



OLTA Gathering – November 11-13th – 2005

Deadline for Early Registration Discount – Friday, October 21st.

You only have 4 days left to register for the Gathering and save \$30.00 per person. If your registration is post marked not later than October 21st, you will save \$\$.

The line-up of quality speakers this year is impressive. Do you have new board members in your organization? This is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn from our workshops and from other Land Trust members. You can attend an OLTA Gathering every year and never stop learning from others. This is also an enjoyable weekend!

Please join us. If you require more registration forms, they are available for download in PDF format, or call the office and we will mail or fax them to you. The website is www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org and our office number is 613-284-4646. See you there!

LTA Rally in Wisconsin

The delegates from OLTA who attended the LTA Rally in Wisconsin are heading home. We will have more information for you in the next newsletter. However, it sounds like they are returning with a wealth of ideas and information to share. We look forward to hearing from our delegates Joan, Drew, April and Stacey and Dave with their stories on "How I Benefited from the Rally" in our November newsletter.

OLTA Logo is sporting a new look for Fall.

Did you notice our logo changed? The change is subtle however; we did make a slight modification to the logo. Previously, it was centred on the page and we found it looked better on envelopes and other publications when we altered the text to left margin formatting. New publications will be sporting this new look.

Last But Not Least – Our Government Relations Committee

The OLTA Government Relations Committee has asked us to attach a survey for our members to complete. The survey includes 3 pages which are attached to this Newsletter as pages 3, 4 & 5. **There is a deadline for the replies of Friday, October 28th, please note the date on your calendar** and either fax or email your responses to the OLTA office at 613-284-8093 (Fax) or email admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org.

Feature Land Trust of the Month

Muskoka Heritage Trust

Bracebridge, ON — Russ Black, President of The Muskoka Heritage Trust announced in mid-June that the Shadow River Land Trust, centred in Rosseau, ON, had transferred its assets to the Muskoka-based organization. The move was made with the understanding that The Muskoka Heritage Trust, an affiliate of the Muskoka Heritage Foundation, is in the best position to achieve, over the long run, the objectives of the Shadow River Land Trust.

The Shadow River Land Trust was formed in 1999 because its members were concerned about the plans for the development along the shore of the river.

The Trust, registered as a non-profit charitable entity, raised funds with the objectives “...to preserve the natural shoreline of the Shadow River through Conservation Easements or otherwise, and generally to preserve the landscape, ecology and wildlife of the lands and water in the Shadow River and Lake Rosseau area”. Over the next six years, however, no lands were acquired by the organization and the directors of the Shadow River Land Trust concluded that the move to transfer the assets to The Muskoka Heritage Trust and to close down the Shadow River Land Trust was the best possible action.

The work to preserve the Shadow River will continue under the stewardship of The Muskoka Heritage Trust, which protects over 800 acres in nature reserves across Muskoka. The former President of the Shadow River group, Andy Frame, has been appointed a director of the Muskoka-based trust. Mr. Frame stated that he is looking forward to working with the other directors and will place a special emphasis on the needs of the Shadow River and Lake Rosseau areas.



Thanks to Joan Eaglesham from Muskoka Heritage Trust.

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 20th of each month.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER SURVEY RE: GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The federal Ecological Gifts program has now been in operation for ten years and the provincial Community Conservation Lands part of the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program has been re-instated for a year now. OLTA's Government Relations Committee would like to have **your organization's input** on the operation and effectiveness of these two programs so that we may speak knowledgeably on your behalf when we meet with elected representatives and program managers. **Could you please ensure that this survey is forwarded promptly to the appropriate person in your organization who deals with these programs and other policy issues?**

The survey will take no more than 10 minutes of your time and will help a great deal in our discussions with the relevant government ministries. The information gathered will remain confidential within OLTA so those individual respondents are not identified; it will be reported only in an aggregated form.

Time is of the essence. We need to hear back from you within the next two weeks so that we're prepared for our meetings. When you have completed the survey, please send it to Sharon Walker at the following address before Friday, October 28, 2005.

Ontario Land Trust Alliance
1 Jasper Avenue, Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 4B5
Phone: **(613) 284-4646**
Fax: **(613) 284-8093**
E-mail: info@ontariolandtrustalliance.org

For your information, the draft 2005 Government Relations Committee report will be circulated shortly and will be available at the OLTA Gathering in November. We value your input in any form, so if you have comments on any government-related issue or program, please contact us through the office or directly at the e-mails listed at the end of the survey.

Thank you!

1. Have you acquired any properties or conservation easements in the past year that qualify for the federal Ecogifts program?

Yes

No

2. In the past year, have you communicated with the staff for the Ecogifts program

Yes

No

If so, what was the nature of the communication?

3. Did you find the experience

Very helpful? Somewhat helpful? Not helpful?

How so? Please elaborate.

4. Do you have any suggestions for improving the Ecogifts program or issues that you would like to have resolved?

5. In the past year, have you had any experience in dealing with the provincial Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)?

Yes No

6. In the past year, have you communicated with the staff of the CLTIP?

Yes No

7. Did you find the experience

Very helpful? Somewhat helpful? Not helpful?

How so? Please elaborate.

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the CLTIP or issues that you would like to have resolved?

9. While we have your attention, are there any other issues or government policy/program challenges that you would like us to address in our conversations with the federal, provincial and municipal governments, e.g. securement capital and operating funding assistance, property tax relief, income tax incentives, other tax incentives, conservation easement legislation, land use planning matters, etc. Please be specific or provide an example.

Thank you from your Government Relations Committee:

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