

What Colour is Your Moraine?

Like a vibrant work place, the Moraine requires good raw materials to function. It is composed of processes and layers of management and provides specialty products with many uses. Despite good intentions, not everyone in this workplace gets along however. While the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) is the Business Plan for the Moraine, interpretation varies and the Plan has flaws.

The consumption and use of the Moraine's outputs differs from one user to another. Some consume the sands and gravels that are so close to the surface. Others respectfully plant and remove renewable crops. Some consume the open lands with housing and business developments. Others repair past damages to the landscape. Some remove the trees and alter the waters to make space for recreational purposes.

Others care and look for ways to stop destruction for short-term economic gain. Some take more than their share of clean waters from underground aquifers.

Others band together for moral support to highlight the incremental destruction and depletion of natural processes and resources. Some use the Moraine as a dumping ground. Others hire legal expertise to fight what is just good sense for our collective future.



**Is this your Moraine?
Or this one?**



All of us benefit from the Moraine's many functions; clean, abundant water, species diversity, air cleaned and cooled by forest cover and open, breathing lands. All of us benefit from ensuring that the goods and services that the Moraine produces today are also available for use tomorrow. We all need to be a part of the solution that ensures the continuity of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The ORMCP is due for review in 2015. A good strategic plan relies on equal input from all stakeholders, not just 'some', not just 'others'. What colour is your Moraine?



Black and White : 3,317 acres

Casual and fun though the work of the Trust may look from the outside, the “i”s and “t”s have to be dotted and crossed for all that we do. Our Land Securement program is a good case in point. We have 3,317 acres protected and growing.

Acceptance of donated lands, or establishing conservation easements always requires legally binding agreements. It’s as much paperwork as purchasing a new home. Much of the property protected by the Trust is by private landowners who retain ownership, with conditions and responsibilities spelled out in black and white within legally registered documents, including the property Title.

It could, and often does take considerable time to ensure that all documentation is authenticated, accepted and accurate. There can be many delays along the way. Protection of small parcels of extremely important and threatened land are as much work as that of securing much larger parcels. But may provide an excellent ‘connection’ which will allow for wildlife and water movement to be unimpaired over a larger area for generations. The number of acres is not always the primary

measure of the value to protecting Moraine functions.

There are some exciting property negotiations underway. The number of Moraine landowners taking an active interest in further protection measures is growing! We cannot achieve protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine without willing and committed private landowners like you.



Nature’s engineers create habitat; Photo: Bill McMartin

A Legacy

“Every year I sit down with my kids and we decide which charities we will support,” says Susan Walmer, known to most as the Executive Director of the Trust since 2009. Before that she was a volunteer and Board member. As part of their family discussion in 2008, Susan, Mark and Janine agreed that the Land Trust would be named as a beneficiary in her will.



Susan and daughter Janine; Photo: courtesy of Jeff Young, coolgradphoto.org

Janine and Mark are very supportive, “I am so proud of Mom stating right up front how much she wants to give as a bequest through her will. Mark and I will know exactly how to respect her wishes when the time comes. It makes it clear to us and I know it makes her happy having this sorted out now.”

Planning for charitable giving and naming a charity in your will is not uncommon nor does one have to have a sizable estate or make a large bequest. Your heirs and estate can benefit from reduced taxation and you can proceed to enjoy life knowing you have taken care of important matters ahead of time.

The recipient charity does not have to be informed of your decision to make them a beneficiary, however, it is useful for the organization to know if you have done so. To learn more about how to name the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust in your will, consult our website www.oakridgesmoraine.org or contact your lawyer.

“Green Side Up”

Did you know that there are resources available to help you “green” your property?

“Green Side Up!” is the basic instruction for anyone new to tree planting. By planting trees and shrubs, you can:

- speed repairs to disturbed ecosystems;
- provide food, shelter for wildlife, and nesting sites for birds;
- reduce erosion along stream banks;
- increase shade to cool flowing waters.



Photo: Judy Gilchrist

Tomorrow’s trees...



...are planted today

ORMLT Stewardship supports conservation:

The Trust develops management plans for ORMLT owned properties and, together with landowners, work out stewardship plans for properties with Conservation Easements. These plans guide stewardship activities including tree planting. All planting benefits the health and function of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Priority sites are most often along watercourses, near wetlands or as in-fill planting in forest gaps. They are always planted with suitable native species. Often the Trust will work with Easement landowners to organize volunteers for a planting event. Annual monitoring of all Trust agreement properties is required at which time the success of the planting is documented.

What is the best time to plant?

In the environmental sector the old saying, “the best time to plant a tree is yesterday” is often followed with, “and the next best is today”! Your tree planting should take a bit of forethought (plan, order and prepare now for fall planting activity) but it WILL provide a greener tomorrow. That’s the up-side!

Tree stock is available:

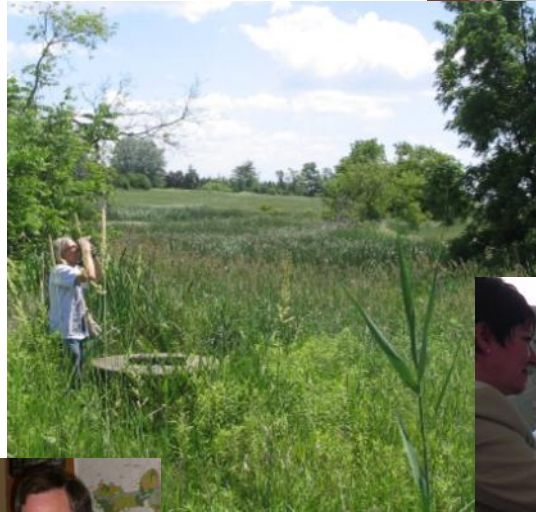
Check the Trust’s website at www.oakridgesmoraine.org for a list of stewardship organizations and others who help “re-green” our world. Some offer reduced costs for larger plantings.

A Mosaic of Volunteers

Imagine, if you will, standing nose to nose with a beautiful mosaic. That's it - get close. See the little bits of individual colour. Now step back a little, then more, and more. The bigger picture emerges. Further and it becomes a masterpiece, where the sum of the parts is more important than the bits it is made from.

The volunteers who contribute to the work of the Trust are just like that mosaic. Individually, each brings a skill, a talent, a desire to be a part of a bigger picture by contributing a touch of their own colour. Whether the contribution is reviewing website content, planting trees, monitoring property, assembling printed materials, gathering information about funding prospects, or governing the organization, every piece contributes its part. In 2011, volunteers contributed more than 1,579 hours to the 'big picture' of the Trust's operation and management.

Now, step forward – nose to nose with a volunteer and say "Thank you, without you there is no Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust".



**All seasons, All reasons —
Volunteers Help.**

Our Family is Growing

At the Annual General Meeting in March the Trust welcomed four new directors, each of whom adds another bit of expertise to the governance role of the Board bringing the number of Directors to 13.

Nicholas Schulz has a Masters of Corporate Communications with 7 years experience and 5 years in the environmental field, including work on social and environmental standards for the aggregate sector. Nic enjoys numerous outdoor pursuits at the western end of the Moraine.

Doug Kube enjoys community involvement in Richmond Hill. A Senior Consultant with Stantec with a focus on environment, health and safety management systems, compliance and auditing, Doug is certified by Eco Canada as an Environmental Professional.

Ann Frances Rundle practiced law in Toronto for 10 years, raised children, taught law in secondary schools, and completed a Master of Laws degree, returning to practice in 2011. She works on legal research, litigation, property law, and immigration matters.

Steven Sokalsky serves as Corporate Counsel to Delcan in Markham and previously practiced environmental and construction law in Toronto. In addition to both Law and Engineering degrees, Steven holds a Certificate in Sustainable Energy. He serves on other non-profit boards in the areas of mental health and the arts.

There is still room on the Board of Directors for an individual with a mix of governance interest and experienced at major fundraising.



Outreach is an important function of any organization, the Trust is no different. Part of our mandate is “to research and educate about the natural environment and heritage sites of the Oak Ridges Moraine”. We do as much as possible with limited resources. While we continue to seek funding to support outreach activities we will entertain opportunities to speak to larger groups of “multipliers”, those who can help to spread the word about the importance of the Moraine to their peers.

If you are involved with a community fraternal or social organization and would like to arrange a presentation about the Moraine and the Land Trust, please contact the office at 905-833-3171.

Reaching Out

Through the coming months we will be working with partners or on our own, to reach out at the following events and activities:

July 8 — Ride for the Moraine (see below for info)

August 17 — Forest Festival

November 2 to 7 — Royal Winter Fair

Watch for announcements about our Neighbour to Neighbour invitational events and Music of the Moraine — summer and fall dates to be determined.

Picture Perfect

Help us to show others the many colourful faces of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Trust has an immediate need for digital photos for use in displays, the website and other published materials (none to be sold). We are in need of:

- All seasons and all colours.
- All manner of people activity—both active and passive
- Images that display the not-so-pretty things that happen on the Moraine.
- Older digitized images from earlier days.
- High resolution in both vertical and horizontal formats.

A caution about privacy! When used, pictures will not name people or specific addresses. Even so, please be sure to include written consent of a parent or legal guardian if the photo includes children under 18 years who could be fully identified through the image.

The Trust reserves the right to crop photos if necessary in any application for which they are used. Credit to photographers will be given in two ways:

- Inclusion of a small cut line to name the photographer, e.g. *Photo Courtesy J. Smith* or,
- Embed your own, subtly within the photo, reading the same.

Let’s see the Moraine through your eyes.

Images can be sent to landtrust@bellnet.ca. Please include your full contact information, including telephone and mailing address, and as much information as you can about the location of the image on the Moraine.

2012 Motor Cycle Ride for the Moraine

Depart from Zephyr Community Centre at 9:00 am on Sunday, July 8 for a Moraine experience.

For more information and to register call 905-473-9523 or email: reidirwin@xplornet.com



2011 Photo: Uxbridge Times-Journal



**OAK RIDGES MORaine
LAND TRUST**

**Please call 905-833-3171
or visit www.oakridgesmoraine.org**

Donors and Supporters Keep us Going

Thanks to all who have made a contribution since our Fall newsletter:

Program Partners

Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc.
Regional Municipality of York
City of Pickering
Town of Richmond Hill

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Jackman Foundation, 1964
The Dalglish Family Foundation
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
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Sokalsky, Steven
Tessier, Lisa
Usher, Tony
Walmer, Susan
Wehrenberg, Klaus
Wilder, William & Judith

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have fundraising or
event planning skills you'd
like to share?

CONTACT:
Volunteer Coordinator
Nancee Webb at
ormvolunteers@bellnet.ca

Or fill in a
Volunteer Application
on the Oak Ridges Moraine
Land Trust website
www.oakridgesmoraine.org

Shades of Change

In November 2011, the Trust recommitted to the protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust vision looks to the future of the Moraine and serves to guide the work of the Trust.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a vibrant, healthy, sustainable ecosystem within which the Trust and partners including private landowners are actively cooperating in conservation and protection of the Moraine and connected areas.

The Oak Ridges Land Trust mission identifies the role of the Trust over the immediate 3 to 5 year time horizon.

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.

The Trust does not act alone, or for its own purposes. This is your Trust, our combined work and a common, sustainable future for all. Help us make the vision of a sustainable Moraine a reality.

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

Marvelous Magenta

Tiny and delightful “Gaywings” (*Polygala paucifolia* Willd.) is also sometimes referred to as Flowering Wintergreen. Bend over for a better look at this member of the Milkwort family found in moist coniferous woods in the spring, because the plant, with some underground stems, isn’t usually much higher than 15 cm (6 inches).

Take a closer look at the orchid-like flower structure which can present from a light pink to a deep magenta. While the plant has a broad range, photographer Garry Conway

remarks, “In my experience it is rare to see it on the Moraine, but I’ve been lucky to find this one right along the main Oak Ridges Trail. The deep colour and the intriguing flower structure make it interesting to capture on camera.” Gaywings are native to the area and can be successfully nurtured in a shady, moist garden. Like so many of the tiny flowers that brighten up the spring season with splashes of colour, there is a special joy in stumbling across them unexpectedly in the publicly accessible areas of the Moraine.



Our thanks to Future’s contributing photographer Garry Conway

Gary shares his expertise through workshops:

July 14th, 2012: Capture the Forest through photography, Eldred Tract, York Region

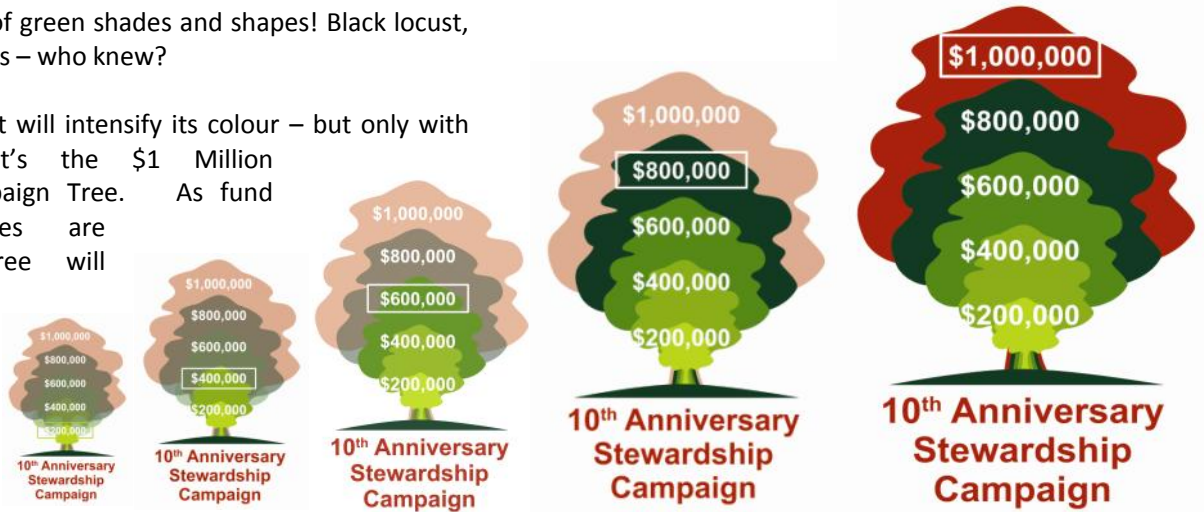
July 15th, 2012: Photographic Expedition — Humber Trail (near Nobleton) Register and learn more: www.gconwayphoto.com

Colour Magic - The Trust Tree is Growing!

Seasonal colour change, a joy to behold. From dull black and grey of January to glistening, moist, denser shadings as February eases away. Sap movement back into branches encourages the yellows of weeping willows, and the pop of red in dog wood and, through March, this year, the soft lime green of poplars, visible across the wooded hills of the Moraine. Look closely, there's flower colouration to delight your senses, many before the full flush of leaves with their magnificent array of green shades and shapes! Black locust, pretty white flowers – who knew?

There is a tree that will intensify its colour – but only with your support. It's the \$1 Million Stewardship Campaign Tree. As fund raising milestones are reached, the tree will brighten.

We are just over \$250,000 now!



Please help us make this magical change. The result will be a combination of a fund to ensure the Trust will have support forever for property monitoring and stewardship, three years of support for the land securement program and three years of support for communications and outreach activity. So much can be accomplished in this timeframe. With your help.

Hard-copy recipients can move to electronic delivery of Future where more detailed information and images of the Moraine can be posted in upcoming issues. Printing and postage costs saved here can be put to work elsewhere.

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