

Quietly preserving our natural environment – the Northumberland Land Trust

Stewards are entrusted to manage a resource or property, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Currently four properties in Northumberland County are the subject of careful stewardship by the Northumberland Land Trust.

The members of the Northumberland Land Trust take this responsibility very seriously, as everyone who attends the Annual General meeting on June 18th at 7 p.m. at Palisade Gardens Retirement Residence will learn.

Four properties are under the stewardship of the Northumberland Land Trust – the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre in Hamilton Township, the Leckey property in Crahame, the McEwen Property adjacent to the Ganaraska Forest in Port Hope and most recently, the Pelton Property in Alnwick/Haldimand.

In April 200 white spruce and 200 white pines were planted on a former agricultural field on the Pelton property, which is adjacent to the old-growth forest, north/east of Peter's Woods Provincial Reserve. The 52 acres on the Oak Ridge Moraine was acquired in January 2009, from Dr. David and Mrs. Molly Pelton, with financial assistance from the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

One of the objectives of the land trust is to add to existing conservation areas when possible. Stewardship of the Pelton property means additional protected trees, plant species, and space for the wildlife (including bears) who currently roam the Peter's Woods area in Alnwick-Haldimand Township.

A requisite for any property for which Northumberland Land Trust takes ownership is an Inventory and Management Plan that will provide recommendations for future stewardship of the property. The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) supports provincial land trust groups by providing grants from any surplus funds they have at year-end. This year the OLTA provided a \$4,009.00 grant to assist with the Pelton Property Management Plan.

Other fund-raising activities this Spring included the Wallace Birdathon by celebrity birder, Roger Frost, and a fund-raising dinner and silent auction with guest speaker Glenn McLeod.

Everyone is invited to the Annual General meeting on Monday June 18 to hear financial, stewardship and governance reports, although only members can vote.. The highlight of the evening will be guest speaker Rory Quigley, Cobourg's renowned arborist.

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www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca

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