



CARETAKERS

**YOUR OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST
GRATITUDE REPORT 2016**

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE :

Reducing the impacts of climate change by protecting more land and habitat for all species, making connections between our natural environment and our health and engaging more local people with citizen science activities like the BioBlitzes, Eco Festivals and school events.

We are honoured that two of our protected Ecological Gift properties have been selected by the Minister of Environment to showcase Canada’s 150th Birthday. We will be sharing more of your stories as we near Canada’s 150th birthday.

Thank you again for your vital and vibrant support of your Land Trust.

Yours for our Moraine,



Susan Walmer,
Executive Director and
Lead Caretaker



THIS IS YOUR LAND TRUST



The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a group of passionate people who love the Moraine. With a core of dedicated and capable staff, supported by energetic volunteers including our experienced Directors, the Trust is turning your contributions into a healthy and vibrant Moraine and Greenbelt.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for making this year another great success, and I look forward to many more.

Sarah Chiasserini
Joan Egwuonwu
Chris Norris
Frank Shaw
Leanne Stevens
Angela Taylor
Nicholas Trevisan

Mary Dubé
Brent Elson
Nicholas Schulz
Patricia Short-Gallé
David Swail
Tom Taylor
Jamie Windle

Thank You!



Chris Norris, Board Chair

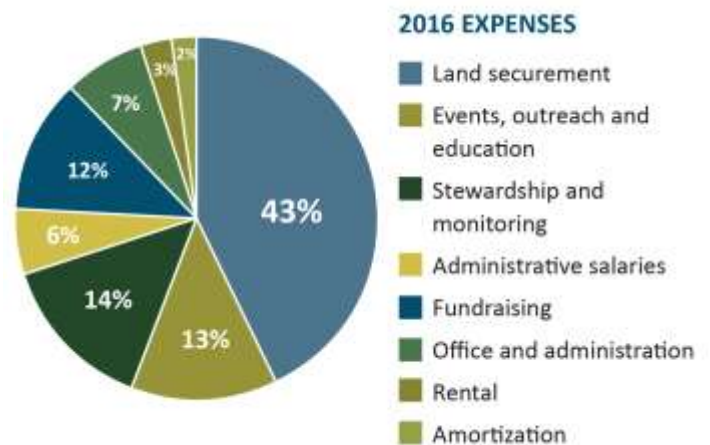
OUR REVENUE:


Thank you! Donors like you combining forces with foundations, corporations and government have made a difference. Here is where our money comes from.



OUR EXPENSES:

Every gift we receive protects more land, saves more habitat for species and engages citizens in learning about the Moraine and Greenbelt. Here is where your money goes.





2016: BECAUSE OF YOU...

168 Acres of Habitat Protected Forever!



Just outside of Aurora is a beautiful spot where you can hear the buzz of honey bees, the call of forest birds, and if you listen closely you might even catch the sound of a salamander scurrying along in the underbrush. Yes – Salamanders! The temporary ponds that form in the spring provide critical breeding habitat for salamanders, as well as turtles and frogs. Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Enotera family, this natural oasis is now protected through a Conservation Easement.

High on a hill in Simcoe County, the watershed divides the Humber and the Nottawasaga Rivers. Here, the McKenna family has explored the meadows, forests and wetlands that make up their home. In 2016 they made the decision to protect their property through a Conservation Easement, so that the trees, Monarchs, and Snapping Turtles can thrive. In the spring, you can catch sight of Bufflehead ducks pairing up for the year on their large pond. In summer, the meadows come alive with Bobolink and other grassland birds. Regardless of the season, the beauty of this property takes hold!



Farmland plays such an important role in our lives, and we are very thankful to donors like Sandra Nelles, who donated a Conservation Easement on her farm near Caledon. The stunning combination of working farmland, mature forest, and old meadows creates a tapestry that is filled with family stories. Deep in the forest you can find a few endangered Butternut trees and the meadows are filled with dragonflies and butterflies. This spectacular property was selected to celebrate Ontario's 500th Ecological Gift in 2016.



2016:

WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE

Thank you for your amazing support of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust! Here are some of our proudest accomplishments of the year – Only made possible with **your support!**

BLITZING OUR MORAINE!

With the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seed Grant as well as contributions from other foundations and corporate sponsors, we launched our pilot project in 2016. 160 volunteers contributed over 830 hours to explore 2 properties and identify all the species we could find. In total, we found over 860 species including 12 species at risk! There was something for everyone from the first time hiker to the experienced naturalist. We learned, we laughed, and we fell in love with 2 spectacular properties on the Oak Ridges Moraine!



Our community bioblitzes were designed to connect people to citizen science. What an introduction! We found newts in the forest, milksnakes in the remnants of an old farmhouse and were treated to the early morning song of the Eastern Wood Pewee. Evening "blitzers" were treated to an owl prowl and an adventure to capture the sounds of bats as they fed on insects high overhead.



NICE TO SEE YOU!

With almost 50 different outreach events this year, it's hard to pick one to highlight. From edible aquifers to Jingle Bell hikes, we are so proud to offer a diverse group of outreach events. This year, we hiked with our local MP Jane Philpott in her riding of Markham-Stouffville at the Bill Fisch Stewardship and Education Centre on the Hollidge Tract Accessible Trail to demonstrate the connection between green spaces and human health. Thank you for coming out and for sharing our events with others!

All of our accomplishments are made in partnership with you, our donors.
Thank you for your support!

2017:

OUR VISION IS COMING TRUE



Right now, we are developing plans and partnerships that will mean more activity to protect properties and the species that live on our precious Moraine, on our Greenbelt and across the GTA. Here are just some of the projects we are working on. **Your ongoing support will make them possible!**

MORE PROPERTIES, MORE PROTECTION



We are thrilled to announce a three-year grant with the ECHO Foundation that will support our land securement efforts. Combined with other Foundation support and our agreements with York and Peel Regions, we are expecting a very busy year! Our current projects are a mix of wetlands, mature forests, new plantations, and agriculture. We can't wait to tell you more about them!

CLIMATE CHANGE OUTREACH

We've been noticing a number of signs of climate change on our protected properties. We're proud to be working with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario to raise awareness about Climate Change. In 2017, we will be screening the documentary "Before the Flood" and having a question and answer session afterwards. We hope to see you there.

MAPPING, BIOBLITZING AND EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE

The McLean Foundation has supported a partnership between us and two other land trusts to develop a natural heritage map for Simcoe County. This work will help us ensure that sensitive lands are protected in an area that is slated for significant development over the next few decades.

We are thrilled to announce a 3-year Trillium grant and donations from other corporate and private foundation partners that will support the expansion of our Blitzing the Moraine project. This year we will host 3 new bio blitz events and 12 community workshops. Check out our website for more details. You won't want to miss these events!

A WILL TO PROTECT

A growing number of our most loyal supporters are choosing to protect nature forever by remembering our Land Trust in their Will. There is nothing more rewarding for us than helping caring donors ensure that the land they love most will be protected forever. Our dream is that you and every Trust supporter know that they can start an open-hearted and confidential discussion about their Will with us at any time. You can contact Sue at 905-853-3171 x32 directly. We look forward to hearing from you!

Your ongoing support means YOU are a part of all of our successes, today and in the future. Thank you!

Welcome New Donors:

Janet Bartram-Thomas
Rick Berry
Zina Bolak
Heidi Breen
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Joan Egwuonwu
Heather Engli
Bill Forrest
Alex Fortais
Salme Foulds
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Each gift makes a difference in the lives of our children and their children. Thank you for all that you do!

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Chris Norris & Julie Schmidt
Barbara Foulds
Patricia Short-Gallé



18462 Bathurst Street, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9 Telephone: 905-853-3171
landtrust@oakridgesmoraine.org www.oakridgesmoraine.org
Charitable Registration #87320 8920



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