

## **WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

### **PROTECTING WILD PLACES**

#### **Examples of public engagement**

This document provides a summary of presentations and resources that were part of the Protecting Wild Places Workshop held at the Canadian Museum of Nature on April 27, 2005. This event was sponsored by the Wildlife Festival, the OFNC/Fletcher Wildlife Garden and the Canadian Museum of Nature.

This was the third in a series of annual workshops that take place during the Wildlife Festival, a regional celebration of National Wildlife Week. Each workshop highlights current issues in wildlife conservation. In 2005, the workshop featured organisations and individuals who shared the challenges and opportunities they've encountered through their engagement in protecting wild places.

#### **1. Presentations**

##### ***Biosphere Reserves - Norm Ruttan, Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve Land Protection in Ottawa***

To first answer some questions about UNESCO Biosphere Reserves:

1. In 1950 or so, Aldo Leopold-Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin, and one of America's foremost Conservationists wrote: "The most feasible way to enlarge the area available for wilderness fauna is for the wilder parts of the National Forests, which usually surround the Parks, to function as parks in respect of threatened species".
2. He also wrote: There is as yet no ethic dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it. Land, like Odysseus' slave-girls is still property. The land relation is still strictly economic, entailing privileges but not obligations.
3. And finally: Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.
4. UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES are an attempt to address some of the concerns expressed by Professor Leopold.
5. MODEL AREAS promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Conservation and Sustainable
  - o Nominated by National Governments
  - o Designated by UNESCO through their Man and the Biosphere Program
  - o Remain under the authority of National Governments
6. ZONES: Areas of human activity, buffer zones and conservation zones.
  - o Conservation Zones: National and Provincial Parks, National Wildlife Areas, Other areas with high conservation values and a regime for protection.
  - o Buffer Zones: Provincial Parks and Conservation Areas, Parks Commission lands, etc.
  - o Human Activity Areas: (Zones of Cooperation or Zones of Stewardship).

7. How Proposed and Designated?
  - Local initiative, with a Federal Government Review. (National Park and Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy sponsored)
  - Must have the agreement of Provincial and Municipal Governments. (Travelling Road Show - Dave Warner and Carol Clemenhagen)
  - UNESCO MAB meets once a year and approves. (Georgian Bay Littoral)
8. What kind of protection does it give?
  - None...purely voluntary
  - Agencies and municipalities that sign on would seem to have a moral duty to support the principles.

9. How do they operate, and what are the Challenges?

I'd like to use my experience with the Thousand Islands-Frontenac Arch B.R. to illustrate:

To start, let me give you a sense of place.

- The St. Lawrence River runs southwest to northeast.
- The largest park in eastern United States-Adirondack State Park is 60 miles south. We could fit Yellowstone National Park, Olympia National Park and Grand Canyon National Park in the same space as Adirondack State Park.
- The largest park in eastern Canada-Algonquin-is only about 120 miles north. Algonquin is about the size of Yellowstone National Park.
- Physiographically and geologically, the Frontenac Arch, a narrow ridge of Precambrian rock –connects the Canadian Shield which lies to the north with the Adirondack dome which lies to the south.
- The Adirondack Dome then connects to the east with the Appalachian Mountain Chain which runs south to Georgia.
- The Frontenac Arch crosses the river creating the 1000 Islands.
- The Frontenac Arch area is the last relatively natural north-south corridor between Canada and the United States in the eastern half of the continent.
- East and West respectively, any corridor is blocked by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes barrier.
- Partly because of this natural connection, and partly for other reasons, this is a very rich area for biodiversity.
- This is a Biological tension zone between 5 natural regions-Carolinean, Atlantic Coastal, Appalachian, Boreal, and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence lowlands hereabouts.
- Biodiversity increases traveling north to south. For Canada, the border region of Canada/U.S. therefore has highest biodiversity.
- This is also an area with a high number of species at risk.
- This area became very populated between 1785 and 1850 before parks were invented. Therefore there are very few, and very small parks hereabouts. Large parks are usually in western and northern Canada.
- 90% of Canadians live within 200 km of the border region.
- Because of the combination of high biodiversity and high population, this area has a high number of species at risk.
- 90% of Canada's species at risk live within the 10% of land along the border.
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada-our national land trust organization-has named the Frontenac Arch one of Canada's 50 natural treasures.

Let me also give you a sense of where Canada stands in the world for nature conservation and sustainability.

- We have a reputation for being a rich, green country, but we have not been doing well in this area.

- We rank 28th out of 29 OECD countries 2 years ago, David Boyd of the U. of Victoria released a study showing that Canada ranked 28th of 29 on a suite of 25 environmental indicators for OECD countries.
- Our highest ranking was 7th for # of species at risk-which perhaps means that we haven't been looking very hard.
- We ranked in the middle for percentage of land designated as parks.
- Otherwise we typically ranked in the bottom of the pack for Air pollution, climate change, water consumption, energy consumption, waste and recycling, etc.

Why is Canada doing so poorly? There are probably many reasons, most of which probably have nothing to do with what we're doing locally or what I'm talking to you about. Many reasons having to do with energy pricing, weak environmental laws in some areas, etc.

But having spent 26 years working with parks and protected areas, I think one of the problems derives from the way we are governed and organized. The term I use for how we organize ourselves in Conservation is "Specialization and Disintegration".

- In Canada, having learned from the Universities and the Military, we organize conservation in the same way-from broad to narrower and narrower niches. In stovepipes.
- Landscape Conservation is organized by geography and by function.
- Federal, provincial, municipal government, non governmental organizations and private companies all working in isolation on some small part of conservation with varying and overlapping jurisdictions and without an "integrated" landscape or ecosystem vision.
- Geographically we're separated and disintegrated: For eg in the area of parks: we have local parks, conservation authority parks, county forests, provincial parks, provincial recreational parks (St. Lawrence Parks Commission for eg), national parks, national wildlife areas. All parks, and to some extent with different functions, but all geographically separated from each other. Without connections.
- Functionally, we have separate organizations for
  - Fish (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, etc are some examples in this area)
  - Navigation
  - Air
  - Water
  - Agriculture
  - Wildlife
  - Forests
  - Ecotourism
  - Disease vectors
  - Introduced species
  - Forest pests
  - Plants and animals at risk
  - Environmental contaminants
  - Certain species
  - On nature in general (World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, Conservation Ontario, Canadian Nature Federation, etc)

I could go on and on. I think I could probably identify between 2,000 and 5,000 functional groups working in Canada on Conservation at this very time.

Much of this specialization is necessary. On a national level or even on a provincial level, we need to specialize because one big, broad organization wouldn't work.

But we've failed to integrate these programs at both the national and provincial level, and also at the local level where everything finally happens. Someone once said "everything is political". I would add "everything is local".

- In 1999 when I was working as Superintendent of St. Lawrence Islands N.P. we counted 117 different and relatively disconnected conservation organizations in the Leeds County area.
- One big problem is that we don't talk to each other very much at any of the levels. At the national level:
  - we don't meet together
  - we don't plan together,
  - so we don't have a national integrated strategy,
- We have the same situation at the local level, where all the programs and agencies and initiatives meet in one big muddle that is hard to sort out.
- As a National Park Superintendent, I hardly ever worked with the District Manager for Natural Resources, the neighbouring Provincial Park Superintendent, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Manager, the Canadian Wildlife Service Manager for our area, the Ministry of Environment Manager in Kingston.
- Just to give one small example. To get a dock approved takes 5 agencies to sign off for navigable waters, fisheries, ownership of the bed of the lake or river, wetland disturbance and wildlife.
  - Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
  - the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,
  - the federal Parks Agency (Parks Canada),
  - the Federal Transport Department (Canadian Coast Guard) and
  - the local provincially designated Conservation Authority.
- It is at the Community Level where "the Rubber meets the Road" or where the "Program hits the Pavement"
- That means that every one of those separately designed Programs-either Functionally Separated, or Geographically Separated-ends up having an effect at the local level.
- Our conservation programs are disintegrated and the results show it.
- We are not organized to properly manage Landscapes and Ecosystems, because our Functional and Geographical Isolation and Disintegration separate us into local geographical or functional kingdoms.
- So....what's the answer.

The answer is not through local government. Local government is constrained by their duties, their politics and the Municipal Act. It's not in their job description to organize non-profit organizations and get them to work with national agencies or provincial groups.

No where in the world that I can see does local government take on this role. However, a local non-profit network can do this. Let's Look at the Business Community for an example. In Canada we have an organization called a Chamber of Commerce in many communities. This Chamber of Commerce brings together the municipalities, the businesses and some not-for-profits to work together so that the community will prosper.

In January 2000 we brought together 13 different conservation organizations-federal, provincial and municipal- government and non-government-and asked if they would be willing to work together.

We decided to invent a "Chamber of Conservation" and after the Biosphere Reserve designation was approved, we changed to become a "Chamber of Sustainability".

- Each organization put some money in.
- We meet from time to time to discuss issues of common interest.

- If we can find 2 or more partners with a common interest, we help them to work together.
- Once a year all come together for a day-long planning session. Each brings the top 2 or 3 priorities. Dotmocracy to choose the top 10 to 20 we will work on together for the next year.
- Website and e-mail network
- Task groups meet to work on projects together
- Together we can accomplish what no one of us can do by ourselves.
- We provide individual organizations with Common Services-what we can't do or afford individually we can together.
  - Shared Fundraising expertise (example help organizations make applications for funding)
  - Share consultants (example Municipal Official Plans)
  - Shared equipment (example the laptop and projector)
  - Expertise (we act as consultants or find consultants)
  - Locate Insurance broker and negotiate better Insurance Rates.
- Raise our Visibility in the community.

Now that we have the Biosphere Reserve designation, we have merged the Chamber of Conservation Idea with the Mission of a Biosphere Reserve. Instead of inventing a SEPARATE organization that would duplicate what others were doing in our community, our Biosphere Network acts to “steer and facilitate” the sustainability work in our community. The individual organizations continue to carry out their more specialized roles, but we help them.

A CHAMBER OF SUSTAINABILITY MODEL IS A PERFECT FIT FOR A BIOSPHERE RESERVE, because the nature of a Biosphere Reserve is to INTEGRATE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PLANNING AND FUNCTIONS, AND TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION, MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES, A SMALLER HUMAN FOOTPRINT ON NATURE, AND THE BUILDING OF COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES.

Often we make assumptions about how an environmental organization should work. A few simple philosophies:

- WORKING IN areas of Consensus: In our society 90% of us agree on 90% of things 90% of the time. So you would logically think that we would all get along and work together. But instead, we spend our time in conflict about the 10% we disagree on. We've found it much more productive to spend our time on AREAS OF CONSENSUS-what we agree on and leave it for other organizations to deal with disagreement.
- WORKING TO BUILD CONSENSUS: Acting community facilitators. Encouraging dialogue and problem solving.
- Non-partisan and Non-political. The above two are difficult to carry out, if you are partisan and/or political or ideologues.
- ACTIONS INSTEAD OF ADVOCACY. There are a lot of environmental groups that spend a lot of time advocating for something. We advocate by doing.
- SUPPORT RATHER THAN OPPOSE. In our society, the normal reaction for a non-profit environmental organization is to oppose. We normally concentrate on what we support, not what we oppose.
- EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES.
  - Service Clubs
  - Community Projects-eg. Gananoque Trails-\$ to study and now \$ to build community recreational and nature trails.
  - Biosphere Nature and Recreation Camp: Parks Canada, Town of Gananoque, Twp of Leeds and Thousand Islands, YM/YWCA, etc.

- VOLUNTARY ACTION VERSUS LAWS and AUTHORITY
  - Laws are necessary, but they are only the LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR. A law is the line below which we should not drop.
  - Laws are often imposed on individuals and communities from outside. We want values embedded into the individuals in our communities.
  - Federal Interest and Provincial Interest have their place, but too often we have relied on intervention from outside. We tend to focus on what our community can do, rather than what others from outside our community (the provincial government for example) need to do.
  - We have no jurisdiction. We don't want it.
- Results:
  - Our network now numbers about 35 active and about 70 organizations in total with 30 to 40 active. The rest get the newsletters and e-mails.
  - Our budget has grown from less than \$15000 per year to between \$100,000 and \$500,000 per year all raised by the local organization
  - We have carried out 450 healthy shoreline reviews working with Lake Associations, Environment Canada, Trillium Fund. A healthy shoreline review provides information to private property owners about the natural condition of their property, and how they could make it more wildlife friendly or less likely to send nutrients into the lake for eutrophication.
  - Last year we are carried out 10 healthy shoreline makeovers with the same group and the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston. This process provides expertise, labour, materials and supplies and equipment to physically change the shoreline to one which is less artificial and more natural.
  - We are working on providing shoreline owners with "virtual makeovers" using computer software and photography so they can see what their shoreline might look like if they decided to restore it.
  - We have assembled a Planning network of about 15 interested organizations to share knowledge and provide input to Official Plans for Parks and Municipalities.
  - Our network was able to hire the President of the Ontario Planning Association to advise us.
  - Shared Landscape Mapping and Analysis Project for eastern Ontario for information about Wildlife Habitat, Significant Forests, Significant Wetland and Significant Core and Connecting areas. For the first time ever in one database, in one Geographic Information System we have assembled and analyzed all the information available about wildlife habitat, forests, wetlands. The results are then made available in an online atlas for use by the community including our network members.
  - In the future a Sustainable Landscape Plan for conservation and human activity for our Biosphere Reserve.
  - Carried out a Shoreline rehabilitation project for the Town of Gananoque. Currently working with the Gananoque Rotary Club to extend this project to adjacent land.
  - Shared 1500 pieces of information about each other's activities, conservation, sustainable development, etc.
  - Built our own website and websites for 15 not-for-profit groups
  - Provided powerpoint presentations for 8 groups
- Currently working on
  - Local Food and Flavours network and campaign (in progress) to encourage local production and marketing of food. 62 producers.
  - Land-trust network bringing together the 3 area land trusts so that the whole area of the Biosphere Reserve is covered by one of the land trusts.
  - [www.paddle1000.com](http://www.paddle1000.com)
  - [www.biosphereexchange.com](http://www.biosphereexchange.com)

- Parkway Experience Upgrade: Conservation and Sustainability Information at 10 pulloffs along the 1000 Islands parkway.
- Moving from a Chamber of Conservation to a Chamber of Sustainable Development based on the principles of:
  - Integration
    - Within segments
    - Between Society, Economy and Ecology
  - Community
    - Bring our community together to work on shared priorities.
    - Local Decision Making
    - Individual Decision Making
    - Build community capacity
    - Build Receptivity to Conservation and Sustainability into the Minds of Citizens

The Future:

Biosphere Reserves in Canada offer our country a great opportunity.

1. UNESCO designation is very powerful in bringing support within the community.
2. They offer Canada a chance to try different models of Integrated Landscape and Biodiversity Management in different communities.
3. They also offer Canada a chance to experiment with Integrating Nature Conservation with Economic and Social Development.
4. They are very INEXPENSIVE because the UNESCO designation brings out Community Pride which leads to Community Willingness to participate.
5. Including Volunteers.
6. There are very few other models of this type in Canada.
7. FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION FUNDING are necessary to:
  - a. Do our part in the WORLD
  - b. Take advantage of this opportunity to raise our Sustainability Score.

## **Land Protection in Ottawa**

**Jackie Oblak, Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee**

### **What is a Land Trust?**

“A land trust is a registered charitable non-profit organization that is dedicated to preserving and protecting natural and cultural areas.”

[http://www.ontarionature.org/reserves/land\\_trusts.html](http://www.ontarionature.org/reserves/land_trusts.html)

### **What do Land Trusts Do?**

“While their individual goals may differ, most land trusts in the province share the following goals and characteristics:

- land trusts protect and manage areas of natural, cultural and historical value,
- land trusts are non-governmental, operating for the public benefit,
- land trusts secure and protect heritage sites through land purchase or donation, conservation easements, or programs to cooperate with landowners,
- land trusts are community supported through memberships, donations and volunteer involvement.”

[http://www.ontarionature.org/reserves/land\\_trusts.html](http://www.ontarionature.org/reserves/land_trusts.html)

“Conservation easements are legally binding instruments whereby the landowner transfers specific rights, such as the ability to create building lots or cut trees, to an easement holder (usually a nature conservation organization or agency).”

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/ecogifts/easements-e.html>

### **Land Trusts are Specialized**

Trusts carry out a number of functions before acquiring a property or easement:

- Ecological evaluation of the site and adjacent properties
  - Defining where it fits in the ‘big picture’
- Site management assessment
  - Risk assessments if there is public access
  - Improvements and/or maintenance requirements
- Fundraising
  - Acquisition cost
  - Surveys, appraisals, and legal fees
  - Operating costs

### **Land Trusts in Ontario**

- In 2001, there were approximately 82 land trusts in Canada.
  - There are 35 land trusts in Ontario which are members of Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA).
    - 24 out of the 30 Ontario trusts in existence in 2001 owned a total of 7,775 acres and held easements on a further 794 acres.
    - Nature Conservancy protected 82,700 acres in Ontario between 1962 and 1999.
- (Watkins and Hilts, Land Trusts in Canada, 2001)

### **An Ottawa Land Trust?**

Discussion in our community has centered around creating a local Land Trust which would be active solely within the political boundaries of the City of Ottawa.

## Land Protection in the Ottawa Area

### Some local organizations which currently hold, or could hold land for conservation:

#### Government

- National Capital Commission
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- City of Ottawa

#### Conservation Authorities

- Mississippi Valley Conservation
- Rideau Valley Conservation (RVCA) & Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF)
- South Nations Conservation

#### Non-government Organizations (NGO's)

- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ontario Nature
- Rideau Waterway Land Trust
- Madawaska Mississippi Land Trust Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited

### Conservation land holdings in Ottawa

#### Government

- **National Capital Commission**
  - 20,000 ha greenbelt (some farm, etc.)
  - Greenbelt is a band of rural land, two to eight kilometres wide.  
[http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/corporate/plan\\_reg/todays\\_plan/](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/corporate/plan_reg/todays_plan/)
- **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**
  - The ministry is committed to protecting and managing the province's natural resources, or its "natural capital", and making the interest from that capital available for individuals, communities and economies that depend on it.
- **City of Ottawa**
  - 10,424.40 ha of Natural Environment Lands owned (2004)

#### Conservation Authorities

- **RVCA & RVCF (2005)**
  - RVCA -29.18 ha in Ottawa, 2018.19 ha total
  - RVCF -15.15 ha in Ottawa, 227.40 ha
- **South Nations Conservation**

“Our mission is to ensure that the management of natural occurrences, natural resources and human activities results in the protection or improvement of our water resources.”
- **Mississippi Valley Conservation**

“Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) is a community based water management organization that works to protect the natural resources of the Mississippi Valley Watershed, an area of 4,450 square kilometres.”

#### Non-government Organizations (NGO's)

- **Nature Conservancy of Canada**

“NCC is Canada's only national charity dedicated to preserving ecologically significant areas through outright purchase, donations and conservation easements.”

- **Ontario Nature**  
“Ontario Nature is Ontario's leading land trust, with the largest member-owned nature reserve system in the province.”
- **Madawaska Mississippi Land Trust Conservancy**
  - “...priorities of the preservation of Nature are based on sound ecological and management science”
  - Mississippi River watershed, west of the Rideau River watershed and northward to the Madawaska River
  - Launched 2004, currently no land or easements
- **Rideau Waterway Land Trust**
  - Peter Hannah to provide information

### **Pros and cons of an Ottawa Land Trust**

#### **Advantages**

- Focus on Ottawa lands
- Can provide high level of protection to sensitive areas
- Support existing efforts through partnership
- Non-governmental organization
- Flexibility to protect ‘unclassified’ lands
- Manage level of protection

#### **Disadvantages**

- Might draw support away from existing conservation efforts
- Redundancy of effort to develop a new organization
- Urban lands expensive to acquire and manage
- Competition for funds with other causes

### **Advancing Land Protection in Ottawa - Next Steps**

Before decisions can be made regarding the formation and structure of a new Land Trust we must:

- Continue community dialogue
- Consider all options
- Ensure substantial, long-term support for existing organizations

#### **More information**

- Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy  
[www.ecospherics.net/MissMadLandTrustConservancy.html](http://www.ecospherics.net/MissMadLandTrustConservancy.html)
- Rideau Waterway Land Trust  
<http://www.rwlt.org/>
- Nature Conservancy of Canada  
<http://www.natureconservancy.ca/files/index.asp>
- Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee  
<http://www.ottawaforests.ca/> or contact us at [ofgac@ottawaforests.ca](mailto:ofgac@ottawaforests.ca)

## ***The Ontario Land Trust Alliance*** ***Peter Hannah, Rideau Waterway Land Trust***

### **Mission Statement of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance**

It is the mission of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance to encourage the land trust movement in Ontario. This will be done by providing administrative and professional support to a province-wide network of member groups who adhere to an acceptable set of standards and practices regarding the broad spectrum of land trust activities. The scope of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance encompasses wilderness, agricultural and other lands, water and facilities that have a natural, cultural or heritage significance to communities throughout the province.

### **OLTA recognizes four facts**

- OLTA was created to serve its members by providing professional and administrative support.
- It is OLTA's stated intention to have a network of community based land trusts throughout Ontario
- In order to gain membership or to maintain membership, member groups will be expected to adhere to a certain level of standards and practices in their operation
- OLTA has recognized that land trust activities can include the preservation of lands other than ecological lands.

### **Initial Goals**

- To provide education, communications, professional services and leadership to member groups to strengthen the land trust movement in Ontario.
- To represent interests of members with policy and decision makers.
- To inform the public of the mission and objectives of the land trust movement in Ontario.
- To raise and administer funds, in a prudent manner, to achieve the mission and objectives of the Alliance.
- To implement all programs and services in a non-confrontational way and treat all individuals with respect and courtesy.

### **Membership in the Alliance**

Four membership categories

- Full Members
- Provisional
- Associate
- Individual

#### **Full Members**

- Non government organizations whose primary activity is to own or care for lands and waters of natural, cultural or community significance in Ontario (land trusts).
- Only category of membership that has voting rights at general meetings.

#### **Provisional Members**

- Organizations that are in the process of qualifying as land trusts. In most cases they are awaiting incorporation and charitable status.

#### **Associate Members**

- Organizations that do not meet the definition of a full member but have a genuine interest in the land trust movement. Examples would be government agencies, organizations that provide services to the land trust movement, eg. surveyors and cottage associations.

#### **Individual Members**

- Individuals who have a genuine interest in the land trust movement.

## **Governance of OLTA**

- Fifteen member Board of Governors elected by the member organizations.
- Candidates were recruited based on their skill sets and geographic distribution across the province.
- The Board is supported by a strong committee structure.

## **Member organizations of OLTA**

Algoma Highlands Conservancy	Blue Mountain Watershed Trust
Canada South Land Trust	Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy
Couchiching Conservancy	DIAMONDS Conservation Land Trust
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy	Evergreen Foundation
Federation of Ontario Naturalists	Georgian Bay Trust Foundation
Hamilton Naturalists' Club	Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust
Kawartha Heritage Conservancy	Kingston Field Naturalists
Lake Clear Conservancy	Lambton Wildlife
Land Conservancy of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	
Land Preservation Society - Ottawa Valley	Long Point Basin Land Trust
Lower Grand River Land Trust	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
Mcllwraith Field Naturalists	Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Muskoka Heritage Trust	Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Trust of New Brunswick	Nova Scotia Nature Trust
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust	Ontario Farmland Trust
Ontario Heritage Foundation	Orono Crown Lands Trust
Rainy Lake Conservancy	Rideau Waterway Land Trust
Thames Talbot Land Trust	Thickson's Woods Foundation
Thunder Bay Field Naturalists	Valleys 2000

## **Programs of OLTA**

- Education and Training
  - Regional Workshops
  - Annual Gathering
  - [www.landtrustuniversity.com](http://www.landtrustuniversity.com)
- Government Relations
- Communication and Publicity
  - Presenter's Toolkit
- Professional Services
  - Fundraising Professionals
  - Marketing Professionals
  - Financial Management and Taxation
  - Legal Advice
  - Land Management Issues

## **Ontario Land Trust Alliance is one of the partners involved in the formation of a land trust alliance from coast to coast called the Canadian Land Trust Alliance**

Giving national strength to land trusts Canada-wide

- Giving land trusts a national voice
- National Standards and Practices
- Assisting Canadian land trusts with cross border donations from U.S. citizens
- Green Legacy

### ***The Alfred Bog***

#### ***Frank Pope, Alfred Bog Committee***

Frank Pope gave an inspiring presentation highlighting the unique nature of the Alfred Bog and demonstrating how it was saved through the hard work of many individuals and organisations. More written information on the Alfred Bog can be found on the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club web site at <http://www.ofnc.ca/conservation/alfredbog/index.html>

### ***CWF Gardens - Connecting with Nature***

#### ***Maria MacRae, Canadian Wildlife Federation***

This presentation included numerous illustrations accompanied by specific information on plants species, etc. This information is part of an excellent online resource developed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation called: Wild about Gardening. Please visit [www.wildaboutgardening.org](http://www.wildaboutgardening.org) for more information.

#### **Features of a Wildlife Friendly Property**

- Provides food, water, and shelter for wildlife
- No harmful substances
- Incorporates native plants

#### **Different types of gardens**

- Bird Bed
- Hummingbird Bed
- Pollinator Bed
- Drought Bed
- "Bog" Bed
- Woodland
- Shade Bed

#### **Lessons Learned**

- It's a Big Job
- Do Your Research
- Harness the Work of "Volunteers" plants
- Incorporate Natural Features
- It's Always a Work in Progress
- Old Garden Favourites Can Still Fit In
- Watch Out for Garden Bullies
- But it's All Worth it in the End

#### **Certified Backyard Habitat**

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program was initiated by the Canadian Wildlife Federation to recognize the hard work of Canadians in meeting the habitat needs of wildlife. You will find information about this certification programme at

[http://www.wildaboutgardening.org/en/gab/section5\\_certify/](http://www.wildaboutgardening.org/en/gab/section5_certify/)

## ***The Breckenridge Nature Preserve*** ***Alan Aldred, Private Landowner***

The Nature Preserve is located near Lusville Quebec, straddling Breckenridge Creek and extending about 1.5 km along the Ottawa River. The Preserve is about 270 ha (660 ac) in size. The low lying river shore along the property features a broad flood plain with annual flooding and a dense growth of cattails, reeds and other wetland vegetation reaching its maximum width on the creek estuary. The creek flows through our property and the estuary is in Breckenridge Bay.

The rest of our property extends back from the river for about 2 km. It contains a varied land form, including a steep cliff, hardwood forest, open grass land, several tributary creeks and wetlands. These features support a very diverse habitat currently inhabited by many plant and animal species.

### **Some Specific Features**

- a limestone shale escarpment with a 35 m cliff about 2 km in length
- Breckenridge Creek and estuary on the Ottawa River and two smaller creeks
- a 3-ha marsh pond and a wetland shore along the river
- 3 smaller swamps - all of which are nesting sites
- 2 artesian wells which flow continuously
- 100 ha of open grassland surrounded by shrubs and forest
- 60 acres of hardwood forest
- dense cedar groves along the escarpment
- mature red maple stand on the estuary
- small residential population of white-tailed deer
- many mammals such as black bears, resident red foxes, coyotes, cotton tail rabbits, snowshoe hares, and others
- many species of water birds, raptors, song birds
- many tree species, some of them rare (e.g. rock elm), some special (genetically elite red oak) and black maple
- many plant species, some rare or specially valued (closed gentian, wild leek)

### **Family Wish to Protect the Property**

- very varied and beautiful landscapes with diverse habitat, varied plant and animal communities including 13 rare or endangered plant species and fauna such as the western chorus frog, Blandings turtle and the red-headed wood pecker
- a large and unique creek estuary
- significant old growth forest
- significant wetland
- a family history dating from the 1820's which, through three generations of work, created the present pastures which have become important habitat for grassland species

### **Chronology of Events Leading to the Formation of a Preserve**

Diane Aldred was determined that the beautiful property should be protected as a natural area and not give in to relentless development pressure closing in from the large urban centres of Gatineau and Ottawa. The following sequence of events led to the formation of the Preserve.

In late 1997, Diane contacted the Quebec office of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to find out if a property such as this was worthy of protection or could be a candidate for some form of land trust. We were advised to submit a description of the property and to make a proposal for a protected area. In the mean time the CWS office had three biologists come to the property to walk over it. Soon after, we were encouraged to complete the proposal and CWS contacted the Quebec office of the Nature Conservancy of Canada to consider the property.

In September 1998 we submitted a proposal CWS-Quebec which was quickly relayed to the Nature Conservancy for attention.

In the spring of 1999, several scientific surveys were conducted by the Conservancy to establish the geographic diversity and richness of the habitat. A comprehensive botanical survey was completed, as were bird surveys, frog surveys and entomological studies. The work of other groups such as the University of Ottawa studying Breckenridge Bay and the Montreal Arboretum studying some of the tree species on the property was documented.

In early 2001, the Nature Conservancy decided to proceed with raising funding for the establishment of a preserve. The property was jointly owned by Diane and her aunt. The aunt's side wanted to sell their interest; Diane was prepared to donate her half. The aunt's half was purchased in November 2001 and work on a donation agreement for Diane was started in June of 2002. The donation agreement was completed in December 2004 and the property is now owned and managed the Quebec Regional Office of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### **Management of the Preserve**

Under the direction of the Nature Conservancy, a management plan was drawn up by a team from McGill University in late 2002. The plan is now being put into action by the Conservancy and aided by a local stewardship committee. The Conservancy has concentrated primarily on the acquisition of additional properties and has been very successful in doing so. The local stewardship committee has worked on signage, fencing and gating areas vulnerable to intrusion, monitoring of unauthorized activities on the property, undertaken a pasture management plan and is supporting the loggerhead shrike re-introduction program which is currently active.

## ***Brewer Park Restoration Project: Then and Now*** ***Michael J Loewen, Environmental Committee of Ottawa South (ECOS)***

### **Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA)**

- Old Ottawa South is home to about 8,000 people approximately 5 km from Parliament Hill.
- Our community is "contained" by the Rideau Canal to the north and the Rideau River on the south and east, and finally by Carleton University defining the west border.
- Landmarks: Hopewell Ave PS, Westboro Academy, Carleton University, Sunnyside Public Library, Brewer Arena, Brewer Pool and the Firehall.
- Important environmental assets: Rideau River, Brewer Park, Windsor Park and Rideau Canal and bike paths.

### **Environmental Committee of Ottawa South (ECOS)**

- Sub-committee of the Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA).
- ECOS was founded in 1990 by community members John Bond, Hedrick Wachelka and Sandy Garland.
- John Bond was the first Chair of ECOS.

### **Mandate**

- ECOS focuses on a broad range of environmental issues and assists community residents in acting or undertaking projects to improve the health, natural environment and quality of life in our neighbourhood.
- ECOS contributes an environmental perspective on matters of general interest, and guides OSCA in operating in an environmentally appropriate and responsible manner.

### **Brewer Pond Restoration Project**

- Brewer Pond, located in Brewer Park, is 20 acres of parkland on the north bank of the Rideau River, just east of Bronson Avenue and the Dunbar Bridge in Ottawa.

### **Brewer Pond Restoration Project (continued)**

- In the early 1990s ECOS approached the City of Ottawa with a project to rehabilitate Brewer Pond to its former state.
- Over the past ten years ECOS has worked on the naturalization of Brewer Pond.
- In the past 10 years ECOS has planted approximately 2500 trees on top of the flood dike and along the Rideau River, turned the parking lot into a meadow, built two fish embayments in the Rideau River, created turtle habitat in Brewer Pond and built an interpretive trail around Brewer Pond.
- Funding has been provided by the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Millennium Bureau of Canada, Earth Day Canada, Suncor Energy Foundation, Muskies Canada, the Canadian Museum of Nature, the old RMOC, the City of Ottawa, the RVCA and the MNR.

### **Brewer Pond Restoration Project - 2005 and Beyond**

- Reconnection of Brewer Pond to the Rideau River.
- Supported by: ECOS, Muskies Canada, DFO, MNR, RVCA, Carleton University and the Environment Department at the City of Ottawa.

### **Reconnection of Brewer Pond - Justification for Project**

- Restores fish habitat and wetlands lost since 1960.
- Eliminates winter fish kill in the pond.
- Reduces risk to human health due to mosquitoes.
- Increases functioning of wetland as a filter to improve river water quality.

## Essential Project Elements

- Vision
- Plan
- Funding
- People
- Execution

## 2. Exhibitors

Here is a list of the organisations that set up exhibits at the workshop.

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
<http://www.cpaws-ov.org/>
- Canadian Wildlife Federation  
<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/>
- Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais  
<http://coo.ncf.ca/>
- ECOS Environmental Committee of Ottawa South  
<http://www.oldottawasouth.ca/>
- Fletcher Wildlife Garden  
<http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php>
- Ontario Land Trust Alliance  
<http://www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/>
- Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
<http://www.ofnc.ca/index.html>
- Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee  
<http://www.ottawaforests.ca/>
- Parks Canada  
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/>
- Wetland Habitat Fund  
<http://www.whc.org/wetlandfund/>
- Wildlife Festival  
<http://www.ncrwildlifefestival.org/>

## 3. Protecting Wild Places - Resource List

### Biosphere Reserves

#### **UNESCO - MAB Biosphere Reserves Directory**

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/wnbr.htm> (English)

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/frenchpage.htm> (Français)

Full range of information on all biosphere reserves. Includes a FAQ section, interactive map with a list of a country's focal points, a complete list of all biosphere reserves (the site can be searched by geographic region, reserve name, monitoring activities, etc.)

#### **Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA)**

<http://www.biosphere-canada.ca/home.asp> (English)

<http://www.biosphere-canada.ca/accueil.asp> (Français)

The CBRA/ACRB is a non-profit association, incorporated in 1997, to provide support and networking for biosphere reserves throughout Canada. People in biosphere reserves can communicate with other related organizations, collaborate on shared projects, and share local expertise in Canada and elsewhere.

## **Thousand Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve**

<http://www.biospherenetwork.com/>

The 1000 Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve designated in November 2002 is the 3rd in Ontario, the 12th in Canada. This website provides much information about this local biosphere Reserve.

## **Land Trusts**

### **Rideau Waterways Land Trust (RWLT)**

<http://www.rwlt.org/>

The Foundation was incorporated in 1996 as a registered charity. The website provides information about the RWLT and about land trusts in general. It is linked to the provincial Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

### **Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA)**

<http://www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/>

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance is a non-profit organization with a mandate to encourage the land trust movement throughout Ontario. The OLTA encompasses wilderness, agricultural and other lands, water and facilities that have a natural, cultural or heritage significance to communities throughout Ontario.

### **National Land Trust Coalition (NLTC)**

c/o <http://www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/>

The website has a draft 25 page pdf document delineating the rules and regulations governing land trusts across the country.

<http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca/>

Stewardship Canada. Contains a number of pdf documents which were used to create the NLTC.

## **Other Designations**

### **Ramsar Sites / Sites Ramsar**

There are 36 Ramsar Sites ([http://www.wetlands.org/RDB/Ramsar\\_Dir/Canada\\_.htm](http://www.wetlands.org/RDB/Ramsar_Dir/Canada_.htm)) in Canada which represent wetlands of international importance.

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/ramsar\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/ramsar_e.cfm) (English)

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/ramsar\\_f.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/ramsar_f.cfm) (Français)

### **Important Bird Areas of Canada / Zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux au Canada**

Canada's Important Bird Areas program is a science-based initiative to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada's bird populations. The IBA program is an international conservation initiative co-ordinated by BirdLife International. The Canadian co-partners for the IBA program are Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada (Formerly the Canadian Nature Federation).

<http://www.ibacanada.com/> (English)

<http://www.ibacanada.com/francais.html> (Français)

### **National Wildlife Areas / Réserves nationales de faune**

There are 51 NWAs across Canada protecting a total of over 529 000 hectares. They are regions which include relatively undisturbed ecosystems containing nationally significant aquatic and/or terrestrial habitats necessary for animals or plants to survive.

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/nwai\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/nwai_e.cfm) (English)

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/nwai\\_f.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/nwai_f.cfm) (Français)

### **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries / Refuges d'oiseaux migrateurs**

At present, there are 92 sanctuaries across Canada protecting a total of over 11 million hectares of migratory bird habitat. While Environment Canada is the agency responsible for MBSs, the actual properties can be owned federally, provincially, or privately.

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mbsi\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mbsi_e.cfm) (English)

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mbsi\\_f.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mbsi_f.cfm) (Français)

### **Marine Wildlife Areas / Réserves marines de faune**

To address coastal and offshore conservation issues, the [Canada Wildlife Act](#) was amended in 1994 to extend provisions for [National Wildlife Areas](#) to be identified as Marine Wildlife Areas beyond the 12 nautical mile territorial sea limit out to the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone limit.

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mwa\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mwa_e.cfm) (English)

[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mwa\\_f.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/mwa_f.cfm) (Français)

### **National Parks of Canada / Parcs nationaux du Canada**

National Parks are a country-wide system of representative natural areas of Canadian significance. By law, they are protected for public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, while being maintained in an unimpaired state for future generations. National Parks have existed in Canada for well over a century.

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/index_E.asp) (English)

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/index\\_f.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/index_f.asp) (Français)

### **National Marine Conservation Areas / Les aires marines nationales de conservation**

NMCA are marine areas managed for sustainable use and containing smaller zones of high protection. They include the seabed, the water above it and any species which occur there. They may also take in wetlands, estuaries, islands and other coastal lands.

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/amnc-nmca/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/amnc-nmca/index_E.asp) (English)

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/amnc-nmca/index\\_f.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/amnc-nmca/index_f.asp) (Français)

### **Other Organisations Involved in the Protection of Wild Places**

#### **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society CPAWS / Société pour la nature et les parcs (SNAP)**

CPAWS, founded in 1963, is Canada's grassroots voice for wilderness, working with other stake-holders to protect parks and other similar wilderness areas.

<http://www.cpaws.org/> (English)

[http://www.cpaws.org/boreal/index\\_fr.html](http://www.cpaws.org/boreal/index_fr.html) (Français)

<http://www.cpaws-ov.org/> (Ottawa Chapter of CPAWS - English)

<http://www.cpaws-ov.org/quebec-francais/index.html> (section Vallée de l'Outaouais – Français)

#### **Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) / Conservation de la nature Canada**

NCC is Canada's only national charity dedicated to preserving ecologically significant areas and has been in existence for over 40 years. The NCC protects land through outright purchase, donations and conservation easements. They have secured a long-term future for more than 1,400 properties, comprising 1.8 million acres of natural places.

<http://www.natureconservancy.ca/files/index.asp> (English)

[http://www.natureconservancy.ca/files/frame.asp?lang=f\\_&region=1&sec=welcome](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/files/frame.asp?lang=f_&region=1&sec=welcome) (Français)

### **Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) / Habitat Faunique Canada**

WHC is a national, non-profit, conservation organization which was established in 1984 by [Environment Canada](#), provincial wildlife agencies and conservation agencies within the wildlife habitat coalition. Its mission is to champion wildlife habitat stewardship by building capacity in the conservation community and affecting change in policies and practices having an impact on habitats.

<http://www.whc.org/home.htm> (English)

<http://www.whc.org/accueil.htm> (Français)

### **Ontario Nature**

Formerly known as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, this organization protects and restores natural habitats through research, education and conservation, and advocates an ecosystem approach to conserving habitat. They maintain 21 nature reserves in the province.

<http://www.ontarionature.org/index.php3>

### **Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds / Société québécoise de protection des oiseaux**

Founded in 1917, the Society is the oldest organisation of birders in Quebec and amongst the oldest in North America. The mission of the Society is to promote and support the awareness, appreciation, understanding and protection of birds and their habitats.

<http://www.pqspb.org/home.htm> (English)

[http://www.pqspb.org/French\\_about.htm](http://www.pqspb.org/French_about.htm) (French)

### **Conservation volontaire**

Au Québec, l'essor en matière de conservation volontaire s'est amorcé vers le début des années 80, sous l'initiative de propriétaires de terrains privés et d'organismes de conservation à but non lucratif. Faisant preuve d'imagination et de volonté, ceux-ci ont exploré et même parfois repoussé les limites des concepts établis dans le Code civil du Québec.

<http://www.menv.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/conservation.htm>