

# ORMLT Future

Protecting and restoring the natural environment  
of the Oak Ridges Moraine for future generations

Fall, 2001

## It's official— our first property!

OVER FIFTY Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) members and friends turned out on June 24<sup>th</sup> to help us celebrate the official completion of our first property securement: Ken Purvis's donation of 17 acres of outstanding moraine land in Uxbridge Township. We held a pot luck picnic, tree planting and raised our sign on the east side of the property. The day also marked our annual general meeting and the election of our 2001 Board of Directors. (see below).

The weather couldn't have been better, and our thanks go to Jenifer Robertson and David McQueen for organising the event, to Don Prince, Tom Atkins and Natalie Helferty for all of their hard work to complete the transaction, to Uxbridge Nurseries for donating the trees and most especially to Ken Purvis for so generously coming forward to donate his property.

### But we're not resting on our laurels...

WE HAVE BEEN receiving a continuous stream of inquiries from land owners interested in exploring the possibility of donating their land or property rights. Under the direction of the Land Committee, a number of key environmentally sensitive properties are currently in various stages of securement.

William P. Wilder, a prominent Toronto businessman, and his wife Judith believe that urban sprawl must be contained and the countryside surrounding Toronto preserved. They are in the process of donating a conservation easement on their property which is located in the City of Pickering just south of the Uxbridge Town Line. The Wilders, who have serious concerns about urban sprawl in the Toronto area, have a total of 711 acres, consisting of five farm properties in the vicinity of the Glen Major Forest

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Photo: Uxbridge Times Journal

Tom Atkins, Don Dubé, Oliver Britnell and a friendly passing cyclist plant our sign: "Ken Purvis donated this land to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, June, 2001."

### The ORMLT welcomes two new directors: Ken Purvis and Steve Gilchrist

At our June 24th AGM we elected our 2001 Board of Directors:

Tom Atkins, President	(905) 841-9583
Cynthia Hyland, Vice president	(519) 941-3106
Mary Dubé, Treasurer	(905) 473-7612
Jenifer Robertson, Secretary	(905) 841-7828
Michelle Albanese, Fund-raising chair	(905) 795-9237
Don Prince, Land chair	(905) 677-6090
Ildi Connor, Media chair	(905) 727-2949
Gloria Marsh, Membership chair	(905) 773-4028
Bob Barnett, Director	
Andrea Warren, Director	David McQueen, Director
Tom Taylor, Director	Karen Kraft-Sloan, Director
Steve Gilchrist, Director	Ken Purvis, Director

We also extend a heart-felt thank you to those directors who served during our first exciting year: Ian Attridge, Natalie Helferty and Linda Housser. Your hard work got us on our way.

### New headquarters for ORMLT

THE ORMLT WILL BE moving into its new office located at 15150 Yonge St. in Aurora in September, with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony planned later in the month.

Tom Atkins spearheaded the search for space that fit our budget yet still provided enough room to fit our needs. If you have any leads on good used office equipment, he'd love to hear from you, (905) 841-9583.

"The new office means that we now have a permanent base and meeting facilities for our growing list of potential land donors," says Atkins, "as well as a home for our new staff and burgeoning files."

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## Land update (continued from page 1)

and the headwaters of Duffins Creek.

There are important re-charge and discharge areas located on the properties, as well as impressive land forms. Environment Canada has recently approved the eco-sensitivity status of the properties and government staff are now in the process of reviewing the valuation under the Federal Ecological Gifts program.

### King Township

A generous benefactor in King Township has also recently agreed to donate two long standing family properties comprising a total of 18 acres. The holdings, which are heavily treed and include a kettle lake, are situated on a height of land that drains into Lake Simcoe. It is anticipated that the donation of the 10 acre portion of the holding will be completed this year, with the owner remaining in possession of the residence that is located on the balance of the property. This 8 acre portion would be conveyed at a later date.

### Uxbridge Township

A conservation easement over a magnificent 200 acre heavily forested parcel just north of the James Walker Woods Forest Conservation Area in the Township of Uxbridge is also now well on the way to completion. It is anticipated that this easement will also be completed before the end of this year.

Completion of these transactions would allow the Land Trust to achieve over \$2,000,000 in land and property rights donations during its first full year of operation.

If you or someone you know is interested in discussing the possibility of preserving environmentally sensitive property for future generations and the possibility of obtaining certain potential income tax and municipal tax benefits, please contact Don Prince, Land Securement, at (905) 677-6090, or email: [djprince1@home.com](mailto:djprince1@home.com).

## The Moratorium

Provincial advisory panel releases recommendations on the Oak Ridges Moraine

THE OAK RIDGES MORAINES Advisory Panel released its recommendations on August 14th. The document, *Share your Vision for the Oak Ridges Moraine*, can be downloaded from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing web site: ([www.mah.gov.on.ca](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca)).

The *Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act*, passed on May 17th, established a 6-month moratorium on new development on the moraine. The 14-member advisory panel was charged with setting the direction for a long term strategy for the moraine's use and protection.

The advisory panel's recommendations include the creation of a plan that sets out four land use designations, proposal of legislation to protect the overall integrity of the moraine, increase of publicly owned natural lands to 12% of the moraine area, creation of an Oak Ridges Moraine Legacy Trust, and implementation largely at the municipal level once local official plans are brought into line with the provincial plan.

### Land Use Plan

The proposed land use designations are:

1. *Natural Core Areas*: permitted uses would include recreation, natural resource management, public roads and utilities, agriculture and uses permitted in planning applications approved before May 17, 2001. This would set aside an approximate area of 37% of the moraine.
2. *Natural Linkage Areas*: would permit the same uses as natural core areas as well as new and expanded aggregate operations. Approximate area affected: 16% of the moraine.
3. *Countryside areas*: would permit uses as in 1 & 2 above, as well as rural industrial, commercial and institutional uses, major recreational (e.g., golf courses, ski hills) and rural residential development. (area: 38%)
4. *Settlement Areas*: would permit the full range of urban land uses as identified in an approved municipal official plan. (area: 9%).

The recommendations are hailed by some groups as "a step in the right

## Administrative Manager

THE OAK RIDGES MORAINES LAND TRUST seeks an individual to fill the position of Administrative Manager. This newly-created position will report to the Chair and Board of Directors and will be instrumental in establishing the Land Trust office and procedures.

The Administrative manager will:

- oversee office administration,
- coordinate preparation of proposals,
- prepare budgets, reports & recommendations for the Board,
- manage specific projects as directed by the Board,
- communicate with government and non-governmental organisations as directed, and
- maintain databases.

We seek an individual with at least six years experience in responsible positions, preferably in non-profit organisations who can demonstrate:

- exceptional organisational and management skills,
- strong analytical and interpersonal skills,
- excellent communications skills, and
- well-developed computer skills.

Knowledge of Oak Ridges Moraine geography and natural heritage will be considered a strong asset.

This is a part time contract position with an option to renew annually. Compensation will be based on qualifications and experience.

Please submit resume by Friday, September 14, 2001 to: Tom Atkins, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, 3645 17<sup>th</sup> Sideroad, King City, Ontario L7B 1K4, or fax to: 905 841-9583.

direction, but with issues that still need to be addressed."

Open houses are scheduled in four communities: Uxbridge: August 28, Caledon East: August 29, King City: Sept. 5, and Cobourg: Sept. 13. The deadline for written submissions is Sept. 14.

The ORMLT's Land Committee is drafting a submission.

### Coming events

Ontario Land Trust Alliance, 2001 Gathering, October 19-21, Chaffey's Lock; (613) 272-0172.

1st Annual Walk for the Moraine, Saturday, October 13, 2001, Seneca College contact: (416) 410-6271, and toll-free 877-288-6399.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner, Thursday, November 1, 2001, Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre, Markham; ph: (905) 841-5048.

Ontario Environment Network Fall Conference and AGM and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, November 9-11, United Steelworkers of America Hall, Toronto; (705) 840-2888.

## Mark your Calendars: November 1

### *Eighth Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Land Trust Dinner*

THE OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ LAND TRUST has partnered with the Conservation Foundation this year to co-host the Charles Sauriol Environmental Land Trust Dinner. All funds raised will go to protecting land on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

"This annual fund-raising event commemorates the great conservationist and visionary, Charles Sauriol, who grew up near the Don River and dedicated his life to conserving and protecting our natural environment." notes Don Prince, chair of the organising committee, "Mr. Sauriol believed that the best way to conserve the environment was to acquire and protect environmentally-important natural lands, green spaces, watershed corridors and valley systems."

#### **Keynote speaker - Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

"We are thrilled to announce that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., himself a resolute defender of the environment, will be the keynote speaker," says Prince, "His topic will be 'Water: A Contract with the Future'."

#### **Silent Auction**

Among the evening's highlights will be a silent auction featuring original art, practical and fantastic goodies and Services, and much more.

#### **Tickets and Info**

Don't miss this opportunity to play a part in conserving our natural heritage while in the pleasant company of like minded people. Join us on Thursday, November 1, 2001 at

Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre  
8432 Leslie Street at Hwy. #7 in Markham

Reception 6:00 pm    Dinner 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$100

For more information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities. call: Tom Atkins: (905) 841-5048, or Don Prince: (905)677-6090.

## Conservation Easements, 101

A CONSERVATION EASEMENT is a legal tool by which you can voluntarily restrict some landowner rights such as subdivision, development, or alteration of certain natural features, while retaining title to the land.

The terms of conservation easements vary, as each agreement is customized to the specific landowner, but are typically granted in perpetuity and remain with the land regardless of ownership.

*This is the first of a series of articles on different aspects of land donation and easements, aimed at providing more detail on such things as the tax implications of donation, what is involved in an ecological assessment, and where to go for advice on stewardship. Look for these topics and more in upcoming newsletters.*

#### Who holds an easement?

You have the choice of granting a conservation easement to the crown, a municipality or certain registered charities, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

Before a tailored agreement is drawn up, some of the things that must be considered are:

- Do you want to grant an easement on all or part of your land?
- Would you prefer to grant an easement now or when you retire?
- Do you want to include the grant of a conservation easement in your will?
- Do you want to sell or donate a conservation easement (recognizing that not all organisations are able to purchase land)?

Common restrictions written into an agreement include:

- Subdivision of the land,
- Commercial, residential and industrial development (although future house sites may be designated within the easement),
- Alteration of naturally occurring water bodies or diverting water off the land,
- Hunting and trapping,
- Cutting large numbers of trees, and
- Changing the topography, extracting sand gravel or rock.

If you are considering conserving your land, people who have already granted conservation easements are one of the best sources of information and advice. The ORMLT can put you in touch with these individuals. For more information, contact Don Prince: (905) 677-6090, email: djprince1@home.com.

## Trillium funding received

THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION has awarded a significant grant of \$119,000 over a two year term to fund the establishment of headquarters for the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

"We are grateful for the generous support of the Trillium Foundation. It will facilitate our efforts to conserve the Oak Ridges Moraine," said Tom Atkins, ORMLT president, "we also applaud the efforts of Ernie Baltz who did the lion's share of the work in putting the grant proposal together."

## ORMLT Life Members

Donors who give \$500 or more become life members. Welcome and thank you for your generous support:

John Anderson  
Peter Attfield  
Diana Bennett  
City of Toronto  
Joanne Clarke  
Blaise De Long  
Lois Darroch  
EJLB Foundation, Montreal  
George Cedric Metcalfe Fndm.  
Gordon Parker Realty Services  
Alan Groen  
James Hodgins, Wildflower Mag.  
Valerie Kent  
Sara MacCulloch  
Audrey & Kenneth MacGowan  
McLean Foundation  
Francis Muscat  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Clive Powsey  
Sabine Schauer  
Town of Richmond Hill  
Mona Shahid  
Joanne Sytsma  
Wagner, Andrews, Kovacs Ltd

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. With \$100 million in annual funding from the province's charitable gaming initiative, the Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organisations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social services.

# Come one, come all—first annual Walk for the Moraine

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> on the spectacular trails at Seneca College, King Campus and help us to raise funds for our land securement activities.

We have teamed up with the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) to organise this exciting event, so you can expect enthusiastic and knowledgeable hike leaders. Or you can walk at your own pace on one of the many well-marked trails. Bring your family, friends and co-workers. There will be terrific

entertainment and lots to do.

Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. with guided walks leaving every half hour starting at 9:30. Pledge forms are available at Royal Bank branches in Aurora, Newmarket, Beeton and Tottenham, and will also be downloadable from our website: [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org). For more information, or to find out about how you can help, call (416) 410-6271, or toll-free 877-288-6399.

## Walk for the moraine gets a kick start

By Mary Dubé

THE FIRST DOLLAR donated is always exciting to receive, especially when it's from a group of high school students.

The Grade Nine students from Stouffville District Secondary School were fortunate to study the Oak Ridges Moraine with their geography teacher,

Kevin Julyan, who arranged a hike on the moraine in May.

Mr. Julyan had coincidentally just heard about the Land Trust and our upcoming walk. He relayed this to his students and they decided to donate \$200.00 towards protecting land on the moraine.

To get out and enjoy the Moraine, check out the Oak Ridges Trail Assn: [www.orta.on.ca](http://www.orta.on.ca)

Thanks a million to the caring students at Stouffville Secondary—you are number 1! Call us to find out how your school can get involved.

## Do or Die: Amphibians of the Oak Ridges Moraine

By Natalie Helferty

THE SPRING PEEPER (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is one of the most common frogs in Ontario. It is the symbol of our many wetlands and each year heralds the arrival of spring. Its incessant peep-peep-peep keeps an even rhythm like a heartbeat and in a full chorus drowns out all others who dare try to call in competition. But this woodland frog is sensitive to changes to its environment.

It is no longer found within the urban limits of Toronto, and is believed extirpated. It is a memory of spring long forgotten in Toronto, once a beautiful Great Lakes wetland at the mouth of the Don River and of many other rivers originating from the Oak Ridges Moraine to Lake Ontario.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is much like the spring peeper. It dominates the landscape of southern Ontario and it too is now under threat of being 'extirpated' by development, buried in housing and roads as urban expansion races northward from the edge of Lake Ontario and from existing towns across the moraine.

Lakes and wetlands dot the moraine. These are unique water bodies - most of them are kettle lakes and kettle wetlands, including rare kettle bogs and

kettle fens. The term 'kettle' means they are internally draining and do not have an inlet or outlet, fed only by rainwater and groundwater, rather than by a flowing river or stream.

The kettle conditions of the moraine formed due to the uneven deposition of gravel and sand by the glaciers. Hills and dales formed in wide shallow depressions along the top of the moraine resulting in water bodies that were separate from water feeding the rivers on its north and south slopes. These numerous wetlands and lakes are also breeding and over wintering areas that offer an oasis among the farmland for many species of amphibians.

With its expanses of remaining forests, lakes and wetlands, the moraine harbours almost every amphibian species known to exist in southern Ontario, including

species not common in the province.

It is the most northern limit for the Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), listed as nationally 'Threatened'. Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*), a rare species usually found only in wetlands fed by clean groundwater, often those of bogs and fens, is still found here. Besides being home to rarer species, the moraine also has high numbers and many populations of woodland species such as the spotted salamander (*A. maculatum*), blue-spotted salamander (*A. laterale*), redback salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), gray tree frog (*Hyla versicolor*), chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) and aquatic species such as the bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*).

None of these species is found in urban centres, except perhaps for a few isolated, remnant populations where some suitable habitat still exists. How long they will remain there is unknown. Like the spring peeper, they may be extirpated in the foreseeable future. Even our hardy northern leopard frog (*R. pipiens*) is having a hard time in urban areas, but is plentiful on the moraine. Only the green frog (*R. clamitans*) and the ubiquitous American toad (*Bufo americanus*) are doing fairly well in urban centres.

The moraine is our one last hope - "do or die" - of preserving an unbroken link of rural landscapes and natural areas that stretch east to west across southern Ontario, offering the spring peeper, and other amphibians, a safe haven to welcome spring every year.



Photo: David McQueen

Natalie Helferty (right) leads hikers at our June 24th picnic

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a non-profit registered charity dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural environment. *ORMLT Future* is the official newsletter of the Land Trust and is published quarterly. If you would like information on membership, donation opportunities or would like to volunteer for one of our many activities, call: (905) 473-7612, fax: 473-5100 or visit our website at: [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org). Our mailing address is: Box 577, Aurora, ON, L4G 3L6.