

# Conservation Matters

A publication of the  
Canadian Thousand Islands  
Heritage Conservancy

www.1000islands-conservancy.on.ca

Winter 2003

## Biosphere Reserve Approved!

The 1000 Islands and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve was approved by Unesco in November 2003.

After the first round of announcements and congratulatory messages, the 1000 Islands Heritage Conservancy agreed to move the management of the Reserve over to the Watershed Nature and History network-a group of 25 or so conservation partners who work together in the area.

The public will be invited to contribute a new logo and the Watershed website will be redesigned and upgraded to become a 1000 Islands and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve site.

The Heritage Conservancy has received a grant of \$77,000 to assist the Watershed Network to move to incorporate and to carry projects in 2003 and 2004. Specifically, 4

interpretive plaques, 3 educational displays, 2 open houses, 3 community newsletters, 4 community conferences, 5 to 6 interpretive signs at Parkway rest stops, 100 native trees sold for replanting, 50 volunteers trained for endangered species counts, 1 agri-tourism workshop and 4 internet exchanges with other biosphere reserve (2 Cdn and 2 International).

We have already made a lot of progress in using the Biosphere

Reserve name to advantage to encourage conservation of nature and history with appropriate social and economic development, based on knowledge and building of community capacity.

More is coming.

The Watershed Network will be reorganizing in 2003 to become incorporated with a new Board of Directors and partnership structure custom designed to fit its role as the "manager of the 1000 Islands and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve". The Network is currently contemplating a number of new names and bylines-*The Biosphere Network, The Watershed Network, the Islands and Arch Network and The Biosphere Reserve Network*. This would almost always be combined with the byline *Managers of the 1000 Islands and Frontenac Arch Biosphere*

### INSIDE:

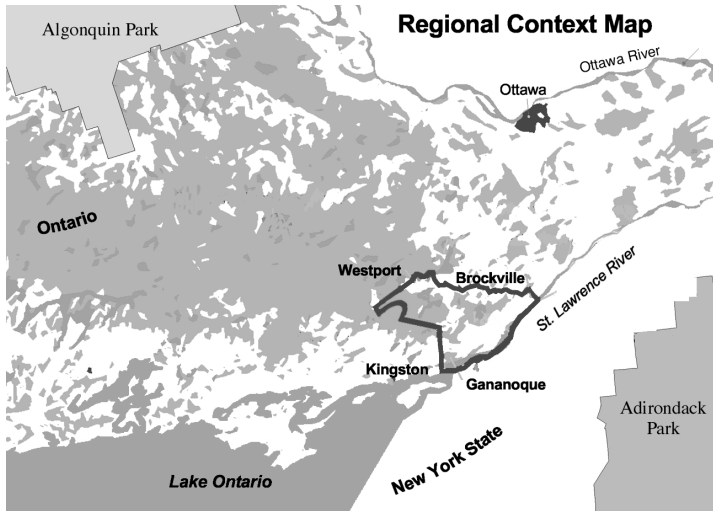
- page 2
- Map of Biosphere Reserve area
  - Works in Progress

page 3

- Tax Time - how conservation can help you

page 4

- Ask Peter
- Upcoming Events



### Biosphere designation in golden triangle area thrills conservationists

By MEGAN GILIS  
Staff Writer

ROCKPORT — The ecologically golden triangle between Brockville, Gananoque and Kingston has been designated the Canadian Thousand Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made the announcement from Paris Friday after two years of work by local conservationists.

The designation will focus local, national and international attention on the region's outstanding natural and cultural features and bring people together for co-operative efforts to protect them, said Norm Butts, executive director of the Watershed Nature and History Network, which will govern the reserve.

"It's the greatest of a community to rally together under a banner with the goal of meaningful conservation of the natural and cultural heritage and economic and social development, all at the same time, without one being put at an arm's length of the other," Butts said.

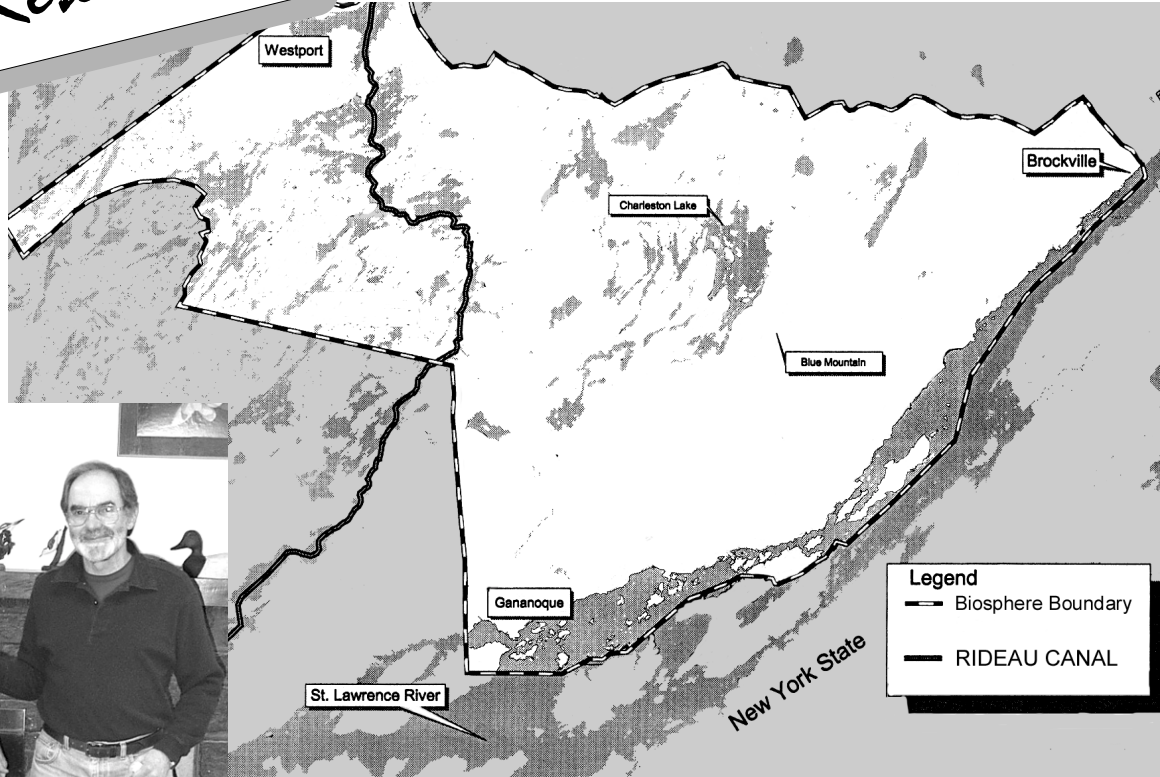
The 12 Canadian designations, which has symbolic but not legal weight, places the area in the company of 25 biospheres around the world such as America's Yellowstone National Park, Israel's Mount Carmel and Israel's Villages.

From  
"Brockville Recorder & Times",  
Nov. 9, 2002

\*The biosphere stretches across 1,200 square kilometers and is home to 50,000 people and a variety of biodiversity, including many rare species, such as the red-shouldered hawk, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, pitch pine, devilberry and the black rat snake (previously ext.).  
See BIODIVERSITY on page A2.



# Biosphere Reserve Area



(left) Carol Clemenhagen and Dave Warner, Co-Chairs of the Biosphere Reserve Committee, share a celebratory cake at a recent Board meeting. It was cooked up to honour the completion of this significant project that began 3 years ago.

**We thank you, Carol & Dave, and our numerous supporters for the vision and the seemingly endless footwork that made this possible.**  
 — CTIHC Board of Directors  
 (on behalf of the membership)



## Work-In-Progress

| Ecological Gift                   | Location                         | Significance   | Status   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Land Donation                     | 100 acres<br>At La Rue Mills     | Protection of wetland and woodland habitat   | Currently being appraised<br>Expect donation summer 2003         |
| Island Donation                   | 0.25 acres<br>Gananoque Narrows  | Unique osprey habitat<br>Preserving natural landscape  | Currently being appraised<br>Expect donation during 2003         |
| Easement Donation                 | 20+ acres<br>Nr. Ivy Lea         | Protection of wetland and natural shoreline  | Easement document being drafted<br>Expect completion during 2003 |
| Various Donations<br>And Exchange | 2500 acres<br>St. Lawrence River | Protection of significant wetlands which would increase the core protected area of the Biosphere Reserve | Negotiations and fundraising ongoing                             |

## Paying Income Tax? Not Necessarily...

It is that time of year again, when we become acutely aware of how much we are paying in income tax, and perhaps even reflect on how we think these monies should be spent. Did you know that an ecological gift can translate into a substantial income tax credit?

Private and corporate land owners making an ecological gift, in the form of a donation of a conservation easement or covenant, or of land ownership, can receive a tax receipt for the value of the donation that can be used against 100% of their annual income. So in addition to permanently protecting the landscape and resources that you cherish, you can also receive a tax credit that can be carried forward to reduce future income taxes for up to five years.

For those who need to consider capital gains, donors of ecological gifts are only taxed on 25% of the capital gain associated with their donation. For some, this can be a substantial tax exemption. Of course the specific tax benefits of any donation depends on personal circumstances. If you think you would like to pursue this opportunity, you should seek qualified independent income tax advice.

### No Two Gifts Are the Same

Each landowners' needs are different, and we are pleased to be working with a variety of individuals and businesses to achieve a result that best suits them. Some of these needs and interests include: protecting the viewscape and privacy of cottages; estate planning for the preservation and use of a family recreation property; ensuring the character and resources of a property are respected by future owners; and enabling the receipt of income tax credits to American citizens for a Canadian ecological gift.

Following the process set out by Environment Canada, the Conservancy has been facilitating a number of different ecological gifts and protection measures that result in a 'win-win' for both landowners and the Region's natural environment.

- *Donations of land ownership*, where an owner wishes to protect and retain the character of a parcel of land
- *Donations of a conservation easement*, where an owner registers restrictions on the Land Title regarding future uses, while retaining full ownership of their land
- *Land purchase for the purpose of donation*, where a concerned group purchases a property together, and gifts it to the Conservancy in order to secure the longterm protection of its unique features
- *Assisting in an exchange of lands between owners*, so that a landowner may donate a property with significant natural resources in exchange for a property more suitable to his personal needs
- *Outright purchase of ecologically significant lands* to ensure their future protection



If you wish to put a heritage or conservation easement on all or part of your property, we can help you. For information please call: **Dave Warner** at (613) 923-2054,

You can download several publications, including the *Landowners Options*, and the *Heritage Notes* series on the Conservancy web site.



Conservancy projects rely on your support through donations, volunteer work and in-kind contributions.

Your membership payment covers a variety of costs, including:

- insurance, which covers all Conservancy activities
- taxes on properties owned by the Conservancy
- ever-increasing postage costs
- printing and stationary
- office rent
- memberships, in the **Ontario Land Trust Alliance**, and in the **WaterShed** coalition
- computer software for word processing and for tracking membership.

Please renew your membership. Thank you.





Invest in your future —  
respect your  
environment.

If you want to get involved in any CTIHC projects please contact :  
**Dave Warner** at (613) 923-2054,  
or  
**Don Ross** at (613) 659-4590.

*This publication was produced entirely by volunteers.*



## Ask Peter

*How do I “naturalize” my property? It seems like a very difficult project.*

— *Lost in the Bush*

There has been a wealth of information published recently about the many benefits of “naturalizing” your waterfront property.

Staff at St. Lawrence Islands National Park have produced a “how to” booklet on the subject, and your own Heritage Conservancy has information as well. Some suggestions may seem quite daunting, as they give the impression that you must do it all at once, and get it done in one season.

If you would like to “decivilize” your property to some extent - and reduce the amount of cutting and mowing - first sketch out a long term plan. Identify the particular blocks you wish to work on: for example, a section of waterfront, the grassy area behind the cottage, or the path from the dock.

Choose the block you want to work on and decide how much you want to achieve this year, or next. *And if you need help or advice, just ask.*

Your Conservancy has expertise, as does Parks Canada, and we are willing to help.

It will take time to implement your plan and see results, so don’t be discouraged. Native plants need time to become established, ground cover is often slow in advancing into new territory, young trees need TLC, and even rocks take time to age in new locations.

This perspective of natural landscaping is not for every area or for everyone, but if you feel that it will “naturally” improve your property, give it a try. Remember that you don’t have to lose that favourite view of the River when you naturalize. Both you and those who see your efforts will be rewarded.

*Peter Murray is a forester and long time member of the CTIHC Board.*

*Ed. Note: Now is a good time to start scanning local notices for seminars on landscaping and gardening.*



## Mark These Dates

### • Saturday, May 24

The Conservancy will hold its Annual General Meeting on **May 24th in Rockport**. This year we will combine the AGM with a workshop on shoreline stewardship. Look for more details in the next edition of the newsletter.

• **Environment Week** begins **June 2** this year. During Environment Week, there will be various events throughout the region to celebrate the United Nations recent announcement of the Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. The WaterShed will provide more details in the coming weeks.



New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Member \$25     Friend \$50     Patron \$100     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a copy of the Stewardship Manual \$7.50 including shipping

Please send me a copy of the Landowner's Conservation Options Package (free with membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to: **Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy,**  
P.O Box 266, Mallorytown, Ontario K0E 1R0

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