

# FUTURE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

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

## 3,710 Acres With 45 Agreements!

Two Conservation Easements, just off the Oak Ridges Moraine in King Township, have added 191 acres to the Trust's securement total. These latest transactions, out of 45 registered to date, recognize the connection of river systems and valleys to their beginnings on the Moraine.

"We are thrilled that the Hon. H.N. (Hal) Jackman committed to protect these lands and valleys high in the Humber watershed forever," says Chris Norris, Chair of the Trust, "These two parcels will act like great big sponges every time it rains, benefitting everyone who lives downstream."

The adjoining properties of 97 and 94 acres, are within the protected countryside-natural heritage system area of the Greenbelt, south of Nobleton. Township land use designation allows for a number of uses, making the agreement all the more valuable.

Recently observed species include threatened Eastern Meadowlark and endangered Redside Dace. Past observations included the endangered Jefferson Salamander and threatened Purple Twayblade. Moving forward, annual monitoring will establish full documentation of all species which will benefit from this generous act of protection.

Together the properties are roughly 42% forested,

and less than three kilometers from other protected areas managed by publicly funded organizations.

Mr. Jackman scans the woods, "I have lived with a strong connection between the Moraine in King Township and Toronto. The Humber River is a highway for water starting on the Moraine. Every bit of the river and valley land we can preserve for the good they do is worth our time and attention."

"York Region is proud of the conservation successes we've achieved through partnerships with organizations like the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust," said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch.

The Trust is grateful for the support of the Rogers' Foundation and York Region's Greening Securement Partnership for financial assistance in securement of these properties.



ORMLT STAFF Photo



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## If \$100 Fell in a Forest....

Would it protect the forest? Not on its own.

The \$100 needs to be picked up, skies thanked and receipted, recorded and banked, decisions for use of the \$100 made. It doesn't end there! Work needs to be done, impact measured.



Trust funding doesn't fall from the sky. It relies on donors like you which means receipting, tracking and reporting. That's what puts the \$100 to work. All financial information, including administrative and fundraising costs must be reported to

donors and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

In 2013 the Trust spent 80% of expenses on program costs: land securement, stewardship and

outreach activity, and 20% on administration and fundraising. Details are in the Annual Report posted on the Trust website. You can also check the CRA Charities Branch website for the Trust's annual tax filing.

Donors to charities often ask what administration covers. Any share of office rental, insurance, telephones, auditor and banking fees, postage - anything that is not directly attributable to a program area – including fundraising costs.

Charity reporting requires some extra attention. Example: the cost for this newsletter's production, a part of the mandate to 'communicate about the importance of the Moraine', includes a donation appeal. Because of that, we have to report to CRA on a percentage of newsletter cost as a fundraising expense – even though fundraising is an integral part of supporting program work.

Wise donors know the forest can't look after \$100 on its own. Donations and good administration of those funds is what sustains this charity working for your benefit.



Photo: D. McLaughlin

## Sleeping Beauty(fully)

The Frog Prince must have been an aquatic frog. He was found sleeping at the bottom of a deep well. There he could burrow into the mud but leave some skin exposed to the water to breath oxygen through his skin during the winter.

Terrestrial frogs like the Spring peeper, Wood or Chorus frog would have changed the Grimm Brothers tale a little. The princess would have to have lost her golden ball in a forest, under a layer of leaves or in a log. And, it may have been a bit more difficult to wake these guys.

Glucose stored in the liver is released as terrestrial frogs shut things down for the winter – something they are doing through October and November - and acts like antifreeze throughout the winter.

The kiss of Ontario's spring and sunshine late March and early April will wake up all of our favourite princes (and princesses) who will regale us with their song and the story of regenerating will repeat itself again.

STAY TUNED FOR LAND TRUST OFFICE MOVE ANNOUNCEMENT COMING IN DECEMBER!

### LAND TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGNEW, CONNIE	KING, JOHN	SCHULZ, NICHOLAS	SWAIL, DAVID
BURKE, ASHLEY	MCINTYRE, GAIL	SHAW, FRANK	TAYLOR, ANGELA
CHIASSERINI, SARAH	MILNE, JOHN	SHEPHERD, BOB	WATTERS, ROB
DUBÉ, MARY	MIRANDA, PAMELA	SHORT-GALLÉ, PATRICIA	WEINTRAUB, BARRY
ELSON, BRENT	NORRIS, CHRIS	SPIERING, LORRAINE	WINDLE, JAMIE

## Rising in the East

Larry and Petra Bingley of Hamilton Township, Northumberland County hosted a celebration recently on their protected 31.56 acres. This Conservation Easement is “the furthest east” protected property of the Trust so far.

In the Cold Creek watershed of the Ganaraska Conservation Authority’s jurisdiction, the location within the Natural Linkage area of the Oak Ridges Moraine is important as a permanently protected area between two large Natural Core areas.

Trust Chair, Chris Norris in addressing the assembled participants noted, “Petra and Larry have chosen not to allow hunting or trapping on these lands. But, they have chosen to continue with the existing agricultural uses. There continues to be confusion about the restrictive nature of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Agricultural uses are acceptable here and in the even

more restrictive Natural Core. Protection is not anti-agricultural. We understand that if you rely on the land you take care of it for the future. And there are many organizations around to help with Stewardship of lands.”

On behalf of all the Trust’s supporters and fellow land donors, we welcome the Bingley Family’s commitment to protection.



Photo J. Gilchrist

## Wild Thing!

As leaves fall and site lines across fields grow, one of many species to be seen more easily is Wild Turkey. Reintroduced to Ontario just over 25 years ago, populations have grown from the 4,400 released to an estimated 70,000 today. A successful reintroduction is always a good story, but even better is not losing species to begin with.

Biodiversity of the Moraine is worth protecting. With 90% of the Moraine in private ownership, landowners play a key role in sustaining the many habitats and species native to this area.



Photo Ian Gillespie



Photo: ORMLT Staff

Protection is easier and less expensive than reintroductions or restoration. You can do your part by learning about many beneficial stewardship practices from the Stewardship Network of Ontario. Web based ‘[best practices](#)’ are available for many species and habitat types to get you started.

# Monarch Thanks!

Thank you to ALL who responded to our appeal to help protect and manage lands in a manner that supports Monarchs (and many other species). In addition to just over \$4,000 there were so many kind words about protecting species and our shared future. We DO need to act locally to see results globally. Your help does that.

Trust protected properties continue to support good food sources here in the Monarch's summer home. This is the generation of butterfly that makes the full 3,000 km plus flight to Mexico in the fall.

Actions by people like you, and education of land managers all along the Mexico to Canada route back in the spring is what will save the species.

On the northern flight at least four generations need to be supported with suitable habitat before they arrive here where you have so generously contributed and ensured good summer feeding.

You can find out much more at [Monarch Watch](#) while you wait for the return of Monarchs to the Moraine next spring.



## What Makes a Volunteer Director Tick?

Trust Director Nic Schulz shares a few thoughts about the Moraine and work of the Trust:

Do you recall your first encounter with the Moraine when you really understood what you were seeing?

*I was coming south on Mount Wolfe Rd in Caledon seeing the hills roll on and on towards Toronto. I knew what the Moraine was but I hadn't understood the unique geographic landscape that this area holds.*

What prompted you to serve a relatively small environmental group rather than something bigger?

*I saw an opportunity to do some hands on protection of the environment rather than engaging in the difficult, time consuming work of policy change. With the Trust I can create tangible change quickly and effectively.*

You've been a Director since April 2012. Is there one surprise about Trust work you hadn't anticipated?

*That would be the "business sense" of the organization. The Trust's staff and board treat their role, and the protection of properties as a serious business. With respect to all aspects of our business the trust brings critical and strategic thinking.*

Of the 45 properties under protection, do you have one location or image that comes to mind when

you tell people what your role is with the Board?

*Every property I've had the pleasure of visiting reminds me why our work is important. The Fayle property is a beautiful example of a well-managed property. Getting to speak with them before their passing brought home how personally important these lands are to the people who have placed easements on them. The Glassco property is similar, the land itself is spectacular but the commitment and concern of the family is what is most outstanding.*

Many people think of Directors of non-profits as being older and retired. What sort of an ambassador are you in your circle of family and friends with this position?

*I think at least a small part of my role is to learn the skills necessary to ensure myself, and others my age, are able to continue the good work into the next generation. I also think an important part of my role is to help the Trust grow with our community to ensure that our work remains relevant to*

*those younger individuals who may have a different connection to the Moraine.*

What do you think the Trust will look like in 10 years?

*The Trust will continue to be a leader in the field of conservation easements, setting a strong example for how easements and land donations can support good provincial and municipal policies.*



## 10 Moraine Places to Visit

Each day and every season offers beauty on the Moraine. Here's our quick "Wow Tour" favourites (there are SO many to choose from) east to west:

[Alderville Black Oak Savanna](#) where you can learn about restoration of the Rice Lake Plains, one of the Moraine's few remaining prairies.

[Richardson's Lookout](#) tucked away above Garden Hill. Look out to reforested hills, grazed and cropped fields and appreciate the insight of Dr. A. H. Richardson, one of Ontario's early conservation movers and shakers.

[The Ganaraska Forest Centre](#) the former home of Junior Rangers and an ever popular school program. The centre sits in the midst of the managed forest that secured the Moraine's loss of sandy soils.

[Purple Woods Conservation Area's](#) Maple Syrup Festival. What could be better than exploring

a beautiful hardwood forest while learning about and tasting Canada's sweetest treat?

[The Oak Ridges Trail](#) any time of year explore 200 km of marked and maintained route on your own or join one of 200 FREE guided hikes!

Chalk Lake (Reg. Rd #23) where you can fill your re-usable water bottle with cold water straight from the Moraine.

Uxbridge – the "[Trail Capital of Canada](#)" a great spot for walking, hiking, riding.

[Musselman's Lake](#) – one of 32 kettle lakes on the Moraine and where a local resident's association is taking action to ensure sustainability of the lake and community

[Happy Valley Forest](#) an outstanding example of old-growth forest and area of focus for the Nature Conservancy of Canada

[Albion Hills Conservation Area](#) near Palgrave, a great place to enjoy any number of recreational activities, summer or winter. It's not far from where the Moraine meets the Niagara Escarpment.

## Staying in Touch

One obligation the Trust assumes with Conservation Easements, and donated lands, is to monitor their condition annually.

Earlier this year Dave McLaughlin joined the Trust to replace Bill McMartin in the Stewardship Manager role. Bill is pursuing other of his interests and has left a good base for Dave to work from.

In addition to his BSc and MSc in Forestry, Dave brings over 35 years of experience as a research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to this position. His work with air and soil pollutants and their impacts on plant and human health will deepen our

understanding of impacts on the Moraine from outside sources.

Over the last two years Trust Directors have been joining in on site-monitoring visits to expand their familiarity with the properties. Through this they get to know our wonderful landowners a little better.

The Trust also utilizes the services of some dedicated volunteer Land Stewards to monitor select properties. Dave will be working with many people to ensure consistency and coordination through the Stewardship program.



Easement donor J. McCutcheon and Dave on monitoring visit.  
Photo: S. Walmer



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## In a Word

In a Google search *sustainable* shows “in the top 1% of lookups and...80th most popular word on Merriam-Webster.com”. Wow! Understood or incredibly desirable?

Meanings make sense when thinking about the Moraine:

- able to be used without being completely used up or destroyed
- involving methods that do not completely use up or destroy natural resources
- able to last or continue for a long time

Or more explicitly: “In ecology, *sustainability* refers to how biological systems remain diverse and productive.”

The Trust has been working toward this vision since 2000:

***The Oak Ridges Moraine is a vibrant, healthy, sustainable ecosystem within which the Trust***

***and partners including private landowners are actively cooperating in conservation and protection of the Moraine and connected areas.***

The Moraine is still vibrant and healthy. Partners, including private landowners, cooperate in protection. Is it sustainable as an ecosystem? It can be and it depends on you!

You have choices to make for sustainability. Will you demand infrastructure that fragments habitats? Will you call for another place to shop? Will you assist with protection of wetlands and forests that collect and hold water? Will you be silent when a natural area with many species is replaced

with uses that limit diversity? Will you speak up, as is allowed, when applications in your municipality ask for ‘exemptions’?

The protection side of the Trust’s vision is only one action. Keeping the ecosystem healthy and vibrant requires sustained commitment by everyone, now and into the future.



## Island of Green

Of the 45 properties protected by the Trust only seven are “owned” outright. One has recently become a perfect example of why the Trust’s work is so important. Sitting in the midst of Aurora’s 2C Development Lands, the McLeod Nature Reserve has truly become an Island of Green.

At just over 39 acres fronting Leslie Street, the property has been cleared on three sides for housing as identified at the time of the property transaction.

“We knew what was coming with Town’s Official Plan. No matter how prepared you are, dramatic change in the landscape is always an eye-opener,” muses Susan Walmer, Executive Director. “Seeing this demonstrates the good that results when owners look ahead and preserve natural features. Thankfully the McLeod family recognized that this was a very special place. They understand the other values that lands have to offer to all of us, to all other species and to the future.”

Developers are cooperating to help educate new home buyers about the importance of the McLeod

Nature Reserve, the nearby nature reserve that will include Town owned property and connections to Lake Simcoe through the East Holland watershed.

Respect for the birds, animals and functions of this “island of green” will be of concern as adjacent homes become occupied in the coming months.

Off limits to public use at the moment, the Trust is working with the Town of Aurora to ensure that limited trail development will respect the McLeod Nature Reserve’s numerous natural heritage



## Leading a Legacy

*Future* readers will be familiar with Past Chair Patricia Short-Gallé's investment of time and effort to support the Trust's work. Her generosity didn't stop there, as Patricia is among the leaders in Trust Director donations.

Not content with simply 'retiring' from a very active role as Chair, Patricia is now diving in as a member of the Trust's Legacy Team, supporting a program for which she long ago made her own bequest.

***"It became increasingly obvious to me when grand children became a part of my life that just caring about the environment they will inherit is not enough. I have made sure that the Trust, one of many groups involved in active protection, will have the means to carry on making the world a better place when I am gone."***

Information packages are available to explain the Trust's legacy program and Patricia or Susan Walmer will be happy to meet with you to discuss giving options.



To learn more, send in the form here, call the office, or email [legacygiving@oakridgesmoraine.org](mailto:legacygiving@oakridgesmoraine.org). Patricia will be happy to chat about how easy it is for you to Leave the World a Better Place.



## Leave the World a Better Place



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E-mail: [legacygiving@oakridgesmoraine.org](mailto:legacygiving@oakridgesmoraine.org) [www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)

Please contact me with more information about how I can **Leave the World a Better Place**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_ My email: \_\_\_\_\_

My mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

CRA Registration: 87320 8920

I have already named the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust as a beneficiary in my will.

I plan to seek professional advice to help me leave the world a better place with support for the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

Please keep my donation anonymous.

Please contact me, I would like to investigate my bequest options in more detail.

If you have chosen to include the Land Trust in your will, please let us know. We would love the opportunity to thank you.

Every gift, no matter the size, is important. Bequests are personal matters. We encourage you to consult a professional before completing any estate plans. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a registered charity. Your gift will remain anonymous if you choose.

## OUT AND ABOUT ON THE MORAINE

November 1—Pottageville Community Centre: Area Landowners Workshop-Nature Conservancy of Canada

November 4– 7 p.m.—Lemonville Community Centre: area landowners get to know the Land Trust

November 8—East Gwillimbury, Bender & Graves Tract—A Look Inside the Forester’s Toolbox-York Region Forestry

November 18-20—Alliston, Latornell Conservation Symposium

December 13-Whitchurch-Stouffville, North Tract-Forest Jingle Bell Walk- York Region Forestry

For more details:  
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust website  
[www.oakridgesmoraine.org](http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org)



## Sustainable Rapping

Here’s a challenge to the budding Rapper in your household.

Write and perform a Rap tribute to the Oak Ridges Moraine based on this newsletter’s ‘sustainable’ theme (or earlier themes of vibrant and healthy). Share your efforts with friends and family, via a school project or

post it on YouTube. Use Oak Ridges Moraine in the name, send the link and we’ll share one or two in our next newsletter.

To get you started here’s some rhyming content suggestions: attainable, containable, explainable, maintainable, obtainable.

## Sustainable Wrapping

You can give a gift that lasts forever to anyone young or old on your Christmas list. Log onto the Trust website, follow the link for “Donate Now” and give a gift that everyone will appreciate.

Keep the spirit going all year long by signing up for a monthly donation.



Move to electronic delivery of Future with an email to [landtrust@oakridgesmoraine.org](mailto:landtrust@oakridgesmoraine.org). Be sure to include your name.

### ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY DONATION OF:

- \$50.00     \$100.00     \$250.00     \$500.00
- other \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Please send me a tax receipt.
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- Call me to set up monthly giving
- Call me to talk about how I can donate through my will
- Please keep my donation anonymous

Call me at this number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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### YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE OAK RIDGES MORAINE LAND TRUST

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