



March 2005 News Bulletin

OLTAP Grants Over \$120,000.

The Grant Review Committee met in Toronto last week to review 32 applications for OLTAP grants which were submitted by OLTA Member groups. This well established program awarded over \$120,000 in grants to our member groups to enable them to secure natural lands in their communities. The successful applicants will be notified within the next two weeks. OLTA would like to thank everyone who submitted applications, for their interest in this program and to the funders, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada – Ontario Region for their financial support. The next round of OLTAP grants is scheduled for the fall of this year so take advantage of the funding available to secure natural lands in your community.

This is Your Opportunity to Help Shape the Future of OLTA

Concerns have been raised by some funders and government organizations regarding the sustainability of the community based land trust movement in Canada. Many OLTA members are doing well at securing land and have put land management programs in place that are the envy of others in the land conservation field. But are we sustainable as organizations and if we are not, what do we need to become sustainable? Remember, we have assured our communities that we will preserve the properties entrusted to us in perpetuity.

With funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation and the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation, OLTA has retained the services of Gordon Ball and John Lister to work with OLTA and its member groups to identify areas of need and recommend programs and delivery mechanisms to ensure that OLTA and its member groups continue to grow and prosper.

As part of this project, Gordon will be conducting focus groups and telephone interviews with our member groups to get your ideas for the future of the land trust movement in Ontario. **Focus groups are scheduled for Guelph (March 29th), Barrie (March 30th) and Kingston (March 31st). The OLTA office will be in contact with our members shortly with details and to encourage your participation.**

OLTA Regional Workshops – Kingston – Barrie - Guelph

The OLTA Regional Workshops will begin with the Kingston workshop on April 16th, 2005 at the Donald Gordon Centre. This workshop will be followed with workshops in Barrie on April 30th and Guelph on May 14th. This year there will be two concurrent workshops. Kim Gavine and Lisa McLaughlin will be co-presenting a workshop entitled *Doing It Well or Doing It Better –Land Monitoring & Stewardship*.

This workshop will see the introduction of the newly published OLTA manual entitled “A Volunteer’s Manual for Land Management”.

When people in your community hear the name of your organization do they know who you are and what you do? The second workshop will be on Branding. Learn what it takes to make your land trust’s name instantly recognized in your community. Registration packages will be available shortly, book early, each workshop will be limited to 15 participants and are expected to sell out.

Standards and Practices Review

We told you in the last newsletter that OLTA was participating in a National review of the Statement of Land Trust Standards and Practices. There are two objectives for this project. The first objective is to update the S and P’s to reflect the current environment of public accountability we now operate in. The second objective is to develop a common set of Standards and Practices that can be used by all land trusts in Canada. The first draft is now complete. OLTA members are encouraged to view this draft by going to the OLTA website; www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org, click enter and click on First Draft in the top right hand corner on the first frame. Please submit any comments to admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org. The National Land Trust Coalition will be meeting in Kelowna on March 21 and 22 and the National Standards and Practices will be on the agenda.

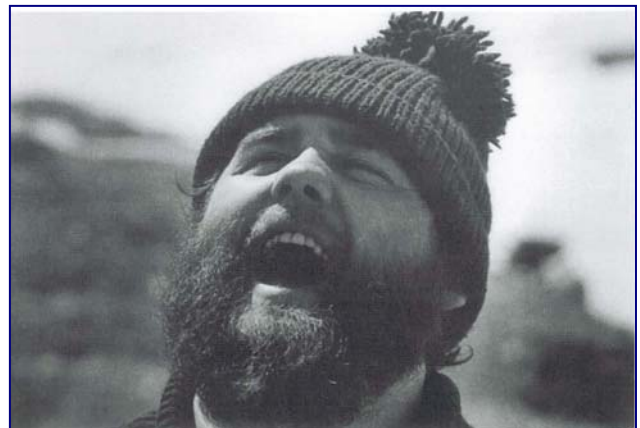
2005 OLTA Gathering

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for November 11 – 13 to join with your fellow land trusters at the 2005 OLTA Gathering. This premiere educational event and Annual AGM of OLTA will be taking place at the Kempenfelt Centre on the shores of Lake Simcoe near Barrie Ontario. The line-up of speakers will simply amaze.

Ken Cox Remembered

Last year at the OLTA Gathering, we learned that Ken Cox was very ill. Ken passed away shortly after the Gathering and will be remembered fondly by his many friends and colleagues.

Bernie VanDenBelt sent a note to Ken’s family telling them that a tree will be planted in Ken’s honour along the Rideau from all his friends at OLTA. We thought you would like to see the reply card received.



**"Laughter is the sun that
drives winter
from the human face."**

Victor Hugo

Bernie - you probably know that laughter was Ken's favourite state of 'being'. Doesn't this photo conjure up great memories!

*Thank you so much for your support and recognition of Ken's achievements. Your kind words and your intent to plant trees along the Kidean waterway in Ken's memory made such a difference during sad, tough times. These were the best gifts that you could have given him along with the knowledge that his legacy will live on in the hearts, minds and actions of those who knew him professionally. Many thanks
Joan.*

Ken Cox

May 30th, 1944 - November 14th, 2004

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 20th of each month.

Please submit all articles to:

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(f) 613-284-8093

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