



Protection Excitement

The Trust's securement activities are always reason for excitement and celebration, no matter how large or small the property.

There was added energy in the air early this summer at the celebration of the "Little Rock Farm" Conservation Easement donated by the Hamilton family of Adjala/Tosorontio Township. The 150 acres of active agricultural land and mixed hardwood forest, high in the Nottawasaga River watershed, is a joint easement held by this Trust and the Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT). Use of Moraine lands for agricultural purposes is a sustainable practice which respects natural features while at the same time includes many conservation and restoration activities.

ORMLT values align well with those of sister organizations like the Farmland Trust. "Every easement is different," says Don Prince, Securement Manager, "this one includes continued agricultural use to meet

both Moraine and Farmland goals. Mrs. Martinic, the landowner, was with us every step of the way. We are all excited by the outcome and look forward to sharing responsibility for on-going use and protection of this terrific property that's had such long family continuity."

The celebration was attended by over 120 friends, family, neighbours, dignitaries and other conservation minded individuals. "You could feel the excitement in the air," reports Patricia Short-Gallé, ORMLT Chair, "municipal and provincial representatives realize that agriculture and healthy lands are both significant contributors to the future well-being of their communities. Mrs. Martinic's tremendous stewardship activity already is admirable, this commitment is the icing!"

Adding to the joy of the day was the celebration of another easement donation of 100 acres to the Farmland Trust by the Bethel Family of Caledon.



Photo: Matt Setzkorn. Ontario Farmland Trust



**OAK RIDGES MORaine
LAND TRUST**

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

Vibrant Voices

Who hasn't thought "I remember when this used to be open fields..." lamenting the loss of treasured family or childhood spaces and memories? "We used to pick strawberries ..., my brother and I built the best fort..., we'd catch fireflies, pick wildflowers for Mom...", and think, kids just don't have the chance for the same kind of fun like we had exploring fields and forests?

Cutting down memories and paving where life was enjoyed continues. Is progress measured by a change from a lower to higher tax rate and the size of a building or parking lot?

Across the Oak Ridges Moraine these are not only private thoughts but active voices asking about the "progress" that continues to chip, carve and cover lands, soils and waters. There are many voices struggling to ensure a truly progressive route to the future.

In Clarington people are questioning the placement of a transformer station. In Port Perry, the installation of a major solar farm. In Aurora the wanton destruction of a forest stand. In Pickering a proposed airport. Everywhere across the Moraine, the continued exemptions to Official Plans permit another nibble at protected features that provide water, life and clean air for all.

Too often, we rely on someone else to voice the thoughts that vibrate through our own values or express a love for these places.

Questioning, speaking up, protesting and fighting for long term protection isn't a route everyone likes to take. There are other ways to save these open spaces proactively, other endings for the stories we tell.

If you are a landowner you can conserve the lands you love with a Conservation Easement registered on title. You decide now how your land will be used, and all subsequent owners have to abide by the same conditions. Simple. There can even be financial benefits to you as a result.

If you don't have property you can learn more about the Moraine and protection options, then, speak up and share the information with others.

The choice is yours. Do you want to be a vibrant voice to actively protect lands now or a tale of woe long after it's too late?



Join others who care about the future of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

- fill out the Membership form on page 7
- call the office at 905-833-3171
- or email: landtrust@bellnet.ca

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OMRLT submitted comments of concern about use of Moraine lands in response to the spring 2013 announcement regarding the Pickering Airport Lands. Charitable organizations like the Trust have limited ability to lobby and advocate. Individuals are much better positioned to contact governing authorities.



Memories First and Last

Staff member Judy Gilchrist faced a bit of a quandary recently. The charity named in a funeral announcement had no real connection with the way a loved one's life had been lived. "Do you follow the suggestion of the bereaved or send a memorial to something meaningful between you and the deceased? I chose the latter," says Judy, who has made similar choices before. "It's often a difficult time for everyone involved, that's why we should all talk about how we want those we love to celebrate our lives."

Memorials, celebrations, milestones – it's easy to make donations that support your values, the values of those you love and contribute something when we are gone. Donating to a charity in your will costs you nothing while you are here. "We've been informed by a few people that the Trust is named as a beneficiary in their wills," advises Susan Walmer, Executive Director, "it's not a requirement

to let the charity know you've named them, or what amounts might be involved, but it does help in the event of a change of address of the charity which should be included as part of the bequest statement."

Information on ways to give is included on the Trusts' website and memorials and celebrations are an option in the on-line donation form.

The answer to Judy's dilemma? "I made a contribution to the Land Trust in the area where she lived and where we enjoyed so many road trips. This way I know others can appreciate the beauty of out of the way places we shared – it's the best honour I could give to our time together and her memory."



A Place of Many Hues

Fall is a time when we think about the many vibrant colors nature provides. Here's a challenge with a bit of a fall color twist you can share with friends, family or co-workers as the days grow shorter.

How many place, stream or lake names can you come up with from across the Oak Ridges Moraine that include a color or shade? Leave out street names, other than older regional road names, to keep you focused!

When you feel you have a pretty impressive list you can share it with us by sending an email to landtrust@bellnet.ca with "Vibrant colors" in your subject line.



Photos: Judy Gilchrist

The Beat Goes On

Protection of Moraine functions is not something that happens and is over. Conservation Easement donors like Alan and Anne Wells are proof that caring, committed individuals can keep on expanding the benefits all species receive from their foresight. In 2007 the Wells Family put an easement on their 27 acres, just off the Moraine, north-east of Uxbridge.

“Just south of us are forests and wetlands at the source of the Beaver River, and north is Ducks Unlimited’s Beaver River Wetlands management area. In between there is us, with about 15 acres of agricultural fields that created a break in what should be a forested corridor to provide continuity and cover for species movement” says Alan. “We’ve put in 7,000 trees and shrubs that are now getting beyond the size where grasses and weeds compete. Now it’s pretty much sit back and watch it all grow until we decide to do even more.”

The plantings supplement infiltration of hardwoods from the north and east where a diverse, century-plus woodlot of mature forest with sugar maple, silver maple, American beech, American elm, basswood, black cherry, trembling aspen and ironwood exist. A wide range of ages is



represented, from massive maples and beech in the mature hardwood forest to conifers and other trees planted over the last 10 to 20 years. “This more recent material is a bit of a kick-start to filling in the gaps.” Consistent with good forest management practices Alan has done some thinning of plantations, and ensured a mix of species, including COSEWIC-endangered Butternut, have been planted.

The reward for such efforts? Great Blue Heron, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Song Sparrow, Savannah sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, American Crow and Monarch butterflies were all sited in the Trust’s 2012 monitoring visit to the property. In addition Alan and Anne report Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Bobolink (two pairs!), Eastern Meadowlark, House Wren and Tree Swallows.

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“We couldn’t protect this and think we were done, it was more like restoring a pulse. The beat does go on and we certainly enjoy seeing it season after season, year after year.”

For this Anne and Alan, we all continue to thank you!

Photo: Bill McMartin

A number of [rural and urban forest programs](#) are available to landowners across the Moraine to assist with restoration in York Region. Check the Trust’s website for links to other municipal and stewardship sites.



Make it Shine!

Our tree will become brilliant when you help to reach the \$1 Million mark. The Trust needs money in the bank to uphold its commitment to steward the lands you have helped protect already. Taxes, insurance and filing monitoring reports are among the obligations required to keep lands protected forever. Please consider a generous one-time or monthly gift.



The To and Fro of Species

Variety may be the spice of life but sometimes the spice we add may become horribly invasive!

Landowners can use the winter months to become familiar with Invasive Species impacting the Moraine, and a new [Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System](#) (EDDMapS Ontario). The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters are developing an on-line invasive species reporting system for Ontario for anyone to use.

It's all part of a larger tracking system launched in 2005 by the Centre for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia. With landowner help in populating the site's information, researchers and resource managers will be better able to devise and advise of actions that can be taken on individual properties.

Check out the site to become familiar with invasive species through a collection of photos and links to fact sheets to assist with your private land stewardship.



Still Proving Useful

A dead tree is more than just a dead tree. Long after shading, sheltering, swaying and standing year after year, a dead or dying tree continues to offer numerous benefits.



Photo: Bill McMartin

Cavity nesters like the yellow bellied sapsucker look for high trees with heart rot close to other healthy trees where they forage. As the tree continues to die back mice, raccoons, wood peckers and other species will make a tree full of holes home for nesting, roosting and even hiding.

Decaying wood is home to many insects, some who cause the tree to die in the first place and others who eventually help to break the substance into soft fibres which eventually add to soil health.

Next time you see a cavity in a tree, take a peek inside and see who is looking back at you!



The Fantastic Forest Experience

There were “ah-ha”s – and more resounding through the Eldred King Tract of the York Regional Forest in July. The Moraine, forest use and replanting go hand-in-hand from decades past to present. Haunting crystal bowl vibrations, cigar box guitars and the wind in the treetops provided beautiful audio background for the calming visual of greens of peak summer season growth enjoyed by visitors.

At the upper reaches of the Black River watershed, the Lake Simcoe SPLASH Festival’s, Fantastic Forest Experience connected headwater forests and lake protection. Trust staff described how landowners play a role that ripples downstream from all Moraine protected areas.

“Connecting here at the peak of one of the Lake’s watersheds and thinking about how much Regional Forests and private land protection like that the Land Trust does, makes sense. These lands make Lake Simcoe cleaner,” notes Krista Lachapelle, SPLASH Festival Coordinator, “we can’t immerse ourselves in the lake without immersing ourselves in the forest, they work together.”

If you haven’t been to a forest recently for a rejuvenating experience or think that forests are dull, boring places, Google [“One Day on Earth”](#) for an incredible YouTube video.

You can also check out York Region Forestry’s list of [public events](#) or the Oak Ridges Trail Associations hiking schedule for [fall and winter](#) hiking.



OUT AND ABOUT ON THE MORAINE

[ORMLT Goes to the Rouge](#), Saturday, October 5 as a part of the Rouge Park’s Guided Hike [series](#).

[Mushrooms on the Moraine](#), Sunday October 6, Koffler Scientific Reserve (Jokers Hill)

[Forest Fish and Fungi](#), Saturday, October 26 pre-register with York Region Forest Department

[Entertaining the Troops](#), Saturday, November 9, 4240 Anderson St. Whitby

For more details:
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
website www.oakridgesmoraine.org



The Past Echoes

Across the Moraine you will find signs of the past at every turn. Abandoned barns, trees growing around wire, and fence rows made of stones piled long ago.

The Oak Ridges Trail through the [Mary Lake Monastery](#) at King City is an excellent spot to see such echoes. A lovely fall walk with some stretches of hills and valleys common to the Moraine has the added reward of a tasty treat at [Pine Farms Orchard](#) before you return!





Music to the Ears

Get your tickets now by calling the Trust office for [“Entertaining the Troops”](#) a partnered event of the Trust and Rob and Tracy Hanson.

A Variety Show and Concert in support of the Brooklin Legion Poppy Fund and the Trust, the show includes: Jon Patterson, Eric Lambier, Emily Yarascavitch, Two Roads Home, Kimberley Pritchard, Cathy Pavlik, Alex Hanson and the Shout Sister Choir. Links to more information on each of the performers and an option to purchase tickets on-line and support the Trust can be found at the show’s website, entertainingthetroops.com.

Show date: Saturday, November 9, all tickets \$20.

June’s music event in Uxbridge was a treat of lovely harmonies and laughable lyrics in support of the Trust’s operations with the Darrin Davis Band and Wendell Ferguson.

A Wine Selection

Vigorous, lively and vital are all used to describe “vibrant”, the theme of this issue.

It also reflects the many businesses and industries operating across the Moraine. One not-well-known sector is the Moraine’s wine production – always a good accompaniment to Thanksgiving and other holiday dinners, or, as a gift for your special locavore.

VQA and fruit wines can be found east to west at Oak Heights Estates Winery Warkworth, Ocala Orchards, Port Perry and Willow Springs Winery, Stouffville. Other wineries, just off the Moraine but reliant on its waters and protection include Archibalds Orchards and Estate Winery, Clarington, Applewood Winery, Stouffville, and Chesslawn Vineyards and Winery, Caledon.



Membership Form

Name(s) – Family memberships entitle up to four family members living at the same address and over the age of 18 to a vote at the Annual General Meeting and each such member may stand for election to the Board of Directors.

Please print clearly.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate your preferred form of contact:

Mail E-mail Telephone

May we share your e-mail address from time to time with other organizations involved in protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine? Yes No **Our membership list will not be sold.**

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Individual \$40 Family \$75 Student \$20

Join by Mail: Send your membership application and cheque payable to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to:
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, The Gatehouse, 13990 Dufferin Street North, King City, Ontario L7B 1B3

Join by Telephone with credit card: call 905 833-3171

The current membership years runs to May 31st, 2014



Thoughtful Gifts

A BMO [Holiday Giving Study](#) in December 2012 revealed that almost two thirds of Canadians surveyed would opt for a donation to be made on their behalf over receiving a holiday gift. In addition, the Harris Interactive survey went on to identify that 3 in 4 Canadians prefer to give gifts that benefit the environment, while 73% of Canadians want to receive environmentally-thoughtful presents for the holidays.

Here then is the perfect way to combine your interests in Moraine protection with a thoughtful gift that people really will appreciate!

Complete your on-line gift giving with the Trust before December 1 and Canada Post will have the time to deliver a card we generate to your recipient advising of your thoughtfulness.



Shaking the Branches

Money can grow on trees - Christmas trees that is - when you cut your own at locally owned and operated tree farms on the Moraine. The Trust will be on-hand at select farms December 14 & 15 to collect donations in support of protecting lands that support sustainable practices like tree farms and nurseries.

Shake off the fossil-fuel based, false tree habit, and go natural! It's a great way to experience winter on the Moraine, enjoy the outdoors with friends or family, support local business and the Trust.

At the end of the holiday season, your tree can be used to create brush cover or be chipped for



reuse as mulch depending on your municipality's practices.

Photos: Bryan Challis

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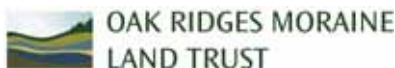
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