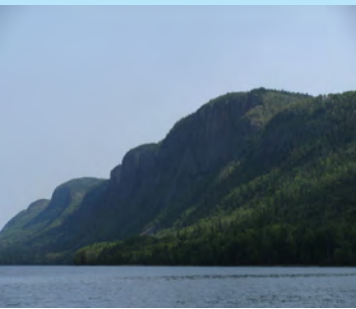




SAVE THE LAND YOU LOVE



Annual Report

July 1, 2009– June 30, 2010

OLTA VISION STATEMENT

A strong and successful land trust movement that encompasses organizations protecting wilderness, agricultural and other lands, water and facilities that have a natural, cultural or heritage significance to communities throughout Ontario.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Executive

Wendy Cooper, Chair

April Wepler, Past Chair

Joseph McCalmont, Treasurer

Dann Michols, Secretary

Tanna Elliot

Kim Gavine

Don Gordon

Lionel Normand

Jen Baker

Gregor Beck

Mark Carabetta

Mike Hendren

Peter Carson

Patricia Short-Gallé

Erica Thompson

STAFF

Ian Macnab, Executive Director

Kristie Virgoe, Program Manager

Phyllis Lee, Member Services Coordinator

Kathryn Ross, Communications Officer

Jean Labrecque, Bookkeeper

THANK-YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR ALLIANCE:



The EJLB Foundation



**Environment
Canada**

**Environnement
Canada**

**THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION**



**LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In my first year as Chair of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA), I've witnessed a lot of change in the organization. We are all driven by our desire to serve the Ontario land trust community and support the unique relationship that exists between land and people. In my 10 years in the land trust community, I have seen incredible growth in the movement, reflected in new organizations, new faces, and new places to inspire us.

At OLTA, we like to say that land trusts are OLTA and OLTA is land trusts – we are a reflection of our community, and serving our community is essential to who we are. This past year marked a time of new beginnings for OLTA to better serve our members. Just over a year ago, we welcomed a new Executive Director, Ian Macnab, and have been energized by Ian's passion for conservation and commitment to take OLTA to the next level. With a revitalized Board of fifteen Governors from diverse backgrounds and new staff members, we completed a new strategic plan. The strategic plan provides clear focus and guidance on the priorities for the next three years. These goals include the following:

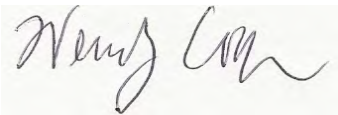
- Serving member land trusts through technical, marketing and financial assistance;
- Increasing knowledge of and respect for the role and value of the land trust movement; and
- Building OLTA as a viable, effective and respected organization.

OLTA has also brought new staff on board and moved into a new office shared with our partner, the Ontario Heritage Trust. OLTA continues reaching out to new sources of funding to help our members, and we have renewed dedication to building relationships with new and existing partners and members, including key government agencies. On top of all this, OLTA also completed a communications plan to guide efforts in increasing awareness of the movement.

These ambitious plans for the year ahead are made possible by the strong foundation that existed at OLTA when I took on the role of Chair in October 2009. Kathy Allan served as OLTA's Executive Director prior to Ian Macnab, and played an instrumental role in securing funds to support both OLTA's members and itself. She also initiated exciting opportunities like the partnership with the Community Foundations of Canada to help land trusts build their own stewardship funds. Our thanks to Kathy for her work and dedication to OLTA for those years!

Also, a very big thank you to April Wepler, who served as Chair for OLTA from October 2007 to October 2009. April led the organization through a building period for OLTA, and has laid the groundwork for us to thrive in the years ahead. It was April's leadership and commitment that gave me the confidence to take on this challenging role.

With this strong foundation and our current commitments in place, OLTA is primed for a great year ahead as we strive to support the incredible connection between people and place.



Wendy Cooper,
Chair, Ontario Land Trust Alliance



MEMBER SERVICES

New, New, New!

This past year for OLTA has marked a time for new beginnings, especially through our Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, our new office space and new staff members.

Upon joining OLTA, Executive Director Ian Macnab undertook a careful and insightful review of OLTA's operations and considered future directions. We surveyed our member land trusts as to their needs and we listened. After careful consideration, the Board of Governors developed the new **2010-2013 Strategic Plan** to provide overall guidance and direction to our programming. Likewise, the **2010-2011 Communications Plan** gives direction to the important role of marketing and promoting the land trust movement. These plans demonstrate OLTA's commitment to land trust membership and how we can better serve the land trust community.

If you are in the Toronto area, be sure to check out OLTA's **new office space** located in the heart of Toronto at 10 Adelaide Street East. Our new location is a win-win situation for all, offering direct access to key partners such as Ontario Heritage Trust, and providing OLTA with the required space to develop programs to better serve out member land trusts. All this at a lower cost!

OLTA recognizes the need to build its own capacity in order to serve our members. Over the past year we have identified and acted upon the opportunity to develop two key positions:

- Kristie Virgoe is now the Program Manager, hired to oversee and develop technical program components, and
- Kathryn Ross joined OLTA as the Communications Intern, and is now the Communications Officer. She helped develop the 2010-2011 Communications Plan, and works to raise the profile of the land trust movement through various publications and events.

Warm welcome to Kristie and Kathryn!

NEW AND INTERACTIVE LAND TRUST MAP

Students at the Geomatics Institute of Fleming College created a new map for Ontario land trusts. Interactive in nature, this map tells the story of each land trust and promotes the values of all. Look for this soon on the OLTA website as we renew that too!



OUR MEMBERS

Algoma Highlands Conservancy

The Bruce Trail Conservancy

Canada South Land Trust

The Couchiching Conservancy

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy

Georgian Bay Land Trust

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust

Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust

Kawartha Heritage Conservancy

The Kensington Conservancy

Lake Clear Conservancy Inc.

Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation

Lake Superior Conservancy and
Watershed Council

Lambton Wildlife Incorporated

Land Conservancy for Kingston,
Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

Land Preservation Society of the Ottawa
Valley

Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary Inc.

Long Point Basin Land Trust

Lower Grand River Land Trust

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust

Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust

The Muskoka Heritage Trust

Niagara Land Trust Foundation

Northumberland Land Trust

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

Ontario Farmland Trust

Ontario Nature

Rainy Lake Conservancy

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

Thunder Bay Field Naturalists

Thickson's Woods Heritage Foundation

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ontario Heritage Trust

Nature Conservancy of Canada– Ontario Region

Conservation Ontario

Credit Valley Conservation

Essex Region Conservation Authority

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Lower Trent Conservation

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Otonabee Region Conservation Foundation

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Toronto Region Conservation Authority

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

OLTA Program Manager Kristie Virgoe **piloted two regional workshops** (with support from Environment Canada); one in the Orillia area and the second in Sault Ste Marie. These workshops generated great positive feedback, and OLTA is now developing more in-depth programs for land trusts in 2010-2011.



FALL GATHERING

“Solid Foundations: Together We Can” was the theme for the 2009 Gathering, held at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre in Barrie, Ontario. The Gathering focused on the importance of partnerships and maintaining these relationships to help organizations move towards a more sustainable future.

Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield spoke at the banquet dinner, and Peter Forbes, Executive Director of Centre for Whole Communities, ran an intensive full day workshop. Howard Clifford delivered an inspirational speech based on his family’s **donation of the 1200 acre Alba Wilderness** property to **Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy**.



Tom Atkins and Ric Symmes received the **OLTA Vision Award** for displaying extraordinary vision and exemplary leadership. Congratulations to both Tom and Ric!

ASSESSING YOUR ORGANIZATION (AYO) PROGRAM

With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, OLTA continued to deliver this program. The AYO program is key to achieving OLTA’s goal of strengthening the land trust movement in Ontario.

The AYO project has proven itself an important tool to assist land trusts to evaluate how well they are implementing the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. As a result of this program, OLTA is better able to respond with appropriate tools, training and resources to support each land trust to meet standards and implement best practices. Over one third of all land trusts have completed their assessment. Ask them how the AYO program has helped their land trust!

Congratulations to:

- Canada South Land Trust
- The Couchiching Conservancy
- Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
- Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust
- Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
- Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy
- Niagara Land Trust Foundation
- Northumberland Land Trust
- Ontario Farmland Trust
- Rainy Lake Conservancy
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- The Kensington Conservancy
- The Muskoka Heritage Trust
- Thousand Islands Watershed Conservancy



Kristie Virgoe, OLTA Program Manager, enthusiastically leads the Assess Your Organization Program.



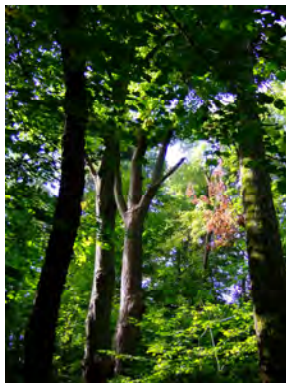
From left to right: Minister Cansfield, Wendy Cooper, April Wepler and Ian Macnab

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS STEWARDSHIP FUND

In July, 2009, OLTA teamed up with Community Foundations of Canada to launch *“Care for the Land You Love”*, a province-wide campaign to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing stewardship of preserved lands in Ontario.

Community Foundations and land trusts work together to identify potential donors to contribute to new local Land Stewardship Funds. These endowment funds create a permanent source of revenue for local stewardship activities. Some of these activities include maintaining and cleaning up trails, repairing fences, planting trees, and controlling erosion.

An exciting aspect of this program is that donors can multiply the impact of their gift. Community Foundations Canada will contribute to funds raised locally up to a dollar-for-dollar match. So far, fourteen pairs of community foundations and land trusts have been successful in the program. Keep up the great work! The program will be completed December 31, 2011.



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (OLTAP)

OLTAP was developed in order to provide funding to reimburse land trusts with costs associated with development of conservation easements or purchases, such as legal costs, conducting surveys and appraisal fees. Chaired by Angus McLeod and representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada and Nature Conservancy of Canada, OLTAP contributed a grand total of \$240,000 to assist land trusts this year. OLTA looks forward to continuing our partnership with the MNR, Environment Canada and the NCC in this program.

OLTA EXTERNAL RELATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

2009-2010 has been a big year in outreach for OLTA in attending several meetings and events. OLTA staff visited



over half of the province’s land trusts for one-on-one sessions to learn about their needs and to develop a deeper understanding of their operations so we can create programs focused on their specific needs. Staff also

attended several events, including numerous concerts at the Molson Amphitheatre in Toronto, Ontario as part of the environmental displays showcased in the Eco-Village. Opportunities like this allow OLTA to reach out to a new and broader audience to raise awareness about the land trust movement.

OLTA Executive Director, Ian Macnab, has been reaching out on both a national and local level to develop and assist in programming. Ian attended the **2009 Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA)** conference in Halifax where he gained a better perspective of land trusts at a national level. He also attended the **2009 Land Trust Alliance (LTA) conference** in Portland, Oregon where he learnt about the history of the land trust movement, it’s successes and programming opportunities.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

This year’s External Relations/Government Relations Committee demonstrated their outreach skills to government and partnership capabilities by successfully giving input to provincial policy in regards to the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry’s **Mining Act**. This legislation sets out the framework for responsible management and sustainable development of Ontario’s mineral resources. Congratulations to everyone involved in this tremendous achievement!



Attending land trust meetings gives OLTA first hand knowledge of local needs and helps OLTA better serve members.



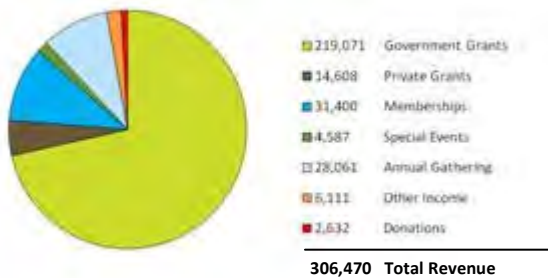
Land trusts help to link public and private stewardship for ecosystem recovery. As registered charities, they receive donated or purchased lands and conservation agreements in important, natural, cultural and agricultural areas. These organizations work to achieve a healthy balance between development and conservation in their communities, improving the quality of life in rural and urban areas by preserving natural and cultural heritage.

FINANCIAL REPORT

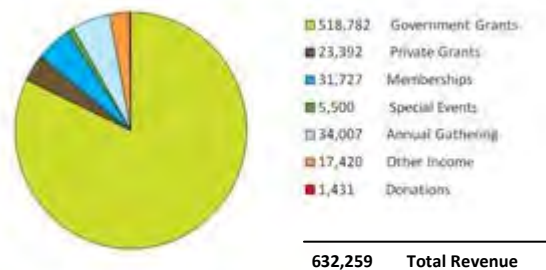
Joe McCalmont, Treasurer

This past year has seen a dramatic and positive change in OLTA's financial position. From an operating deficit situation in 2009, we have ended the 2010 fiscal year with a surplus of over \$25,000. This surplus resulted from additional unrestricted government grants and a larger number of grants allowing us to offset operating expenditures. Having this surplus permits OLTA to establish a reserve for future cash flow needs, positioning us well to meet future financial obligations.

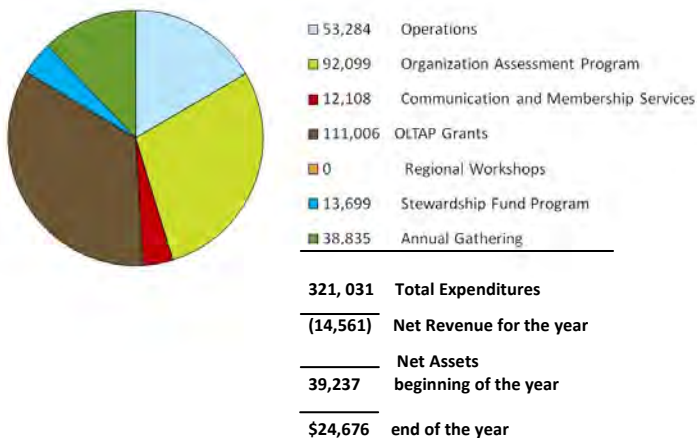
2008-2009 Revenue



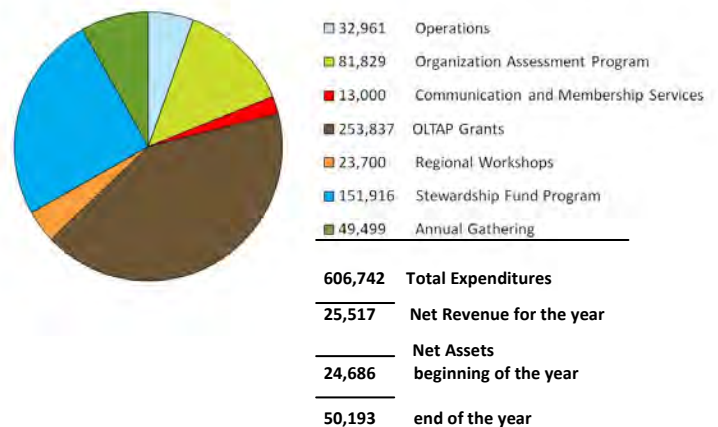
2009-2010 Revenue



2008-2009 Expenditures



2009-2010 Expenditures





OLTA envisions a strong and successful land trust movement and will work to support member land trusts in achieving this



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 401

Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3

T 416-588-6582

F 416-588-6588

www.olta.ca

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