

# FUTURE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

## 3,317 Acres and Growing

### Lakes, Woods and Wetlands

**Lakes** - The Spring 2010 issue of *Future* reported on the multiple conservation easements registered by the Glassco Family in King Township bringing a full 378 acres of the moraine under permanent protection. As an update on one final piece of those transactions; Jane Glassco's generous purchase of an unopened road allowance, and subsequent coverage under agreement, now protects the entirety of Hall Lake. The 32 kettle lakes on the moraine are the remaining 'puddles' from the last ice age and are considered significant natural heritage features.

**Woods** - King Township was the site of another 63.1 acres (25.5 ha) of permanent protection. "Every transaction we enter into is different," reports Patricia Short-Gallé, President, "this one involves York Region as both a funding partner and partner in ownership and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) as a source of federal funding through a national conservation program. Working together was an energizing exercise, meeting so many objectives of the three organizations, and complementing the work of many others."

Situated in the Happy Valley forest, considered a national conservation priority area by the NCC, the property is dominated by a woodland of Sugar Maple – Beech in great condition with a tall, closed canopy. The Oak Ridges Trail winds up and down the dramatic rolling hills and valleys which typify the moraine through the property. A watercourse flows through the woodland to the northwest and into the Pottageville Swamp.



Happy Valley Forest

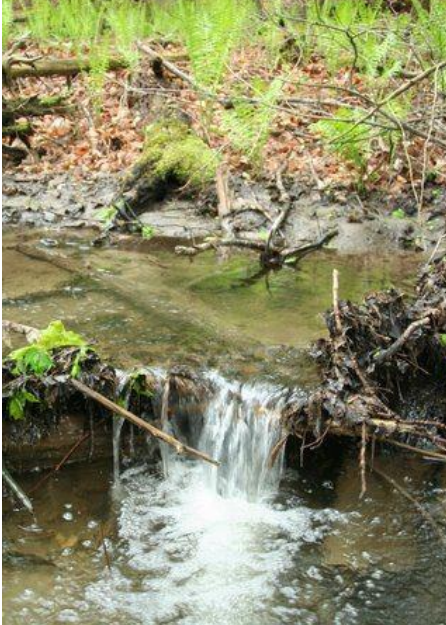
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Continued from page 1



Whitchurch - Stouffville Wetland

**Wetlands** - A 18.9 acre fee-simple donation of property to the Land Trust in Whitchurch Stouffville rounds out acquisitions to date. Fully within the natural core area of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and classed as

an area of High Aquifer Vulnerability, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has identified the location as a Ground Water Recharge - Environmentally Sensitive Area. The stream that flows east to west through the property is part of the East Holland River. Small does not mean unimportant.

Tiny wetlands on the property are not classified, however as they are in close proximity to other significant wetlands and protected areas, they play a critical role in providing connected passage for wetland species. These small wetlands are the home of choice for breeding and nesting ducks who like their bit of privacy. There have been many recorded sightings of the Red Shouldered Hawk, a species identified as threatened by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, on and around the property.

Lakes, woods, wetlands. All are common on the moraine, but still they

require your help to ensure they are secured for future generations. The work is not done yet.

The Land Trust is happy to discuss securement options with any landowner – especially those that leave the property in your hands, with your commitment to growing a collective, healthy future on the Oak Ridges Moraine.



Whitchurch - Stouffville

## Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Celebration!



AGM 2010: Tom Atkins, Don Prince, Mary Dube & Reid Irwin

**Date: Sunday May 29th**  
**Time: 1:00 pm till 4:00 pm.**  
**Location: Saddleback Farm**  
**15460 - 7th Line, Kettleby**

Join the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, Sunday, May 29 to look back, look forward, and find ways to continue the Trust's objective of moraine protection. Past, present and future volunteers including Directors of the Trust, and staff, will be available to explain the Trusts programs

and activities. You can help protect the moraine too! Come out, meet mingle and find out more.

The gathering will be held at Saddleback Farm, 15460 - 7th. Line, Kettleby. Take 7th Concession, south off Lloydtown Aurora Road, just past the Pottageville Community Centre. Refreshments will be served. You are encouraged to access the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail from the meeting site before or after planned activities. **Please RSVP.**



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## Assessing Your Organization

In March Land Trust directors, staff and program contractors joined in a governance review exercise led by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA). The purpose was to see if organizational policies and operational procedures are in line with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.

In addition to reflecting on governance strengths and weaknesses, there was considerable discussion about documentation of land transactions and agreements, an understandable concern given the nature of the Trust's work.

The exercise confirmed that ORMLT has few concerns in the land securement area and, in fact, has some great strengths. OLTA will provide us with a report including outcomes from a prioritization exercise that was part of the review. The Board of Directors will use this report to determine the urgency with which any shortfalls or changes in policy and procedures should be addressed.

There are 34 land trusts in the OLTA. We were pleased to learn that the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust holds the greatest number of acres under Conservation Easements and

the largest number of individual agreements. The number of agreements is great news as it shows that more and more private landowners are interested in protecting the moraine.

Clearly, those working directly in the Land Trust are not an elite few and this is YOUR organization, working for public benefit now and in the future. That's a pretty good assessment in itself.

## Why do we need \$1 million?

Stewardship Campaign funds will be used to:

- Support securement activity to protect more lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine, their functions and habitats. We hope to obtain three new agreements in each of the next three years. This could protect 900 more acres, based on the average size of agreements now in effect. Whether in public or private ownership, protected lands provide enormous public benefit by naturally cleansing waters, moderating flows and supporting wildlife diversity.
- Build an endowment fund to ensure the Trust can meet commit-

ments to annually monitor and encourage further stewardship and restoration of over 3,300 acres across 37 properties secured to date. If we raise \$1 million this year, interest earned on it will cover monitoring activity for the next two years – and beyond.

- Support a three-year Communications and Outreach campaign aimed at new and non-traditional audiences for environmental messaging. The objective: to expand the public's understanding and support for sustainable use of the moraine.



*Protected Land*



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## Volunteers: Passion. Action. Impact



Susan Walmer with Volunteers Lissa and Crystal

The Land Trust understands why the 2011 National Volunteer Week theme; *Volunteers: Passion. Action. Impact*, was chosen. Recognized annually in mid April, National Volunteer Week, [www.volunter.ca/nvw](http://www.volunter.ca/nvw) is Canada's largest celebration of volunteers, volunteerism, and civic participation. It's displayed by ORMLT volunteers every day.

Volunteers assist the Trust's limited staff to fulfill the mandate and make sure the work gets done. There are currently 15 active volunteers who passionately support ORMLT activity. Since the beginning of 2011 alone, these volunteers have contributed close to **500 hours** to the work and governance of the Land Trust. In economic terms, they have contributed over **\$13,000**, and the year is far from over yet! That's action with impact driven by a passion for the Oak Ridges Moraine.

What do Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust volunteers do? A combination of continual positions and one-off tasks rely on the on-going support of volunteers.

- **Governance:** each Director on the Board gives their time, experience and skills to running the organization; ensuring that the mandate, goals, policies and operations are in line with legal requirements

- **Property files archiving:** elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about this incredible work. The team is about to start scanning those files for electronic use and storage.

- **Contact List Updating:** you may have had a cheery call from volunteers updating your information, including your e-mail address, so newsletter printing and mailing costs can be reduced

- **Research:** several volunteers are assisting with on-line scanning and collection of materials to assist with various communications and fundraising related tasks

- **Administration:** sharp-eyed volunteers are summarizing past board motions, board member service years, and other facts and figures to provide quick reference to important dates and numbers

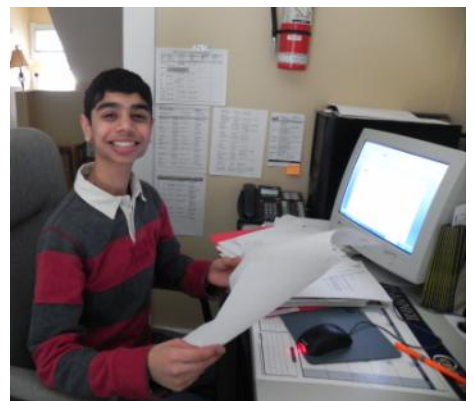
- **Outreach:** thanks for the new look for this newsletter and much appreciated editing skills are due to two recently recruited volunteers whose work you are witnessing here

The Board of Directors recently reviewed and adopted a Volunteer Orientation Manual to assist with the management of this essential re-

source. Developed with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's grant, "The Moraine. For Life. *Working Together for the Oak Ridges Moraine.*"; the grant has also funded a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, Frieda Baldwin. Frieda has worked on volunteer job and task descriptions, advertised volunteer opportunities and is working with current volunteers to collect information on hours worked in support of the Trust.

We thank all volunteers, past and present, for every bit of passion, action and impact invested in the Trust and in protection, stewardship and sustainable use of the ecologically significant Oak Ridges Moraine. The Trust is nothing without you.

See how you can assist your Land Trust elsewhere in this newsletter or, on the website under "You Can Help".



Volunteer Mohammed - grade 11 student

## How helping the Land Trust is helping a new graduate



Volunteer Vanessa

I decided to volunteer at the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to gain experience in the environmental sector. As a recent university graduate with a major in Geography and Environmental Studies, I did not have much extracurricular or work experience to complement my studies. Unfortunately, this made it difficult to look for a job in the environmental field because most employers require three to five years of experience in dealing with environmental issues. I highly recommend that high school and post-secondary students actively pursue volunteer work in their field of interest while studying. I have discovered that employers really value volunteer work as it shows your social responsibility and well-roundedness. Had I volunteered throughout high school and university, I would have

already accumulated years of valuable experience, and my job search would have been easier.

Now, as a Land Trust volunteer, I'm not only gaining hands-on experience in my chosen field but increasing my personal interest and knowledge as I read about the properties and view photographs. Volunteering is also a great way to meet new people and make friends.

### What I do

I'm one of five volunteer Property Files Archivists. The Trust created our team to clean up and better organize property files that over the years have become over-burdened with duplicate information and somewhat disorganized. There are legal documents, e-mails, property maps, photos, EcoSensitivity reports and relevant newspaper articles. The most important pieces to be able to retrieve are the legal documents, which may include appraisal reports, baseline reports, a Letter of Intent, a Statement of Fair Market Value and a Tax Clearance Certificate. It is important to preserve these documents forever as the purpose of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine forever.

Each Property Files Archivist volunteer has a different background and interest in volunteering. We received training and orientation about the moraine, the Land Trust and our task. We self-organized our work with each volunteer working on one property at a time. So far the team has donated 250 hours of effort.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Tree planters  
On-Line Researcher  
Project Coordinators  
Committee team members  
Board Directors

### CONTACT:

volunteer coordinator  
Frieda Baldwin at  
[ormvolunteers@bellnet.ca](mailto:ormvolunteers@bellnet.ca)

if you require more information, or if you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering for any of the above positions.

If you haven't already done so a

[Volunteer Application](#) form can be filled in on the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust website  
[www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)

Continued from page 6



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*Continued from page 5*

The process of reorganizing these files involves separating the legal documents from background. Background documents are then reviewed by staff who decide which to purge.

Once a file has been cleansed, legal documents are stored in a fireproof filing cabinet for long-term security and other documentation will be stored elsewhere. Winnowing materials for storage in the fire-proof cabinet will allow for more expansion in the Trusts' protection efforts!

Our team is also responsible for creating a Summary Sheet for each property file containing vital quick-reference information.

### **What I've learned**

Through my studies in geography and environmental policy, I know about many loopholes and weaknesses in government conservation policies. For example, one of the objectives of the 2002 Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is to protect the integrity of the moraine. However, large swaths of land are still able to be developed through applications "grandfathered" at the time of the Act's passing – even though these lands are a part of the moraine and provide forest cover, habitat and hydrological services.

Volunteering with the ORMLT has provided me with a clearer understanding of how some legislative

weaknesses can be addressed and has added to my marketable skills.

It is nice to know that there are non-governmental organizations, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, that actually have the ability to protect ecologically sensitive land for us and many species.

*Vanessa Pickett*

## **Work on the Web**

If you haven't recently visited the Land Trust's website at [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org), please check it out. You'll find a whole new experience.

The site has been overhauled and revised thanks to support from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF) and staffing resources made available through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) *Working Together for the Oak Ridges Moraine* grant.

There is a brand new section called *About the Moraine*. It consolidates information from our previous site, the ORMF's Moraine for Life site and the STORM Coalition site created by Save The Oak Ridges Moraine. This

required extensive effort. The section also has links to websites run by ORMF, STORM and other organizations working to protect the moraine. (Moraine-wide organizations had considered creating one combined site, but decided instead to maintain individual presence with links that make it easy for users to access the moraineosphere from any entry point regardless of organizational affiliation, loyalty or interest.)

The section called *Protecting the Moraine* has a sub section called *Land Trust Work* where you will find a brief description of each property protected by ORMLT. With the help of easement holders, land donors and others we will be adding photos

from each property, continually sharing the wonders and values of the moraine and its diverse species.

Please explore the website, learn more about the moraine, more about what can be done and let others know about the information available there – all at the touch of a button. (Parents: those "others" include children working on school assignments!) Like moraine protection and stewardship, the work on the website is not done yet! Additions will continue, so revisit often!



## Update on \$1 Million Stewardship Campaign

We are making progress in our \$1 million fundraising campaign, but time is running out!

The campaign was launched last September as part of the Land Trust's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. So far we have raised \$58,000.00, mostly in large donations for which we are extremely grateful. The \$1 million goal includes \$80,000 in small donations from individuals. These are important as a demonstration of public support that can help us gain more funding from private and public foundations.

But so far these individual donations total just \$5,000.00. Here are four ways that you can help meet the \$80,000 challenge:

- Make a simple on-line donation through our secure website. Or send a cheque by mail. Charitable receipts are available.
- Think of the Trust when celebrating one of Life's Milestones. For example, mark a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by donating \$50, or celebrate 35 years of marriage by donating \$35. Why not ask friends and fam-

ily to donate too instead of buying gifts? They would save time and effort, and help save the moraine.

- For many, spring and summer mean yard sales and neighbourhood get-togethers. Tell your neighbours about the Trust and champion a promotion. The moraine is where we live, work and play.
- Individual donations help ensure the moraine's survival as a legacy to future generations. Please think of supporting the Trust when remembering a loved one, and also when celebrating the birth of a child who can enjoy nature's wonders for many years to come.

"I want to save my grandfather's farm. Too often we've seen cases where, despite wishes and wills, kids just want to sell properties off," says the Hon. Hal Jackman, the Campaign Chair. "In addition to these family attachments to our properties, we all need to recognize that other species share the moraine and need this place called 'home' too. That's the part about this campaign that excites me. It's not just about human benefit."

Located in the most densely populated region in Canada, the moraine is home to more than 1,700 species of plants, moss, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. More than 500 of these species are considered "at risk" or "rare."

"The environmental sector receives only 2% - yes just 2% - of Canadians' total charitable giving," notes Mr. Jackman. "The environment sustains everything else we do. We need to increase our giving in support of it. That's a great investment as protection now is less expensive than restoring and repairing later. Help me raise \$1 million."

### **Thank you to our recent Stewardship Campaign Donors:**

**The Hon. Hal Jackman  
J.P. Bickell Foundation  
Jackman Foundation 1964  
LGL Limited  
van Nostrand & Partners  
Tom Atkins  
Mary Dube  
Patricia Short-Gallé  
Susan Walmer**

## **RIDE FOR THE MORAINE**



Hop aboard your favourite motor cycle and join a fund raising ride on

**Saturday, July 9th,  
2011.**

Meet at 10:00 am at the Zephyr Community Centre  
Durham Regional Roads 13 and 39

Return Route to Zephyr for BBQ lunch & community viewing of motorcycles.

Prizes & surprises! All welcome.

To register  
\$20.00 per participant  
& for more information  
Call 905-473-9523



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## Plant a Tree. Save a Fish.



One should never underestimate the ability of a small, colourful minnow to bring people together. The reddsidedace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) is native to southern Ontario and sensitive to habitat disturbances.

They can't improve their surroundings themselves, but organizations and individuals can by partnering for their protection. Can you spare a little time for this endangered fish on Saturday morning, May 7, or later this fall?

Redside dace populations have declined so much that in 2009 its status was upgraded from provincially threatened to endangered. This new designation provides additional legal protection under the Endangered Species Act. But legal protection doesn't solve the habitat loss challenge.

Small, even seasonally flowing creeks and grassed swales at the very top end of a watershed, like many on the Oak Ridges Moraine, may not seem very important. In actual fact, maintaining a buffer along these "headwater drainage features" is most critical because the positive benefits felt here will trickle down and improve all water quality and habitat downstream.

Lynde Creek, which begins on the moraine, is home to the endangered reddsidedace. In 2009, Ontario Streams began the Lynde Creek Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project. Pro-

tecting and rehabilitating habitat in and adjacent to Lynde Creek is the only way to ensure the future of reddsidedace here. This includes private landowners implementing projects such as tree plantings, fish habitat enhancement and wetland restoration.

As luck would have it, in the case of Lynde Creek, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust had already engaged with a private landowner who was willing to place a Conservation Easement on one property in the village of Ashburn, north of Whitby.

At some point in the past the land was used as pasture for cattle who had unrestrained access to the creek. Together with the current landowners, ORMLT and many other partners, Ontario Streams is leading a multi-year initiative to re-establish a 30 meter riparian buffer along the stream. Environment Canada recommends a minimum 30 meter buffer along waterways like these.

A riparian buffer is an area of natural vegetation left along a stream. Riparian buffers are a great investment in terms of bang-for-the-buck! That's because the long grasses, trees and shrubs all help to:

- Shade the creek and keep water temperatures cool during hot summer months;
- Filter runoff before it enters the

watercourse;

- Slow flood waters during spring melt and high flow conditions;
- Stabilize stream banks by preventing erosion;
- Provide organic matter (leaves, branches, etc.) for the stream's food chain and in-stream habitat and;
- Provide wildlife habitat on the site for other species along with necessary cover and a corridor to other connected habitats.

On Saturday morning, May 7, 750 trees and shrubs will be planted along Lynde Creek to add to those already generously supported by contributions of time and money from several organizations and individuals over the past two years. A second planting date, to be announced for the fall, will see a further 750 additions.

To help with this year's work, contact Christine Pritchard at [christine.pritchard@ontariostreams.on.ca](mailto:christine.pritchard@ontariostreams.on.ca). (Children are more than welcome!)

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is pleased to be involved with this important project and proud of our many landowners who, on their own properties, work so hard for the long-term benefit of the public ...and all species!

**To learn more about  
Ontario Streams visits:  
[www.ontariostreams.on.ca](http://www.ontariostreams.on.ca)**



# Make a Contribution...Make a Difference

## Support Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Now!

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has the relationships and tools for land conservation. We appreciate every financial contribution made, large or small. Your donation today will help support essential projects and programs in land and water conservation initiatives in this important area. You can make a difference in the "rain barrel of southern Ontario." The work is not done, your contribution will further expand the protection and perpetual stewardship of land across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

## Direct Your Annual United Way Donation

You can provide support by specifying the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust as the recipient of your United Way contribution! If you already make an annual United Way contri-

bution through your employer, you can easily direct this contribution to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. The United Way will forward your contribution to the Land Trust (minus a United Way administration charge). This will help your company to meet your annual United Way targets and benefit the Land Trust too. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust will not receive any benefit from United Way unless you clearly specify your intentions when you are making your contribution.

## Add Us To Your Employment Giving Website!

As a small-volunteer run organization, getting the word out about our efforts is an on-going priority. If the opportunity exists for you to add the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to your organization's Employee Giving Website, we would truly appreciate

the support! Many will be interested in the "green" impact made by supporting the Moraine For Life program.

## Encourage Your Work Group to Support The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Through Corporate Donations, Sponsorships Or Your Own Fun Event!

A healthy workplace starts with a healthy world. Many of your employees and customers live and work on the Oak Ridges Moraine and may be interested in becoming "greener". If the opportunity exists to include the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust for your corporate support add us to your organization's Employee Giving Website, we would truly appreciate it!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Fundraising Coordinator

Phone: 905-833-3171 ext. 30

Email: fundraising@bellnet.ca



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### ENCLOSED, PLEASE FIND MY DONATION OF:

\$50.00    \$100.00    \$250.00    \$500.00

other \$\_\_\_\_\_    Please send me a tax receipt.

Cheque / Money Order    Visa / MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LANDTRUST.**



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