



Annual report 2015

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 2014/2015 including our administrative and financial information.

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Board of Directors

Since 2004 the Northumberland Land Trust has operated under the direction of a volunteer board of directors, drawn from across the County. For this 2014/2015 annual report there were 8 board members working under the leadership of President John Geale. The current Board of Directors: John Geale, Joan Chalovich, Whitney Lake, George Gordon, Janette Johnston, Jim McGrath, Bill Newell and Bill Crowley. Profiles of the individual members can be found on our website. http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/about_us.htm

Achieving our Mission

The Northumberland Land Trust is committed to preserving the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Northumberland County. This board of directors has accomplished its mandate to establish, maintain and manage protected areas in 2014/2015 by securing one new property, and providing stewardship for all of our properties. This success has been possible due in part to attempts by our board and membership at raising public appreciation of the Trust, acquiring and sustaining valuable volunteers and fundraising for monies necessary to pay for upkeep of new and existing protected lands. The board during the period of this annual report also took advantage of an opportunity to critically review our administrative and organizational policies and practices and begin development of a long term strategic plan.

President's Report 2014 – 15 by John Geale

The past year has been a very busy one for your Land Trust, and I would like to begin by thanking the Board members who have worked hard to make it highly productive. [Joan Chalovich, Bill Crowley, George Gordon, Janette Johnston, Whitney Lake, Jim McGrath, Bill Newell] Others who deserve a word of thanks are the other members of the Stewardship Committee [Mark Rupke, Russ Lake, Tom and Jenny Jackman] and the Speaker Series Committee [Mary Bedford-Jones, and unofficial member Marlynne Warling], as well as Roger Frost who does such a fabulous job for the Wallace Birdathon. I would also like to recognize some of our especially generous donors: Peter Dalglish and the Dalglish Family Foundation, Mary Bedford-Jones, Molly Leckey, Tony and Moira Cohen.

Highlights during the past 12 months include:

- The successful filing of our Articles of Continuance to conform to Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- The acquisition of a fifth property, thanks to the generosity of Scott MacDonald, Rick Roberts and Bill Coons
- A successful silent auction and gala dinner at Dalewood Golf Club, including a fine presentation on bats by Dr. Brock Fenton and Dr. Christina Davy
- A well-attended speaker series, with presentations on pollinators, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the Rice Lake Plains at a new venue which worked very well
- A second successful prescribed burn at the McEwen Nature Reserve, which will enhance the prairie-like habitat in the north grassland

- Effective stewardship activity: we have eliminated hundreds of Scots pines, doubled our number of bird nest boxes (and they were all used!), created and maintained trails, sowed seeds of prairie plant species, planted 1200 trees and shrubs, and continued our program of dog-strangling vine control
- Improving our website immensely – it is updated regularly, and it contains far more information than previously
- Considerable collaboration with various partner organizations:
 - We engaged Sir Sandford Fleming students to complete an ambitious mapping project with the ultimate goal of reintroducing salamanders to the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre
 - We met with eight other organizations that are all involved with the acquisition and protection of natural spaces in Northumberland County, with the aim of enhancing collaborative work and avoiding duplication of effort
 - We are currently working with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance to investigate species at risk on our properties in order to provide better protection for these species
 - We combined with all partners of the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative in organizing a hike at the McEwen Nature Reserve at the end of May; 19 enthusiastic hikers, photographers, birders and naturalists enjoyed comparing the two prescribed burn areas and poking around the pond

As we move into another year, there is much to look forward to:

- Our new property will first need an official name. Then we must work out a management plan, find a Steward who will put it into action, and I would like to see an official opening celebration at the property at which we install a sign, give everyone a chance to see this attractive woodland, and gather for a social event at the Grafton Inn.
- Our usual stewardship activities will continue. We will not be planning a burn next year, but invasive species, nest boxes, trails, signage, fence maintenance, and species at risk will keep Bill Newell and his Stewardship Team busy
- Last year at this time I stated two goals for the coming year: the acquisition of at least one more property and increasing our membership. We have acquired a new property. And although we have gained some new members, I feel we need to do more in this regard. While increased funds from additional memberships and resulting donations are important, it is my belief that even more important is the greater exposure in the community and wider public support for our work. We members understand that over time natural spaces tend to disappear, and that the sooner we can protect some of them the easier it is for us to do so and the better our great-grandchildren's environment will be. This is the message that we must spread throughout the County; besides continuing with your membership and participating in our events, I hope that when you see a chance to recruit a new member you will take advantage of the opportunity.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members for their ongoing support. If you have ideas or suggestions that the Board should consider, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. And if you would like to become

more active or volunteer to help in any way, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Our next event is a visit to the McEwen Nature Reserve on August 26; I hope we will see some of you then.

Achieving our mandate requires successful fundraising strategies. The total monies raised in 2014 were \$36,598.66 from seven sources.

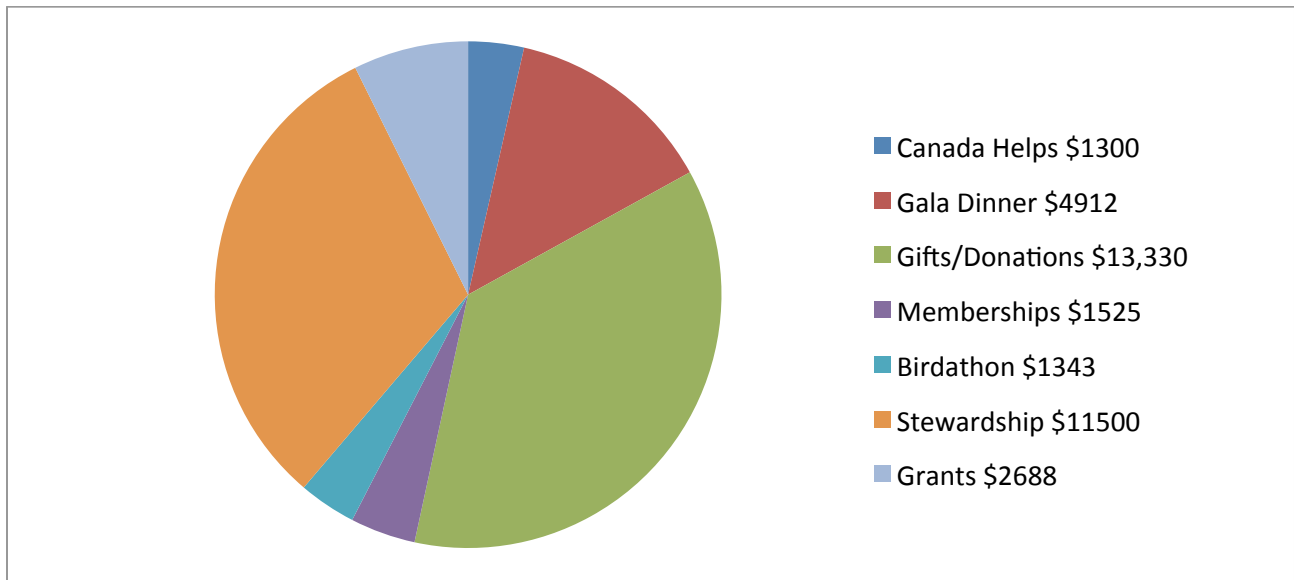


Figure 1: Total monies raised in 2014—please note that Canada Helps includes money targeted to the other areas, and stewardship includes stewardship grant monies received.

The Wallace Birdathon is one way that the Northumberland Land Trust raises funds to support its mandate while staying connected to the lands of the County and its wildlife. Initiated by Charlie and Norma Wallace, the



Birdathon has supported the Trust by sponsoring Roger Frost, one of our most experienced and knowledgeable birders to count species over a 24 hour period across our County. Roger's record is 156 species. In 2014 he identified 146 species in 24 hours and the Trust raised a total of \$1875.45. Our budget for 2015 was \$2000. A full report of this year's Birdathon will be on our website shortly. The opportunity is still open to donate monies to the 2015 campaign.

<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/birdathon-history.htm>

Roger Frost and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Photo: Colin King

A second way that the Northumberland Land Trust raises funds is 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 2014 we raised \$ 1300 through our Canada

Helps site. Please take a look at our website connection to Canada Helps through this link.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/10666>



Membership in the Northumberland Land Trust provides access to the newsletter, coming events and updates on Trust activities, as well as knowing you are preserving lands of special interest in the County. Membership provides voting rights and you will receive a receipt to claim as a tax deduction. Our total membership was up to 58 by the end of 2014, with a total value paid of \$1525.00, currently we are at 61 members, at least 6 of which are family memberships. MEMBERSHIP FORMS can be found on our website:

<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/assets/downloads/Membership-Renewal-Form.pdf>

Information can also be mailed to the Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4

Dr. £	Mr. £	Mrs. £	Ms. £	Other: £ _____
Last name _____		First name(s) _____		
Address _____				Postal Code _____
Telephone _____		e-mail _____		
Individual: £ \$25		Family: £ \$40	Supporting: £ \$50	Corporate: £ \$100
_____		Donation: £ \$100		£ \$250 £ Other
_____ £ I wish to remain anonymous				



A successful silent auction and **Gala Dinner** was held at Dalewood Golf Club on October 29th, 2014. This great dinner included a presentation on bats. Dr. Brock Fenton, of the University of Western Ontario, spoke about the evolution, physiology, behaviour, ecology, echolocation abilities, and other aspects of these fascinating flying mammals. Dr. Christina Davy, from Trent University, focused on hibernation, migration, and dangers to bats, especially the effects of white-nose syndrome. The Silent Auction alone raised \$1077.00. The Northumberland Land Trust

7th Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, again this year at Dalewood Golf Club.

Donations to the Northumberland Land Trust include both corporate, family and individual gifts. In 2014 these receipted gifts totaled \$13,330. 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.

It is important to develop a meaningful and rewarding charitable plan that reflects your values, traditions and experiences. Giving to the Northumberland Land trust can be both meaningful and rewarding.

SPEAKER SERIES COMMITTEE REPORT-Bill Crowley, Chair-Our 2014-15 Speaker Series

featured three presentations, in November, January and February. The speakers focused on topics of particular interest to our region: a wide-ranging history of the Rice Lake Plains by Kristina Hubert, the Oak Ridges Moraine by Debbie Crandall, and pollinators – their importance and difficulties – by Susan Willis Chan. To avoid the overcrowding that we had experienced in the previous season, we moved to the Cobourg Community Centre, and this facility worked out very well; we plan to continue at this venue next year. I would like to thank committee members Mary Bedford-Jones and Whitney Lake for their assistance with the organization of last season's presentations, and Marlynne Warling for supplying nibbles to begin each evening. Because Mary has to be out of town fairly frequently, one more member on the committee would be most welcome. Anyone who would be interested in helping out with this aspect of the Board's work should contact Bill Crowley or any other Board member.

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

A new property was acquired this year, the fifth for the Northumberland Land Trust. This 17 acre wooded wetland just south of Grafton brings our total acres secured to 447 since our inception in 2004. This property was generously donated by Scott MacDonald, Rick Roberts and Bill Coons. It includes many vernal pools (one is pictured on the right) which we hope will provide breeding habitat for frogs and salamanders. Ted Nasmith of Grafton has agreed to become our Steward for this property, and we look forward to working with Ted as the newest member of the Stewardship Team. We are planning an opening event and social gathering to celebrate this acquisition later in the year, and we hope many of you will join us then.

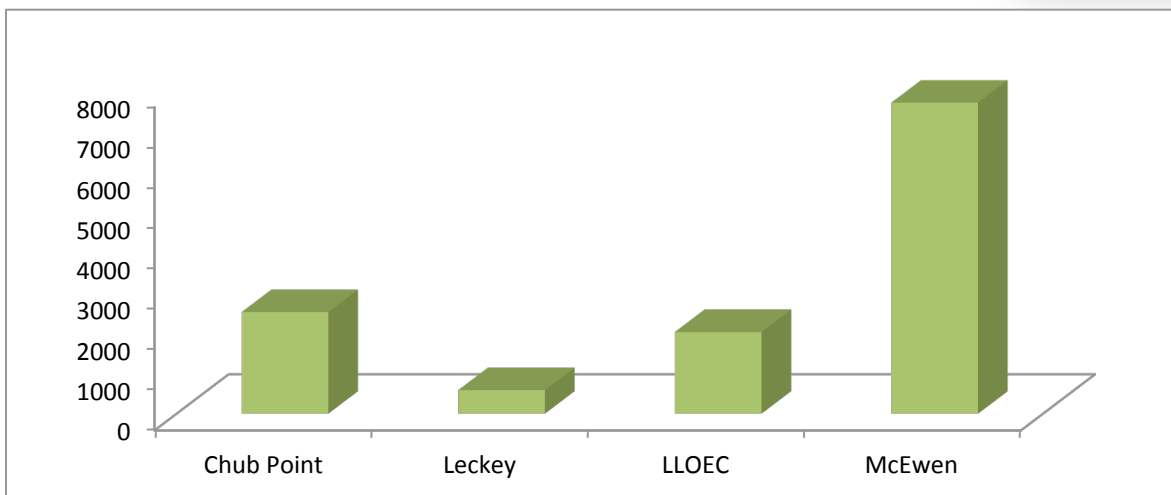


Figure 2: The total stewardship expenses in 2014.

Achieving our mandate to maintain and manage protected areas includes paying property taxes, planting seedlings, sustaining a network of well-maintained trails.



Leckey Nature Reserve – Steward Bill Newell: 177 acre Conservation Easement in Cramahe Township, Part of lots 28 and 29, concession 9, Township of Cramahe. As part of the on-going maintenance work the stewardship team under the leadership of Bill saw Scots pine removal and trail clearing maintenance work completed as well as spraying and removal of dog strangling vine. Our thanks to owners Alison and Martin for their ongoing support.



***Pelton Nature Reserve – Steward Russel Lake;
Alnwick/Haldimand, adjacent to Peter's Woods Provincial Park.***

During the past year two regular scheduled public visits were made to the Pelton property in June and October to see the results of the earlier tree planting, and to ensure there is no misuse. The pine trees appear to be doing well while the spruce is struggling. Due to the slow growth, it is difficult to find the white oak that was planted. An additional visit was made with the Nature Conservancy of Canada who were conducting a

herpetology habitat study in the area. The remote location of the property makes access difficult providing a natural barrier that protects this valuable land.

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



Stewardship activity in the last 12 months included:

- the installation of 5 more bird nest boxes, making a total of 7; we are happy to report that all 4 of those ready for use this spring were used – 3 by Tree Swallows and 1 by Eastern Bluebirds

•the cutting of many Scots pines •a continued attack on the dog-strangling vine•some minor fence maintenance and trail extension were undertaken, but there is much more to be done•investigation of species-at-risk (SAR) by an SAR specialist and a herpetologist, with help from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance; a spotted salamander and many eastern newts were seen, and it seems very likely that hog-nosed snakes are present here•monitoring nesting birds, especially Grasshopper Sparrows, in the two grassland areas; after being absent in the south field after the 2014 prescribed burn, several pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows are using the area this year



- a prescribed burn of the north grassland, followed by sowing significant quantities of Indian grass seed and seeds of a variety of other prairie plant species

In the coming year all of these activities will continue, except that no burn is planned. We thank the volunteers who have helped take good care of this wonderful property.

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 Coldwater creek, vernal pools, Riparian Zone forest, Mature Forest, and early successional forest. This year, we have been working at a number of projects. We are continuing to establish wildflower populations in the areas of forest that have grown up, but never had populations yet. We have taken a couple of hundred wildflowers from areas that are being destroyed due to intensive agricultural clearing and moving them to our site. We have also had Sir Sandford Fleming students come and work on mapping exactly where our vernal pools are, as part of a long term goal to reintroduce Salamanders to the property.



On May 2nd, we planted 1200 trees and shrubs, in an effort to have them become established and start to grow before the Emerald Ash Borer arrives, which is expected within the next 5 years. This is expected to destroy about 20% of our forest. We planted several species including Hemlock, Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, Burl Oak, Downy Service Berry, Red and Black Elderberry and Grey Dogwood. We are working to control several species of invasive plant on the land, including Buckthorn, Black Swallowwort, Periwinkle, and Lily of the Valley. This is being accomplished in several ways, from spraying to digging to laying black plastic over the plants.

As of May 30th we had 2819 Students along with 801 adult supervisors visit the centre.

NOMINATION REPORT TO THE 2015 AGM

Nominations to the Board of Directors (these nominees have accepted the nomination) to be elected for a three year term:



Joan Chalovich -Joan was raised in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County. Joan and her husband George have two adult children, Karen and Brian, grandson Forrest, and grand-daughters Camryn & Bria. They enjoy hobbies such as gardening, antique vehicles, arts and culture, sports, and their Aruba time-share residence. She attended Cobourg Collegiate West and obtained a Special Commercial Diploma. Following that Joan became Legal Secretary to Harvey M. Brent, LL.B., Q.C., of Cobourg from 1955 to 1978. Then she became Owner/Manager of Gardiner Investment Service in Cobourg from 1978 to 1996. Joan is a founding member of the Canadian Independent Deposit Brokers Federation and was recognized in the American "Kaleo" publication of "Who's Who" amongst business executives.

Joan has been recognized for her volunteer service in many ways. She has received the Distinguished Civic Award from the Town of Cobourg, a Paul Harris Fellow from the Cobourg Rotary Club, the Ontario Volunteer Award and she is a Canadian Citizenship Centennial Medallion recipient. She continues her volunteer efforts as the President of the Cobourg Museum Foundation/Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre, a Director and Past President of the Northumberland Orchestra Society, the Past Chair and Sec-Treas. of the Halcyon Place Northumberland Supportive Housing Corporation, a member of the Cobourg Rotary Club and the Grafton Branch, Royal Canadian Legion.

Joan has worked tirelessly for her faith. She is Past Chair of the Cobourg Presbytery and is a Member of the Pastoral Relations Commission, Hills and Shores Presbytery, United Church of Canada as well as Board Secretary for the Castleton-Grafton Church Council and Grafton United Church. Her political life includes terms as a member of Cobourg Council from 1988 to 1994, and Mayor of Cobourg from 1995 to 2000. In addition, she was County of Northumberland Warden in 1992. For the Northumberland Land Trust, Joan is a member of the founding Board of Directors and has remained a Director ever since. She filled the role of Treasurer for many years. She was then President and is now the immediate Past-president while returning to the role of Treasurer.



George Gordon-George was born in the summer of '48, the early days of the "Baby Boomers" as they came to be known. He survived a middle class existence in Scarborough and left at age 19 for university vowing never to return. He didn't. At university, involvement in saving the world, ending war, peace symbols, long hair, a beard, folk concerts and the "summer of love" produced an education but not a degree. An interest in environmental issues has followed George all his life.

In 1973, George joined the work force, and retired as a Retail Business Manager in 2003 at age 55 from a 30 year career with Canada Post. The job took him from Kingston to Ottawa, Port Hope, Timmins and various Niagara Peninsula locations. At retirement, he managed 26 stores.

His wife Margaret and George married in 1976. They have one cat and no children. Following retirement, photography called George. This resulted in a certificate in Applied Photography and in Creative Photography from Mohawk College, Hamilton in 2005; a Photo Arts Certificate from Haliburton School of The Arts, Haliburton in 2010; and a Visual and Creative Arts Diploma from Haliburton School of The Arts (Fleming College) in 2012. George has been recognized by the province of Ontario for his volunteer service and by Scouts Canada with a Medal of merit and a 45 year service pin. He is a past member of the board of Northumberland United Way, the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and Past-president of St Andrews-Niagara Housing Development Corporation for seniors.

George was on the board of the Northumberland Land Trust from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2013 to 2015. He is a Past-president of the Board. Currently George is responsible for fundraising activities and the NLT website.



Miriam Mutton, OALA, CSLA-Miriam's love of nature started early, as a child trying to be helpful in the vegetable and flower gardens of her parents. For more than 25 years, Miriam has had a professional practice in landscape architecture and is based in Northumberland County. The topic of access to the natural environment is a focus of her interest in the NLT. She is also currently undertaking graduate research in Sustainability Studies including resilient communities. She is a mentor with Northumberland Big Sisters; a former Cobourg Town Councilor (2006-2014) and during the same period also a Board member of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority; and, has received a volunteer service award from the Province of Ontario.

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

Janette Johnson, Bill Newell, Whitney Lake

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

John Geale, Jim McGrath, Bill Crowley

Please take this opportunity to consider a position as a board member with the Northumberland Land Trust. Our meetings are held monthly on Tuesday 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 2014

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Tax-receipted gifts

Total Birdathon 1343.00

Donations

Corporate

Dalglish Foundation 5,000.00

Tora Foundation 1,000.00

Dalglish Foundation 5,000.00

Total Corporate 11,000.00

Individual

Total Individual 2,330.00

Total Donations 13,330.00

Memberships

Family Total Family 600.00

Individual Total Individual 425.00

Supporting 500.00

Total Memberships 1,525.00

Gala Dinner Receipted

Total Gala Dinner Receipted 2,360.00

Stewardship

Northumberland Stewardship Committee LLOEC 5,750.00

Northumberland Stewardship Committee General 5,750.00

Total Stewardship 11,500.00

Total Tax-receipted gifts \$30,058.00

Other gifts - not receipted by NLT-Canada Helps

Canada Helps – Birdathon	Total Canada Helps - Birdathon 432.45
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Canada Helps – Membership	Total Canada Helps - Membership 112.46
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Canada Helps – Donation	Total Canada Helps - Donation 294.05
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Canada Helps – Stewardship	Total Canada Helps - Stewardship 461.34
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Total Canada Helps 1,300.30

Fundraising Income - not receipted

Gala Dinner Tickets	Total Gala Dinner Tickets 1,475.00
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Silent Auction	Total Silent Auction 1,077.00
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Total Fundraising Income - not receipted \$2552.00

Grants \$2688.36

Total Income 36,598.66

Expense	Total Advertising and Promotion 509.78
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Annual Meeting	Total Annual Meeting 335.06
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Bank Service Charges	Total Bank Service Charges 1.00
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Dues & Fees	Northumberland United Way 40.00
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OLTA-Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc. 720.00

OLTA-Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc. Conference fees & Accommodation
1,166.00

Town of Cobourg CCC Rental Fees 155.91

Total Dues & Fees 2,081.91

Gala Dinner Expenses	Dalewood Golf Club Gratuities 236.25
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Dalewood Golf Club Meal 1,637.06

	Woodlawn Inn Speaker's Accommodation 119.53	
Total Gala Dinner Expenses 1,992.84		
Lecture Series Expense	Bedford-Jones, Mary (Reimb) Speakers' Gifts 64.00	
Total Lecture Series Expense 64.00		
Liability Insurance	Cade Associates 1,436.40	
Total Liability Insurance 1,436.40		
NewsLetter Expense	Total Newsletter Expense 649.92	
Property Expenses	Total Chub Point 2,513.32	
	Total Leckey 582.07	
	Total LLOEC 2,019.41	
	Total McEwen 7,698.88	
Total Property Expenses 12,813.68		
Office Expenses	Total Office Expenses 872.54	
Professional Fees	Langhorne, Irwin, Wharram-Spry 1,455.16	
Total Professional Fees 1,455.16		
Property Taxes	Total Pelton Property Taxes 370.48	
Webinars & Workshop Fees	Total Webinars & Workshop Fees 315.91	
Total Expense 22,898.68	Net Ordinary Income 13,699.98	Net Other Income 53.43

Net Income \$13,753. 41

May 15, 2015.

"Northumberland Land Trust:

I have reviewed Northumberland Land Trust year-end Financial Statement as at December 31, 2014 and I have found that they fairly reflect the financial position of the organization and are in good order. Thank you

Don Nicholson."

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST BALANCE SHEET-As of 31 December 2014

ASSETS-Current Assets	Chequing Account #66,080.24
	Premium Savings #12,768.45
	Stewardship #724,857.50
	Member Shares Held #258.17
	Total Chequing/Savings33,764.36
	Total Accounts Receivable103.20
	Other Current Assets-Short-term investments
	Term GIC #1 - Stewardship10,000.00
	Term GIC #2 - General10,000.00
	Total Short-term investments20,000.00
	Total Current Assets53,867.56
Fixed Assets	Land417,162.58
	TOTAL ASSETS..... 471,030.14
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Liabilities
	Accrued Expenses1,549.00
	GST/HST Payable..... -1,506.65
	Total Other Current Liabilities42.35
	Total Current Liabilities42.35
	Equity
	Retained Equity459,922.74
	Net Income..... 11,065.05
	Total Equity470,987.79
	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY..... 471,030.14

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 generates much public interest with its stimulating talks.
- ✓ The Gala Dinner attracts new community members
- ✓ This year we initiated a Facebook page! Please join us on Facebook.
- ✓ 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 to share in the beauty of our natural spaces.
- ✓ Our members attend provincial meetings where they can network with other organizations like the OLTA gathering in held in Rama in October.
- ✓ 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. This fulfills our obligations to for the new “Not for Profit Act”. Our thanks to James McGrath for his profession assistance in achieving this.

Orland Conservation facilitated a strategic visioning session with the Board which included face to face meetings, surveys, and collaborative meetings with partner organizations like the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

George Gordon completed a complete review and overhaul of our donor recognition program, duties and responsibilities, and organizational chart.

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 and water sheds across Northumberland County.

