



2016 ONTARIO LAND TRUST GATHERING “Inspiring Conservation Leadership”

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FIELD TRIP

After a short hiatus, the field trip is back. The meeting place is at the Prairie Smoke Nature Reserve. Rides can be arranged for those without a car. Bring your lunch and enjoy a couple of hours in this beautiful outside classroom.

Managing Carden Alvar’s Prairie Smoke Nature Reserve

Wednesday, October 19, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Kristyn Ferguson, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Join NCC staff on a visit to the 1,336 acre Prairie Smoke Nature Reserve in the Carden Alvar Natural Area. This trip will highlight the good (beautiful globally rare alvars), the bad (dealing with ORV trespass), the ugly (Dog-strangling Vine), and everything in between, including a hayfield being managed for Bobolink and the establishment of a new interpretive trail system. This will be an interactive session where all elements of property management of a large nature reserve are up for discussion. See what lessons you can apply to management of your land trust’s properties, and contribute your unique ideas to NCC’s adaptive management of this important reserve.

Session Type: Field trip

Learning Outcomes:

- The unique properties, limited distribution, and interesting plants and wildlife of alvars
- Management of compatible (hiking trails, haying) and incompatible (ORVs, trespass) land uses
- NCC Property Management Plans – creation, implementation, and adaptation

Level: All

LEARNING INSTITUTES

This year, OLTA is offering two concurrent pre-conference sessions to provide in-depth training in two priority areas – land appraisals and land stewardship. These 3-hour highly practical sessions will surely build your skills, confidence and abilities!

Reviewing Appraisals for Non-appraisers

Wednesday, October 19, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Antoin Diamond, The Bruce Trail Conservancy; Laura Kucey, Environment and Climate Change Canada - Ecological Gifts Program; David Babineau, Chair, Ecological Gifts Program Appraisal Review Panel; Kristie Virgoe (Moderator)

As charitable organizations, we are tasked with requesting appraisals for the lands that are donated and the ones that we purchase. The challenge is that most of us are not appraisers and do not have enough knowledge to review these documents to ensure they are well drafted and that their approach is sound. The Review Panel will go through some key areas where we might be able to review an appraisal to ensure that it is worthy of sending into the review panel. These will also be applicable to appraisals not going to the Ecological Gifts Program.

Session Type: Interactive

Challenges of Land Stewardship

Wednesday, October 19, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Dan Cooper, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation; Kristyn Ferguson, Nature Conservancy of Canada; Emma Horrigan, Ontario Nature; Katie Turnbull, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority; April Wepler, Freshwater Future Canada (Moderator)

Land trusts spend significant time and resources in acquiring conservation land. Once the victory of acquisition has passed, we are often left with a host of challenges as the long-term stewards and caretakers of the land. In this session, we'll tackle some of the major challenges of land conservation, such as balancing the demand for public access with the need to protect natural heritage, the constant struggle of controlling invasives, and more. You'll hear from speakers with expertise in each area, and we'll ask you to bring your own case studies for discussion. You'll leave with practical information on how to manage the challenges on your land trust properties.

Session Type: Panel & Interactive

Learning Outcomes:

- Ideas/examples of how to sustainably manage common land conservation challenges.
- Practical information on how to deal with public access, invasives, etc...
- Opportunities to bring case studies/pose specific questions your group is facing.

Level: All

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Welcome and Opening Plenary

Thursday, October 22, 9:00 am – 10:15 am

1A National Conservation Landscape

Our keynote speaker is John Lounds, President & CEO of Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The keynote speaker will be followed by the OLTA Accomplishments presentation which showcases the achievements of OLTA members and associates over the last year. Celebrate and learn from all the good land conservation and stewardship work being done in Ontario. Congratulations all around!

2A Conservation Easements – 130 Years of Experience – Challenges and Trends

Thursday, October 20, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leslie Ratley-Beach, Land Trust Alliance

Interactive discussion of three major challenge areas in conservation easement perpetuity: drafting for interpretation and fee and cost recovery clause, records and relationships in successful administration, and risk balancing. We will examine US cases for practical pointers and walk through the Land Trust Alliance policy and procedures template that every land trust can use to ensure lasting conservation.

Session Type: Interactive

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand stewardship administration.
- Experience the effect of easement drafting on enforcement.
- Act on need to have sustainable funded stewardship.

Level: Intermediate

2B Setting Land Securement Priorities on a Landscape Scale

Thursday, October 20, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Robert Orland, Orland Conservation and Niall Loble, Conservation Halton

2 for the price of 1! Exciting things are happening in the Conservation Halton watershed and the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS). Conservation Halton has almost completed its Land Securement Strategy which includes physical priority areas, potential lands for disposition and more. Niall Loble will speak to the need of having the land securement strategy; Robert Orland will speak to the contents and process of the Strategy. They have also been working on a project for NEPOSS which looks at creating collective land securement priorities for the Niagara Escarpment. Phase One included updating the existing secured lands (completed); Phase Two includes canvassing the partners to identify their land acquisition priorities to achieve a strategic approach to land acquisition on the Niagara Escarpment. Niall will speak to the Council's objectives, history and vision; Robert will speak to the update lands and priority area

aspect of the project. Niall and Robert also want to engage the audience for their experience in landscape protection.

Session Type: Lecture

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn from partners working together for common goal.
- Learn the process for setting priority areas.

Level: Novice

2C Funders Panel

Thursday, October 20, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Reggie Hall, The Conservation Fund; Carolyn Scotchmer, TD Environment; Gilmar Militar, Ontario Trillium Foundation

Session Type: Panel

Level: All

3A Building Member Engagement - Land Trust Case Studies

Thursday, October 20, 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Lindsay Telfer, Canadian Freshwater Alliance; Tanya Clark, The Couchiching Conservancy; Cheyanne Richardson, rare Charitable Research Reserve

Following last year's session on an introduction to Engagement Organizing, this session will check in on the 5-step framework for engagement success with case study analyses from organizations in the field. Join this conversation to explore how two organizations, The Couchiching Conservancy and rare Charitable Research Reserve, have explored integration of concepts such as Theory of Change, Engagement Pyramids, and Data-driven organizing within their respective organizations. Set your own organizational engagement priorities using our newly developed engagement readiness check-list. The intro session from 2015 OLTA Gathering is a great basis for this workshop though new participants are encouraged to attend!

Session Type: Panel & Interactive

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will garner tips and tools for successful public engagement.
- Case studies will offer insights into application of those tips and tools of challenges, successes and lessons.
- Interactive activities will support participants in detailing opportunities to advance their conservancy in a number of key areas necessary for successful engagement.

Level: Novice to Intermediate

3B Surf & Turf: Why Land Trusts Need to Pay Attention to Water

Thursday, October 20, 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

April Weppler, Freshwater Future Canada; Dorthea Hangaard, The Couchiching Conservancy; Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

The work of land trusts is critical in the protection of water - whether it's on trust properties in the forms of wetlands or streams, or downstream in lakes and rivers. Too often, however, land trusts don't think about or share their valuable role in water protection. In this session, we'll share success stories from trusts who are actively working to protect water in their communities and on their properties, and give you resources to begin building your own water monitoring program. We'll talk about how actively protecting water in your community and on your properties can not only benefit your protected lands, but also motivate conservation from your members and donors, build your volunteer program and strengthen your relationships with other organizations.

Session Type: Lecture with discussion

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about ways to protect water on your properties, specifically the benefits of monitoring water, fish, and invertebrates, and how to build a citizen science program.
- Learn to think about your work in terms of water benefits, and carry that messaging into communications and fundraising.

Level: All

3C National Conversation

Thursday, October 20, 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

4A Conserving Species at Risk – Bats and Snakes – Special Not Spooky!

Thursday, October 20, 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Alison Howson, Toby Thorne and Emily Finstad, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Land trusts play an important role in protecting and managing rare species in Ontario. Come and learn about some of the activities we have been working on with our members to benefit Species at Risk. Why has much of our fieldwork focused on bats and snakes? The workshop will discuss case studies and participants will learn about some of the activities we have been doing and how to get involved.

Session Type: Lecture

Learning outcomes:

- Knowledge about SAR bats and snakes.
- Knowledge about the Conserving Species at Risk program.

Level: Intermediate

4B Cross-border Conservation Training Program

Thursday, October 20, 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Kristen Callow, Ontario Land Trust Alliance; Craig Lee, Look at the Land Inc; John Peirce, Gabriola Land and Trails Trust; Sandra Tassel, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Americans own land in many of Ontario's most treasured landscapes. Tapping into the conservation-orientation and philanthropic interests of those American taxpayers who care deeply about the Canadian lands they own increases a land trust's ability to achieve strategic conservation success and secure additional financial support. OLTA and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AF) created the Cross-border Conservation Training Program (CCTP) to prepare OLTA members to obtain gifts of land, easements or funding from US taxpayers. In this first CCTP workshop, case-studies will highlight the basic cross-border transaction tax and financial considerations, along with key motivating factors for donors. In addition, the potential financial incentives associated with land and easement donations through Eco-gifts will be compared to those available by making a comparable gift to AF. Participants will learn what they need to know to have constructive conversations with US taxpayers who own priority land. We will describe CCTP's objectives and offerings and how the program will give land trusts the capacity to engage American landowners, encourage land and easement donations and to manage cross-border conservation transactions, whether they involve AF or not.

Session Type:

Learning outcomes:

- Understand why American taxpayers are donating land in Canada
- Gain comfort in discussing cross-border transactions with potential donors
- Contrast benefits of Eco-gifts and AF land donation program
- Understand what the Cross-border Conservation Training Program has to offer

Level: All

4C Inspiration for Your Next Fundraising Campaign

Thursday, October 20, 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Bruce MacLellan, Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation; Suzanne McDonald-Aziz, Thames Talbot Land Trust; Susan Walmer, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; Agents of Good

The panel will provide overviews and lessons from their campaigns.

Session Type: Panel

Learning Outcomes:

- Using volunteers and board members effectively
- Integrating and echoing your messages in different ways
- Tips and tricks on good—no, great!—donor stewardship

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

5A Natural Heritage Database

Friday, October 21, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

Paul Nichol, Ecosystem

This workshop will provide a review of the natural heritage database being redesigned by Ecosystems in collaboration with OLTA, for our members to use to record and store natural

heritage data about their properties. This session will provide instruction on the use and layout of the database and allow us to get feedback on the user manual we are developing. We will circulate the database for you to look at in advance of the Gathering to allow you to identify questions or areas you would like specific help with. The database development is being generously supported by Mountain Equipment Coop and considerable in-kind support from Ecosystems.

Session Type: Interactive

Learning outcomes:

- Understanding how the database can benefit your organization.
- Step by step how to use the database.

Level: All

5B Natural Conservation Areas Planning

Friday, October 21, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

Bill Lougheed, Georgian Bay Land Trust; Dan Kraus and Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada; Chad Cordes, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Land securement strategies can be based on natural conservation areas and habitat connections. The panel will discuss their strategies and how it can be applied to your organization.

Planning can help to support both strategic conservation actions and fund-raising efforts. Mhairi and Dan will provide examples on how conservation planning has helped the Nature Conservancy of Canada to increase on-the-ground conservation. The presentation will include case studies and provide an introduction to new planning tools that are available to the land trust community.

Restoring or enhancing landscape connectivity has quickly become the most effective and advocated conservation approach when attempting to preserve wildlife populations and ecological function. Chad will provide a brief overview of how landscape connectivity can be described using electrical current theory and illustrate how existing models can be used for prioritizing land parcels of regional significance.

Session Type: Panel

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

5C Ecological Gifts Program: A Year of Q&A

Friday, October 21, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

Laura Kucey, Environment and Climate Change Canada - Ecological Gifts Program

Each donation scenario is unique.

Submissions to the Ecological Gifts Program must meet specific requirements.

When you combine these two factors, a myriad of questions arise from donors and recipients of proposed donations of land / interests in land. This session will provide answers to questions that have been posed to the EGP over the past year. Find out what your colleagues are asking and how we can transform these questions into tips for successful Ecological Gift submissions (specific donor/land information cannot be shared – general situations will be presented). An update on policies and new application forms will also be provided.

Session Type: Interactive

Learning Outcomes:

- Information sharing: questions from your colleagues that will help you too.
- EGP / CRA requirements, working through donation scenarios, timing and tips for successful submissions.
- Updates on EGP policies and documents.

Level: Intermediate

6A Do a BioBlitz!

Friday, October 21, 9:55 - 11:05 am

Kristie Virgoe, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; Kyla Greenham, Ontario BioBlitz Program

Holding a BioBlitz on your property is a way to get your community out on the land. The panel will share their experiences running a BioBlitz. Come and learn how your land trust can run your own BioBlitz or contribute to the discussion on what makes a successful event.

Session Type: Panel

Level: Intermediate

6B The Next Generation in Conservation

Friday, October 21, 9:55 - 11:05 am

Jenna Siu, Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity; Dennis Murray, Trent University

Young people today are passionate about the state of biodiversity in Ontario. Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity (ELB) is a new youth network started by the youth delegation that attended the 2015 Ontario Biodiversity Summit. The goals of the network include helping to move the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy forward, representing the youth voice on the Ontario Biodiversity Council, and providing opportunities for career development and networking for youth. Jenna will discuss the role that ELB has in supporting the next generation of conservation leaders. Furthermore, she will discuss the role that today's conservation leaders have in supporting younger generations

and opportunities to do so through ELB's upcoming mentorship program.

Dennis Murray will discuss a recent grant received by researchers at Trent University and collaborators at University of Toronto and Queens University, which aims to train the next generation of environmental professionals through practical skills training while working in collaboration with non-university organizations. Using an ongoing collaborative relationship between Trent University and Kawartha Land Trust as a model, the presentation will outline possible opportunities for collaboration with other land trusts across Ontario.

Session Type: Panel

Level: All

6C Conservation Easement Agreement Best Practices

Friday, October 21, 9:55 - 11:05 am

Mark Bisset, TDB

This session is being organized by the OLTA Conservation Easement Defense Strategy Working Group. It aims to illustrate how the Conservation Easement Agreement: Best Practices for their Successful Management document can work in practice. Panelists will relate their real life examples of easement challenges. It will be a lively interchange of ideas on best practices for easement challenges.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Advanced

7A Closing Plenary

Friday, October 21, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario