



OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST



CARETAKERS: 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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



Message from the Chair

Relationships are at the core of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. In 2014 those relationships led to another tremendous year of protecting one of Ontario's most significant landforms and the habitats of a wide range of plants and animals.

Land protected by the Trust increased 8% to 3,786 acres with the addition of three conservation easements and one donated property, for a total of 47 properties protected. Significantly, these new securements together more than doubled the assessed value of lands protected by the Trust to more than \$30 million.

The Trust entered 2014 in a strong financial position with support from many partners including a significant contribution from The Rogers Foundation. The challenge this year was to continue to find sources of long-term funding, and outreach efforts have met with considerable success from key supporters who share the Trust's vision of the Moraine.

The success of a conservation organization isn't measured just in land protected, but in its ability to engage people who will contribute to the vision of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable ecosystem. In 2014 the Trust welcomed several new Directors to the Board, welcomed key stewardship and securement staff, created many new relationships with landowners and continued to build on relationships with landowners, neighbours and key conservation partners in the region through individual meetings and outreach events.

The year 2015 will be busier than ever. The Trust will bolster program management to allow senior staff to continue to build relationships that are key to the achievement of our mission. In addition, we will be working with the community to provide input into the Greenbelt Plan / Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan 2015 Review. The Major Gifts and Bequests program launched in 2014 will continue with its goal of enabling Moraine citizens and supporters to create their own personal legacy of conservation.

On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to thank our small group of dedicated staff, partners, volunteers, Directors, and you, our supporters and donors, as we work together to conserve this unique part of Ontario's natural heritage.

Christopher Norris
Chair, Board of Directors

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Protecting More Moraine and Greenbelt

In King Township: 191 acres

Two adjoining parcels within the countryside-natural heritage system area of the Greenbelt south of Nobleton are now protected with Conservation Easements. The tablelands in these agreements would have been ‘developable’ and have been voluntarily protected by the landowner. Just off-Moraine, this significant Humber valley provides habitat for endangered Redside Dace and meadows which provide habitat for threatened Eastern Meadowlark.

In the Town of Caledon: 49.9 acres

Working with our partner, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, the Land Trust holds the Conservation Easement which protects significant hydrological features of Centreville Creek, a tributary of the Humber River. This magnificent property is part of a provincially significant wetland complex with wonderful biodiversity and several rare species.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville: 26.5 acres

Significant woodland was already ‘saved’ when the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan came into force and designated this area Natural Core. It has now been donated to the Trust to protect it forever. A small tributary of Bogart Creek flows here, within the Black Creek sub-watershed, eventually destined to Lake Simcoe.



Going East: Wetlands and Fields Protected

A September celebration recognized the late 2013 donation of a Conservation Easement protecting 31.56 acres in Hamilton Township, Northumberland County. As the Trust’s “most easterly” transaction to date, the mandate of “moraine protection” is more fully realized across this east-west aligned landform.

Working with the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, Larry and Petra Bingley have committed to protection of their land in perpetuity. With a nod to the open fields and wetlands Larry smiles, “I heard about the federal EcoGift program some years ago and hadn’t pursued it until last year. What a win-win-win situation this is! We still own the property, the local environment benefits forever and we realise some benefits on our income taxes which we can use for the next few years!”

The Conservation Easements recognizes the use of the wetland, marsh, tributary of Cold Creek and farmland which will continue on the property. Neighbours, local dignitaries, conservation organizations and four generations affiliated with the property made up the group of nearly 40 people who were in attendance at the Bingley property where a sign to mark the site was unveiled.



Sharing the Love



Outreach and fundraising activity helps the Trust's Land Securement and Stewardship programs as well as the overall operation of the organization. As such the Committee, Directors and Staff were kept busy throughout 2014:

- Planning and facilitating 9 events including; \$1M Campaign Celebration, Motorcycle Ride for the Moraine, "Neighbour to Neighbour" Landowner outreach at Lemonville, and the Bingley Conservation Easement Celebration.
- Representing the Trust at a further 9 events hosted by partners and related organizations including: the East Cross Forest Trail opening, Farms at Work Peterborough, York Region's Spring Forest Festival, Toronto Green Living Show, Southlake Health Sciences staff presentation and Sustainable King presentation.
- Fundraising activity included; spring and year end appeals, development of major giving materials, and submission of over 60 applications or requests for funding.
- Trust activity continues to be communicated to donors, supporters and partners through the biannual production and distribution of "Future", the Trust's newsletter in circulation since 2001.

Landowner Outreach

Thanks to you, our 2014 outreach program has mushroomed. We spend your donations with care. A variety of low cost means for reaching out to landowners may take a year or two (sometimes more) to come to fruition as active files. Approximately 25 active 'files in the hopper' are needed to realize a manageable pace of 3 or 4 transactions per year. The Trust's "Neighbour to Neighbour" events see a local host invite surrounding landowners to chat about the benefits of protection in the area. In a small community centre, the Land Trust hosted a presentation about

Monarch Butterfly, a species in decline and illustrated the impact protection can have.

Direct mail to landowners in the immediate vicinity has an added benefit of expanding connected lands for greater gains in habitat protection.

Generous support for the Trust's Land Securement program and landowner outreach activity from the Rogers Foundation, The ECHO Foundation, York Region and other supporters is a vital investment in the work the Trust will do over the next 2-5 years. The work of the Trust reaches out each year to protect land for years to come.



The Lay of the Land

The Land Securement and Stewardship Committee is supported with extensive reports and mapping to consider property protection against numerous criteria.

- With committee guidance Land Securement staff completed 3 Conservation Easements and one Fee Simple transaction for a total of 268 acres added to the Trust's portfolio of protected properties.
- Stewardship staff and volunteers conducted monitoring visits and updated reports for 40 properties.
- Directors accompanied staff on a number of monitoring visits.
- Staff have articulated project needs and feasibility and created funding proposals to enhance stewardship activity, landowner outreach and land securement opportunities moving into 2015 and 2016.



Taking Care of Business

The Governance Committee achieved the following in 2014:

- Created or updated policy documents including: Records and Information Management, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest, Strategic Direction and Management.
- Reviewed all terms reference for committees.
- Directors oriented, trained and updated on program areas as part of regular board meetings or seminars in 2014.
- Developed an electronic handbook for Directors with policies, guidelines and pertinent to guide 2014 decisions.
- A Board retreat revisited the mission, considered relevance of current priorities and included a session on further cultivating our brand and philanthropic culture.



A Sharp Eye

During fiscal 2014, the Audit and Finance Committee achieved the following key accomplishments:



- Expanded the Committee to include a total of four Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA)
- Retained an external CPA with industry expertise to prepare accounting entries and financial statements as required by the Audit and Finance Committee and Board.
- Oversaw the successful audit of fiscal 2014 reporting from the external auditor that specializes in the field of Land Trusts.
- Maintained streamlined internal reporting financials to focus on key information for decision making.
- Actively supported and oversaw the approval of the Trust's 2015 budget process, completed in December 2014.

Managing Risk

The Audit and Finance Committee role includes oversight of the external financial audit, interim reporting, financial and risk management, including liquidity management. The Committee reports results to the Board on a regular basis. A professional designated accountant is externally contracted to oversee the Trusts' accounting and produce financial results to the Committee.

The Trust recognizes the following key risks to its operations:

1. The majority of funds come from large donors and government grants, and as such is subject to fluctuating funds received on an annual basis.
2. Political risk and changes in legislation, the EcoGift federal program in particular, could impact the Trust.



3. Key services such as stewardship and land securement are dependent on funds raised. These programs are at risk when budget targets are not achieved.

The Trust is exposed to limited risk from its use of financial instruments. To manage these risks, the Trust follows a financial risk management framework, with the objective of maintaining strong liquidity and financing operations at an optimal cost of capital. The Trust has adopted a conservative investment approach and has no involvement with derivative financial instruments in the management of its risks. The investments are held at Cdn Chartered Banks in low risk, primarily cashable GIC's with an average yield of 1.6%.

2014 Directors

Connie Agnew
Richmond Hill

Ashley Burke
Toronto

Sarah Chiasserini
Locust Hill

Mary Dubé
Zephyr

Brent Elson
Aurora

John King
Stouffville *appointed May

Gail McIntyre
Aurora

John Milne
Leaskdale

Pamela Miranda
Richmond Hill

Christopher Norris
Aurora

Nicholas Schulz
Bolton

Frank Shaw
Aurora

Bob Shepherd
Uxbridge

Patricia Short-Gallé
Pickering

Lorraine Spiering
Aurora

David Swail
Toronto

Angela Taylor
Aurora

Barry Weintraub
Toronto

Jamie Windle
Mississauga

Abhi Mukherjee
Toronto *to February

Anne Rexe
Toronto *to January

Steven Sokalsky
Toronto *to July

Rob Watters
Concord *to November

Sharing the Work

Authority:

Committees and members operate under the authority of the Board of Directors.

Committee Composition:

Chair: A current member of the Board of Directors

Vice-Chair: Recommended and appointed by the Board

Members: Recommended and appointed by the Board.

A minimum of 50% of the committee, including the Chair, are current Directors. Additional volunteers are recruited through postings on volunteer recruitment sites, by invitation and responding to queries from interested parties. Applicants are screened and interviewed to assess talent, technical expertise, genuine interest and availability to participate. Committees may invite such persons, without voting privileges, as deemed necessary to assist with discussions and deliberations.

Meetings:

- Frequency: Committees generally meet at least six times per year including annual retreats and orientation sessions.
- Agendas and Reports: prepared by Chair and staff, circulated in advance.

Quorum and Minutes:

One half members present considered quorum, decisions recorded and retained in keeping with Trust Policy.

Member Responsibilities:

- Review and reference current and applicable policies, strategies, priorities and activities, budgets and work plans.
- Understand and be directed by accepted regulations, legislation, standards and practices.
- Consider and develop appropriate actions within the program/area of committee jurisdiction to carry out delegated activity and or forward recommendations to the Board of Directors as appropriate.

2014 Staff and Service Providers

Susan Walmer, CPA,CMA, Executive Director

Lissa Dwyer, BA, Administrative Assistant
Judy Gilchrist, Fundraising and Communications Manager

Don Prince, Land Securement Manager
Bernie Trippel, BSc, Land Securement Officer

Dave McLaughlin, BSc, MSc, Land Stewardship Manager

Rohit Prajapati, CPA,CA, Financial Officer

The Land Trust will ensure that significant Moraine properties are protected for future generations through agreements with landowners, acquisition of lands and on-going stewardship.

Leaving the World a Better Place

The Trust's first property donation of 17 acres on Chalk Lake Road in Uxbridge, from donor Ken Purvis, is still warmly remembered.



In October of 2014, Ken's friends Willie and Dawn McDougall, met with Trust Director Mary Dubé and staff at the Purvis Property. It was a trek that Dawn remarked was one of her "slower hikes to the place that held so many great memories", the effort to visit Ken's cabin, now derelict and over-grown with shrubs "was worth it".

Willie pointed out several cedar trees he helped Ken to plant. "We joked about burying some whisky with each tree and whoever survived the longest was to drink a toast to the other." Willie smiled when asked, but reports they didn't bury the whisky.

There have been many toasts made to Ken over the years. His generous forethought in donating his 17 acres to the Trust lives on. The cabin and other objects may be removed or fading but the place he loved will continue—it was the Trust's first.

**You too can Leave the World a Better Place.
Contact the Trust office to learn more about leaving a
bequest or to easily contribute memorial donations.
If you have already chosen to remember the Land Trust
in your will, we'd appreciate hearing from you.**

KEY METRICS	2013	2014
# of properties protected	43	47
Total acres protected	3,518	3,786
# volunteer hours	4,000	4,400
Total members	112	122
Publications distributed	n/a	1,400



2014 Highlights

- Protected another 268 acres forever
- Preserved habitat for Species at Risk including the Redside Dace and threatened Eastern Meadowlark
- Conducted 40 property monitoring visits
- Participated in or hosted numerous outreach activities both on and off-moraine
- New partnership with Ontario Nature resulted in the Trust office relocation

Strategic Goals and Priorities

Goals of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust's Strategic Plan 2012 to 2016

Goal One – Securement of Land and Property Rights: Acquire conservation agreements and land donations for 20 significant moraine properties over 5 years.

- Your Land Trust Land Securement Team successfully added conservation agreements to 3 new properties and received 1 land donation. In the municipalities of York and Peel Region, we protected another 268+ acres of habitat for the endangered Redside Dace and the threatened Eastern Meadowlark. These lands provide our communities with an economic goods and services value of over \$378,000.

Goal Two – Long Term Stewardship on Secured Lands: Ensure that ecological integrity and other key values of all Trust protected properties are maintained and enhanced according to accepted standards.

- As part of our annual monitoring program our new Stewardship Manager, Dave McLaughlin (former senior scientist and program manager with the Ministry of the Environment) brought staff and Board members to visit over 40 Trust properties. During these visits landowners proudly toured us around their properties showcasing the enhancements they achieved during the year.

Goal Three – Fundraising: Raise \$2.5 Million over the next 5 years to support Trust programs.

- Thanks to your donations, we have raised 50% of our 5-year fundraising goal with over \$444,000 raised in 2014. Our long standing agreements with York Region and the Rogers and ECHO Foundations – plus others listed on page 12 – have given us a stable base to continue protecting properties on and around the Oak Ridges Moraine in 2015 and beyond.

Goal Four – Outreach and Public Awareness: Develop and implement communication and public outreach activity that supports awareness of the ORM and is supportive of all programs of the Land Trust.

- As always this year saw the Trust Board and staff active in our communities. Building relationships with potential donors, raising awareness of the Moraine's importance and sharing our own experiences on this beautiful landscape. This year these events included York Region's Forest Festival, our annual Ride for the Moraine, a very successful Neighbour-to-Neighbour event in Lemonville and the opening of the East Cross Forest Trail.

Goal Five – Capacity Building: Develop governance and management resources including board, staff, partners and volunteers to support trust programs.

- Expanding our partnerships with Ganaraska and Northumberland Conservation Authorities, adding new Board Members, and adding staff to our management team have increased our capacity to effectively support the Trust's charitable programs.



The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust was incorporated in 2000 by a group of citizens with a passionate belief that the Moraine's features and functions required protection for the benefit of generations to come. Directors are drawn from the community to direct and support the work of the Trust in a volunteer capacity. The Trust works closely with individual landowners and many organizations who believe in protection, conservation and sustainable use of the Moraine. Work is supported by grants, donations and specific project funding.

For further information please contact: Susan Walmer, Executive Director at 905-853-3171 ext 32

Treasurer's Report

Revenue: Although total donation revenue decreased \$110,527 compared to 2013, actual funds received in 2014 were consistent with 2013. Due to accrual accounting methodology, \$104,000 of cash donation received in December 2014 were earmarked for spending in 2015.

Revenue primarily related to a 2 year grant received from the Rogers Foundation in 2012, of which approximately \$280,000 was recognized as revenue in 2014. In addition, the Regional Municipality of York and the Region of Peel continue to be strong financial supporters of the Trust.

Expenses: While the number of new acres protected in 2014 increased, this was achieved through fewer properties (4 in 2014, 5 in 2013). Fewer transactions is the primary reason for the decrease in land securement expenses.

The Trust fulfilled all stewardship obligations despite a decrease in related expenses, as reductions related to discretionary activities.

Community and outreach spending increased \$8,690 in 2014 to \$70,407. This increase was due to increased landowner outreach activity.

Office, administrative and fundraising spending decreased \$32,284 from 2013 to \$66,005. This decrease was due to refinement of allocation of costs to individual program areas, but has been offset by one-time office move costs from King City to Newmarket.

The Trust depends on considerable volunteer input. This value is not quantified in the financial statements as the organization would not normally purchase these services provided generously by volunteers. The Trust does not receive contributed materials or service which would normally be purchased.

In common with many charities, Trust fundraising efforts result in significant end-of-year donations. Given the uncertainty of these amounts throughout the year, the Trust is conservative in spending activities so as not to go in to a deficit situation. Together these actions result in a surplus, subsequently spent in the follow year.

Balance Sheet: The General Operating Reserve Fund decreased from \$755,102 at December 31, 2013 to \$513,656 at the same date in 2014. The decrease is primarily the result of utilizing the portion of the Rogers Foundation grant received in 2012 which was earmarked for spending in 2014. This decrease was offset by cash donations received in December 2014 and earmarked for spending in 2015. The December 31, 2014 balance is expected to be fully utilized during 2015.

Funds within the General Operating Reserve Fund are invested in cashable guaranteed investment certificates, in

accordance with the Trust's investment policy.

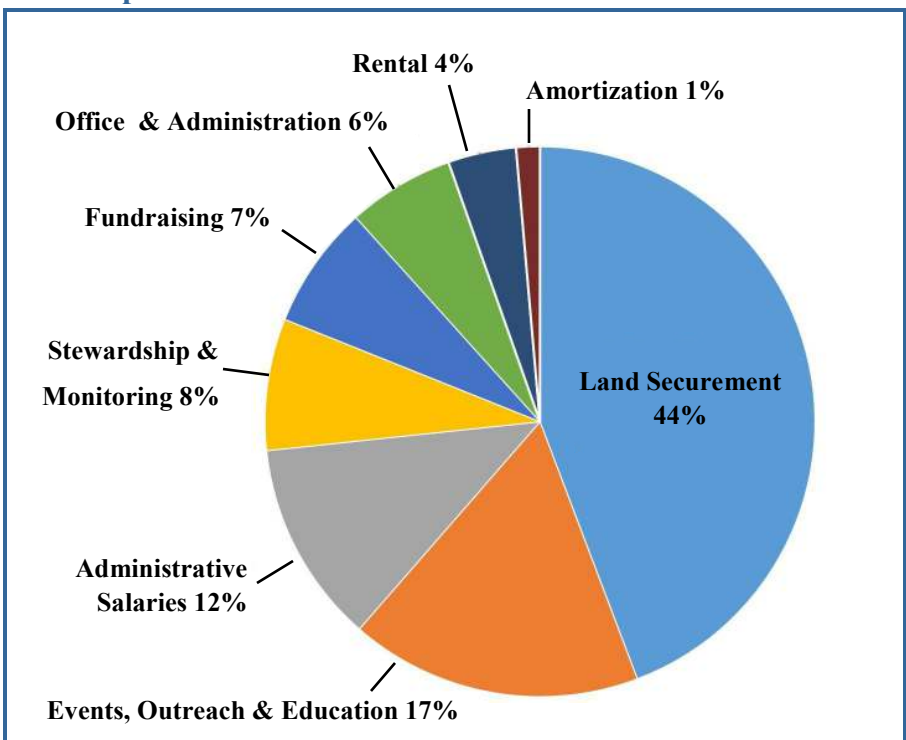
The Land Forever Fund represents funds which have been internally restricted to fulfill the Trust's long term stewardship commitments.

Land Trust Assets primarily represent land, easements and restrictive covenants by which the Trust fulfils its mandate of protecting Oak Ridges Moraine property and are recorded at their fair market value at the date of contribution.

Deferred contributions, representing the deferral of multi-year grants, decreased as these contributions are spent in line with the grant requirements.

Cash Flow: From a cash flow perspective, the Trust utilized \$246,681 in cash from operating activities in 2014 compared to cash generation of \$449,306 in 2013, a decrease of \$695,987 This decrease was primarily due to the timing of when cash was received on multi-year grants.

2014 Expenditures



Financial Statements

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Year Ended December 31, 2014

INCOME STATEMENT	FY12	FY13	FY14
Revenue	\$	\$	\$
Revenue from all sources	342,762	546,668	444,965
Total Revenue	342,762	548,668	444,965
Expenditures			
Land Securement	102,935	223,947	181,138
Stewardship	39,635	36,986	31,684
Communications and Outreach	130,419	61,717	70,412
Administrative Salaries	44,552	48,264	48,728
Office, Administration and Fundraising	24,843	98,289	77,592
Total expenditures	342,384	469,203	409,554
Surplus / (deficit)	378	79,465	35,411
Spending by category (%)			
Administration and Fundraising	7.3	20.9	18.9
Salary	13.0	10.3	11.9
Program Costs	79.7	68.8	69.2
Total expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.00

BALANCE SHEET	Dec 2013	Dec 2014
Assets	\$	\$
Cash	62,647	54,810
Operating Reserve Fund	755,102	488,656
Receivables	14,853	70,047
Prepays	5,425	6,472
Land Forever Fund	182,138	208,914
Land Trust Assets	15,324,230	33,802,225
Total assets	16,344,395	34,631,124
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	83,952	28,654
Deferred Contributions	580,436	404,178
Total liabilities	664,388	432,832
Accumulated surplus		
Opening	15,444,542	15,680,007
Contributed Assets	156,000	18,482,874
Current Surplus	79,465	35,411
Total Accumulated Surplus	15,680,007	34,198,292
Total Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus	16,344,395	34,631,124

Summary financial statements here represent the condensed operations of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

The full unqualified audited statements of Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust for December 31, 2014, prepared by Akler, Browning, Frimet & Landzberg, LLP can be found at www.oakridgesmoraine.org or by contacting the Trust office at 905-853-3171.

The Trust was compliant with Canada Revenue Agency requirements for charitable agencies in 2014, including having met the required disbursement quota.

12 Thank You to all 2014 Supporters

Your contributions today protect the Moraine tomorrow.

Welcome New Donors

Connie Agnew
Nancy Archer
Paul Bindner
Jan & Annalies
Bottenheim
Paule Bredehoeft
Anthony Brown
Kaylyne Burford
Ashley Burke
Sarah Chiasserini
Margaret Cornfoot
Caroline Crowe
Robert Cumming
Victor & Sandra Davis
Norman & Valerie
Denman
Muriel Farrant
Elizabeth Fayle
Marilyn Hawkrigg
Robert Henderson
Emily Hill
Audrey Hill
George Ivanoff
Luelia & Jack Lumley
Shirley MacDowell
Patricia Martin
Ross Mills
Pamela Miranda

Ian Mishkel
Geraldine Morrison
Angela Nickle
Lynnette Norris
John Oliver
Carolyn Pannell
Jennifer Rade
Rodney Sine
Lorraine Spiering
Zelda Stentiford
Nancy Timmer
Nicholas Trevisan
Bernie Trippel
Joy Walker
Robert Watters
Barry Weintraub
Paula Wojcik
Nancy Wolfe

With Appreciation to Continued Supporters

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Charles Atkinson
Bev Bain
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Diane Bennett-Jones

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Rett Dunham
Brent Elson
William Foulds
Audrey Fullerton
Judy Gilchrist
Vanessa Hardy
William Harris
Steve & Ann Herlihey
James Hodgins
George Hume

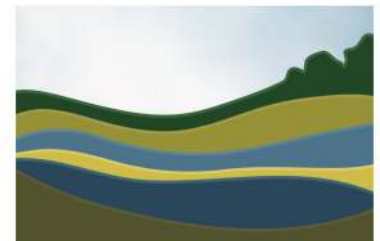
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Elizabeth Maloan
Nina Mann
Helen Martinic
Lois McDonald
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Robin McLeod
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Danielle Stockley
David Swail
Tom Taylor
Angela Taylor
Norine Thomason
Jane Underhill
Barry Wallace
Susan Walmer
Andrew Wilton
Jamie Windle
Joseph Wood
John Worsley
Garth Wright

Memorials and Tributes to David and Janet Fayle Foundations, Corporations and Government

Ruth Brouwer
Robert Cumming
Elizabeth Fayle
Marilyn Hawkrigg
John Oliver
Don Prince
Frank Shaw
Nancy Timmer
Joy Walker
Susan Walmer
Garth Wright

McLean Smits Family Foundation
Patrick and Barbara Keenan
Foundation
The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen
Foundation
The McLean Foundation
York Region Community Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Alastair & Diana Gillespie Foundation
ECHO Foundation
Hal Jackman Foundation
Jackman Foundation, 1964
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Gemma Communications
KPMG MSLP
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Regional Municipality of York
Ontario Land Trust Alliance



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Charitable # 873208920RR0001

