

# FUTURE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

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

## \*3,477 Acres - It Starts At the Top

If you dip your toes, a canoe or fishing line in at Wasaga Beach this summer, take a moment to send a special "thank you" back up the Nottawasaga River watershed to Darcie McKelvey.

The latest of the Trust's 27 conservation easements, the McKelvey property, 10 acres of mature hardwood forest and pine plantation, represents a significant step in protection. Under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, this property's land use designation is "Countryside". The easement means that Ms. McKelvey is assured that despite the current zoning, the property will be preserved without any risk of future development.

Other caring landowners can help with conservation efforts too. Every bit of open land saved and left to natural processes is significant.

Precipitation falling on the McKelvey property, while not visible as defined water courses, seeps into the soil and moves through three valleys. These in turn feed the upper reaches of Bailey Creek, ranked in the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority sub-watershed report card as "good". Bailey Creek then joins Innisfil Creek, and together see a lowering of water quality scores due to impacts of land use, development and a lack of filtering stream cover. The waters then feed into the Nottawasaga River where a meandering path allows filtering once again through the Minesing Swamp. After that it's on to Georgian Bay at Wasaga

Beach. Canoeing on the Nottawasaga from Minesing to Wasaga is a natural and cultural delight, and fishing at the mouth of the river is a very popular activity.

Providing filtration services and base flow for streams and rivers is the Moraine's biggest job. Protection of our water, land and species starts at the top with landowners who recognize that they can take positive actions which will trickle down through an entire watershed, and benefit many others along the way.

***\*As Future goes to press the Trust has confirmed closure of another Conservation Easement in the Nottawasaga watershed on 150 acres (included in title above). Stay tuned for information on this latest securement within Natural Linkage and Countryside areas of the Moraine, undertaken in cooperation with the Ontario Farmland Trust!***

Photo Credit: Bill McMartin



OAK RIDGES MORaine  
LAND TRUST

Please call 905-833-3171  
or visit [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)

# Music for the Moraine

Tickets are now available for our “Music for the Moraine” fundraising event! This exciting event will be held at the Uxbridge Music Hall on Saturday, June 8th. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Darrin Davis Band and Wendell Ferguson.

Uxbridge resident Darrin Davis is a multi-instrumentalist and composer of jaunty, moonlit, alt-country gypsy-folk music peppered with mid-century vanguard jazz flourishes. With wife Amy Jefferies providing back up vocals, Amy and Darrin have graced the stage of Hugh’s Room, Lee’s Palace, The Dakota Tavern, The El Mocambo, The Supermarket, The Gladstone Hotel and many other venues.

Wendell Ferguson is an award winning, popular entertainer in country and folk circles. No stranger to

radio, television or stages of all sizes, Wendell has accompanied and performed with many other likewise talented Canadian musicians. He has toured extensively, and still thrives on learning, sharing and keeping others laughing. He’s won the Canadian Country Music Association’s “Guitar Player of the Year” award many times – after hearing him, you’ll know why!

Tickets are available for \$30 each, with all proceeds supporting the Land Trust’s efforts in protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine. Please contact Lissa at 905-833-3171, or any of our Directors, to purchase your tickets.

*A special note of thanks is extended to the John and Pat McCutcheon and the Gosling Foundations and High Fields Country Inn and Spa for support of this event.*

## Many Hands to Share the Work



The Trust has benefitted from the interest of several individuals in the past year. Many hands have collectively contributed over 4,100 hours of work to the Land Trust in 2012!

The work includes time contributed by those who help govern our organization, our Board of Directors, most of whom have full-time positions elsewhere. Other tasks have included property monitoring, assistance at events and contributions to guiding securement and stewardship programs. If this time had been “on the clock,” it would have amounted to over \$120,000 in salaries.

## Trust Directors Appointed

At the Trust’s April 27 Annual General Meeting the following were appointed as the 2013 Directors of the Trust. The list includes both those completing the second of a two year appointment and others newly appointed for two years. The Executive officers are: Patricia Short-Gallé, President; Bob Shepherd, Vice-President; Abhi Mukherjee, Treasurer; and Ann Rexe, Secretary.

Short biographies are available at the Trust website under “The Land Trust—Board and Staff”.

**DUBÉ, MARY**

**MCINTYRE, GAIL**

**MILNE, JOHN**

**MUKHERJEE, ABHI**

**NORRIS, CHRIS**

**REXE, ANN**

**RUNDLE, ANN FRANCES**

**SCHULZ, NICHOLAS**

**SHAW, FRANK**

**SHEIN, KAREN**

**SHEPHERD, BOB**

**SHORT-GALLÉ, PATRICIA**

**SOKALSKY, STEVEN**

**SWAIL, DAVID**

**TAYLOR, ANGELA**

**WINDLE, JAMIE**

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

- fill out the Membership form elsewhere in this newsletter

- call the office at 905-833-3171

- or email:

landtrust@bellnet.ca





## Thinking Ahead About Water

There are many ways to protect and steward the water resources of the Moraine. The Trust offers one means by which landowners can make an impactful commitment benefitting us all.

Many other organizations are also involved in water protection, supply and management. Each of us has a personal responsibility to act in ways that conserve and protect the waters we need and use.



Whether you live on or off the Moraine, get your water from a municipal supply or directly from a well, York Region's *Water for Tomorrow* [website](#) has some great information to help you make changes at home to support water conservation. Even with the small changes we make now, and the continued protection the Trust offers to Moraine lands, we need to think further ahead.

A November 2012 report published by the Polis Project on Ecological Governance "*Walking the Water Soft Path: York Region Water Strategy Puts Theory into Practice*" puts emphasis on water conservation and protection on a long-term time frame. This leading-edge municipal water strategy echoes what the Land Trust and other Moraine-based environmental groups have been promoting all along.

We can't just keep building, developing and expecting our natural systems to continually absorb increasing demands on the water supply. Likewise, we can't dispose of our wastes without thinking ahead about multiple water users and species' needs. The report can be found at the Polis Water Project website under "[publications](#)".

## Where on the Moraine?

Lake Wilcox, Bond Lake and Musselman's Lake are three of the 37 kettle lakes concentrated in the central-west section of the Moraine.

Can you name three others and tell us the source of your information?

We'll send out a small Moraine related prize to the first three respondents. Send a note to [landtrust@bellnet.ca](mailto:landtrust@bellnet.ca) with Where in the subject line.

Photo Credits: Judy Gilchrist



# Recovery Efforts

Conservation Easement donor Ms McKelvey's interests don't stop with protecting land and water. An avid native plant enthusiast, Ms McKelvey has planted American Chestnut (*Castanea entate*) and Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), both endangered species, and continues to nurture several specimens along on her property.

The American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is both a provincially and nationally endangered species. Its decline is mostly attributed to a type of fungus imported into North America from Asia in the early 1900's. This epidemic killed 99% of American Chestnut trees within 30 years. You can learn more about efforts to propagate disease resistant specimens for species recovery from Ontario's [Ministry of Natural Resources](#) and the [Canadian Chestnut Council](#).

The Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) is the only native species of magnolia in Canada. The immature fruit bears a resemblance to a cucumber, and grows in rich, well-drained soils in deciduous forests, such as those found in small pockets of the Oak Ridges Moraine. As a result of severe deforestation in Ontario, few naturally occurring populations remain.

Due to widely spaced populations and highly specific habitat requirements, natural pollination for both of these species pose a great challenge.

Every effort made by dedicated individuals, like Darcie McKelvey on her recently protected lands to nurture and steward individual saplings, significantly increases the potential for viable breeding and species recovery in the future.

Photo Credit: Bill McMartin



## Quench Your Moraine Thirst!

Here's a fun and refreshing way to learn about how important the Moraine is for providing clean water:

1. Half fill a clear glass with crushed ice. This represents the gravel that holds groundwater in *aquifers*.
2. Add enough clear soda to just cover the ice. The soda represents groundwater.
3. Add a layer of ice cream, packing it in pretty tightly. This serves as a "confining layer" over the aquifer. In nature, the confining layer is made of *impermeable* materials such as clay which makes it harder for water to move both into and out of the aquifer.
4. Add a layer of mini chocolate chips, crushed cookies or fresh local in-season berries on top of the ice cream. This represents the *soil horizon*, the part we walk on.
5. Add a couple of drops of contrasting food colouring on top of the "soil." This represents *contamination* – things like a gas, oil, chemical or other spills on the surface.
6. Using a drinking straw, drill a "well" into the center of your aquifer.
7. Slowly begin to pump the well by sucking on the straw. Watch the decline in the water table.
8. Notice as the food coloring, or contaminant, gets sucked into the well area and eventually enters the groundwater.
9. Recharge your aquifer by slowly adding more soda, spreading it over the land surface representing a rain shower.
10. As you continue to enjoy your tasty aquifer, think about how what you do ON the Moraine affects what is under it.

For a little more fun, share a soda on another day with a friend—each with your own straw representing a second well—and see how many "*water uses*" drain an aquifer even faster!



## A Battle in the Bullrushes

Across the Oak Ridges Moraine, in ditches, wetlands and disturbed areas, there is a battle waging.

The aggressively invasive species *Phragmites australis* (also known as the European common reed) is outpacing native plants with great speed, tenacity and toxic effect. This invader chokes out native species, such as cat tail, and does not provide much in the way of habitat. The dense stands of dried stalks, as many as 200 stems per square meter, use excessive amounts of water and prevent the passage of wildlife.

Not to be mistaken with the native species which is shorter and much less dense, *Phragmites* can grow to heights of 15 feet (5 meters).

Controlling growth is complicated as no single method has proven to be effective.

Landowners can access an on-line “[Best Management Practices Guide](#)” at the Ontario Anglers and Hunters Invasive Species website to learn more about control measures. Surprisingly, some garden centers continue to sell this invasive species.

Please, do your part by ensuring that plants you put into your gardens are native, non-invasive species.

## Take and Share

We have an on-going need for digital photos for use in displays, the website and other published materials (none to be sold). Thanks to those who have submitted photos already!

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*
- Embed your own, subtly within the photo, reading the same.

Images can be sent to [landtrust@bellnet.ca](mailto: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.



Photo Credits: Judy Gilchrist



# More Than Double Your Money!

We've all been told that money doesn't grow on trees, but did you know it CAN grow in your workplace and it CAN grow back into your pocket?

## At Your Workplace

Corporations and businesses are increasingly matching their employees' charitable donations. BMO Financial Group, Gildan Activewear Inc. and Great-West Life Assurance Company are but a few of the many offering such matches. Help the Trust protect the Moraine by asking about, and taking advantage of, these programs at your workplace. Challenge your employer to match your contribution!

Don't be deterred if your workplace is not on the Moraine; many employers support communities and organizations where their employees work, live, volunteer and play.

Another way to help the Trust at your workplace – without costing you a penny – is to see if your employer makes grants and contributions to charities on your recommendation. The Trust often has to name an individual in a company in order to even be considered as a grant applicant.

If you find that you have an employee donation matching program, or that grants can be made to an organization with which you are involved, we'd love to know about it! We can provide you with the necessary information to help make a case for directing corporate donations to the Trust.

Every bit can be put to immediate work supporting the protection of lands and waters of the Oak Ridges Moraine that sustain us all.

Money DOES grow on trees – the ones you help protect!

## In Your Pocket

**As of the March 21 federal budget, some donors can receive a greater tax credit for charitable donations through the "First-time Donor's Super Credit" (FDSC) incentive wherein individuals who have never claimed a donation tax credit before will qualify for an additional 25% tax credit.**

*Now is the time to start your support of the Land Trust! If you donate \$200 or less you can receive 40% as a tax credit – so, with a contribution of \$200 to the Land Trust you would receive a credit of \$80 when you process your income tax for the year. If your contribution is \$201 (or up to \$1000), credits are calculated at 54%, your credit would be \$108.54.*

*That's more money back in your pocket by reducing your taxable income.*

*Details on the FDSC, which only applies to cash donations, can be found [here](#) or at the Canada Revenue Agency's website.*

## OUT AND ABOUT ON THE MORAINE

**In addition to exploring the many faces of the Moraine this summer you can join the Land Trust at these events:**

**Saturday, June 8—Music for the Moraine, Uxbridge Music Hall**

**Saturday, June 15—Polo for Heart, Richmond Hill**

**Sunday, July 7—Ride for the Moraine, Zephyr**

## OUT AND ABOUT— With Partners in Protection

On May 11 our York Region Forestry partners host a Wildflower and Warbler Walk. Check the Region's "[Take a Walk in the Forest](#)" webpage for details. If you miss the walk you can still enjoy the same location, anytime, as the property location, jointly owned by the Trust, is part of the freely available [Oak Ridges Trail](#).





# 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 next Membership Year runs June 1 to May 31st, 2014**



## Ride for the Moraine



It's not too late to register as a participant for the 3rd Annual Ride for the Moraine.

Join other motorcycle enthusiasts for a relaxing tour of the hills of the Moraine departing from the Zephyr Community Centre on Sunday, July 7 at 10:00 a.m. The ride returns to Zephyr for a BBQ lunch and community viewing of motorcycles.

In addition to the required registration fee, participants are encouraged to raise pledge funds in support of the Trust's stewardship work.

For more information and to register contact Mary at **905-473-9523**

## The Glass Half Full!

The Fall 2012 edition of *Future* was hot off the press when confirmation arrived that our \$1 Million Campaign received two generous, record setting contributions. A huge thank you to the Rogers Foundation and Mr. H.N. (Hal) Jackman for helping to raise our campaign total to \$700,000!

Like drops in a bucket, every bit counts, whether to mark a special occasion, the departure of a loved one, or simply because you care about the Moraine - all help to create an optimistic outlook and a healthy future for our Moraine.

We can breathe, drink and enjoy all of the gifts the Moraine has to offer.

Please join us in thanking all who have contributed to the campaign so far – the seventh digit in our target is now in sight!



Move to electronic delivery of *Future* with an email to [landtrust@bellnet.ca](mailto:landtrust@bellnet.ca). Be sure to include your name. With electronic delivery we save paper, printing and postage costs.



### ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY DONATION OF:

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### YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LANDTRUST.

Please switch me to electronic delivery of this publication

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