



**January - February 2005 - News Bulletin**

## **February 28<sup>th</sup> Deadline For CLTIP Applications**

Just a reminder to those OLTA members that own property that may qualify for property tax relief under the revised Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program the deadline for applications for the 2005 property tax year is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Many groups have received applications in the mail directly from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. For those that did not, or need more information visit <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/cltip> or the OLTA office at [admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org](mailto:admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org)

## **Trillium Foundation Grants OLTA \$167,200**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has granted OLTA \$167,200 over three years. A substantial portion of these funds are in support of the Education Program. Trillium Foundation is also supporting the review of OLTA's Strategic Plan and the development of the new Business Plan for the period 2006 – 2009. OLTA is in the process of setting up focus group meetings with its member groups over the next several months to get their input into this important process. The OLTA Board is looking forward to working with its member groups on this new initiative.

## **OLTAP Grant Programs**

The spring 2005 deadline for the Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP) applications is now closed. Funders have made \$175,000 available under this program for this round of funding. The Grant Review Committee will be meeting in early March and successful applicants will be notified by mid March.

## **National Land Trust Coalition Planning Continues...**

OLTA is participating in discussions regarding the formation of a National Land Trust Coalition. The National Steering Committee has met several times and is now preparing for a National meeting that will take place in Kelowna, British Columbia on March 21 and 22. The purpose of this meeting is to give the Committee an opportunity to study and make a recommendation for a potential governance model. The Committee will also look at ways to work with existing Provincial Alliances, like OLTA, in the delivery of national programs and projects.

## OLTA Regional Workshops

OLTA is busy making the final arrangements for the Spring 2005 series of Regional Workshops. In consultation with member groups, this year's workshops will be a full day on each topic, allowing the presenters to go into greater detail, with two concurrent workshops on each day. The first workshop is set for Kingston on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with other tentative locations including Guelph and the Muskoka area. The registration packages will go out soon.

## 2005 OLTA Gathering

Don't forget to mark your calendars for November 11 – 13 for the 2005 OLTA Gathering to be held at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre near Barrie. This year's event promises to build on the success of past events and will feature speakers and workshop leaders from across Canada and the United States. OLTA would like to remind its member groups that their local funders may be an excellent source of revenue to enable more of their key volunteers and Board members to attend this important educational event. Some of our member groups have been successful in receiving funding from organizations such as TD Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment and their local Community Foundations to send their members to this event. If you need more information contact the OLTA office at [admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org](mailto:admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org)

## Standards and Practices Review

OLTA is participating in a National review of the Statement of Land Trust Standards and Practices. There are two objectives of this project. The first is a review and update of the current Statement of Standards and Practices using the new US LTA 2004 Standards and practices as a base and also to work with all regions of Canada to develop a National version of the Standards and Practices that land trusts from across Canada will hopefully adopt. As part of this process, OLTA will be consulting with its member groups and seeking input on the document. The OLTA office expects this consultation to begin within the next month.

## Important Dates for OLTA in 2005

March 4	OLTA Board Retreat, Cobourg, Ontario
March 21-22	National Coalition Meeting, Kelowna, B.C.
April 2	Regional Workshop - Kingston
November 11-13	OLTA Gathering, Kempenfelt Conference Centre, Barrie, Ontario

In a continuing effort to improve the programs and member services, OLTA publishes and distributes, by e-mail, a monthly bulletin to all its members. **Please contribute your newsworthy items to the monthly newsletter.** The articles should be limited to a paragraph or two and include a contact number where OLTA members can get more information. All submissions should be in our hands no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please submit all articles to:  
**Ontario Land Trust Alliance**  
**1 Jasper Avenue, Smiths Falls K7A 4B5**  
 (v) 613-284-4646  
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