



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

*Promoting Excellence in
Conservation*

Nottawasaga Inn Resort, Alliston, Ontario
October 19-20, 2017



2017 OLTA Gathering

WELCOME TO THE 2017 ONTARIO LAND TRUST GATHERING!

We are excited to be hosting this year's Gathering at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, Ontario. We hope you will forge new connections with your community and reconnect with friends!



About OLTA

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) is a charitable organization that aims to strengthen land conservation across Ontario by building and supporting a strong land trust movement. OLTA works to advance overall excellence in community land conservation in Ontario as a non-partisan and independent organization that promotes best practices and organizational excellence. It aggregates and shares land trust data and partners in research and education to contribute conservation planning expertise. By building effective and well-governed land trusts, we help preserve healthy human communities and ecosystems, clean air and water, beautiful vistas, recreation areas, and important agricultural lands.

2017 Gathering Committee

Dan Cooper
Alison Howson
Laura Kucey
Phyllis Lee
Vicki Schmolka
Kristie Virgoe
April Weppler

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SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING PLENARY

Thursday, October 19, 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Welcome

Opening Plenary

Please join John Ross for a thought provoking opening plenary address that will discuss the importance of land trusts from an experienced donor's perspective. John Ross is a supporter of Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and President of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts.



OLTA Member Accomplishments

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 the great land conservation and stewardship work being done in Ontario. Congratulations!

BANQUET, AWARDS & AUCTION

Thursday, October 19, 5:30 pm–8:30 pm

Start bidding on the wonderful auction items. Cash bar opens at 5:30 pm.

THE FUN CONTINUES AFTER THE BANQUET!

Thursday, October 19, 9:00 pm on the upper level of the Starlite Lounge
Guitars are welcome!

OLTA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Friday, October 20, 9:00 am–9:45 am

In the last year OLTA staff and Board of Governors has developed a new strategic direction - while our mission is critical to our purpose and remains unchanged, the new priorities identified to support our mission are much more aligned with global land conservation trends. This session will provide an overview of the strategic plan with opportunity to answer any questions.

OLTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, October 20, 10:00 am–11:00 am

CLOSING SESSION “FUNNIEST STORY OF THE YEAR”

Friday, October 20, 3:10 pm - 4:00 pm

This story telling session will be entertaining and educational. Share your funniest story of the year.

VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
Freshwater Future Canada
Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Muskoka Conservancy

Northumberland Land Trust
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Ontario Farmland Trust
Ontario Heritage Trust
The Conservation Fund

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1A UNVEILING OUR NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT TEMPLATE

Thursday, October 19, 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm
Ian Attridge, Paul Peterson & Jordan Shay

Conservation easements protect the natural features of a property without a land trust taking on the responsibilities of ownership. Work through a new easement template and get caught up on recent court decisions. The OLTA CEA Defense Working Group will give an update on their work and lead breakout groups to give members an opportunity discuss drafting and use of key sections from their own experiences. If your land trust holds conservation easements or is thinking of taking one on, this workshop is for you.

Session Type: Interactive
Level: Intermediate

1B CLIMATE CHANGE IN ONTARIO: HOW DO LAND TRUSTS PREPARE THEMSELVES?

Thursday, October 19, 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm
Dr. Michael Drescher, University of Waterloo

Climate change is one of the most important causes globally for ecosystem change and species extinctions. Land conservation is important for preserving refuges and corridors, which may help ecosystems and species to survive in a changing climate. The Ontario land trust community plays an important role in land conservation in south-central Ontario. But how are Ontario land trusts preparing themselves for climate change, to most effectively address this environmental concern? Based on the results of a survey of Ontario land trusts, here we report on land trusts' views of climate change and the circumstances that affect land trusts' responses to climate change. We discuss steps land trusts might take to become more effective in addressing climate change.

Session Type: Presentation and discussion
Level: All

2 GOOD GOVERNANCE - BEYOND THE BASICS AND UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN LAND TRUST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

Thursday, October 19, 3:35 pm - 5:00 pm
Karen Cooper, Drache Aptowitzer LLP

This session will first focus on beyond the basics on conflict of interest, succession planning, finance, record keeping and long term (50 years) planning. Audience participation is encouraged.

The Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices are the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of land trusts in Canada. All OLTA members agree to adopt these S&Ps. The current process to update the S&Ps will be covered.

Session Type: Presentation and discussion
Level: Intermediate

3 ARE ALL PROTECTED AREAS MADE EQUAL? PRIVATE & PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES

Friday, October 20, 11:10 am - 12:00 pm

Lisa McLaughlin, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Jason Travers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Target 1 of 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada states that:

"By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures."

How can land trusts contribute to these targets?

Session Type: Presentation with discussion

Level: All

4A SUCCESSFUL LAND SECUREMENT CONVERSATION

Friday, October 20, 1:00 pm - 2:55 pm

Antoin Diamond, The Bruce Trail Conservancy; Laura Kucey, Environment Canada and Climate Change; Allyn Abbott, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

This is an open forum for your questions on donor relations, ecological sensitivity reports, the Ecological Gifts Program, cross-border transactions, land securement policies and strategies. Attendees will be asked to provide questions prior to the session to allow for preparation.

Session Type: Panel and interactive

Level: Intermediate

4B ACCREDITATION CONVERSATION

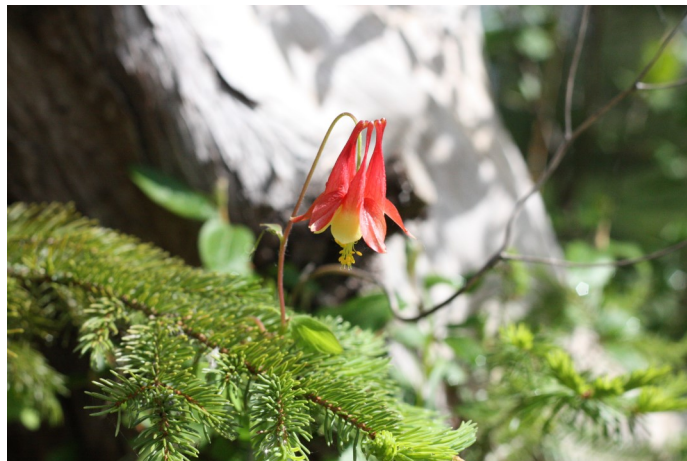
Thursday, October 19, 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm

Dan Cooper, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Lisa McLaughlin, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation recently was accredited by Imagine Canada. Dan Cooper was involved in the process and will share their experience. Lisa McLaughlin has been researching accreditation programs in the US and other countries. She will shed a light on possible steps towards privately protected areas accreditation in Canada - an idea whose time has come. Then you will have an opportunity to give your thoughts on accreditation.

Session Type: Presentation and discussion

Level: All



ROM MEMBERSHIP

Special Offer for 2017 Gathering Attendees from the Royal Ontario Museum

Get TWO ADDITIONAL MONTHS FREE on your new Membership*
That's 14 months for the price of 12!

An all-access pass to one of the world's most extraordinary museums. Exclusive exhibition previews, tours, lectures, Members-only discounts and so much more!

Members receive free & unlimited entry to *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, opening December 16, 2017.

Join today at www.rom.on.ca/membership and use promo code OLTA2017. Offer expires March 31, 2018.

* Offer only applies to one-year Individual, ROM Social, Family/ Dual, Senior Family, Senior Family Two and Non-Resident membership levels purchased online. Offer expires March 31, 2018.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Allyn Abbott, Director, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Allyn Abbott joined the Board of Directors of American Friends at the beginning of 2017. Allyn lives in Gravenhurst, Muskoka, Ontario where she has served on the board of the Muskoka Conservancy, one of American Friends' partner land trusts, including 6 years as the president. Allyn's background as a biologist with Environment Canada followed by a career as a lawyer is a good match for American Friends' work to protect Canada's ecologically significant landscapes. "I joined the American Friends to get involved with their important work of helping Americans to permanently protect wild spaces in Canada. Because some of the properties have been owned for generations, the families have a deep love of their land and are eager to ensure that their properties are preserved forever."

Ian C. Attridge, Barrister and Solicitor

Ian Attridge is an ecologist and lawyer based in Peterborough (Nogojwanong), the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe. He practices and teaches environmental law and is a conference speaker and author of numerous publications and policy submissions. He has advised many land trusts in Ontario and governments at all levels, including the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment. Over the course of his 35 year career, Ian has led the protection of over 17,000 acres of private and public lands and the formation or update of some 20 organizations. He has also led the development of the legal framework for land securement and related tax incentives in Ontario. Ian has been OLTA's Vice President, Chair of Government Relations, and an active member of its Conservation Easement Agreement Working Group. A keen naturalist, he enjoys outdoors activities, singing, and fostering sustainable communities.

Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Dan Cooper is the Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. He has worked for Conservation Authorities for 19 years with the last 17 being at Rideau. He has spent the better part of his career with the tree planting program at Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. He works closely with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The Foundation's land program is the highest priority in their current strategic plan.

Karen Cooper, Drache Aptowitzer LLP

A partner with the firm, Drache Aptowitzer LLP, Karen is recognized as a leading expert by Lexpert and Best Lawyers practicing charity and not-for-profit law with an emphasis on tax issues at Drache's Ottawa office, having formerly been a Senior Rulings Officer with the Income Tax Rulings Directorate of Canada Revenue Agency, as well as former counsel for the Department of Justice in tax litigation. Karen also has considerable teaching experience, including as part-time professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Common Law, and is a contributing author to *The Management of Charitable and Not-for-Profit Organizations in Canada* (LexisNexis Butterworths). She is past Chair of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, a big supporter of her local land trust (RWLT) and Vice-Chair of her local hospital.



**Michael Drescher, Associate Professor,
University of Waterloo**

Michael Drescher started his academic career at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany) studying biology, then continued at Utrecht University (Netherlands) with life sciences, followed by obtaining a PhD from Wageningen University (Netherlands), School of Production Ecology and Resource Conservation in 2003. He joined the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2005, and completed postdoctoral research at the University of Toronto and University of Guelph. Dr. Drescher's tenure at the University of Waterloo began in 2010, being appointed an Associate Professor in 2015, teaching ecology, environmental policy, and rural development. He is also Director of the Heritages Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo, focusing on natural heritage systems. Dr. Drescher's research has been published in leading international journals including *Climate Research*, *Conservation Letters*, *Ecology & Society*, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, and *Rural Society*.

**Antoin Diamond, Director of Land
Acquisition and Management, The Bruce
Trail Conservancy**

Antoin Diamond is a professional land use planner with The Bruce Trail Conservancy. Originally from the UK, she appreciates the importance of conserving natural heritage and of the powerful role land trusts play in this task. Antoin has specialized in land securement on the Niagara Escarpment since 2006. The position has given her insight into the tremendous benefits of working in partnership with local community groups, the private business sector, with fellow land trusts as well as government organizations to secure land. The BTC has secured thousands of acres and millions of dollars in donated land and funds. Integral to this success, Antoin has gained substantial experience in landowner relations, real estate transactions and land use planning policies and legislation needed to implement the numerous securement options available to landowners. Antoin holds an honours degree in Geography and GIS and Environmental Analysis from the University of Guelph and is member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a registered member of Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

**Laura Kucey, Habitat Biologist, EGP
Coordinator, Environment and Climate
Change Canada (ECCC)**

Laura Kucey is the Ontario Regional Coordinator for the Ecological Gifts Program. With ECCC since 2010, Laura previously coordinated consultations under the *Species at Risk Act* on federal recovery documents. Prior to that, she spent four years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in the Biodiversity and Lands and Waters Sections. Laura holds a B.A. in Biology and Geography from Colgate University and a M.Sc. in Zoology from the University of British Columbia. Her graduate work comprised of studying the effects of disturbance on Steller sea lions on remote islands in the North Pacific. In between degrees, Laura spent two years in Washington, D.C. working for *National Geographic* magazine.

**Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President of
Conservation Policy & Planning, Nature
Conservancy of Canada (NCC).**

A biologist (BSc) and rural planner (MSc) by training, Lisa has more than 17 years' experience in the management of conservation lands and the governance of private land conservation organizations. She has been a board member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, vice-chair of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, is currently a steering committee member of the International Land Conservation Network, a member of the Privately Protected Areas working group of the World Commission on Protected Areas, and serves as a board member of the Canadian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In her free time, Lisa and her family enjoy cycling, hiking, canoeing, gardening and generally spending as much time as possible outside.



Paul Peterson, Barrister and Solicitor

Paul Peterson is a lawyer in private practice and has worked on behalf of property owners, land trusts and government agencies to complete many land conservation projects across Ontario. He has also been active in supporting the land trust community and worked on the development of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. Currently Paul serves as a Governor on the OLTA Board.

John Ross, President, American Friends of Canadian Land Trust

John is a dual citizen of Canada and the US. He is President of Dual, Inc. which serves as a capital allocation platform for portfolio businesses. Current companies and investments are focused in property services, business services, financial services and clean energy.

John has a keen interest in enabling cross-border conservation of Canada's natural lands, water, and habitat. Locally, John is a cheerleader, volunteer and supporter of the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust working to expand conservation in and around Charleston Lake Provincial Park. Nationally, John is the current President of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. American Friends supports the conservation of Canada's natural beauty by facilitating donations of land and funding from US taxpayers to Canadian conservation organizations.

John and his wife Rachelle commute between homes in Newton Centre, MA and Charleston, Ontario.

Jordan Shay, Articling Student, David McRobert, Barrister and Solicitor

Jordan Shay is an articling student working with OLTA's Conservation Easement Defense Strategy Working Group. Jordan is articling under environmental lawyer David McRobert and was previously a Legal Product Developer for Thomson Reuters under their environmental law portfolio. He has experience working with such groups as the Water Environment Association of Ontario, The Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the World Wildlife Fund. Jordan is an avid traveler and also enjoys photography, chess, music and running.

Jason Travers, Director of the Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Jason Travers is the Director of the Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch, Policy Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) where he leads complex, horizontal policy initiatives in collaboration with key partner ministries. Jason has over a decade of progressive policy management experience with both the federal (Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service) and provincial (MNR) governments in the areas of biodiversity and resource stewardship. Jason is currently representing Ontario on the National Steering Committee supporting the Pan-Canadian Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative.



CELEBRATE NATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

OurLand@150 EXHIBITION and Gala

OCTOBER 29, 2017 | 3-5 PM | ARTA GALLERY

VIEW THE TOP 30 PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR RECENT YOUTH
MOBILE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
GRAND PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED!
PRINTS CAN BE YOURS FOR A MINIMUM DONATION TO OLTA

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LOCAL SMALL FOOD PLATES FROM URBAN ACORN
PRESENTATIONS BY UP AND COMING PROFESSIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHERS



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

12:30 am - 1:00 pm	Registration	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Opening Plenary Room #2	
2:00 pm - 3:20 pm	1A Unveiling Our New Conservation Easement Agreement Template <i>Ian Attridge, Paul Peterson & Jordan Shay</i> Room #7	1B Climate Change in Ontario: How Do Land Trusts Prepare Themselves? <i>Michael Drescher</i> Room #8
3:20 pm - 3:35 pm	Break	
3:35 pm - 5:00 pm	2 Good Governance - Beyond the Basics and Update on the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices <i>Karen Cooper</i> Room #2	
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Cash Bar - Room #40	
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Banquet, Auction, Awards - Room #40	
9:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Social in the Starlite Lounge	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

7:45 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast - Riverview Dining Room	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration	
9:00 am - 9:45 am	OLTA Strategic Direction - Room #2	
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 am - 11:00 am	OLTA Annual General Meeting - Room #2	
11:10 am - 12:00 pm	3 Are All Protected Areas Made Equal? Private & Public Perspectives <i>Lisa McLaughlin & Jason Travers</i> Room #2	
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Riverview Dining Room	
1:00 pm - 2:55 pm	4A Successful Land Securement Conversation <i>Antoin Diamond, Laura Kucey & Allyn Abbott</i> Room #7	4B Accreditation Conversation <i>Dan Cooper & Lisa McLaughlin</i> Room #8
2:55 pm - 3:10 pm	Break	
3:10 pm - 4:00 pm	Closing Session "Funniest Story of Your Year"	



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

2017 Ontario Land Trust Gathering

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

GOLD



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

SILVER



Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region
The Conservation Fund