

FUTURES

YOUR ACTION REPORT FROM THE OAK RIDGES MORAINES LAND TRUST

'Your Moraine... protect water, land and life for tomorrow'

PROTECTION NEWS: ANOTHER 404 ACRES PROTECTED FOREVER

Through the generosity and foresight of five Ontario landowners, 163 hectares (404 acres) have been protected forever!

12,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING: PETERBOROUGH COUNTY

Just 3.5 kilometers north of the Oak Ridges Moraine eastern border, two neighbouring properties combine to create 80 hectares (200 acres) of ecological haven. **The landowners chose to donate these 80 hectares in Peterborough County through a Conservation Easement Agreement and ensure their well-loved land would be protected forever.**

While surrounding areas are facing pressure to develop, these properties exist as a reminder of the area's natural beauty. Local wildlife finds a home within the tall woodlands, marshy wetlands, and open fields. Wetlands on this property are attached to Squirrel Creek Provincially Significant Wetland and are home to riparian Species at Risk (SAR) like the beloved and uniquely striped Northern Map Turtle (Special Concern). Possibly the most distinct aspect are the geological features. Two drumlins on the properties were formed 12,000 years ago resulting in elongated hills specific to the size, speed, and direction of the glacier that formed them. The



Peterborough drumlin

existence of these drumlins is a visual relic of Canada's natural history.

The owners completed the donation of these two South Monaghan properties after completing a Conservation Easement donation for their family's farm in 2019. Through a Conservation Easement Agreement, these landowners can continue to own these properties while experiencing peace of mind knowing that their land will be protected forever.



FARM TO FOREST

Located entirely within the natural core area of the Oak Ridges Moraine, this exceptional 82.5 hectare (204 acre) property has also been acquired through a Conservation Easement Agreement donation. The generous gift was made by a family of long-term advocates for the protection of the Moraine.

Though initially zoned for agriculture, this fully forested property is part of the largest continuous woodland in the Township, making it important local habitat for the Eastern Wood-pewee and the Cerulean Warbler. In fact, this property and its surrounding areas are home to many Species at Risk (SAR). These include, Bank Swallow (Threatened), Barn Swallow (Threatened), Blanding's Turtle (Threatened), Bobolink (Threatened), and many more making a total of 23 SAR. In addition to providing habitat, the natural features of this property are responsible for facilitating base flow and absorption of snow melt and storm run-off into Scugog Lake.

These projects were also supported by the Government of Canada through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund; and the Ecological Gifts Program. This program provides enhanced tax incentives for individuals or corporations who donate ecologically significant land. Thank you also to the ECHO Foundation for providing support for the protection of all three properties. **Most importantly, thank you to the land owners for making the choice to place their properties within the Land Trust.**



Blanding's Turtle by Aileen Barclay



Eastern Wood-Pewee by Aileen Barclay



Anne McLeod TRIBUTE

Our thoughts are with the McLeod family as they grieve the passing of their mother, Anne McLeod, in July.

Anne and her husband James protected part of their Aurora property with the Land Trust in 2005. Their gift contains the single largest block of mature forested land in northern Aurora, and located at the upper headwaters of the East Holland River which flows north from the Oak Ridges Moraine. Sugar Maple, American Beech, White Elm, Basswood and White Pine trees form a vibrant, living canopy that supports a variety of wildlife including the red salamander. But it's not the trees or waters that make the property so special and memorable for the McLeod family and their friends: it was summers spent exploring the "bush", participating in ad-hoc events, and coming home at sunset with Jimmy pulling the hay wagon with his favorite John Deere.

Anne and James created a living legacy with their gift. It is our honour to care for the McLeod Nature Reserve forever as part of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.



A Trillium on the McLeod property

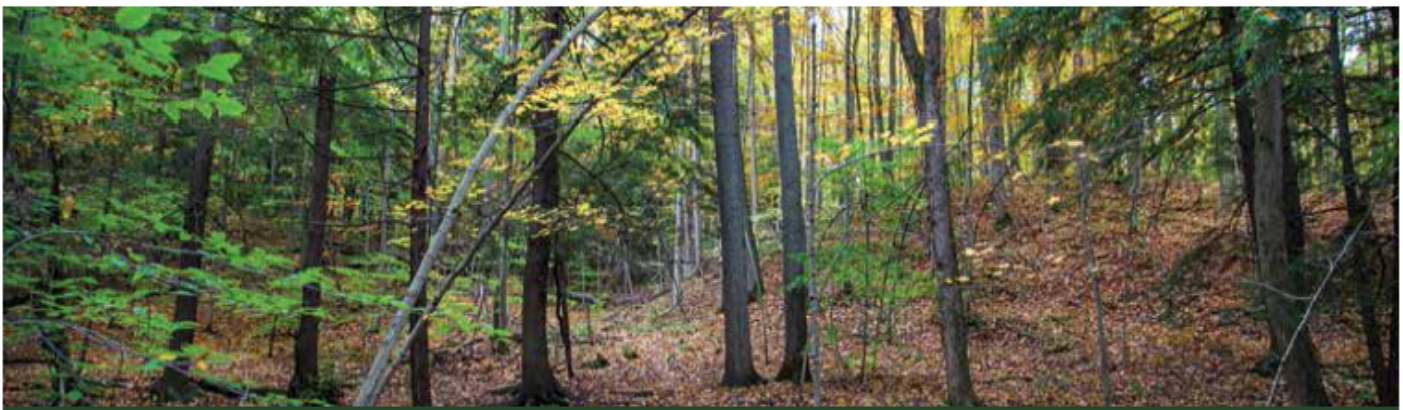


Kirtland's Warbler by Jim Forrest

NEW PROJECT: Saving the Kirtland's Warbler

On May 31, 2022, Jim Forrest of Barrie, ON visited the Packard Tract and discovered two male Kirtland's Warblers in the Red Pine portion of the site. The Ontario Kirtland's Warblers Restoration group confirmed the sighting and determined that between 4 to 6 males were present at this location. This is a major breakthrough in the work to protect this globally endangered bird.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and our partners are leading a multi-year project to establish up to 400 hectares of Pine Oak Savannah in Southern Ontario. While Kirtland's Warbler is the umbrella species for this project, the restoration will re-establish important ecological communities that will benefit other species at risk including Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Mottled Duskywing, American Bumblebee, and more. There is an estimated 700-1000 acres of land needed for the project in the Northumberland region of the eastern Moraine. **If you or someone you know owns property in this region, we would love to speak to them** You may be able to play an important role in saving the Warbler.



EVENT CALENDAR

Events are free, but registration is required. Register at www.oakridgesmoraine.org/events.

ORMLT requires that all event attendees follow our Covid-19 policy, which can be found on our event page.

LEARN AT HOME: the virtual library is always open at www.oakridgesmoraine.org/webinars.

Community SPOTLIGHT

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a collective of people united with one purpose: to protect and care for the Oak Ridges Moraine, now and forever.

NATASHA KHAN

“Nature is my entire being. It is where I find inspiration, solace, connection, purpose and meaning. I am a nature and wildlife photographer. As well, I am a teacher. Most important, I am a life learner of nature.”

Natasha Khan is a Bioblitz volunteer. She explores protected properties during BioBlitzes to help find and identify different species and documents them with her brilliant photographs.

CHRISTINE MASON

“Volunteering has given me the opportunity to explore some of the ORMLT’s properties in search of breeding birds. In doing so, we found several Species at Risk, evidence of the importance of protecting habitat.”

Christine participated in the BiOlympic Battle of the Birders as an All-star. She and her teammate (also named Christine) won the trophy for Best Supporting Team two years running.

ACTION DAY: Grassland Planting

September 24 (rain date Sept 25), 10–12pm

Location: MapleCross Nature Reserve

Grasslands are the world’s most threatened habitats, and they provide habitat for many Species at Risk. Our goal is to plant 1,000 grassland plants.

ACTION DAY: Pollinator Garden Planting

September 25 (Rain date Oct 1), 1–3pm

Location: StarCliff Nature Reserve

Come out to StarCliff Nature Reserve and help expand a sanctuary for pollinators. Native plants and gardening supplies will be provided.

BIOBLITZ: Mushrooms and Fungi Walk

October 15 (Rain date Oct 16) 1–3pm or 3–5pm

Join us for day of discovering fungi! How many types of fungi can you find at the Beeton Heritage Forest.

ACTION DAY: Community Clean Up

November 12 (Rain date Nov 13) 1–3pm

Illegal dumping has occurred on our Nature Reserve and we need your help. Supplies provided.

WEBINAR: Learning Lichens

November 24, 7pm

Lichens absorb pollutants from the air and protect rocks and trees from the elements. You’ll learn how these underappreciated organisms play an important role in the Moraine’s ecosystem.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.



Possibility grows here.



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**OAK RIDGES MORaine
LAND TRUST**

www.oakridgesmoraine.org

5595 17th Sideroad, Schomberg, ON L0G 1T0 905-939-3333
landtrust@oakridgesmoraine.org Charitable Reg #873208920RR0001