

MARCH 2006

OLTA Board Retreat March 23 and 24

The OLTA Board of Governors and Committee Chairs will be meeting in Barrie on March 23rd and 24th for the Annual Board Retreat. This is a two-day meeting during which program objectives are set out for the next year. We care about your thoughts for improvements to the OLTA programs or new programs that would enhance the effectiveness of the organizations. Please feel free to contact the OLTA office and share your thoughts or email us at admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org.

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust – New ED

Jim Gosnell has taken over as Executive Director at Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. Jim is a management and environmental consultant familiar with ORMLT land securement and stewardship. He has coordinated preparation of their Strategic Plan, has facilitated Board Retreats, and most recently carried out a full Organization Review Study for the ORMLT. Oak Ridges are in mid-progress of implementing his recommendations as approved by the Board to build capacity and meet the challenges of an ongoing and growing securement and stewardship portfolio. Jim Gosnell is well known across the ORM as a former Land Manager for MNR, former Resources Manager for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, and former Chair of the York Environmental Stewardship Council. You may reach Jim Gosnell at the ORMLT office telephone 905-833-3171 ext.32 or contact him through his new Trust e-mail - jimgosnell.landtrust@bellnet.ca. Welcome Jim, from our OLTA members.

OLTAP

Friday March 31st, 2006 is fast approaching. If you wish to participate in the Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP) your submissions are due March 31, 2006. Funding is available to OLTA member groups to assist with securement costs of easements or title for ecologically sensitive properties. Angus McLeod and his committee encourage you to get your applications in. This program has been very successful and our funders, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada have recognized the benefits of working with OLTA members through this program. There is \$50,000 to distribute. If you did not receive an application package, which went out to all OLTA member groups, you can find one on the OLTA website at www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org. For additional information please call the OLTA office at 613-284-4646 or email admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org.

OLTA Gathering 2006

The 2006 Gathering will be held on November 2nd – 4th at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre in Barrie, Ontario. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Gathering Committee are working hard on the programs for 2006.

Feature Land Trust of the Month **RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST**

Fundraising in the Community - When the Stars are Aligned

Submitted by the RWLT.

Last September, the Rideau Waterway Land Trust was given the opportunity to save a 250-acre property on the Rideau Waterway between Kingston and Ottawa. Scouts Canada owned the property and due to declining enrolment was disposing of a number of properties including this one called "Rock Dunder". With the need to raise funds quickly the RWLT Board began its campaign "Over the Top for Rock Dunder" on September 23, 2005.

The Board of Directors and staff worked with existing members of the Land Trust and the local community to raise awareness for this acquisition. Within the first few weeks it became evident that the community support was greater than anyone imagined.



This property has long been a favourite for hikers, canoe and kayak trippers, boaters, and photographers. The community embraced this cause determined to see the property preserved. Although many of the Land Trust's supporters and members are seasonal residents, they managed to create a network contacting their summer neighbours and friends and telling them the story of Rock Dunder. Donations began to come in from as far away as Belgium and France. Exceptional support came from sources the Trust had not anticipated, including some local businesses.



Trailhead Kingston, a local outfitter for camping and hiking gear had two employees who were once Boy Scouts. For years they visited Rock Dunder every other weekend. They bunked in the log cabins and worked during the day on the cabins and the trails. These fellows encouraged their employer to host an evening in support of Rock Dunder. They arranged for product donations from suppliers for a silent auction and sent out invitations to over 200 people to attend their special evening. The RWLT Board attended the event answering questions and meeting

people who cared about this great property. The story received considerable attention from the local newspapers and radio and by the time the evening was over Trailhead Kingston had raised in excess of \$16,000 for Rock Dunder.

This campaign is not over yet. The community support continues and as of February 28th has generated a 20% increase in new supporters to the Land Trust and to Rock Dunder.

Corner Brook NFLD.

On behalf of the Program Committee for the 2006 *Valuing Nature Conservation and Stewardship Conference* in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador I would like to draw your attention to new and valuable information on the meeting.

Reminder!

Check out the Valuing Nature 3rd National Conservation and Stewardship Conference July 5-8, 2006, website at: <http://www.stewardship2006.ca/>

Do you have something to contribute?

The conference is now soliciting speakers for *Speaker's Corner* and in obtaining commitments for *Poster Presentations*. Your ideas and submissions are welcome.

Please see this web site for information on the format of this meeting for each day's six parallel *Oral Sessions*.

Does Your Organization have a Feature Story for Next Month?

If so, please contact the office for details. Deadline for submissions is March 31st.

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.