

## **June 2005 News Bulletin**

### **Reminder for Membership Renewals 2005/2006**

We would like to remind you that the due date for membership renewals is approaching quickly. If you have not yet renewed, please do so and also please include updated information regarding your board members, new staff or contact person or other relevant information.

If you require any changes to the member map on our website, please include a drawing or map representing the adjustment you wish us to make. We will change the website maps to reflect all new changes after June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

If you would like us to include other members or advisors to our OLTA distribution list, please let us know. We use this distribution list to circulate information regarding workshops, special events, newsletters and other information.

### **OLTA Board of Governors Receives Consultant's Report**

The OLTA Board received the consultant's report at its board meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Many of you participated in the focus groups with the consultants in March.

As a result of these meetings the consultants have made several recommendations. These recommendations include: continued emphasis on the Standards and Practices program and over-all capacity building education, an increase in OLTA communications to promote the land trust movement in Ontario and to benefit the member groups and partnership building with like minded organizations. The consultants acknowledge that OLTA will have to increase its own capacity and staff resources to implement these recommendations. This increase in OLTA capacity will result in the need for more funding for OLTA.

The consultant's recommended that OLTA and its member groups work together to raise these funds to implement and sustain these programs through a series of special events, increase in user fees and modest increases in membership fees. The OLTA Board is continuing to study the recommendations and will be preparing a business plan for presentation to the member groups in the fall.

## **Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices**

Just a reminder, that comments regarding this document are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The document and accompanying Background document is available on the OLTA website at [www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org](http://www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org). The National committee will be meeting in July to review the comments in preparation for publishing the final copy of this document. The final edition will be available at the 2005 Gathering.

## **OLTAP**

The OLTAP committee will be accepting applications for the next round of OLTAP grants in September. Funds will be available to member groups to assist in securement costs for ecologically sensitive lands. Angus McLeod and his committee continue to do a great job with this program which has provided much needed funds to our member groups for land securement. This program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada – Ontario Region.

## **2005 Gathering**

This is a reminder to mark your calendars for November 11 – 13 to join with your fellow land trusters at the 2005 OLTA Gathering. This year's Gathering will be held at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre on Lake Simcoe near Barrie. This year's line-up of speakers and presenters will include Tamara Van Ryn from the US Land Trust Alliance (LTA). Tamara is the Director of Standards and Research for the LTA and is project leader for the LTA Standards and Practices and the Accreditation Program. Tamara will present a workshop on Friday afternoon outlining the US LTA Accreditation Program with suggestions for an Ontario program.

Not to be missed is Andy Robinson's workshop entitled "Your Best Board: How to Find Them, Recruit Them and Turn Them Into Fundraisers".

Registration packages will be ready in early September and remember last year's event was sold out.

## **Fundraising Manual for Land Trusts**

The new OLTA Fundraising Manual for Land Trusts is now available. This informative manual will walk you through the step by step process of developing an effective fund development plan for you land trust. It has been prepared by Lyn Russo who many of you know for her presentations at OLTA Gatherings and Regional Workshops. The manual is available for \$30.00 from the OLTA office. Contact Sharon at [sharonw@rwlt.org](mailto:sharonw@rwlt.org) or 1-613-284-4646

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 submission should be in our hands no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.