

# FUTURE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

## The Ultimate Christmas Re-Gifting

Parking, rushing, decision-making. Wrong sizes, wrong colours, return line-ups. Arrrgghh!

Where are the relaxed crispy winter nights with trees outlined against a moon-filled sky? Where is that peaceful walk as snow flakes drift silently and pile up on rail fences? Where are the sleigh bells echoing across open lands? Is this a Christmas you could enjoy?

There are ways to make Christmas gifting decisions that will “re-gift” for generations to come – and you won’t hear remarks about “you shouldn’t have”. You can capture those moon lit nights, play in the snow and experience the joy of open lands and not hear, “thanks but I already have one”.

What if...you told everyone on your list that you were making a donation in the amount that you would normally spend, to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine?

What if...you slowed down the madness of the holiday season and invited some or all of those individuals to join you for an outdoor walk, at night, on the moraine?

What if...you were assured that many years from now your children and grandchildren could experience the joy of “re-gifting” this special place, not just at Christmas, but 365 days a year?

Unlike the latest brand-name, must-have, thing-a-ma-bob that will end up in next spring’s garage sale, your donation isn’t split up between suppliers, manufacturers, transportation and marketing costs and a whole chain of profit makers along the way. A gift to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust will be spent on protection of lands and their ecological functions. It’s a simple gift that lasts forever.

And, unlike pitches you will hear for “give now, pay later” you can manage your contribution to protection by enrolling in a monthly giving plan. Take the pressure off the spending season that adds so much stress to our lives.

Put the Oak Ridges Moraine under your tree this year – and for many years to come. It’s the ultimate choice for re-gifting.



Garry Conway Photo



OAK RIDGES MORaine  
LAND TRUST

Please call 905-833-3171  
or visit [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)

# FUTURE

## 3,317 Acres + more to come

### It's a Breeze

When you stand at the top of a knoll on the 18.9 acres Gwynneth Rooke donated in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville on a hot, humid day you will understand why green, open spaces are so important to cooling the climate.

Forest cover on the property shades an important water recharge area. Rather than running south toward Bloomington Road, where trucks can be heard rumbling by, waters here slowly flow through a wetland complex and eventually find their way to Lake Simcoe.

This height of land has seen a number of Red-shouldered hawks and other species of birds soaring on the breezes that cool the land. Now, with generous forethought on the part of the land donor, it will continue to provide home and water for many species.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is honored to add Gwynneth Rooke to the list of land donors interested in protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine.

When you stand on a sidewalk in Toronto on a hot, humid day and feel a cooled, fresh breeze flowing your way from the Oak Ridges Moraine, you can thank Gwynneth.



## Natural Linkages in Land Donation

A donation of 10.57 acres in Richmond Hill by Heather and John Emery to the Land Trust gives pause to think about 'linkages'.

Links on the ground include the property within the White Rose/Preston Lake Provincially Significant Wetland Complex (small linked wetlands) and headwaters of the Rouge River. Water falling here links many people and activities all the way to Scarborough and Pickering at Lake Ontario.

The property is designated Natural Linkage Area under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and is part of an important, narrow corridor of green space, linking east to west, through a quickly

intensifying area.

And then, there is the Bobolink, a COSEWIC threatened species, known to have been present in the open hay field coverage of the property in 2002.

Finally, in a new twist for the Land Trust, Heather is the daughter of James and Ann McLeod who donated land in Aurora in 2006, so we have links by birth and a second generation of land donors!

On behalf of all who will benefit from greater protection of ecological functions on the Oak Ridges Moraine, please link your voices together and say "thank you for your donation John and Heather".



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## Connecting Neighbours

How many of us know our next-door neighbours? How many of us realize how connected we are with what we do, or what our neighbours do? Whether we know them or not, we are connected. The air we breathe, the animals we see, the forests we enjoy and the waters that flow in our neighbourhoods join us together.

Realizing that the value of protected areas increases when these areas are connected and not “stand alone” parcels, the Land Trust has launched a program to connect neighbours around properties where Conservation Easements have been registered.

Committed land owners host a casual gathering, inviting in known and as-yet-unmet neighbouring property owners to hear about why they have entered into protection of the moraine with the registration of a Conservation Easement. Tax benefits and legal considerations are discussed along with many stories about what the neighbours value about their lands and their place on the moraine.

Through this, participants learn, among other things, that protecting lands does not mean there is public access to privately held property. Rather, public benefit through protection may result in



tax and capital gains deductions. They learn about networking with any number of stewardship organizations in pursuit of goals laid out in a property management plan. They learn that each Conservation Easement is uniquely tailored to their long-term desire for their property. Most importantly, neighbours learn that property protection is a whole different twist on “keeping up with the Joneses.”

If you are a current Conservation Easement holder and would like to connect with your neighbours to investigate greater protection of natural features in your neighbourhood, contact the Land Trust office.

If you are a land owner with property of 25 acres or more and have neighbours with similar sized or larger properties and would like to learn more about Conservation Easements and other protection options as a group, we’d like to hear from you too!

With 90% of the moraine in private ownership, connecting neighbours is the only feasible way to protect important ecological functions and the many diverse habitats found here. We are all connected, and together as good neighbours, we can offer better protection, stewardship and sustainability to the Oak Ridges Moraine.



The Hon. H.N. (Henry) Jackman at John & Pat McCutcheon Neighbour to Neighbour event

## This Recipe is for the Birds!

Local food has been enjoyed across the moraine for thousands of years. Together with land owners the Land Trust helps to sustain the supply. When a property or conservation easement is donated it's just the beginning of a productive relationship that benefits more than just the human species.

Property management plans prepared with land owner input detail restoration and other activities for the property to enhance natural features and biodiversity. A 150 acre property in Scugog Township is a perfect example of mixing up the ingredients on the landscape to please a variety of palates and provide food through the year.

"Adding fruit or nut bearing trees and shrubs as was done on this property is an excellent way to provide crucial food

resources for over-wintering birds," notes Bill McMartin, the Land Trust's Stewardship expert. A selection of shrubs complement the extensive tree planting already undertaken by the property owners. An impressive variety of birds are attracted to this property due to the combination of adequate food and shelter.

**Want more information about what's right for your property? Access or download the publication "Caring for Your Land - A Stewardship Handbook for Oak Ridges Moraine Landowners" from the Trusts website <http://oakridgesmoraine.org> Go to: Living on the Moraine -> Support for Landowners**

Among the species enjoyed by the land owners during the winter months is the Bohemian Waxwing. They are easily distinguished from the commoner Cedar Waxwings by the bright orange of their under-tail coverts (small feathers that surround the bases of the larger feathers). The orange is visible in any position except with the bird facing directly away from the observer.

A well-seasoned birder himself, Bill advises, "With the right mix of shrubs like Choke cherry, Common Elderberry, Gray dogwood, Nannyberry and many other native species, you'll be rewarded with years of low cost entertainment and many winter birds to add to your list as they enjoy the buffet you've planted for them."



## Leave a Legacy – *it's easier than you think*

Many of us imagine we have to be wealthy in order to leave a legacy. Nothing could be further from the truth. The vast majority of charitable bequests are from ordinary Canadians like you and me.

It is remarkably simple to create your own legacy. You can take action now to have a positive impact on future generations. After remembering your loved ones, consider leaving a legacy to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust in your will. It makes good tax-planning sense too.

There are several ways to make a charitable bequest, including an outright gift, percentage, or residual gift (what's left over after taxes), a gift of property, or making Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust a beneficiary of insurance or retirement plan assets.

Every legacy, no matter the size, is important. Please contact Susan Walmer at the Land Trust office to find out more about making a bequest in support of protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Bequests are personal matters, we always suggest you consult a professional before completing any estate plans.

Consider what an acre of green space on the Oak Ridges Moraine, whether covered with forest, wetlands or open meadow does for all of us: cleaning air, cooling the climate, cleaning and regulating water, protecting us from run-off and erosion, sheltering wildlife, contributing to pollination, providing a space for recreation, dispersal of seeds and several other functions.

Ninety-percent of the Oak Ridges Moraine is in private ownership, protection of these functions lies in private hands.

Please consider leaving a legacy today.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Committee team members  
Board Directors

### CONTACT:

Volunteer Coordinator  
Nancee Webb at  
[ormvolunteers@bellnet.ca](mailto:ormvolunteers@bellnet.ca)

if you require more  
information or know of  
anyone who may be  
interested in volunteering  
for any of the above  
positions.

If you haven't already done  
so a  
Volunteer Application  
form can be filled in on the  
Oak Ridges Moraine Land  
Trust website  
[www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)

## Board and Committee Activity

A November strategic planning session will reconfirm and set direction for the Trust's operation over the next 3-5 years. We look forward to reporting on outcomes in the next issue of "Future".

Welcome to Nancee Webb the Trusts (volunteer) Volunteer Co-ordinator. A resident of Aurora, Nancee will be ensuring that volunteers, tasks and positions are all matched to mutual benefit with positive experiences.

Board meetings: 4 times / year  
Executive meetings: every 2<sup>nd</sup> (alternate) month

Fundraising Committee – meets bi-monthly  
Land and Stewardship Committee – meets bi-monthly  
Governance Committee – meets at the call of the Chair  
Communications and Outreach Committee – meets monthly

## Now That's Service!

Collectively the Land Trust's Directors, since the organization's inception, have provided 157 years of volunteer service. That's a wonderful contribution to the moraine's communities and future.

The current board reflects a broad spectrum of geographic representation, skills and knowledge which combined – bring balance and continued passion, enthusiasm and responsibility to the operation of the organization. The current board and years of service are:

Tracy Smith, Aurora - 2 years  
Patricia Short-Gallé, Pickering - 5 years  
Bob Shepherd, Uxbridge - 4 years  
Frank Shaw, Aurora - 5 years  
Ann Rexe, Toronto - 4 years  
Abhi Mukherjee, Markham - 1 year  
John King, Stouffville - 1 year  
Ralph Fernando, Toronto - 1 year  
Janet Fayle, Palgrave - 1 year  
Mary Dubé, Zephyr - 10 years

New volunteers and committee members are always a welcome addition. Contact the Land Trust office if you would like to learn more about contributing to the Oak Ridges Moraine protection community.



## “Are We There Yet?”



### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stewardship Campaign

#### Thank you to our contributors:

J. P. Bickell Foundation  
The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
The W. Garfield Weston Foundation  
Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation  
The Charles H. Ivey Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
EJLB Foundation  
LGL Environmental Consultants  
The Empire Life Insurance Company  
Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company  
King Township  
Edward Jackman  
The Hon. H.N. (Henry) Jackman  
And numerous other individuals

Who among us has not heard or uttered these words? And the inevitable answer, “No, but soon, be patient.”

Your Land Trust has been on such a journey for the past year: a \$1 Million campaign to fund our work. Looked at in linear terms across the moraine with the destination at Cramahe Township, (north and east of Cobourg at the eastern end of the Oak Ridges Moraine), we’d have traveled from Airport Road to Highway 400.

At over \$200,000 raised to date, the pleasure of the journey has been in the generous donations of individuals and private foundations. Like a real journey across the moraine there is diversity to be seen at every turn – that’s where you fit in. There is no “pit stop”, the work to be done continues. Added diversity and contributions from individuals, corporations, donations large and small - will add up and complete our trip.

Approximately one-third of the \$1 Million will support active protection of more lands over the next three years, including the Trust’s share of legal, assessment, surveys and other costs. Sights are set on 600 more acres as a minimum goal.

Another third of the funds will allow for three years of focused outreach to professionals such as financial planners, lawyers and real estate agents to explain how beneficial conservation easements can be within client portfolios. At the same time, outreach will concentrate on building ever-widening understanding among community thought leaders and groups about the ecological importance of the moraine.

The remaining amount will be invested to support required annual monitoring of each property, currently 37 individual holdings, for many years to come.

Are we there yet? No, but with your help we can get there faster.



# 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 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 Employment 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.

### Our thanks to

Nature Photographer Garry Conway for the cover photo. Garry shares his love of photography and the moraine through a series of workshops including January 28 & 29th *Getting the most from your Digital SLR camera*. See Website for details [www.gconwayphoto.com](http://www.gconwayphoto.com)

Bruce Cohen – volunteer newsletter editor

Funding partners for select land securement costs this year: York Region (Greening Strategy), Ontario Land Trust Alliance (MNR OLTAP program), Canadian Land Trust Alliance (Opportunities Program, CWS Environment Canada), City of Toronto.

### ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY DONATION OF:

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### YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE OAK RIDGES MORAINELANDTRUST.

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