

April 5, 2006

OLTA REGIONAL WORKSHOPS: Spring is here and the OLTA Annual **Regional Workshops** are set to begin. There will be two workshops, a morning one entitled “What Should I Include in My Baseline” presented by Michelle Albanese and an afternoon workshop entitled “ Successful Strategic Planning for your Non-Profit” with Jane Garthson. These workshops will be repeated at each of the three locations. Beginning with April 27th, *The Waring House in Picton* will be the venue for the Eastern area; *The Kempfenfelt Centre, Barrie*, on May 11th has been chosen for Central and this year the Southwestern Regional will be hosted at *Ruthven Park (Cayuga)* home of the Lower Grand Land Trust on June 1st. The workshops have been held for several years on Saturdays but this year we have moved them to Thursdays at the request of many members. The registration packages are on their way to you by snail mail, however, you may wish to download the PDF from the OLTA website and fax your registrations to the office (613-284-8093). The program and the registration form can be found at www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org.. If you need help with your registration please contact the OLTA office by email at admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org or by phone @ 613-284-4646.

CANADIAN LAND TRUST ALLIANCE: Through the efforts of land trusts across Canada, including OLTA, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited the Canadian Land Trust Alliance is now a reality. This organization was formed to enable land trusts from across Canada to work together to develop programs to further the land trust movement. The Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) will be located in the Ottawa area where it will be available to represent Canadian land trusts with Federal Government decision makers. The CLTA will have its formal roll-out at the Valuing Nature Conference in Cornerbrook Newfoundland which runs from July 5 to 8th.

CROSS BORDER DONATIONS: A new program is being developed through the efforts of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance and the “American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts” which was recently incorporated as a 501 3C to act as a vehicle for donations from our U.S. friends. This will allow our US supporters a tax benefit for donations in support of individual Canadian Land Trusts. Any OLTA groups who wish to be part of this program may forward their information to Dave Walker, Program Manager, Ontario Land Trust Alliance. davew@rwlt.org or by fax to 613-284-8093.

MNR SUPPORTS OLTA: OLTA recently entered into a financial agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to work towards better practices for the securement and management of conservation easements. The MNR is providing funding for OLTA to work with other conservation organizations to prepare recommendations regarding implementation of some of the new legislation provided for by Bill 16 and the proposals contained in Bill 51. In addition MNR is providing funding for OLTA to work with its member groups in capacity building issues involving conservation easements. These funds are in addition to MNR funds that support the land securement projects funded under the OLTAP program. OLTA would like to thank MNR for their continued support of the Ontario land trust movement.

OLTA BOARD RETREAT: The OLTA Board attended its two day Board retreat March 23 and 24 at Kempfenfelt. Watch this newsletter for news of many exciting programs that the Board is working on to help the member groups in delivering land trust programs in their communities.

**PROGRAM ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
WITH KAWARTHA HERITAGE CONSERVANCY**

The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy is seeking a candidate to fill the new position of Program Assistant. It is a two-year contract with the potential for extension. The responsibilities, qualifications and application details are provided below.

Responsibilities:

The Program Assistant will report directly to the Executive Director, Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. The Program Assistant is responsible for leading the Conservancy's information management program and for assisting with land securement and management activities, volunteer and student programs, communications, and administration. In particular, the Program Assistant's duties and responsibilities include:

Information Management

Develop the Conservancy's information management and GIS program, including hardware, software, and arrangements for data access and sharing;

Source, research, collect, input, manipulate and generate data, analyses, maps and related products;

Maintain the Conservancy's membership, donor, contact and other records; and

Work with communities and groups to conduct community mapping and applications.

Land Securement and Management

Contact, visit and present to landowners and community organizations;

Research land ownership, significance and context;

Pursue long-term land securement; and

Supervise property management and monitoring.

Volunteer and Staff Programs

Develop the Conservancy's volunteer, student and summer staff programs;

Recruit, orient, train, supervise, and recognize the Conservancy's volunteers, students and summer staff; and

Promote an inclusive working environment where equity and diversity are supported.

Communications and Community Relations

Liase with governments, local businesses, community organizations, funders, project partners and individuals to facilitate effective relationships;

Facilitate media relations;

Promote Conservancy programs and projects in the community;

Organize events and other activities; and

Prepare and distribute communication materials, including pamphlets, newspaper articles, newsletters and the like.

Administration

Support the planning, delivery, reporting and evaluation activities of the Executive Director, Board and Committees;

Assist in identifying sources, preparing submissions for, and reporting on funding; and

Assist with research and office administration activities.

Qualifications:

A post-secondary degree, diploma or equivalent experience in a relevant field.

Required Skills and Experience:

Demonstrated information management, GIS and related computer competencies;

Leadership and supervisory skills, including team- and consensus-building and coordinating volunteers;

Program leadership, planning, development, management, and evaluation skills;

Strong communications skills, including public speaking, media and partner relations, and working with landowners and rural communities.

Desirable Skills and Experience:

Awareness of land conservation, heritage preservation and rural landowner issues and programs; and

Proven working knowledge of and familiarity with the operations of land trusts and with provincial and municipal planning.

Salary:

\$28,000 to 36,000 per year plus benefits, commensurate with experience.

Start Date:

May 15, 2006 for a two-year period, with opportunity for extension.

Application Details:

Applications will be accepted only by electronic mail sent to director@kawarthaheritage.org and received before 5:00 pm on April 21, 2006. Applications must reference the position (i.e. Program Assistant) and the applicant's name in the subject line of the e-mail and may contain only one attached document to a maximum of 6 pages, such as a combined cover letter and résumé. KHC's office is on the second floor. We are an equal opportunity employer, committed to providing equity through our employment practices. All are encouraged to apply.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – HERITAGE INVENTORY

Position: Heritage Inventory Specialist (2 positions available)
Organization: Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
Location: Peterborough or Lindsay, Ontario
Duration: May 8 – July 30, 2006, or as negotiated
Wages: \$12/hour @ 35 hours/week

The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (KHC) is a locally-based land trust dedicated to conserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Kawarthas. Our work is partnership-based, building on community knowledge, research and scientific practice to enhance the environmental health, cultural appreciation and economic well-being of the bioregion.

The Conservancy is working on developing a bioregional information system to consolidate existing research and record the natural and cultural heritage of the Kawartha region. The two Heritage Inventory Specialists will work closely together to identify existing built heritage inventories and information gaps, conduct new field work to inventory features in the region, and present this information to regional organizations, agencies and the public in the form of maps, a comprehensive database, and related information products. The information will be used by local and national agencies and the Conservancy to help identify land acquisition, planning and conservation priorities.

We are looking for candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in the fields of cultural heritage planning or conservation, archaeology, geography, history, land use planning, environmental studies, photography, computer applications, or communications. Successful candidates should have completed at least 2 years of a university/college program in these or related fields. Positions will require strong computer proficiency, including previous work experience with geographic information systems (GIS) and databases. Strong information management, research and communication skills and a valid Driver's License are required. Field experience is an asset. Candidates may need to register on the Young Canada Works candidate inventory and be aged 16-30.

Application details: Applications will be accepted only by electronic mail sent to director@kawarthaheritage.org and received before 5:00 pm on April 19, 2006. Applications must reference the position (i.e. Inventory Specialist) and the applicant's name in the subject line of the e-mail and may contain only one attached document to a maximum of 6 pages, such as a combined cover letter and résumé. KHC's office is on the second floor. We are an equal opportunity employer, committed to providing equity through our employment practices. The positions are subject to confirmation of funding and all are encouraged to apply. We will only be able to respond further to applicants selected for interviews.

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Does Your Organization have a Feature Story for Next Month?

If so, please contact the office for details. Deadline for submissions is April 27th.

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.