

# Conservation Matters

A publication of the  
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

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*Thousand Islands Watershed  
Land Trust*

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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.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust will be held on

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27.**

If you are a member in good standing of the Land Trust you will have already received notice of this important AGM. If you cannot attend, your proxy vote is needed in order to conduct important business. This is the meeting in which the former Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy will be replaced officially by the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust as a corporation with charitable status.

**The AGM will take place at 7 pm.**  
at the office of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve,  
19 Reynolds Rd. Lansdowne.

The guest speaker is Gary Bell of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Gary will speak about NCC work in our area, and how we can work together to mutual advantage.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your membership for 2009, it is not too late. Simply complete the membership and donation form, and mail it with your cheque to the office address. Membership is \$40.00 per family. This money is kept separate from donations and is needed to pay expenses such as insurance, and TIWLT's own membership fees in organizations such as the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

## Cottage Tour Cancelled

The annual Historic Cottage Tour will not be held this year. Unfortunately we were unable to find three cottages available at the same time in the same area of the 1000 Islands. We realize that this is a disappointment to many members, their friends, and to many others who count on the tour as a major summer event. It is also a disappointment because the tour is the fund-raising event of the year for the Land Trust. Fortunately there is a reserve of money in the Conservation Fund, should there be an immediate need in a new project, and there is a potential new source of revenue from the local Community Foundation. (See separate article.)

If the Cottage Tour cannot be guaranteed for future years, we will certainly be looking for a fund-raising event to replace it.



The Gananoque River is an important part of a corridor linking the St. Lawrence River and Charleston Lake. Because of its strategic location, Lost Bay, at the northern end of the Gananoque River has for many years been a focus of attention for local conservationists and Ontario Nature (formerly the Federation of Ontario Naturalists). At Lost Bay local property owners, together with Ontario Nature, are buying 143 acres of undeveloped waterfront land that will be added to an existing nature reserve already owned by Ontario Nature. Both the existing reserve and the new property contain provincially significant wetlands as well

as forested rocky uplands. The new addition has a long shoreline which runs across the bottom and up the east side of Lost Bay.

The total purchase price is \$267,000.00, which includes a \$40,000.00 endowment to Ontario Nature to manage the much larger nature reserve.

Ontario Nature has obtained a grant of \$166,500.00 to help with the purchase. This leaves about \$100,000.00 for local property owners to raise. We have been asked to help, and the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust is therefore contributing \$5,000.00 from our conservation fund to this worthwhile endeavour.

The combined total of the existing nature reserve and the new property will be more than 250 acres. It will be protected as a core area, with the strong possibility of future expansion. It is part of a larger complex of wetlands extending from the huge Wiltse Creek marsh all the way to Charleston Lake. There are already two pieces of provincial Crown land at the head of Lost Bay, and a large property owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources immediately to the west of the reserve. The Crown lands, the MNR property, and the nature reserve will comprise more than 400 acres of wetland and upland, rich in biodiversity, and well worth protecting.

# Buy an Acre is back!

You have no doubt read the article in this newsletter about the exciting “Lost Bay Reserve” which the land trust is involved in helping to establish.

It is almost exactly 4 years ago that we coordinated and assisted in the purchase of the Haskin’s property addition to Charleston Lake Provincial Park. We used \$5,000 from our Conservation Fund to help make it happen. That is exactly why we have the fund - to allow us to move quickly when ecologically significant land becomes available. To make sure that we did not deplete this crucial fund after Haskins, we put on a “Buy an Acre” campaign and thanks to your very generous response, we quickly replenished our Conservation Fund. It has steadily grown from Cottage Tour income and other donations and currently totals about \$40,000.

Well we just used another \$5,000 from the fund to assist in the Lost Bay purchase. And you can probably guess what comes next. Quite right - a new campaign. We are calling it the “Lost Bay Buy an Acre” campaign.

Again the price is \$200 per acre; Lost Bay “deeds” will be issued along with tax receipts to both our Canadian and American donors.

Please make your donations to the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and note “Lost Bay” on the cheque. (see address and form below)

## Memberships and Donations

YES, here is my annual membership      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

And my donation of      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Buy an acre(s) @\$200.00/acre      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed      \$                     

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to:  
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust  
19 Reynolds Rd.  
Lansdowne, On  
K0E 1L0



## Update on the Mackintosh Conservation Easement

Recently, Douglas Mackintosh (former Crown Attorney, marine Contractor and TLTI Councillor) and his wife Blu (former teacher, and community organization contributor) put a conservation easement on their land in the Ivy Lea area with the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT).

Why would anyone give up some of their land rights and potential future value? In the words of Blu, "It has made all the difference to our lives to have this land, and now we would like it protected. Because of the rocky outcrops, swamps, bogs, marshes, and forests, it was a bad farm, but a very interesting property." The biodiversity has flourished over the years. The Mackintoshes didn't buy the land as a nature reserve -they bought it as a home and a marina in the 1960s and proceeded to dredge some of the marshes. As they lived there and learned more about nature, they began to see the beauty in the sheer number of different species at their doorstep. They learned that the marshes clean the river and provide a nursery for many species.

As a result of the conservation easement, a "living will" created by the Mackintosh family, they will continue to own the property, but there are restrictions on how it can be used in the future. The commercial marine operator currently leasing a small section of the property has a time limit on his lease; the marina can continue to function but not grow; the buildings can only expand a



certain amount and most of the land not currently in use will be protected for all time as a wild life corridor connecting the St. Lawrence River to Fitzsimmons Mountain and beyond. The land will be protected even if it changes hands because the conservation easement binds future owners as well as present ones. The Mackintoshes will also receive an tax credit for their gift of their development rights, as the Canada Revenue Agency and Environment Canada recognize the contributions of such conservation strategies to the protection of natural spaces in Canada.

In order to record the state of the property at the start of the easement process, TIWLT hired Toronto consultants April Weppner and Lionel Normand to do a baseline study. (Their services were offered, and successfully bought by the Land Trust, at auction at the Ontario Land Trust Alliance annual meeting.) April and Lionel documented the property and the species on it. Land Trust members were invited to join the process, and were thrilled when Lionel pointed out the Yellow-throated Vireo, a bird that needs high quality forests to survive. Lionel called in the bird with a recording and lured him into a tree right over the heads of the group for a photo opportunity. Lionel was thrilled to find three "flagship" species that show the health of the natural communities: the Yellow-throated Vireo (dry Oak forest), the Virginia Rail (large cattail marshes), and the Veery (thicket swamps). Those three species are great for monitoring the health of the natural communities. Lionel said, "It's poetic that the Yellow-throated Vireo was singing at the front door when I first arrived."

The Land Trust is now responsible for yearly monitoring of the property and holding the easement forever. The Trust is happy to take on this responsibility, even though it represents considerable planning and cost, because we believe that preserving properties such as the Mackintoshes' will help create a healthy environment not only for the plants and animals but for people as well.

# **The Thousand Island Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT) and the Brockville Community Foundation (BCF) join forces to participate in a province-wide fundraising initiative to raise funds to steward Ontario's natural and cultural heritage.**

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (representing 37 land trusts in Ontario) and Community Foundations of Canada (with 110 regional foundations across Canada) have launched an innovative partnership to raise funds to support land stewardship by land trusts in Ontario. With the assistance of a major grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation's Future Fund, the two alliances have established a partnership framework that will enable up to 20 pairs of local land trusts and community foundations to work together over a period of two years to raise funds to support the stewardship responsibilities of local land trusts.

The **Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust** and the **Brockville Community Foundation** have been chosen to be one of the first ten pairs in this experimental new initiative. Each pair will be supported to design and run a fundraising campaign, attempting to raise up to \$20,000 over the next two years. Money raised will go into an endowment fund managed by the Foundation, and the Land Trust will receive annually the earned income to support its stewardship responsibilities.

At the same time, the CFC and OLTA will seek corporate donors to contribute funds to match, dollar for dollar, those raised by the local partnership. The Trillium funds will support programme development, education and training opportunities, the development of resource and promotional material, and program evaluation.

Bringing together these two networks should significantly increase the funds available for stewardship of conservation lands, an urgent need identified by Ontario land trusts. Raising funds to secure conservation land through acquisition, gift, or easement and to ensure responsible documentation, monitoring and management of these lands throughout the future is a double challenge for the TIWLT. While our holdings are yet small, we must take the necessary steps to ensure that we have sufficient funds to deliver our responsibilities in perpetuity through an active and financially stable stewardship programme.

Teaming up with the Brockville Community Fund not only gives the Land Trust access to the experience and expertise of the BCF but also enables it to make its appeals known to a broader community. The support of the CFC/OLTA coalition will strengthen our capacity as well. Community Foundations are one of the fastest growing and most dynamic networks dedicated to building and strengthening communities in Canada. The central goal of a community foundation is to strengthen the quality of life in the community primarily by building permanent funds that yield interest income that is used to support local charitable initiatives. But they are also much more than that...often acting to strengthen local charities by coordinating activities or supporting collaborative efforts.

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and the Brockville Community Foundation will work together over the next several months to design a fundraising campaign to be announced before the end of the year.