

# ORMLT Future

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

Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 2003

## Another 652 acres...

*Easements completed on 6 properties*

It's been a busy six months for the active members of the land trust and land owners on the moraine, with easements completed on 652 acres, and over 1,300 acres in the works.

### **McCutcheon property**

With a conservation easement in place on their 73.5 acre property, John and Patricia McCutcheon have demonstrated in no uncertain terms how they intend to do their part to keep Uxbridge naturally green.

"We are very excited about this site," says Don Prince, Chief Land Securement Officer of ORMLT, "as it contains both hill and valley features. This heavily forested holding is an Environmentally Sensitive Area containing headwater recharge of the Pefferlaw Brook to the north."

"I feel our decision will not only benefit our community, but the entire moraine," says John McCutcheon, who helped organise a public forum, *Uxbridge Naturally*, earlier this year. Notes Prince, "Although John McCutcheon continues to be deeply involved with such organizations as the World Wildlife Fund,



Photo: Natalie Hefferny

*The road through the woods, McCutcheon property. The 73.5 acre conservation easement was finalized in July, 2002*

he is a firm believer in the maxim "think globally, act locally."

### **Scugog Township**

Keith and Zane Stait-Gardner's 152 acre property is located  
*More on land securement on page 2*

## Ninth Annual Sauriol Dinner—another successful year

Over 700 guests turned out on November 14th for the 9th annual Sauriol Dinner. This is the second year of a very successful partnership between the ORMLT and The Conservation Foundation of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to organise the event.

The evening featured a key note address, "*The Oak Ridges Moraine, our 'Space' to Protect*" by Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman astronaut, as well as a silent auction.

The funds raised will go to both of the organizations to assist directly in land conservation activities.

Special mention should be made of the hard work and efforts of the dinner



Photo: courtesy of Rosemary G. Hauser, TRCA

*ORMLT President Tom Atkins, Virginia Atkins, Roberta Bondar, Chief Land Securement Officer Don Prince, & Frank Shaw*

organising committee, chaired this year by Don Prince of the ORMLT, with co-chairs Mike Fenning of the TRCA, and Tom Atkins (ORMLT). Thanks also to all those who donated items for the silent

auction, corporate sponsors, individual donors and, of course, all those who showed their support by attending.

### Inside

Land update	2
2002- Keeping up the pace	2
2002 AGM	2
Walk for the Moraine recap	3
Grassroots in action	3
New administrative mgr.	3
Life members	3
Conservation achievements	4
The Moraine: a hydrogeological perspective	4

## 2002—keeping up the pace

By Tom Atkins, President

2002 was our second full year of operation, and the momentum that we achieved in year one continued unabated. We secured a further 700 acres in conservation easements, bringing the total of protected moraine land to 1,428 acres since we incorporated less than three years ago.

Our fundraising and outreach activities, so critical to our ongoing ability to protect land, were once again successful, and we are already busy planning events for the coming year. We have been extremely fortunate in attracting funding from private

donors, land owners, foundations, local businesses and corporations. For this we must thank the hardworking members of our board of directors, our volunteers, and our staff.

All of us have a role to play in protecting the environment. With the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act in place, I am often asked why organisations such as ours are still needed. My reply is - just because you install a sprinkler system in a building, you do not cancel the fire insurance. The province, with its recent legislation, has provided a sprinkler system. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and its partners are here to provide the insurance policy ...

### Land update - cont'd from page 1

on the spine of the moraine at some of the highest elevation levels on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

A conservation easement was completed in early December.

#### **Uxbridge Township**

In mid-December, a conservation easement was completed on one hundred acres in the Goodwood area. The property, owned by George and Barbara Pratt, is heavily forested, with approximately 20% of the property consisting of a large bog with two ponds. The rare Pitcher Plant can also be found on the site.

In late December, an easement was finalised on 65.68 acres belonging to David Hodgson and Janet Fass. The property is located along the top edge of the south slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine at the headwaters of the Duffins Creek and is part of the Goodwood-Glasgow Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. This



Photo: Natalie Hefferny

One of 2 ponds on George and Barbara Pratt's property

critical re-charge area is also recognized under the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* as an area of High Aquifer Vulnerability. Springs emanate from the land in this area, and it also boasts spectacular vistas.

#### **Town of Whitby**

Adding to the 711 acre conservation easement donated in December, 2001 by

William and Judith Wilder, a further 95.72 acre easement has been finalised.

The property is located along the south edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The property contains three headwater tributaries of the Lynde Creek, and is also an Area of High Aquifer Vulnerability. The riparian areas are open and fringed with herbaceous vegetation.

#### **Scugog Township**

The Wilders have also donated a 164.97 acre easement on their property in the Township of Scugog. The land is located along the northern slope of the headwaters area of the Oak Ridges Moraine just outside the designated moraine boundary, and contains the headwater tributaries of the Nonquon River consisting of streams of the Provincially Significant Wetland of the Scugog Marsh. The riparian areas are mainly fringed with cedar swamp and deciduous forest cover.

## 2002 AGM and Secord celebration

ORMLT members, supporters and friends, as well as representatives of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, the City of Toronto, the Township of Uxbridge, the Region of Durham, and the Province of Ontario joined us for our AGM held in conjunction with the donor recognition event and celebration of our conservation easement on the Secord property.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were representatives from the Fitzhenry Foundation—the Foundation's donation helped us to secure the 48 acre parcel.

#### **Our 2002/2003 Board of Directors are:**

Tom Atkins, President  
Cynthia Hyland, Vice president  
Bill Salter, Treasurer  
Jennifer Robertson, Secretary  
Mary Dubé, Chair, fundraising  
Ildi Connor, Chair, volunteer coordination  
Gloria Marsh, Chair, media & special events  
Bob Barnett, Director

Karen Kraft-Sloan, Director  
Andrea Warren, Director  
David McQueen, Director  
Tom Taylor, Director  
Steve Gilchrist, Director  
David Scrymgeour, Director  
Ted Warburton, Director

Photo: courtesy of Rosemary G. Hasner, TRCA



An enthusiastic turnout for the ceremony and sign dedication at the Secord property.

**2003 AGM**  
Saturday, June 21, 2003  
2:00 p.m.  
Location: TBA

## Walk for the Moraine funds crest \$20,000

By Gloria Marsh, walk co-chair

This year's Walk for the Moraine has raised \$20,000, as off site donations and pledges continue to come into the Land Trust office.

We have surpassed last year's event both in number of participants and funds raised, due in part to the generous sponsor support of Aurora Home Hardware, Kodak Image Check Aurora, Lipani Landscape Contractors and Metroland York Region Newspaper Group.

The Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), a sponsor and partner of this event, organized hikes of various lengths through beautiful Seneca College in King Township. Celebrity hikers - former Toronto mayors, Barbara Hall and David

Crombie and ToolGirl Mag Ruffman - arrived early to lend their support. This event gave participants an opportunity to experience a portion of the Oak Ridges Trail system while learning about the moraine.

There were several educational displays, a peregrine falcon, and indigenous snakes and amphibians on view. The students of Woodbridge College used this event to showcase the video they produced which is intended to raise awareness of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

We already have plans under way for next year to stage concurrent satellite walks in Northumberland and Uxbridge, which will focus on more easterly parts

of the Oak Ridges Trail.

With great appreciation, we thank all those who made our 'Walk for the Moraine' such a success.



The first 2 km hikers of the day set off, led by former Toronto mayors Barbara Hall and David Crombie

## Grassroots in action

Over forty local residents turned out to our information meeting on September 28th at Drope Century Farm in Harwood near Rice Lake.

Thanks to the impressive Powerpoint presentation put together by Ernie Baltz, and the organisational efforts of Ted Warburton, Burke Vanderburke, and Pauline Browes, the meeting was a great success, and resulted in seven land leads on the eastern portion of the Moraine.

"We were so encouraged by the turnout," said Tom Atkins, ORMLT president, "and by the strong support for conservation efforts that we encountered.



Ernie Baltz, Don Prince, Pauline Browes, Tom Atkins, and Carol Payne, President, Willow Beach Naturalists (Port Hope)

meeting more residents from the area, and to following up with those who have contacted us about their conservation options."

## Coming Events

Canada Blooms: March 12-16, visit our booth!

ORMLT Annual General Meeting, June 21, 2003

3rd Annual Walk for the Moraine, Sunday, October 19th, 2003

## ORMLT Life Members

Those who donate \$500 or more become ORMLT Life Members. Welcome and thank you for your generous support: Rebecca Romaniuk, LV Lomas Limited, William and Judith Wilder, John and Patricia McCutcheon, George and Barbara Pratt, Keith and Zane Stait-Gardner David Hodgson and Janet Fass, Norampac OCD Division, Jane Glassco, The George Lunan Foundation, Thomas & Linda Atkinson & Jeffrey Laidlaw.

## ORMLT welcomes new administrative manager

A warm welcome to our new Administrative Manager, Dale Lubberts, who joined us in August. She comes to us with years of experience in the non-profit and charitable sectors. Thanks to her background, she has been instrumental in streamlining our growing database and managing our increasingly busy office.

Dale took over from Mary Louise Colantonio, our first Administrative Manager. Our thanks and best wishes go to Mary Louise who has returned to school for her teaching degree.

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, call: (905) 841-3678, fax: 841-3271 or visit our website at: [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org). Our mailing address is: 15150 Yonge St. Ste 2A, Aurora, ON, L4G 1M2, or you can email us at: [landtrust@bellnet.ca](mailto:landtrust@bellnet.ca)

## Our conservation achievements

Our conservation achievements to date, in chronological order:

*Uxbridge Township:*

- ◆ Ken Purvis property, 17 acres, fee simple donation, June, 2001

*City of Pickering:*

- ◆ Bill and Judith Wilder property, 711 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2001

*Uxbridge Township:*

- ◆ Secord property, 48 acres, conservation easement, completed February, 2002

*Uxbridge Township:*

- ◆ John and Pat McCutcheon property, 73.5 acres, conservation easement, completed July, 2002

*Scugog Township:*

- ◆ Keith and Zane Stait-Gardner property, 152 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2002

*Uxbridge Township:*

- ◆ George and Barbara Pratt property, 100 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2002

*Uxbridge Township:*

- ◆ David Hodgson and Janet Fass property, 66 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2002

*Town of Whitby:*

- ◆ Bill and Judith Wilder property, 95.72 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2002

*Scugog Township:*

- ◆ Bill and Judith Wilder property, 165 acres, conservation easement, completed December, 2002

*Total conserved:* 1,428 acres

*Total "in progress:"* 1,300

## The moraine—a hydrogeological perspective

*By Debbe Crandall*

*Deep within the ground lies the true treasure of the Moraine – thick layers of sand and gravel many hundreds of metres from surface to bedrock. The waters in these aquifers span thousands of years in age; on the surface the water was yesterday's rain, but deep deep down the water held in trust was once glacial ice. This is truly the lifeblood of the region, providing water to people, to rivers and to the oceans. It is these waters that may help us survive the warming of the years to come.*

The Oak Ridges Moraine resonates differently with different people. Birders appreciate the Moraine for the habitat it provides and astronomers for its clear skies and high vantage points. Photographers capture its landscape and biologists explore its dark, wet areas looking for the tiny precious salamanders.

For me, it is water that makes the Moraine a special place, one worthy of the highest degree of protection. The visible water features – headwater streams and flowing rivers, kettle lakes and bogs, wetlands and spring seeps – give us a small indication of the richness of the Mo-

raine's vital role in the hydrologic cycle.

However, beneath the surface is a hidden world of slow moving waters crisscrossing at different depths – some on their way to the surface to join with the flowing waters, others destined to stay underground for hundreds of years.

The art and science of water – hydrogeology – is not one that is, by nature, intuitive. It is a world of computer modeling based upon data collected from expensive drilling programmes, water well analyses and seismic profiling.

The Moraine, perhaps as a result of its being one of the most heavily used groundwater sources in Canada, is also one of the most studied and understood.

Past, current and future work on the extensive hydrologic database of the

Moraine's water resources gives credibility to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan's highly ambitious and innovative water protection policies.

The regulatory requirement for preparation of watershed management plans for all of the Moraine watersheds is unprecedented and sets a very high benchmark for other parts of Ontario.

Complimentary stewardship efforts that take advantage of the aquifer vulnerability mapping are a much-needed missing piece of the water puzzle. Together, regulatory and voluntary stewardship programmes can and will serve the Moraine's vital and precious waters well into the future.

*Debbe Crandall is Executive Director of Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM)*

Publications mail agreement #40069570