

TOTAL AREA OF LAND SECURED
3,224 Acres



It's All About Connections Glassco Family Properties

Jane Glassco, long familiar with the look and feel of King Township, knows all about connections, especially connections between the present and the future. Ms. Glassco's appreciation of the Oak Ridges Moraine has led to securement in perpetuity of 382.88 acres of rolling moraine hills surrounding a deep natural kettle lake and wetland area - the 88 hectare Hall Lake-Kennifick Provincially Significant Wetland Complex.

At the end of 2006, Jane Glassco entered into an initial Conservation Easement with the Land Trust for property, known as "Seldom Seen, Seldom Heard", in designated "Natural Linkage Area" in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. In December of 2009, building on this partnership, other Conservation Easements were registered over the organic farm and other parts of the Glassco property. Planning for the future in this way ensures continuity of protection around Hall Lake. "It is important for me to have my children and grand children involved in and connected with saving this oasis", says Ms. Glassco. The property has been enjoyed by the family for many decades. Several bird species of note inhabit the area and enjoy the wetland shores the kettle lake, one of 32 on the moraine. This property reflects multiple uses including a heritage home, organic crops and a flock of organic sheep. Achieving certification for organic designation is a regulated process and a commitment that continues over years while recognizing the connection between many forms of life who call the moraine home.

Contributions of landowners like Jane Glassco are extremely important to protecting the ecological functions of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Legislation by itself is not enough to ensure that all species, not just humans, benefit from this green connection. Stretching 160 kilometers from the Niagara Escarpment in the west and closely abutting the Frontenac Arch in the east, such connectivity can support species movement across the most densely populated area of the country. "Over 90% of the moraine is in private ownership", says Patricia Short-Gallé, the Land Trust's president, "without the help of people like Jane who have their own personal connection with the beauty and diversity of these lands we could not possibly achieve our mission of protecting it into the future."

Celebrate these connections with us at the Glassco property on May 15th, 2010.
Contact the Land Trust office at 905-833-3171 ext. 30 for additional details.

Salamanders – Squeezed and Squished

Shorter than your business card is wide, the imperilled Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) doesn't take up much space, but it's getting squeezed out.

At the northern edge of its North American range in southern Ontario and the eastern extreme of that range here on the Oak Ridges Moraine, threats to this endangered species include habitat loss and habitat fragmentation and degradation.

What the Jefferson Salamander needs for its little bit of "home" to be perfect make it doubly targeted in areas that are presently under development or changes from other uses.

During the first spring rains in March and April, adults require breeding ponds (vernal pools) which are either fed by groundwater (e.g., springs), snowmelt or surface waters. These "no-fish" pools, are wisely selected by mom and pop to guarantee that young Jefferson's won't become fish food. Individuals, who can live to 30 years, demonstrate strong pond loyalty, returning to the same pond each year to breed. That's a problem if the pond is gone, drained or deepened allowing fish to breed.

Low shrubs, twigs, fallen tree branches, submerged riparian vegetation or emergent vegetation are required for egg mass attachment. Ponds, pools and low areas that have "cleaned up" edges don't offer these important egg laying areas.

After a very brief period for breeding and egg laying – often a single weekend - adults retreat to woodland coverage, generally not much more than 300 meters away. They aren't big on travelling although some have been known to go as far as a kilometer. With the addition of roads, driveways or other barriers to a safe connection, the trek to and from breeding ponds is becoming more dangerous with considerable road kill taking place on the few nights that adults go a-courtin'.

The eggs complete their development in two to four weeks depending primarily on water temperature. Hatchlings have a total length of 10 to 14 mm (about the length of the metal piece that holds your pencil and eraser together). Although tiny, the larval stage salamanders are voracious aquatic predators that feed on moving prey items such as insect larvae, small crustaceans, and amphibian larvae.

Transformation from larvae to adults normally occurs in July and August when juveniles move out of the pond as the pond or wetted area dries, and seek shelter in nearby forest litter. Again, barriers like roads and driveways can result in many individuals

being squashed on their way to the woodland. The larval stage can be variable, and can extend into early September.

Apart from the breeding season and larval stage, Jefferson Salamanders live in deciduous or mixed woodlands. This terrestrial habitat must contain suitable microhabitat, such as rodent burrows, rock fissures, downed woody debris, tree stumps, leaf litter and logs. Summer burrows are horizontal and winter burrows are vertical. The more compacted soils are in these terrestrial habitats, the more challenging it is to find suitable places to burrow. Food in the terrestrial habitat includes insects, earthworms and other invertebrates. Winter vacations are spent in the ground below the frost line (deep rock fissures and rodent burrows). Adults are likely prey items for wetland predators, such as snakes, rodents, and birds like the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Factors contributing to the on-going decline of Jefferson Salamander populations include the limited and declining availability of the habitats required by the species, vernal pools or fishless wetlands in woodlands or in close proximity to each other. Habitat protection is critical to the survival of the species here on the Oak Ridges Moraine and elsewhere in its very limited Ontario range.

Unfortunately the Jefferson Salamander doesn't distinguish between protected, public or private areas of ownership. All they know is what they need for their breeding, eating and short travel activity. Recovery plans being prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources in Ontario for the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada will focus on continued habitat protection and greater awareness of the special needs of this tiny critter who, like us, calls the Oak Ridges Moraine home.



Photo credit: ROM

Toronto Values the Oak Ridges Moraine

Toronto City Council recently approved a grant allowing a significant investment in protecting the headwaters of waterways that flow through Toronto.

The grant, up to \$200,000, will support land securement costs incurred by the Land Trust for properties within GTA watersheds. Acceptable expenses under the grant include legal fees, survey fees, appraisal costs, negotiation costs, and costs to issue an ECO-sensitivity report under the Federal Eco-gift Program. The Land Trust's expenditures per property for such activity, even when the easement is 'donated' typically range between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

"Protecting the integrity of the watersheds flowing through the City of Toronto starts up there on the moraine. It's like our own green roof. With this grant we acknowledge the role the moraine plays in the health and well being of Toronto residents and the quality of the waters of Lake Ontario" says Glenn De Baeremaeker, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 38 Scarborough.

The Oak Ridges Moraine contains the largest concentration of headwater streams in the Greater Toronto Area including Etobicoke, Mimico and Highland Creeks, and the Humber, Don and Rouge River watersheds. Protection of the headwaters of these waterways will result in protection of recharge areas for groundwater, flood management, and improved water quality, including cleaner beaches and drinking water. The cost of protecting water sources has been proven less expensive than remediation, restoration and treatment in many jurisdictions.

The work of the Land Trust focuses less on outright purchase of land, allowing instead for alternate source water protection mechanisms like land donations and conservation easements. Such commitments made by individual landowners, to respect and enhance the ecological functioning of their properties, in perpetuity, benefits all citizens living downstream of their property.

"We invest a great deal of time and effort, as well as hard costs, in each and every landowner agreement we negotiate," says Susan Walmer, Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. "Knowing that we can access these City of Toronto funds to help support these long-term protection measures gives us the ability to accelerate protection of moraine lands for the benefit of all."

The City of Toronto joins York Region, Peel Region, King Township and Town of Aurora in supporting the essential work of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust – and we thank them all.

Do you know someone who'd like to protect their property forever?

Give us a call at the Land Trust. Don Prince or Gord Parker, our land securement officers, would be happy to go over your options.

***905-833-3171 ext 30
landtrust@bellnet.ca***

OUR MISSION

"to ensure that significant moraine properties, including lands required for the Oak Ridges Trail, are protected in perpetuity through strategic land securement and related long term stewardship for the benefit of future generations."

2009 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, MAY 15th, 2010

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting and Glassco Recognition Ceremony and help us celebrate 2009: a year of achievements and new partnerships.

When: Saturday, May 15, 2010

Where: Seldom Seen, Seldom Heard

16540 12th Concession Road, (West Side between
18th and 19th Side Roads) King Township, Ontario

Schedule: 10:00am Annual General Meeting
12:00pm Glassco Recognition Ceremony

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, and wish to vote on ORMLT business at the AGM, you can execute a proxy by contacting the land trust office at: 905-833-3171 ext 30 or e-mail at: landtrust@bellnet.ca and a proxy form will be forwarded to you.

HOLD THIS DATE

17th Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner Friday, November 5th, 2010



10th Anniversary Celebration

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Thursday, September 16, 2010

Help us celebrate
our 10th Birthday!

Koffler Scientific Reserve
at Jokers Hill



HOSTED BY:

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

LAND TRUST HAS NEW STAFF

We are pleased to announce several staff changes in 2009 -2010 that will allow us to operate more efficiently and effectively.

Ivan Sharp, a Certified Fund Raising Executive and a Bradford resident, will bring to the Land Trust his experience of many years of progressive positions in the not-for-profit area including annual gift programs, special events, major gift and planned giving programs and capital campaigns. Supported by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant our new part time fund raising coordinator, Ivan will focus on securing long-term support for the Land Trust's work in protecting the moraine's significant natural areas in perpetuity.

As our Volunteer Coordinator funded by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, Frieda Baldwin will assist with implementation of a volunteer program that enhances the selection, use and retention of volunteers in their contribution to all programs undertaken by The Moraine. For Life. (collaborative groups : Oak Ridges Trail Association, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and Save the Oak Ridges Moraine.)

Suzanne Reiner, an Aurora resident and local volunteer, joins us part-time in the administration office with her graphic arts experience, organizational skills and ongoing enthusiasm.



Your Land Trust is 10 Years Old

A 10 year old celebrating a birthday is full of excitement and hope. They have a list of accomplishments; first words, first friends and so much more. And, there's the great promise of more to come. On top of the character that has begun to build will come moments of uncertainty, daring, more milestones and a sense of purpose. The child will quickly become a confident and productive adult. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is much like this excited child.

Born of a board of several dedicated parents drawn from communities across Central Ontario, this child was conceived in an era of great concern for the future of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Citizens, groups and politicians were engaged in lively discussion about limiting further damage to the moraine and looking at ways to conserve what was deemed important. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust became the baby pushed forward to ensure protection of private lands

through either conservation easements or donation to the Trust in perpetuity. The birth took place at Eaton Hall, Seneca College in October of 2000. A \$10,000 start-up grant from the City of Toronto marked the occasion.

The ORMLT quickly cut its teeth on land protection - the first property, 17 acres, was donated by the late Ken Purvis in the first year. Toddling into year two the Land Trust established a small office in Aurora, received its first Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, hired its first paid staff and entered into its first Charles Sauriol Dinner fundraising partnership with the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. No shy child, the first year of operation also saw the first conservation easement donation of 711 acres and a successful Walk for the Moraine, raising over \$15,000.

By the tender age of five, the ambitious youngster took on responsibility for the Star Cliff Nature Reserve, established through the life estate bequest of Elizabeth Harper and entered into a land securement partnership with the Oak Ridges Trail Association funded by Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. Gaining considerable confidence and momentum, the Land Trust at the five year point was conducting annual stewardship monitoring of 15 properties, attended nine outreach events including Canada Blooms and a Woodlot Owners Workshop. In addition, the Trust created an Executive Director position; the day to day operations of the Trust had grown.

Now ten years old this youngster has come a long way with over 3,200 acres of land protected through various agreements with private landowners or through fee simple ownership.

Giving truth to the adage that it "takes a whole community to raise a child", the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is no exception. Partnering with other organizations and numerous individuals has been an important aspect in getting through the first decade. Land donors, individual financial contributions, the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), Conservation Authorities, volunteers, sponsors, foundations, and all levels of government have worked with a volunteer board, committees and professional staff.

As the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust enters its teen years the excitement builds. Coached by the likes of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance and Ontario Land Trust Alliance, this youngster will rely on, share best-practices and meet operating standards of these groups. Continued guidance and input from the community will further shape the Land Trust's character and help it to grow stronger. Like any sociable teen, there is sure to be an ever increasing amount of interaction with others. Preserving the moraine is a never ending process just as the work is never really complete with ambitious youth.

The work this child will undertake benefits us one and all, for life. Your continued interest and involvement with this promising future is appreciated. Please join us in looking back and looking forward and wish a Happy Birthday to this eager 10 year old.

**The Oak Ridges Moraine
Land Trust
Founding Directors**

Michelle Albanese
Tom Atkins
Ian Attridge
Bob Barnett
Ildi Connor
Mary Dube
Natalie Helferty
Linda Houser
Cynthia Hyland
Karen Kraft-Sloan
Gloria Marsh
David McQueen
Don Prince
Jenifer Robertson
Tom Taylor
Andrea Warren

Accolades to Tom Atkins

Volunteering with Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

On behalf of all Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) supporters and stakeholders, we congratulate Tom Atkins and thank him for his leadership and for his immense contribution to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

ORMLT was guided by Tom from its inception in 2000; the first five years with Tom as President and the next four years as Past-President. Tom is the only person to have served the Executive Committee for nine years. It was fitting that Tom was awarded the Ontario Land Trust Alliance's Vision Award in 2009 at the age of 87. Tom leads by example and exhibits the kind of volunteerism that is essential to a land trust. He has the courage and initiative to take responsibility, to persevere through challenging times, to be forever optimistic, friendly and respectful to everyone and determined to have fun. If there was one word to describe Tom's greatest strengths in his leadership role with the ORMLT it is "optimism", closely followed by "enthusiasm".

Tom surely was the originator of phrases like "Yes we can!" and "Just do it". When Tom said "I'll do that" it led to hours of volunteering and great results. He hosted some of the Trust's earliest meetings at his house with pot luck dinners. Virginia, Tom's wife, tolerated all this while she had her own slate of volunteering initiatives underway.

This generous man has an amazing capacity to get things done and humbly credits others for the great achievements and milestones over the years. In 2006 he received the prestigious

Ontario Senior Achievement Award at Queens Park from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

More recently, in April of this year, Tom received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oak Ridges Trail Association recognizing his great interest in promoting trail use and development. These honors are bestowed on Tom for good reason, he is a good friend of the moraine and an inspiration to all. Thank you Tom!

Margaret Mead could have been speaking about the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust when she said:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Jenifer Robertson
Treasurer



Volunteer Opportunities

**Just tell us about your interests.
Look for the on-line Volunteer form
under "WHAT YOU CAN DO AT THE
LAND TRUST"
website: www.oakridgesmoraine.org.**

The Land Trust can provide an opportunity to build new friendships, see new places, work with nature, help protect our biodiversity and create networking channels. You can mix with other movers and shakers, learn how things get done at committees and at Board level, meet some very interesting people, enhance your resume or share your skills. Check in regularly on our web site to see what tasks or positions are posted. The need for help changes throughout the year and in addition to posting opportunities on the website, we will sometimes make direct appeal through our members. Indicate your willingness to serve and share some information about your abilities through the on-line volunteer section of the ORMLT website.

THE OAK RIDGES MORANIE STEWARDSHIP FUND

The Oak Ridges Moraine Stewardship Fund is part of an innovative province-wide partnership created to help our communities care for the land we love, forever. Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, which protects lands that are important to our community, is joining forces with the York Region Community Foundation to connect donors with this pressing community need.

Land Trusts like ours have so far focused resources on land acquisition. The Oak Ridges Moraine Stewardship Fund recognizes these lands need financial support for restoration, improvement and yes, even property taxes.

For a limited time, every dollar you give to the Oak Ridges Moraine Stewardship Fund held at the York Region Community Foundation will be matched dollar for dollar (for a maximum of \$20,000), helping to create a permanent fund to support land stewardship in our community.

Here's an opportunity to make a difference for the environment in a personal and lasting way. Your donation goes even further, as land trust volunteers carry out the work on many of these protected lands in your community.

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Community Foundations of Ontario gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation in forging this important partnership.



To make a donation to this Fund, go to www.yrcf.ca or send cheque payable to YRCF to the address below

York Region Community Foundation (YRCF)
80F Centurian Drive, Suite 210
Markham, ON L3R 8C1

(905) 940-7899
info@yrcf.ca
www.yrcf.ca



We Can Save Some Money and Time

If you would prefer to receive subsequent issues of this newsletter and other information or notices from the Land Trust electronically you can help us reduce mailing and printing costs. These savings can be redirected into our operations and land protection programs. The Land Trust will not sell information collected for any commercial purposes. Our current updating is also asking about your willingness to volunteer with the work of the ORMLT.

At the moment we would like to get your permission to share your contact information, only if you desire, with our partners in The Moraine. For Life. Working Together project; Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition and the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Mailings or contact by these two moraine-wide organizations would be very limited, and in relation to special activities taking place to encourage a greater appreciation of the moraine and its sustainable use or to follow-up on any interest to volunteer.

You can save our current volunteers considerable time by proactively e-mailing landtrust@bellnet.ca or by calling **905-833-3171 ext 30** and providing your full updated contact information. If we don't hear from you directly a volunteer will be following up over the next few weeks to verify your information for our records. We look forward to working on protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine with you.

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 (SPECIFY) 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 contribution 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 EMPLOYEE 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:

Ivan Sharp, Fundraising Coordinator

Phone: 905-833-3171 ext. 30

Email: fundraising@bellnet.ca

**We Thank You For Your
Much Needed Support!**



OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

13990 Dufferin Street North, King City, Ontario L7B 1B3
Telephone: 905-833-3171 E-mail: landtrust@bellnet.ca



ENCLOSED, PLEASE FIND MY DONATION OF:

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

other \$ _____ Please send me a tax receipt.

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Card Number:

Expiry Date: _____ Telephone: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

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