



NORTHUMBERLAND
LAND TRUST

REPORT TO
DONORS
2023

Broken Paddle
PHOTOGRAPHY



Northumberland Land Trust

Preserving nature in Northumberland, forever.

The Northumberland Land Trust (NLT) is a non-profit, charitable land conservation organization that permanently protects over 1200 acres of ecologically diverse lands across Northumberland County. NLT currently manages a total of 14 nature reserves - a feat not possible without the support of our donors and volunteers. NLT incorporates the nature reserves of both the NLT and the Lone Pine Land Trust (LPLT), which merged on September 1, 2021. Together, our efforts protect the natural landscapes of Northumberland County for the people of today, tomorrow, and for the generations to come.

Our Mission

Preserving the natural heritage of Northumberland County

Our Mandate

Establish, maintain, and manage protected areas in perpetuity





President's Message



Rob Kennedy, President

2023 was another busy and exciting year for the Northumberland Land Trust. As part of our capacity building efforts, last year we reaped the benefits of having our first full-time employee, Laura McKeown. Her time was spent working with the stewardship committee, applying for grants, organizing events, fundraising, communications including social media, property donations and many other activities. At the start of 2024, Laura left on a one-year maternity leave and we hired Sabrina Hasselfelt as her replacement who has been an enthusiastic fast learner taking over from where Laura left off.

We received a \$45,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) which enabled us to contract V Formation to assist us with fundraising, communications, and reaching out to volunteers and communities. This year you will see a new picnic shelter replacing an aging one at our Lone Pine Marsh Braham Nature Reserve as a result of a \$48,000 grant from OTF.

A major fundraising effort, the \$5 million Green Corridor Campaign, was launched. Relying on land donations and funds raised, our hope is to build a connected natural corridor across our county.

The event of the year was the Donor Celebration event held at the Grafton Inn. Good food, good friends and conversations made for an enjoyable day. Another highlight of the year was the 100 acre Robert de Lint land donation which became our 14th Nature Reserve; a beautiful addition encompassing a hardwood forest, open meadow, and a cold water stream.

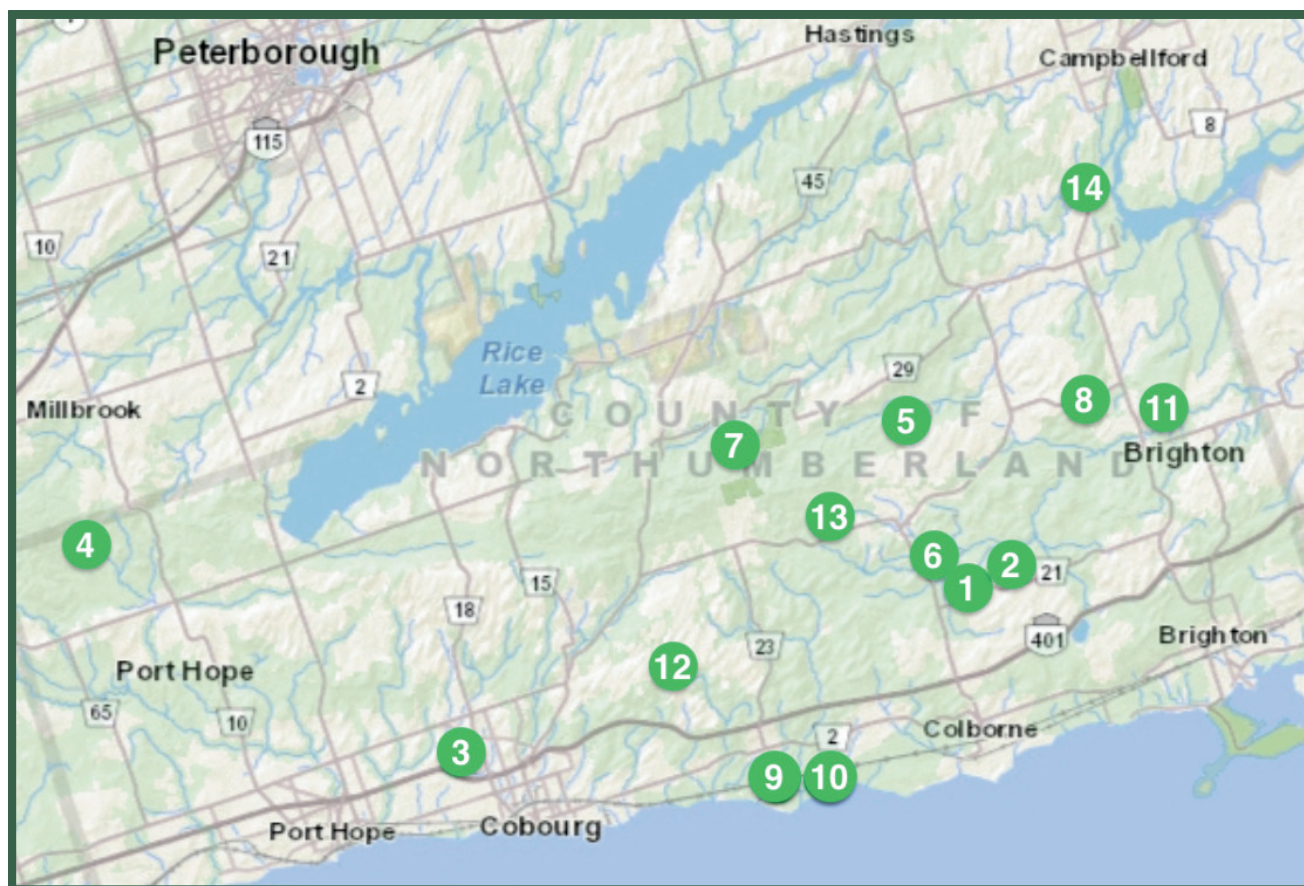
We also said goodbye to fellow Board member and Secretary, Robert Fishlock. Robert was an important contributor to the Board with his legal background and dedication to NLT and its mission. We are grateful that he is continuing his work with the Wesleyville Joint Working Group.

Lastly, we decided to update our logo and the website to be more user friendly and provide regular updates and stories. Please visit the website at nltrust.ca and its new features and information.

You will find in this 2023 report more details on all the activities and work done by our board members and you, our members and volunteers, that help us protect the beautiful natural areas here in our county for future generations to enjoy. A perfect legacy. Thanks so much to all.



Northumberland Land Trust Nature Reserves



- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Lone Pine Marsh Braham Nature Reserve | 8 Munn Nature Reserve |
| 2 Wilkinson Nature Reserve | 9 Chub Point Nature Reserve |
| 3 Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre | 10 Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve |
| 4 McEwen Nature Reserve | 11 McColl Nature Reserve |
| 5 Leckey Nature Reserve (Conservation easement) | 12 Bonebakker Nature Reserve |
| 6 Kennedy Nature Reserve | 13 de Kleer Nature Reserve |
| 7 Pelton Nature Reserve | 14 de Lint Nature Reserve (NEW as of 2023) |

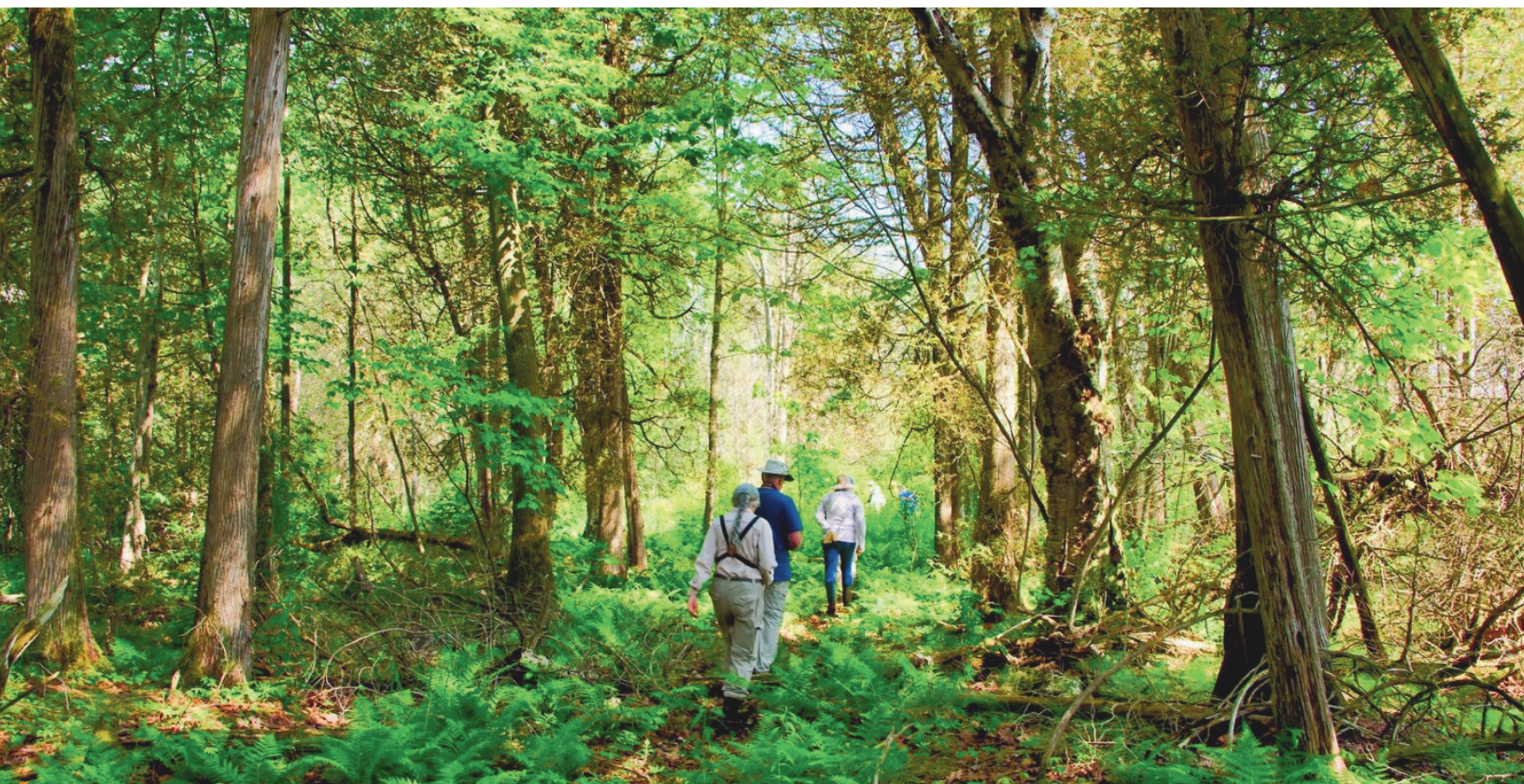


Board of Directors & Staff

The NLT operates under the direction of a volunteer Board of Directors, drawn from across the County. There are currently eight Board members working under the leadership of President Rob Kennedy: Leslie Abram, John Davidson, George Gordon, Graeme Harris, Richard Holland, Freda Kennedy, and Doug McRae.

The organizational capacity building committee focused on creating a job description and advertising for the maternity leave of Laura McKeown planned for early 2024. We were pleased to get many applications and narrowed it down to hire Sabrina Hasselfelt for this position. Before joining NLT, Sabrina worked for multiple charities including The Nature Conservancy of Canada helping to manage 30,000 acres of land across Hastings County. The committee also put together a future job description for an “Executive Director”.

For profiles of the individual Board members and staff please refer to our website, nltrust.ca under the “About Us” tab.





Land Securement

In 2023 we acquired our first new property since our merger in 2021. Robert de Lint donated 100 acres near Meyersburg, making it our 14th nature reserve. It consists of a mixed hardwood forested ridge and a large meadow abutting Percy Creek, home to threatened Bobolinks. We applied and received a grant for \$36,000 from the Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program (GCPP) to cover all the costs in acquiring the property including a comprehensive biological study and property management plan (PMP).

Many prospective land owners continued to contact NLT to donate their property and learn about the donation process. Some wanted information for future consideration, other lands did not align with our policy guidelines and still others are works in progress.

The good news is that two property owners have signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with NLT to start the donation process in 2024. We have just learned that the Ontario Budget has renewed the GCPP for four more years, and we plan to submit applications for both properties to cover all the associated costs and studies with their acquisition.

We are so thankful for passionate and generous people that want to preserve the land they love by making these very generous donations for all people to enjoy our natural heritage for many generations to come.





Fundraising and Communications

The board of Northumberland Land Trust would like to thank all of our donors for contributing to our fundraising goals in 2023. The NLT relies on volunteers and donations to do its work. In 2023, membership and individual donations increased 69%, and stewardship donations increased 58%. Corporate and foundation donations increased more than tenfold.

The annual Birding Marathon in May and the Matching Campaign in December were the two major fundraising activities necessary for NLT to continue to steward our properties as well as to acquire new ones. We also hold free nature walks, oversee prescribed burns, as well as have volunteer-led work activities to remove invasive species and ensure we have proper forest management. We have also seen a number of new pledges under legacy giving where supporters have included the NLT in their estate planning. Our community is very much involved on many levels.

With an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, NLT was able to hire Peterborough-based V Formation, a fundraising and communications firm. We were able to raise public awareness of our efforts to preserve nature in Northumberland County. V Formation has been instrumental in raising our profile in the community as well as assisting the Board in fundraising initiatives such as our \$5 million dollar Green Corridor Campaign, which has already added five properties into our land securement pipeline.

Your donations and support have been vital in helping us protect our nature reserves and to continue to protect more of Northumberland County. We are proud of what we have accomplished and we hope you are too. We hope you will continue your support.



VOLUNTEER



CONNECT



GIVE A GIFT



Stewardship

There were some changes on the Stewardship Committee in 2023. Most significantly, James Munn retired. We thank him for his service (particularly for his oversight of the thinning of the conifer plantations at the Munn Nature Reserve), and we welcome Andrea Kingsley as the new Munn steward. In addition:

- Marc Studhalter has taken over at the Kennedy Nature Reserve, and Andrew Buntin at Leckey Nature Reserve: two new and enthusiastic stewards.
- Laurie Hill has moved over as the steward at the Bonebakker Nature Reserve.
- Sabrina Hasselfelt has taken over Laura's responsibilities relating to stewardship, and her enthusiasm and organization are much appreciated.

The rest of our stewards remain with their same reserves: Leslie Abram (Lone Pine Marsh), Evan Britton (Wilkinson), Stewart Britton (Wilkinson), David Geale (Jack van Nostrand), John Geale (McEwen), Paulette Hebert (de Kleer), Doug McRae (McColl), Bill Newell (Pelton, and Chair of the Committee), Amy Quinn (Chub Point), and Mark Rupke (Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre). All of our stewards, new and old, continue to provide thoughtful guidance as we work to take the best care we can of our Nature Reserves.





2023 was a busy year for the Stewardship Committee members and our volunteers who helped on work parties. Work started during the late winter, as bird nest boxes were cleaned out or set up at 11 of our (then) 13 nature reserves (NRs). We now have over 50 boxes installed, and our cleaning-out operations in the late winter of 2024 showed that almost every box had been used.

As soon as the ground had thawed, there were new signs to be installed at the Lone Pine Marsh, Munn, and McColl Nature Reserves, made necessary by the merger of the former Lone Pine Land Trust with NLT.



Next was a prescribed burn at the McEwen NR, carried out to maintain the grassland habitats. Previous burns at McEwen NR, followed by seeding with prairie grasses, resulted in a large harvest in 2023 of seeds from big bluestem, little bluestem, and savanna grass. Some of these seeds were sown in the fall at Pelton NR and McEwen NR, while some were saved for sowing at the Leckey NR after a burn planned for the spring of 2024.

Through the remainder of the year, considerable effort was put into preparing the Leckey NR for the 2024 burn. The many red cedars that had been encroaching on the grassy burn area were cut down, as were the invasive Scots pines in the area. European buckthorn, another invasive species, were removed as well, as it was found at six other nature reserves in summer and fall.



Thinning the red pine plantations at the Pelton and Bonebakker NRs are other ongoing projects, which continued in the fall of 2023. Over the years, this will reduce competition and allow more light into the ground, and the former monocultures will become more diversified and natural woodlands.



Stewardship Continued...

There were two major developments at the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre in 2023. First, we were delighted to see the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board re-activate the outdoor education program under the enthusiastic guidance of Melody Belfry. She reports that the newly-installed portable classroom and the redesigned parking area are working out very well. Second, we are grateful to Brandon Black and his groups of students from Trinity College School who have worked at removing buckthorn and creating a maze in the area just west of the new classroom on Tuesday afternoons.

Caring for our nature reserves is expensive and time-consuming. Our stewardship budget for 2023 was just under \$20,000, and for 2024 it is somewhat over \$30,000; the increase is largely due to two planned prescribed burns and some extra effort to control invasive species. The support of our donors enables us to properly steward our properties.

Our stewardship volunteers spent hundreds of hours volunteering their time on our work parties and we are grateful for their invaluable assistance. The 14 Stewards spent many hours at meetings and in the field performing less onerous (and often enjoyable) tasks necessary for proper management of our nature reserves.



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Many NLT volunteers are involved in the Wesleyville Joint Working Group and support ongoing research and projects on the Wesleyville property. To read the Wesleyville Annual Report go to <https://willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>.



Public Outreach

In 2023, NLT held five nature walks to explore different facets of our beautiful nature reserves.

In May, John Geale led a birding walk at the McEwen Nature Reserve where we were able to observe many migrants as well as nesting birds.

June took us to the Jack Van Nostrand Nature Reserve, where David Geale led us to the pristine Lake Ontario shoreline, and found fascinating moths in the forest.

In August, Leslie Abram took participants on a walk at the Lone Pine Marsh, where we moved slowly and looked for all the tiny insects and frogs that live in the meadows at the edge of the water. We also had a sneak peek at the de Lint property - now our newest nature reserve. Doug McRae led us through the woodlands and down to the beautiful meadows by Percy Creek.

Laurie Hill took us on a walk in the Leckey Nature Reserve in October to enjoy the fall colours. The highlight of the walk was finding a porcupine den!

Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed our nature reserves. These walks highlight the incredible biodiversity across NLT's nature reserves.





2023 Financial Highlights

Northumberland Land Trust Financial Highlights as at December 31, 2023 *

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 42,692	\$ 78,193
Accounts receivable	46,315	2,104
Prepaid expenses	2,007	1,943
	91,014	82,240
LONG TERM		
Beneficial interest in endowment fund	25,000	25,000
Investments	402,329	328,022
Protected lands (nature reserves)	2,328,606	1,798,606
	2,755,935	2,151,628
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,846,949	\$ 2,233,868
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT (accounts payable & accrued liabilities)	11,007	6,515
DEFERRED REVENUE	43,900	101,127
TOTAL LIABILITIES	54,907	107,642
UNRESTRICTED ASSETS	190,849	302,620
RESTRICTED ASSETS	2,601,193	1,823,606
NET ASSETS	\$ 2,846,949	\$ 2,233,868

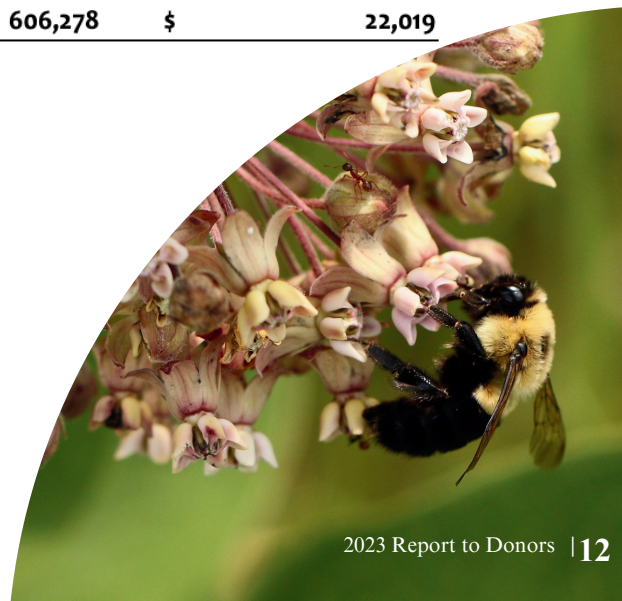
* Extracted from the annual financial statements reviewed by Langhorne, Irwin, Coleman LLP



2023 Financial Highlights Continued...

Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Donations etc.	99,466	47,373
Property donation	530,000	0
Fundraising income	6,082	23,618
Interest & investment income	17,213	4,595
Grants & land rental	80,776	9,437
Deferred revenue	37,739	8,483
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 771,276	\$ 93,506
EXPENSES		
Property maintenance & taxes	22,329	30,332
Wages & benefits	65,065	15,727
Fundraising expenses	53,577	6,619
Professional fees & liability insurance	13,037	8,288
Office expenses, OLTA membership	6,871	7,518
Deemed interest, service & bank charges	4,119	3,003
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 164,998	\$ 71,487
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 606,278	\$ 22,019





Thank You Donors!

Northumberland Land Trust wishes to recognize the contributions of its donors who support the on-going activities of the land trust. A matrix was developed under the branches of trees as noted on the next page. 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 greatly valued by NLT.





2023 Donors

Mighty Oak Branch (\$5000 and over)

The Blidner Family Foundation	Brian Maxwell
Robert de Lint	Robert Fishlock & Urszula Kaczmarczyk
John & Dorothy Geale	Robert & Freda Kennedy

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

Edward Van Netten	John Davidson & Irena Orlowski
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Enduring Pine Branch (\$500 -\$2499)

Anonymous	Tony & Linda Jeronimous	Bill Newell
Leslie Abram	Helen Kennedy	Eva Nichols
John Ambler	Wilhelmina Kennedy	James & Martha Oldham
Deborah Campbell	Russell & Janet Lake	Pace Family Foundation
Joan Chalovich	Virginia (Mary) Maclean & Roger	Peak Construction Group
Minnie de Jong	Nainby	Frank Prest & Jeff Devine
Doug & Cathy Galt	Mandy Martin	Richard & Felicity Pope
Graeme Harris	James & Jane McGrath	Jenna Stephens-Wells
Richard Hill	Virginia & Peter McLaughlin	Ross Wells
Richard & Sarah Holland	Doug McRae (Shrew Solutions Inc)	Cherlyn Wilson & Robert Leckie

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

John Apostolides	George & Margaret Gordon	Susan & Masaki Nakamichi
Heather Ardies	Marie Gordon	Banri Nakamura
Jennifer Atkinson & Thomas	Reg Gordon	Janice Newson
Becker	Marcella de Graaf	Pine Ridge Hiking Club
Greg & Harriet Binkley	Linda Hallatt	Jana Ready
Deborah Black	Michael Harding	Maria Reilly
Brighton Horticultural Society	Paulette Hebert	Esther Robson
Andrew Buntin	Wally & Ethel Hobbs	Linda Rumpf
Campbellford Garden Club	Alice Hodges	TerrySelf
David & Catherine Chambers	Dave Impey	Jay Sherwin
Olga Cwiek & William Wilkers	Thomas & Jennifer Jackman	Theresa Smith
Harold deKleer	Anil Khera	Margaret Stephenson
Anita de Jong	Harry Knapper & Dorothy DeLisle	Sue Stickley & Ted Hunt
Judy DeJong	Helen Kucey	Cindy Stone
Lillian Denis	Betty Kuhn	Nancy Stopps
Dooher's Bakery	Susan & Hugh Laing	Ken & Lucy Van Wyck
Karin Fawthrop	James LeNoury	Villa Conti Oak Heights Estate
Helmut & Janet Enns	Eric MacBurnie	Marlynne Warling
Jim & Ruth Geddes	Charlie & Hayley Martin	Trish Whitney & Ken Strauss
Richard Girardin	Pat McFarlane	Audrey Wilson
Frank & Patricia Godfrey	Simon & Tom Merey	Lynda Yielding
Sheila Goering	James Munn	Jane Zednik

HEARTY ACORN (LIVING BEQUEST)

Elizabeth (Liz) Chatten	John Davidson & Irena Orlowski	Helen Kennedy
Larry & Karin Fawthrop	George & Margaret Gordon	Robert & Freda Kennedy
Robert Fishlock	Wilhelmina Kennedy	Doug McRae



Leave a Legacy

Give a Gift for Nature: Tell us about your Legacy

Similar to a donation of land, you can also bequeath your land to NLT in your will. By naming NLT as a beneficiary to your property in your will, you are ensuring that your property's legacy will live on, forever. This option results in a tax credit for your estate which reduces taxes on capital gains and further benefits the beneficiaries of your will.

A planned or legacy gift is a powerful way to create a permanent testament to your personal commitment and appreciation for the pristine, natural areas in Northumberland County. Your family and descendants will know that you cared about leaving something for them, and others, to appreciate.

Why donate? Durham region was once like Northumberland County but urban sprawl has, as Joni Mitchell sang, “paved paradise” and Northumberland County is in the crosshairs of development. NLT's work ensures that Northumberland County has enough protected vital habitat for future generations to enjoy.

Your planned gift can do many things. It can honour your spouse, or a loved one. It can be a legacy where your family name will stand as a living monument to your personal passion for the environment in Northumberland County.

Want to Leave a Legacy?

Reach out to us at info@nltrust.ca to discuss your planned giving options.



Andrea Kingsley Photography



Our Supporters

The Blidner Family Foundation



THE DALGLISH FAMILY FOUNDATION



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Pace Family Foundation

Charles Frederick Fell Charitable Fund



Invasive Species Centre



We acknowledge that the Northumberland Land Trust operates across the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishinaabeg) peoples. The Northumberland Land Trust expresses deep gratitude to past and current indigenous peoples for sharing their knowledge of the natural world with us and for always stewarding these lands and waters to ensure their prosperity for generations to come.



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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