



OAK RIDGES MORAINE LAND TRUST

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Headline Future generations will thank us for protecting more of Canada!

“Thank you to the Government of Canada for being a leader in recognizing the importance of land conservation and climate change to our world now and for future generations. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT), is thrilled by this renewed commitment by the Federal government to maintain biodiversity, mitigate climate change impacts and protect vibrant natural areas from coast to coast. This historic investment of \$1.3 billion recognizes the urgency to protect our lands, water and the species that they sustain. This new funding will accelerate the protection of additional environmental significant lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt areas.” Susan Walmer, Executive Director, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

Canada’s community land trusts along with our partners, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada, are already delivering results to meet Canada’s Target 1 goals. We anticipate that the new Nature Fund will create an even stronger collaboration with provinces, corporation, private donors and not for profit organizations to protect species at risk and private lands across Canada.

Conservation of our natural areas ensures our country will remain a place where people want to live, work and invest – because the environment and the economy go hand in hand. Southern Ontario, particularly the Oak Ridges Moraine, is home to many species at risk on land that is also at a great risk of conversion or outright destruction. Private land conservation provides critical ecosystem services in highly impacted regions of our province where traditional public land conservation approaches are either expensive or impractical. By harnessing innovative partnerships with landowners, private land conservation advances critical ecosystem services including positive impacts on water quality, flood mitigation, drought resiliency, and connecting critical corridors between parks and other blocks of public and private land. This extension of connectivity and expansion of functional habitats is also critical to supporting Canada’s climate change resiliency.

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The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) a registered charitable organization was formed in 2000 by citizens interested in protecting the Moraine. It is not a government agency. The Land Trust ensures significant Moraine properties are protected for future generations through agreements with landowners, acquisition of lands and on-going stewardship. To date the Trust has secured over 4,120 acres of land and planted over 90,000 trees.

“Land trusts across the country loudly applaud the Government of Canada’s commitment to nature and biodiversity conservation in Budget 2018. Canada is one of few remaining places on our planet with significant, intact natural areas, many of which are on private land in close proximity to urban centres. Through community-based private land conservation, land trusts are uniquely positioned to leverage the government’s investment to help slow or reverse species declines, protect watersheds, and mitigate the effects of climate change.” Susan Walmer, Canadian Land Trusts Working Committee

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Photo Submission: (picture 1): ORMLT Protected Property

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