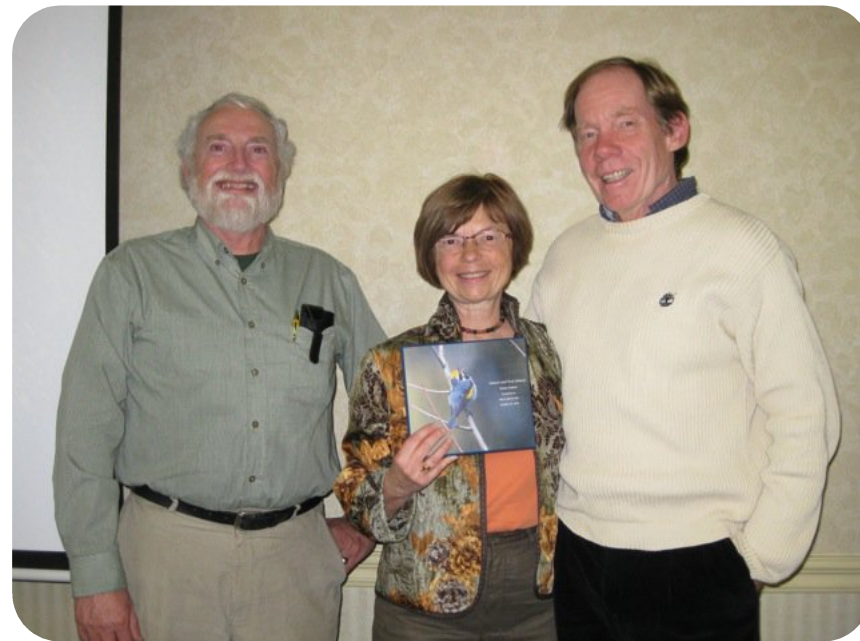


ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE VISION AWARD



Ron Reid of the OLTA Executive presents award to Marnie and Don Ross

Our own Don and Marnie Ross were recently awarded the Ontario Land Trust Vision Award for Volunteers. The announcement was made on October 29 during the evening banquet at OLTA's Annual gathering, "Expanding Horizons", in Peterborough.

The OLTA Vision Award for the volunteer category was created to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the land trust community at the local or provincial level in a volunteer capacity.

Through their volunteer work in the Thousand Islands region, Don and Marnie have both demonstrated remarkable contributions to conservation land protection.

Don began his conservation work with Parks Canada in 1973 at Point Pelee National Park and then at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. He was instrumental in the formation of the Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy (CTIHC) in 1993, one of Ontario's first land trusts. Don's leadership and determination led to the 2002 designation of Canada's 12th UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve – the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. Don is now the Executive Director of the Reserve.

Marnie's exceptional contribution to the land trust movement stems from her leadership with the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT), which evolved from the CTIHC. Marnie now serves on our Executive Committee as Secretary. As TIWLT members know, this past summer we partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Parks, and other local conservation organizations in the purchase of the 600 acre Sheffield property. As our secretary, Marnie played the integral role of raising \$70,000 for the purchase, and we exceeded the goal in a short three months time. Marnie is also known for organizing the annual Thousand Islands Cottage Tour - our biggest fundraiser of the year.

In accepting the award Don and Marnie said that it reflects the work of all TIWLT volunteers, and the many volunteers throughout the Thousand Islands Watershed area who are dedicated to the protection of its natural and cultural heritage.

Conservation Matters

A publication of the
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

The Executive
President - Dann Michols
Past President: Jerry Heath
Vice President - Dave Warner
Treasurer - Joy Strachan
Secretary - Marnie Ross



*Thousand Islands Watershed
Land Trust*

The Board of Directors
John Ambrose Bill Borger
Don Ross
Carol Clemenhagen
Mary Jane Lamb
Ken Robinson
Sandy Gray

The Executive and Board are assisted by an Advisory Committee, who have a broad range of knowledge and experience. They are Andy Graham, Joan Collins, Tim Truesdell, Jeff Leggo, Angus McLeod.

WE DID IT!

Fundraising for the Sheffield property on Red Horse Lake was a huge success. The community came through with over 100 donations, large and small; some including very touching letters about personal connections to Red Horse. It was a wonderful chance to see how people care for their treasured places.

In all, we received \$93,450, which was more than the \$70,000 we needed for our share of the project. The \$23,450 remaining will stay in the Frontenac Arch Natural Area fund until it is needed for the purchase of other such properties in the same area. That may be as soon as the spring.

The Sheffield sale is being completed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which is putting in the rest of the money (about \$1,400,000) and dealing with legalities. The sale will be completed sometime near the end of January. Watch for an announcement in the paper. But, thanks to you, the NCC can now wave monetary considerations for the sale.

The publicity surrounding the project also brought in 3 landowners who wished to donate or sell land to the Land Trust. Already we have made arrangements for Nature Conservancy of Canada in partnership with TIWLT, to accept 200 acres very near Gananoque Lake. There will be more about that next newsletter when things are finalized. We will be helping the N.C.C. to raise funds equal to 15% of the appraised value of the property for the N.C.C. Stewardship Endowment Fund (SEF) before the transaction can be finalized. Annual interest income from the SEF supports the stewardship staff of the N.C.C. who manage and monitor their conservation lands.

Thanks to our partners who helped with the Sheffield purchase:
Friends of Charleston Lake Park: Charleston Lake Environmental Association:
Leeds County Stewardship Council: Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust: Nature Conservancy of Canada: Charleston Lake Provincial Park - Ontario Parks

Charleston Lake Provincial Park will accept the Sheffield property. People will be able to walk in the woods but you will have to canoe to the property. There is no road access. Please be aware that the Sheffields retain some land around their cottages. You will be able to cross the 3,000-year-old portage in style thanks to John MacLeod and the FAB works crew who completed a wooden sidewalk over the muddy areas. Thanks John.

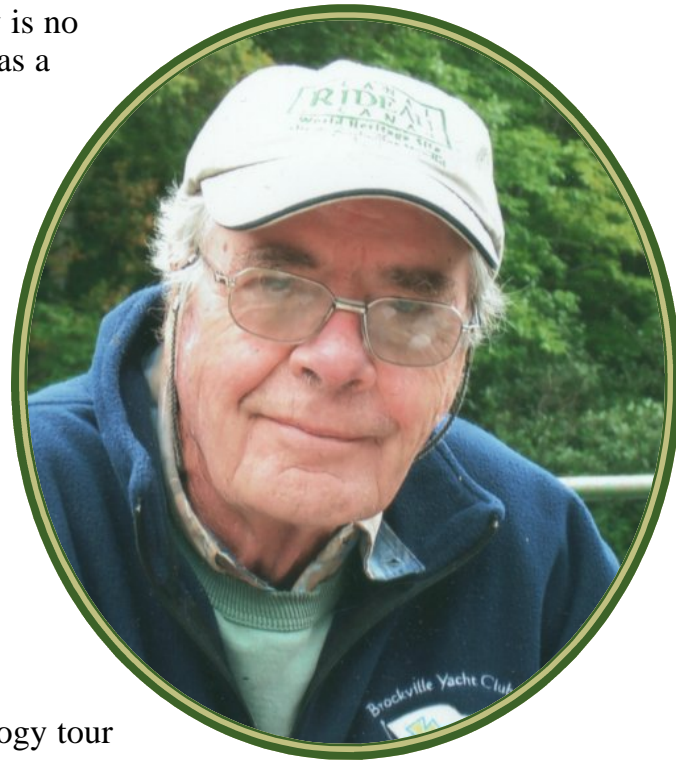
THANKS CHRIS

Readers of this newsletter may notice that Chris Findlay is no longer listed as one of our Executive. After many years as a Board member and Treasurer, Chris has decided to step down. We want to thank Chris for his hard work and dedication in keeping our books in order. In his eight years as our Treasurer, Chris was diligent in following the regulations (frustrating at times) laid down by central government agencies for charities such as ours. The past few years were particularly challenging as we were in transition from the old Heritage Conservancy to the new Watershed Land Trust, and two sets of identical books had to be maintained for reporting purposes. Anyone who attended our Annual General Meetings will know that Chris's financial reports to the membership were clear and concise. We do not have any paid staff, or an accountant at our disposal. Chris carried out his treasurer's duties as a volunteer.

Chris remains a busy volunteer, and among many other pursuits is one of the co-coordinators of the annual geology tour of the Thousand Islands region.

Thank you Chris.

Your love of the environment, and your perseverance and wit are much appreciated.



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS

The American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts has been operating for the past few years, but recently the Canadian federal government made it official with a brief ceremony in Oshawa, highlighting its importance.

Across Canada, some of our most environmentally sensitive lands are owned by Americans.

Canadians who donate property to land trusts don't have to pay capital gains taxes and can claim the gift as a charitable donation, but Americans who own land in Canada could not. The high value of some of the sites, and the tax implications could be significant enough to prevent Americans from donating them. Now with the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts in place, Americans can receive essentially the same tax breaks as Canadians. Because the new organization is based in the United States, U.S. donors will not only be able to avoid the Canadian capital gains tax, they will also be able to claim the gift as a charitable donation on their U.S. tax returns.

Bonnie Sutherland, one of the founders of the American Friends, said that there is plenty of pent up demand from U.S. owners of Canadian property. In our area, TIWLT is promoting the new organization because of the large amount of American owned property here. There is also interest from Americans elsewhere in Canada, including Georgian Bay, on the St. Mary's River in Nova Scotia, and on Vancouver Island.

Anyone wanting to know more about the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, can contact any of our Executive or Board of Directors.

2011 Cottage Tour

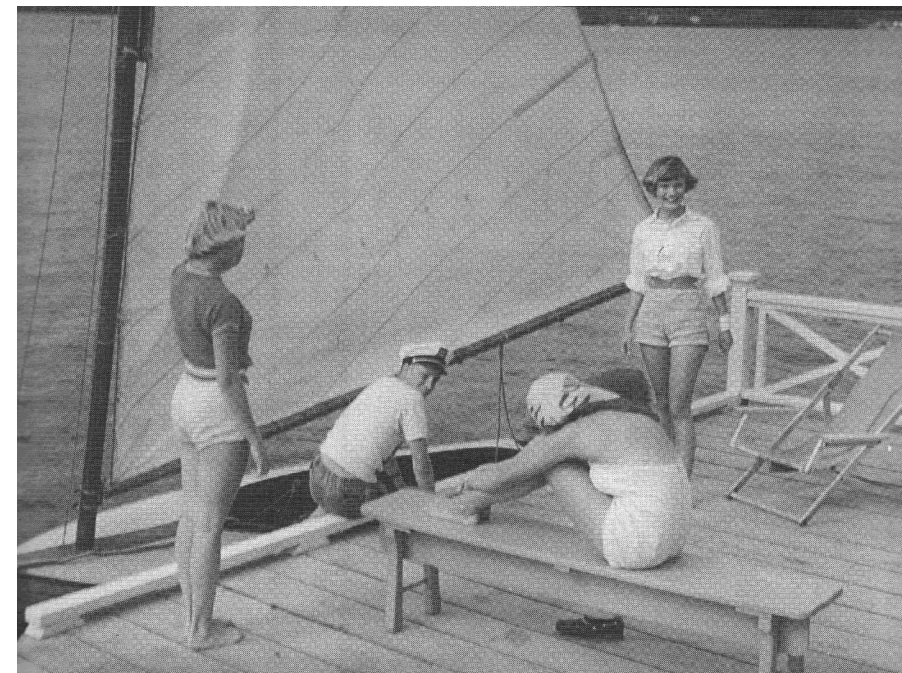
Marnie Ross

Most people enjoyed the 2010 cottage tour and how could they not with the wonderful families: the Flittons, the Marshalls and the Snells who shared their homes. As a footnote to the tour, Don & I were at the Brick Works in Toronto a couple of weeks ago and found a connection with Arthur P. Coleman who built the Snell's cottage. In the month of November there was a special event about A.P. Coleman who is credited with being the first person to understand that there was more than one ice age. He gained that understanding at the Brick Works as the layers of soil and rock were excavated for making brick. He understood the importance of fossils from warm and cold climates that reoccurred in the strata. There are interpretive signs at the Brick Works about his contributions to science and his art is in the Art Gallery of Ontario.

In July 2011, we are invited to go to Tidde Island off Gananoque. Some of you may know it as Park Tremont, the name of the hotel that burned there. We have talked with Peter Murray who has a family cottage on the island and he has discussed the idea with his neighbours who agree it would be fun. The great thing is that Peter and some friends from the island made a substantial book of the history of each cottage. It is now out of print after only one summer—but we are hoping it will be made available to us for the tour.

We have a great committee of myself, Ken Robinson, Joy Strachan and Sandy Gray who are currently contacting all islanders to see who would like to be involved.

On Tidde Island, it will be a whole new experience. You may come for the day or a couple of hours and walk the island visiting cottages where owners agree to be on the tour. You will be able to know the history of all the cottages whether you go inside or not. Besides cottages, there are aboriginal burial mounds in the woods, which have been researched by the Royal Ontario Museum. We're working on more information and a speaker if possible.



All Set Sail at Tidde

The island path meanders around the shore and just as a walk would take you an hour and a half to complete. We hope to have Local Flavours chefs and producers on hand for food stations and a couple of places where people can rest. You can decide how much or little you want to do. How does that sound? Let me know your thoughts about cottage tours both this one and those in the past.