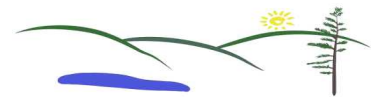




THE PRESERVER

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST



Spring 2009

Message from the President



James H. Thomas

As spring gradually nudges winter out of the way, the land is coming to life once more and the Northumberland Land Trust is making plans. We are well placed to begin another year of stewardship, preservation and acquisition. At the AGM in January, the Financial Report reflected the growth and stability of the organization with three new properties acquired in 2008... but we cannot rest as the more properties we preserve, the more volunteers we need to help us in our work. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 12 volunteers and if you are interested in volunteering on one of our committees,

come and talk to us at the Volunteer Marché at the CDCI East on Earth Day, April 22.

First, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank our retiring director, Dr. Brenda Beck for the support she has given the NLT over the last three years. Her video "Spring at the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre", followed by the charming new animated "Footprints of Northumberland" are valuable communications pieces as we begin a new outreach program across Northumberland County.



From L: Back: James McGrath, Russell Lake, Heidi Reid, James Thomas.; Centre: George Gordon, Elisabeth La Fontaine, Heidi Reid; Front: Eva Nichols, Joan Chalovich, Nancy Blakely

I'd also like to welcome our new volunteer directors – Nancy Blakely, a retired administrator; Eva Nichols, an educator and administrator; James McGrath, Barrister & Solicitor; and Ashley Wilson, Landowner Contact Specialist with the Lower Trent Conservation Authority. With this breadth of experience the Land Trust is well placed to pursue their objectives of helping to preserve Northumberland County, one acre at a time.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank all of you for your support in 2008. We'd welcome your participation as a volunteer and there are lots of areas where you can support us... stewardship, finance, event planning and communications. We look forward to seeing you out on the walks we are planning in the coming months. Please check our website for details.

James H. Thomas *J.H.T.*

AGM and Gala Dinner

For the second time in three years, the weather caused havoc with the arrangements for the Annual Gala Dinner, held on January 29th at the Best Western Cobourg Inn. But like the troopers you have proved to be, you supported us in spite of snow and wind and for that, a huge thank you!

The evening was a truly outstanding success. Under the guidance of Nancy Blakely, AGM and Dinner Chair, she and her group of volunteers worked tirelessly to organize the evening. The speaker was Mr. Peter Love, Chief Energy Conservation Officer, Ontario Power Authority. The entertainment was provided by Shannon Blakely, who is studying music at Queen's University. She was accompanied by Mrs. Marie Alexander. Dr. Brenda Beck's new video "Footprints of Northumberland" was screened for the first time and it will be the cornerstone of our Outreach Programme in 2009.

The Dinner is one of the Land Trust's major fund-raising events and we are delighted to report that we raised in excess of \$5,000 thanks to your generous support.

Paul Macklin "got the job done" by demonstrating a conservation toilet which, amidst much jocularity, was auctioned by Bill Patchett.



Paul Macklin demonstrates a conservation toilet!

The Silent Auction was made possible with the generous donations of Advanced Urethane Technologies, Best Western Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre, Canadian Tire, Clive & Joy Goodwin, David Beevis - Guild of Glass Engravers, Downey Pharmacy, Colborne, George Gordon, Grafton Village Inn, Hamilton Township, Home Depot, Hon Rick Norlock MP, Hoselton's Studio, Johnston Motors, Colborne, Ladybug Massage Therapy Clinic, Lakefront Utilities, Lou Rinaldi MPP, Lower Trent Conservation Authority, Municipality of Alnwick/Haldimand, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Ontario Parks, Peter Cleary, Qualified Personnel Solutions, RONA, Staples Business Depot, Town of Cobourg, Walmart, World's Finest Chocolate.

Our sincere thanks to everyone—the donors, the guests, the volunteers and the hotel. We look forward to your participation again next year.

PRESIDENT: JAMES H. THOMAS
PAST PRES. DR. DOUG GALT
VICE-PRESIDENT HEIDI REID
TREASURER: JOAN CHALOVICH
SECRETARY: FRANKIE LIBERTY

DIRECTOR: NANCY BLAKELY
DIRECTOR: PETER CLEARY
DIRECTOR: GEORGE GORDON
DIRECTOR: RUSSELL LAKE
DIRECTOR: JAMES J. McGRATH

DIRECTOR: EVA NICHOLS
DIRECTOR: ASHLEY WILSON
WEBMASTER: John Draper
COMMUNICATIONS: Elisabeth La Fontaine

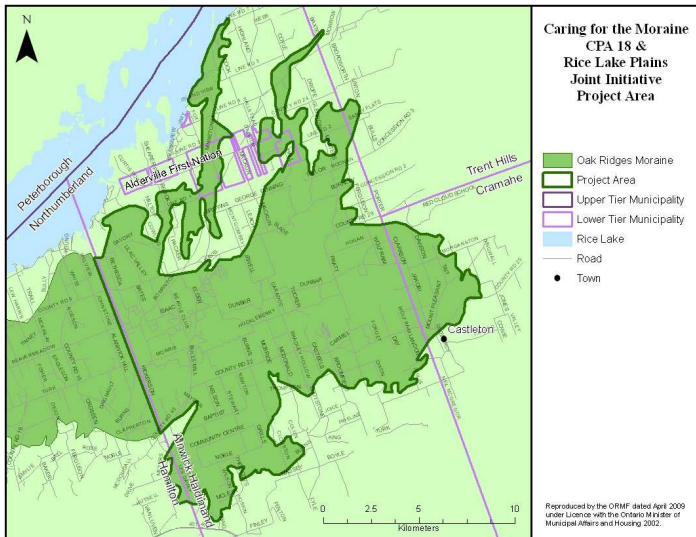
Operations @ northumberlandlandtrust.ca - 905.349.9990 -
www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre "OPEN HOUSE" - May 09, 2009

Rice Lake Plains

The Northumberland Land Trust is a partner in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative (RLPJI) to help in promoting the long-term sustainability of 100,000 acres known as the Rice Lake Plains.

In 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Alderville First Nation, The Corporation of the County of Northumberland, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Lower Trent Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (Caring for the Moraine Project) Northumberland Land Trust and Ontario Parks.



The Rice Lake Plains lies to the east of Northumberland County, on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is south of Rice Lake and stretches east to Castleton and south, to the 401.

Historically, the Rice Lake Plains were part of an ecosystem that covered millions of acres across Canada and the USA. Today, less than one percent of this grassland habitat remain and prairie and savanna habitats are now amongst the world's rarest and most endangered ecological communities in North America. The Rice Lake Plains were covered with tall grass prairies; the oak savanna was dominated by Black and White Oak. Grasses such as Big Bluestem, Indian Grass and Switchgrass grew more than two metres high. Wild flowers proliferated and the prairies provided habitat for many species of birds, butterflies and snakes.

The decimation of the prairie lands has led to the extirpation of the Karner Blue Butterfly and the Monarch is now a Species at Risk. ▶



Karner Blue
Wikipedia

Monarch
Audrey E. Willson



Ken Towle, GRCA

The Eastern Hog-Nosed snake and Milk snake are also at risk and the partners of the RLPJI are working with local landowners to encourage them to preserve the natural habitat for these species. Invasive species are removed and replaced with native species of grasses. Fire is an important element in prairie restoration and the naturally occurring fires which are now suppressed have been replaced with professionally-managed prescribed burns to bring new life to these threatened places.

Much can be learned about the Rice Lake Plains from the writings of early pioneer settlers such as Catherine Parr Traill's *The Backwoods of Canada* and her sister, Susanna Moodie's *Roughing it in the Bush*. (Acknowledgements to NCC for much of this information)

Earth Day—April 22

More than 6 million Canadians join 1 billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.

Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the fragile environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive.

Come and join the Northumberland Land Trust on April 22, in partnership with...

**Staples Business Depot
Cobourg**



**TD Canada Trust
Port Hope**



**Volunteer Marché
Cobourg District Collegiate Institute—East
2.00p.m. – 7.00p.m.**

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre

8000 Telephone Road, Cobourg.

“OPEN HOUSE”

Saturday, 9th May, 2009

8.30a.m.—1.00p.m. Dogs on leashes are welcome!

We acknowledge the organizations that have made it possible for us to preserve 430 acres of land.

