

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

We have witnessed a rapid growth in the number of community-based, volunteer land trusts over the past few years. These trusts are providing a vehicle for those who want to commit their energy and resources into land protection and management. While community-based land trusts are still relatively new to Ontario, many of them have achieved some notable accomplishments. At the same time, they have faced considerable challenges to keep up with their successes.

When it comes to land management, there may be a tendency to lose momentum once the property has been secured. We believe that our jobs are done and move onto the next securement project. In truth, our job has just begun!

The purpose of this manual is to assist land trusts in managing their lands with the help of volunteers. It is to be treated as a guide only. Land trusts may choose to use the manual's ideas and recommendations or to tailor the information to fit their specific needs. Many of the ideas and approaches have been extracted from excellent publications and/or have been shared with us by the experiences of land trusts in Ontario and the United States. Most notable are those references provided by the Land Trust Alliance. These references can be found at the end of the manual.

If you have been involved in the land trust movement, you are familiar with the dedication required to get a land trust up and running. It then takes an energetic group of people to tackle their first securement project. Individuals spend countless hours meeting with the landowners, writing letters or raising the funds to acquire a piece of land. But what happens once that piece of property is protected? Contrary to our efforts in trying to protect that piece of land, when it comes to its management, there may be a tendency to lose momentum after the property has been secured. We believe that our jobs are done and move onto the next securement project. In truth, our job has just begun!