorn, dog-strangling vine, and reed canary grass. The volunteers also installed several turtle basking logs in the lower reaches of the marsh, with an over-looking observation platform to be installed this summer. Blazing Star Consulting is conducting an extensive flora and fauna survey and will develop a comprehensive management plan for the Land Trust.

Nomination report to the 2018 AGM

Nominations to the Board of Directors: Grant Elliott entering the Board in the second year of a three year term.

Grant Elliott is an east coaster at heart growing up in the Maritimes. After moving to Ontario, Grant attended the University of Guelph completing a BSc in Geomorphology. After graduating, Grant worked as a group coordinator for



Grant Elliott

Katimavik and then pursued an education degree at the University of New Brunswick. In 1991 Grant moved to Cobourg where for 26 years he taught biology, horticulture and environmental science and was instrumental in coaching and mentoring the Cobourg District Collegiate East Environmental Club. Grant has been involved in the Cobourg Environmental Advisory Committee, the Northumberland Stewardship Committee and the Ontario Envirothon organizing committee for the CORE region. As an educator, Grant believed in exposing students to the natural environment through experiential education. By exposing students to science, the environment, and research he encouraged students to

make educated decisions about their future. To promote this belief Grant has taken students to the Huntsman Marine Institute in St. Andrews, New Brunswick for marine biology field studies and has also worked with Operation Wallacea from England and taken students to remote environmental research stations throughout the world including 2-week study and university environmental research data collection programs in the Cloud forest of Honduras, the Amazon Savanna in Guyana, and twice into the wilds of the Amazon Rain forest of Peru. Grant has also pursued space education and was one of only 2 Canadian teachers selected to participate in the Mars Phoenix Mission experiments in Fairbanks Alaska as preparatory field work and educational outreach program for the launch of the space mission through NASA. He retired in 2017 and continues to pursue his interest in the environment by becoming involved in the Land Trust movement in Ontario.

Directors up for renewal for a three year term are Joan Chalovich, George Gordon and Miriam Mutton.

Directors continuing in their third year of a three year term are John Geale, Robert Fishlock, Bill Crowley and Jane McGrath. Directors continuing in their second year of a three year term along with Grant Elliott are Bill Newell and Whitney Lake.

Please Join Us

Please take this opportunity to consider a position as a board member with the NLT. Our meetings are held monthly on Wednesday evenings in Cobourg. Board members spend varying amounts of time doing Board activities depending upon their interest and commitments. You can spend a few hours a month doing administrative duties like taking Board meeting minutes and correspondence (3-6 hours a month) or increase the donation of your time by including responsibilities such as property reviews for acquisition, hands on stewardship work (12-20 hours, variable with season) or community outreach and education (8-16 hours, variable with season including such things

as attending a public event or helping out with the speaker series or Gala). 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 on a specific committee or Board position.

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 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 at the Gala, the AGM, 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.

DONORS FROM Jan 1, 2018 to May 9, 2018

Graceful Ash Branch \$100 -\$499	Enduring Pine Branch: \$500- \$2,499	Sturdy Maple Branch \$2,500-\$4,999	Mighty Oak Branch: \$5,000 & upwards	Hearty Acorn Branch: Notice of bequest while alive
Marian Boys	Mary Bedford-Jones	Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) – Grant	Valley Voices Residents Association	
David Broughton	Robert Carman			
John Cosway				
Margaret Fleming				
Sheila Goering				
George Gordon				
Marie Gordon				
Sandra Lane				
Anonymous-In Memoriam				
Brian Maxwell				
William Nicholls				
Martha Oldham				
Richard Scott				
William Wensley				
Jane Zednik				

Financial Report

INCOME AND EXPENSES DETAIL January through December 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income: Tax-receipted gifts

Birdathon	\$3,218.90	Corporate	Individual	\$12,229.86	Other	\$446.25
Total Donations		\$15,895.01				

Memberships

Family	\$1085.67	Individual	\$847.38	Supporting	\$900.00
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Total Memberships \$2,833.05

Gala Dinner Receipted	\$5,230.00	Tax-receipted gifts other	\$200.00
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Stewardship	\$3,319.95
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Total Tax-receipted gifts \$27,478.01

Other gifts - not rctd by NLT: Canada Helps

Canada Helps Birdathon \$96.50 Canada Helps Membership \$25.09 Canada Helps Supporting \$50

Total Canada Helps \$171.59

Other gifts - not rctd by NLT	\$88.45
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Total other gifts not rctd by NLT \$260.04

Fundraising Income - not rctd: Gala Dinner Tickets \$7,359.78 and Silent Auction \$2951.00

Total Fundraising Income - not rctd \$10,310.78

Grants \$2,867.78

Total Income \$40,916.61

Expense

Advertising and Promotion	\$205.80	Annual Meeting	\$493.72
Bank Service Charges	\$47.40	Dues & Fees	\$1,000.00
Gala Dinner Expenses	\$7,335.54	Lecture Series Expense	\$46.36
Liability Insurance	\$3,313.44	Newsletter Expense	\$1,558.19
Office Expenses	\$5,565.83	Professional Fees	\$3,118.20

Property Expenses

Chub Point	\$321.93	Leckey	\$621.93
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LLOEC	\$1,985.82	Pelton	\$1,581.40
McEwen	\$1,765.25	Van Nostrand	\$7,978.05
Total Property Expenses	\$ 14, 254.38		
Property Taxes:	Chub Point \$251.87	Pelton \$530.37	McEwen \$209.38
Total Property Taxes	\$991.62		
Webinars & Workshop Fees	\$665.00		
Total Expense	\$38,595.48		
Net Ordinary Income	\$2,321.13		
Net Income	\$2,321.13		

BALANCE SHEET-As of 31 December 2017

ASSETS: Current Assets: Chequing/Savings

Chequing Account #6	\$5,770.88	Premium Savings #1	\$10,291.85
Stewardship #7	\$413.83	Stewardship Restricted 003	\$12,786.74
Member Shares Held #2	\$58.17		
Total Chequing/Savings	\$29, 321.47		

Accounts Receivable	\$-0.43	Total Accounts Receivable	\$-0.43
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Other Current Assets: Undeposited Funds/ Short-term investments

Undeposited Funds	\$2,202.41	Term GIC #1 – Stewardship	\$10,690.94
Term GIC #2 - General	\$10,690.94	Term GIC #5 - Legal Defense Fund	\$2, 025.19
1 year GIC Fixed 0004	\$2,500.00	Term GIC #6	\$5,000.00
Term GIC #7	\$10,000.00	Term GIC #8	\$10,000.00

Total Short-term investments **\$ 50, 907.07**

Total Other Current Assets **\$53,109.48**

Total Current Assets \$82,430.52

Fixed Assets: Land \$823,162.58

Total Fixed Assets \$823,162.58

TOTAL ASSETS **\$905,593.10**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity: Retained Equity	\$459,922.74	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$443,349.23
Net Income	\$2,321.13		
Total Equity	\$905,593.10		

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$905,593.10**

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 is well attended, informative and entertaining
- ✓ The Gala Dinner attracts new community members and leaders and promotes fellowship
- ✓ Please join us on our Facebook page
- ✓ Our website is regularly up-dated with news and events
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Enlightening hikes on the properties bring like-minded individuals together
- ✓ Our board members attend provincial meetings and workshops where they can network with others
- ✓ Distribution of brochures at NLT and community events
- ✓ Letters to the Town of Cobourg and the Province have been sent on items of significant interest

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, watersheds and other significant natural ecosystems across Northumberland County.





Annual General Meeting Minutes

Cobourg Public Library

June 13, 2018

6:30: **Social Hour & Refreshments** as arranged by Petra Hartwig

7:00: **Annual General Meeting** call to order and welcoming remarks by President Miriam Mutton. The president's formal message is published in the NLT annual report with Miriam highlighting governance and collaboration with other organizations. Miriam also gave a special note of appreciation to the NLT board members, as well as Marilyn our NLT book-keeper.

7:05: **Confirmation of Quorum**, which is 10% of membership as confirmed by recording secretary Whitney Lake with 21 members in attendance, from our total membership of 77. Total attendance at the AGM is 22 including our guest speaker.

7:10: **Acceptance of Agenda** as circulated as modified to include under committee reports Jane McGrath with a message on the Fundraising Gala and John Geale with an added message under acquisitions. Moved by Bill Crowley and seconded by Robert Fishlock.

Acceptance of Minutes of 2017 AGM as circulated. Moved by Russell Lake and seconded by Harry Knapper.

7:15: **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer Joan Chalovich and Joan fielded questions from the floor which included clarification of the professional fees which were for the JVN appraisal and legal fees. Request for approval of Financial Statements for 2017 was moved by Joan Chalovich and seconded by Grant Elliott. The Financial Reviewer's report and appointment of Don Nicholson as Financial Reviewer for 2018 was moved by Joan Chalovich and seconded by Bill Newell.

7:20: **Committee Reports** which are printed in full within the AGM report package that has printed and made available to the membership. The Chairs of the Committees will be glad to answer

any questions members may have. If you would like to join a committee, please speak to the committee chair. For **Stewardship** Bill Newell thanked and requested volunteers. For the **Lecture Series**: Whitney Lake thanked everyone for their attendance, Marlynne Warling for providing the refreshments and Whitney also made a request for topics of interest. For **Governance**: Miriam Mutton; explained the work currently underway. For **Acquisitions**: John Geale explained the process and highlighted the new opportunity to help protect 231 acres of Lake Ontario shoreline which is being purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The total project cost is \$1,087,400 and the NCC must raise \$400,000 by July 1, 2018. For the **Gala**: Jane McGrath-asked for Volunteers to help with the Gala, an exciting event with speaker Adam Shoalts describing for us his 4,000 km solo canoe trip across Canada's north. Motion to accept reports made by Robert Fishlock and seconded by Bill Crowley.

7:35: **Report of Nominating Committee** for 2018 by Past President John Geale. The NLT board must have a minimum of 7 members and a maximum of 11. John provided a review of members and years served. Call for Nominations from the floor, three times called, with no nominations, and the nominations were closed. Moved by John Geale that Grant Elliott be elected to the board for a two year term to align with the board structure. This motion was seconded by Brian Maxwell and corroborated by membership. Resolution to confirm all the complete slate of Board Members was made by John Geale and seconded by Frank Godfrey. Our board meetings are currently being held at the Hamilton Township Mutual Insurance Company. Miriam gave a thank you to the HTM for donating the meeting space to the NLT for our monthly Board meetings.

7:40: John Geale showed a picture of a 2 female Blandings turtles (endangered species) as found at the JVN nature reserve this week.

7:45: Wallace Birdathon as presented by Past President John Geale

YEAR	SPECIES	DONATIONS	CUMULATIVE SPECIES
2016	106	\$2,060	106
2017	118	\$3,231	128
2018	124	\$3,123	144

The 2018 Birdathon included 9 species of risk. Thank you to our birders. We had two winners this year, Virginia McLaughlin at 125 species and Dorothy Geale with a guess of 123. They will each receive a bottle of maple syrup.

7:50: Grant Elliott wanted to publically thank the Valley Voices Residents who made a substantial donation directed towards the JVN stewardship of just under \$10,000. Miriam also thanked a donor who provided \$2,000 to the LLOEC.

7:50: Motion to adjourn the AGM business was made by Robert Fishlock and seconded by Joan Chalovich.

7:55: Introduction of the guest speaker, executive director of the Oak ridges Moraine Land Trust Susan Walmer by Miriam Mutton.

8:00: Guest Presentation by Susan.

8:40: Thanking of the Speaker and presentation of gift by Robert Fishlock with closing remarks to a lovely evening by Miriam Mutton.

