



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

*Inspiring Conservation
Leadership*

YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre, Orillia, Ontario
October 19-21, 2016



2016 OLTA Gathering

WELCOME TO THE 2016 ONTARIO LAND TRUST GATHERING!

We are pleased to return to the YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre on the shores of beautiful Lake Couchiching for the 2016 OLTA Gathering. Our theme this year is **Inspiring Conservation Leadership**. We hope you will forge new connections with your community and reconnect with friends!

Please join us at OLTA's Annual General Meeting at 4:45 pm on Thursday, October 20 in the auditorium of the Centennial Centre.



About OLTA

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) is a registered charity that strengthens and advances land conservation. OLTA supports the land trusts by building their capacity through training and educational programs; supporting on-the-ground conservation work through funding and partnership programs; and acting as a voice for the land trust community. OLTA members collectively own and steward over 80,000 acres across the province and this number grows every year.

2016 Gathering Committee

Bob Barnett
Dan Cooper
Lori DeGraw
Kristy Giles
Alison Howson
Laura Kucey
Phyllis Lee
Paul Peterson
Vicki Schmolka
Kristie Virgoe
April Weppler
Barbara Yurkoski

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PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 19

FIELD TRIP—11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Managing Carden Alvar's Prairie Smoke Nature Reserve

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.

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.

LEARNING INSTITUTES - 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Reviewing Appraisals for Non-appraisers

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.

Challenges of Land Stewardship

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.

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.

OPENING PLENARY

Thursday, October 20, 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Welcome

Opening Plenary

International Land Conservation Network: Every Day music video

The International Land Conservation Network (ILCN), a project of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, in partnership with the Berklee College of Music and photographers from around the world present this stunning music video.

National Conservation Landscape

John Lounds, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Nature Conservancy of Canada

I grew up loving nature. Today that passion is my job. I am the Chief Executive of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Canada's leading private land conservation organization. We apply conservation science to identify, conserve and care for some of Canada's most fragile natural areas.

When I joined NCC in October 1997, our annual revenue was about \$8 million. Today it is more than \$80 million, and our 230 employees work coast to coast. Despite our success we know we still have much more to do to conserve our natural heritage.

I developed my love of the outdoors in my hometown, Meaford, Ontario. These days I enjoy canoeing, birding and cross-country skiing with my wife Ellen. I am an avid traveler having explored Japan, India, Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, and Australia.



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!

CLOSING PLENARY

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

Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

We are thrilled to have the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, the province's independent environmental watchdog come to our Gathering this year. Dianne Saxe is the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), a tough but fair watchdog over Ontario's environmental, energy and climate performance, and guardian of the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
Freshwater Future Canada
Long Point Basin Land Trust
Northumberland Land Trust

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Ontario Heritage Trust
The Conservation Fund

SPECIAL EVENTS

BREAKFAST ROUND TABLES

Thursday, October 22, 7:45–8:45 am

- Sit down with Leslie Ratley-Beach and chat about conservation easement agreements. This one is open to lawyers as well. There is a nominal charge for breakfast.
- There will be a table for Executive Directors to meet and greet. This will be an opportunity to network with your peers.
- And for board members, there will be a table on board governance hosted by Frank Shaw.

LUNCH ROUND TABLES

Thursday, October 22, 12:00–1:00 pm

- There will be another opportunity to discuss conservation agreements with Leslie.
- Do you have questions about OLTA's Cross-border Transactions Training Program? Sit down with Kristen Callow and Sandra Tassel to talk about your role in this program.
- Kendra Pauley, Federal Programs Manager, Nature Conservancy of Canada will be joining us at lunch. She will be available to answer questions about the OQO Program, The OQO Capacity Development Funding Program and the EGP Land Acquisition Support Fund. Kendra will also be available for the rest of the day.

OLTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 4:45–6:45 pm, in the auditorium of the Centennial Centre.

BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

Thursday, October 22, 6:45–8:30 pm

Start bidding on the wonderful auction items. Cash bar opens at 6:45 pm.

THE FUN CONTINUES AFTER THE BANQUET—OPEN JAM SESSION!

Bring your musical instrument and
sing!



Photo: Bruce Kennedy

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

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.

Learning Outcomes:

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

2B Setting Land Securement Priorities on a Landscape Scale

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

Robert Orland, Orland Conservation and Niall Lobley, 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 Lobley 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.

Learning Outcomes:

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

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

Q&A session with these funders.



Photo: Toby Thorne

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!

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.

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

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

April Weppeler, Freshwater Future Canada; Dorteia 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.

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.

3C National Conversation

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

This is an interactive session on the national alliance and update from other provincial reps.

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 (SAR). 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.

Learning outcomes:

- Knowledge about SAR bats and snakes.
- Knowledge about the Conserving Species at Risk program and how you can get involved.

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.

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.

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

Join us to hear perspectives on running fundraising campaigns for your Land Trust. You'll hear from 3 leaders who will share stories and thoughts, drawn from their own successful campaigns. We promise you'll leave with ideas and inspiration!

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.

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.

Learning outcomes:

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

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.

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.

Learning Outcomes:

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

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.

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.

6C Conservation Easement Agreement Best Practices

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

Mark Bisset and Panel

This session has been 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.

OLTA PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

David Babineau, Chair, Ecological Gifts Program Appraisal Review Panel

David Babineau has been a member of the Ecological Gifts Program Appraisal Review Panel since 2006 and has recently taken on the role of Chair of the Panel. He has been an appraiser in a private firm since 1980 and has had the opportunity to participate in a number of interesting and challenging assignments related to ecologically sensitive property throughout the Maritime Provinces. David also has a broad range of experience in the preparation of appraisals for acquisition, disposal, expropriation, and other litigation purposes. In addition, he has provided consultations to various clients for valuation-related problems, including a number of First Nation Land Claims. David is a member of the Appraisal Institute of Canada and received the designation of AACI in 1989. He has served on various committees of the Appraisal Institute over the years and is a currently a member of the Appeal Committee and a certified presenter of the Professional Practice Seminar.

Kristen Callow, Program Officer, Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc.

Kristen Callow is OLTA's Program Officer. Kristen is working on OLTA's three-year Cross-border Conservation Training Program in partnership with the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. She is coordinating the training, mapping and a small grants program to help build members' capacity to work with US taxpayers on land acquisition projects. Kristen has a diploma of Ecosystem Management and has worked in many capacities for land trusts throughout central Ontario during the past 10 years. At the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust, Kristen worked through the process of becoming a land and cash grantee with American Friends and helped complete the Land Trust's first cross-border transaction.

Tanya Clark, Development Coordinator, The Couchiching Conservancy

Tanya Clark is the Development Coordinator at The Couchiching Conservancy and brings fresh and young eyes to one of the oldest land trusts in Ontario. She's been a 'jack of all trades' at the Conservancy for four years and her role includes fundraising, communications and outreach. Tanya is a keen birder, loves photography and canoeing and is a big music lover.

Dan Cooper, Executive Director, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

Dan Cooper is the Executive Director of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. He has worked for Conservation Authorities for 18 years with the last 16 being at Rideau. He has spent the better part of his career with the tree planting program at Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. He became the Executive Director of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation in 2014. Rideau's land program is the highest priority in their current strategic plan.

Chad Cordes, Research Biologist, Wildlife Research & Monitoring Section, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry

Chad Cordes has spent the last decade working for Trent University, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Crop and Livestock Research Centre, and both the Aquatic and Wildlife Research and Monitoring Sections of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. His work has focused on developing analytical methods to describe and forecast forest health, agricultural productivity, water toxicity, soil fertility status, fish population abundance, wildlife movement and disease occurrence. Chad's current primary research involves modelling landscape connectivity. This research contributes to the prevention of habitat fragmentation and the promotion of natural heritage resiliency. He is also heavily involved in monitoring and control projects regarding the advancement and persistence of Rabies in Ontario. Chad holds a B.Sc. in Physical Geography, a GIS Application Specialist certification and a M.Sc. in Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods.

Antoin Diamond, Director of Land Securement, The Bruce Trail Conservancy

Antoin Diamond is a professional land use planner with The Bruce Trail Conservancy where she currently serves as the Director of Land Securement. 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 (federal, provincial and municipal) 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.

Kristyn Ferguson, Program Director for Georgian Bay - Huronia, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Kristyn Ferguson is the Program Director for Georgian Bay - Huronia at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Ontario Region (NCC). Kristyn has a B.Sc in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph and an MES in Restoration Ecology from the University of Waterloo. Kristyn has been working with NCC for 9 years in a variety of roles, including land securement, property management and stewardship, fundraising, and conservation planning. Her passions at work include negotiating land deals, and attempting to tackle stewardship projects that have been deemed "too difficult" or "hopeless" (at the cost of losing much sleep!). In her free time, Kristyn enjoys camping and kayaking with her husband, walking their rescue dog Bailey, writing poetry, and competing in (very small) triathlons.

Emily Finstad, Species at Risk Intern, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Emily Finstad is OLTA's Species at Risk Intern. Growing up, Emily lived throughout Canada in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta, and was often surrounded by natural areas and parks. These experiences deepened her appreciation for nature and biodiversity, and in 2014, she obtained an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science. Her academic success later earned her a scholarship to pursue graduate studies in Environmental Science in 2015, and throughout her academic career, she has been interested in aquatic and terrestrial ecology, sustainable agriculture, and addressing environmental issues. In her spare time, Emily enjoys practicing martial arts, cooking, baking, and camping, and looks forward to pursuing a career in conservation and ecological restoration.

Kyla Greenham, Curator of Conservation & Environment, Toronto Zoo

Kyla Greenham is the Curator of Conservation & Environment at the Toronto Zoo overseeing the Zoo's movement towards carbon neutral operations. Kyla has dedicated herself to habitat restoration, resource use research, policy changes and public awareness for ecosystem sustainability. In 2013 Kyla joined the Toronto Zoo to focus Zoo operations to meet their Green Plan objectives by 2027 implementing renewable energy projects, resources conservation practices and employee and visitor engagement in sustainability, and to increase profile of the Zoo's involvement in national and international conservation programs. Kyla sits on the Steering Committee for the Ontario BioBlitz, an expert and citizen scientist based program to assess biodiversity that will become a national program in 2017. Kyla is also the Chair of the East Gwillimbury Environmental Advisory working towards better education for the public on environmental conservation issues and creating political changes through leadership in the conservation movement.

Dorthea Hangaard, Project Manager, The Couchiching Conservancy

Dorthea Hangaard has over 25 years' experience in the creation and management of projects which have had positive long-term impacts on communities and the environment. Examples include the Couchiching Conservancy's Water Quality Monitoring Project, the Copeland Forest Friends, protection of BC's Deep Sea Corals, construction of two wilderness hiking trails and establishment of the Peterborough Ecology Garden.

Emma Horrigan, Conservation Science Coordinator, Ontario Nature

Emma Horrigan joined the Ontario Nature team in winter 2015. Having completed a B.A. in forest conservation and M.Sc. in biology - both from the University of Toronto - she has since been involved in a several citizen science initiatives across the province, including projects focused on turtle road mortality and agricultural pests. Prior to joining Ontario Nature, Emma worked for the University of Toronto coordinating research at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, and at U-Links, a community-based research centre in Haliburton County.

Alison Howson, Director of Programs, Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc.

Alison Howson is OLTA's Director of Programs. Alison oversees the development, execution, and reconciliation of OLTA Projects and Programs. Her work also includes delivering technical training and support to local land trusts in monitoring and managing sites for Species at Risk. Prior to joining OLTA, Alison was Principal Ecologist for environmental consulting firms in Cambridge, UK. In these roles she led a team of scientists providing technical guidance on environmental survey, monitoring, management and protection. She has many years of experience working in the field of biodiversity and conservation and has published papers and presented on various topics including: economic valuation of wildlife, survey and monitoring techniques for mammals, and developing novel techniques for monitoring the effectiveness of new design features on road crossings.

Dan Kraus, Senior Director of Conservation Program Development, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Dan Kraus is the Weston Conservation Scientist and Senior Director of Conservation Program Development for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. He is an expert on Canadian biodiversity and conservation, and has recently authored reports on topics ranging from freshwater ecology to conservation indicators to the natural capital. Dan's current interests include exploring how we can integrate nature conservation into business practices and corporate sustainability. Dan is an expert on freshwater ecology and conservation. He co-authored Biodiversity Conservation Strategies for all four Canadian Great Lakes, and prepared the first conservation assessment on Great Lakes islands. He is a member of the Species Survival Commission with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Canadian Agro-Ecosystem Working Group, and the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario. Dan often shares his stories about nature and the importance of conservation through NCC's Land Lines blog. Prior to joining NCC, Dan worked as a senior ecologist for an environmental consulting group where he conducted ecological inventories, prepared environmental impact assessments and served as an expert witness.

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.

Craig Lee, Principal, Look at the Land Inc., Conservation Consulting

Craig Lee has been involved in the land conservation movement throughout the Americas since the early 1980's. Working at the Trust for Public Land (TPL) he co-founded and advised over 35 land trusts in the US and Canada, and served as a national Vice President and Regional Director with TPL for 20 years. During his tenure he led the acquisition of hundreds of properties and established TPL's Working Lands Program. More recently, Craig founded National Audubon Society's International Program, which works with conservation organizations in the Caribbean and Latin America. As a consultant, Craig has advised on a range of conservation initiatives including developing an eco-tourism program on the Yucatan Peninsula, creating a plan to balance competing salmon habitat restoration with farmland conservation, and, co-founding American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts which partners with Canadian organizations to protect ecologically significant lands owned by Americans throughout Canada.

Niall Lobley, Manager, Risk & Land Holdings Services, Conservation Halton

Niall Lobley worked in the Countryside Sector in Scotland for more than 12 years. In support of Niall's enthusiasm for the environment, Niall was Chair of the Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association for 5 years, helping to develop a national program of continuing professional development for Rangers', prior to leaving in 2011 for Canada. In July 2011, Niall started with Conservation Halton (The Halton Region Conservation Authority) as the Manager of Risk and Land Holdings Services.

Bill Lougheed, Executive Director, Georgian Bay Land Trust

Bill Lougheed has a cumulative 20 years in CEO, VP and Executive Director capacities in not-for-profit and for-profit organizations. He has been responsible for operating budgets of \$1M, sourced through fundraising, raising venture capital, planned giving and scientific grants. Bill has a lifetime of interest in conservation and land stewardship in Georgian Bay. He is VP of Madawaska Club (Georgian Bay) which owns and stewards 1300 acres of wilderness property on Georgian Bay. Bill is the Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Land Trust since July 2013.

Jen Love, Partner, Agents of Good

Agent Jen is a storyteller. Is there anything more beautiful than sharing amazing stories that inspire donors to take action for what they believe? Write drunk, edit sober...even if you're only drunk on emotions.

Bruce MacLellan, CEO, Environics Communications/Past-President, Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation

Bruce MacLellan has worked in communications consulting for over 30 years and started Environics Communications in 1994. The firm is now one of Canada's leading marketing firms, with more than 130 staff working in four offices. Bruce is a strong advocate for positive corporate cultures and Environics was named the #1 Workplace in Canada for 2010 by the Great Place to Work Institute. In 2008, it became the first North American marketing firm to be carbon neutral. As a passionate volunteer, he is currently Vice-Chair of the Board of The Nature Conservancy of Canada on sits the Board of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, a land trust operating in eastern Muskoka.

Suzanne McDonald Aziz, Executive Director, Thames Talbot Land Trust

Suzanne McDonald Aziz is a graduate of Western University. She started her career at Labatts as the Director of Corporate Affairs. She went on to publish a community newspaper for 10 years and worked in senior positions for the Children's Museum, the Merrymount Foundation and Brescia University College Foundation. She is currently the Executive Director of the Thames Talbot Land Trust. Suzanne has served on several boards including the Stratford Festival, the Ontario Heritage Trust, Imagine Canada, the United Way, the Senate at Western University and the Arts Project. For more than 15 years, she taught in the Not for Profit Management Program at Western Continuing Studies.

Mhairi McFarlane, Conservation Science Manager, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Region

Mhairi McFarlane grew up in Scotland, where she completed an Honours Ecology degree from the University of Stirling. She then completed her PhD in Ecology from the University of Exeter in Cornwall. Her thesis was on the behavioural ecology of Cape Sugarbirds in South Africa. She moved to Ontario in 2006, and had short contracts with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Bird Studies Canada before joining the Nature Conservancy of Canada in March 2008. She worked as the Conservation Biologist for southwestern Ontario before becoming the Conservation Science Manager for Ontario in September 2014.

Gilmar Militar, Program Manager, Ontario Trillium Foundation

Gilmar Militar is a Program Manager with the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the regions of Peel and Halton. He has played a significant role in building the community and organizational infrastructure for the environmental sector in the area. Gilmar will soon evolve to his new role in the Foundation continuing to build the capacity of the (non-profit) sector to lead and manage change. Prior to joining the Foundation, Gilmar served as Executive Director of an immigrant serving agency in Toronto and has also provided consulting support to various non-profits and community development networks in the GTA. Earlier in his career, Gilmar worked and managed a range of local and international development initiatives that support and advance people empowerment, integrated area development including environmental sustainability, community economic

development, among others. Gilmar also plays an active role in the community and has volunteered in numerous organizations and initiatives that aim to make our planet more just, more sustainable, and more fun to live in.

Dennis Murray, Professor, Trent University

Dennis Murray is Professor of Biology and Canada Research Chair in Integrative Wildlife Conservation at Trent University. Murray's primary research interests are related to the behavioural and landscape ecology, population dynamics, and conservation biology of species and ecosystems. Of particular interest are the effects of climate change and habitat fragmentation on the status and population integrity of species ranging from frogs to moose, including through changes in their biotic interactions with food, predators, parasites, and competitors.

Paul Nichol, Ecosystems

Paul Nichol started his Environmental and Information Management Company called "Ecosystems" in 1996. Environmental consulting specialties include aquatic habitat inventory and assessment, wetland evaluations and Natural Heritage Studies. On the information management side of his business, Paul specializes in custom database applications including business analysis, data modelling and application development. His clients have included private business, NGO's, the Federal and Provincial Governments. Paul's volunteer experience has included sitting on the board of the Kawartha Fisheries Association as well as the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee where he founded and chaired the Natural Heritage System mapping subcommittee aimed at developing a natural heritage system for the CKL.

Robert Orland, President, Orland Conservation

Robert Orland founded Orland Conservation in 2003 as a social enterprise offering services in land conservation, sustainability and communications to municipalities, conservation authorities, and land trusts. With over 25 years of experience, Robert began his career with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and worked in a variety of positions before specializing in land securement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In 2008, Robert formed Backyard Bounty, an urban farming organization in Guelph that promotes community-based sustainable gardening and organic food production in partnership with local residents

and business owners. Robert has delivered presentations and workshops across Southern Ontario and abroad, and has facilitated and advised on the protection and stewardship of nearly 10,000 acres of natural heritage lands and parks.

John Peirce, Vice President, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

John Peirce is Vice President of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts and Past President of the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT). He played a major part in negotiating the Robinson Woods covenant for the American Friends with GaLTT as their Canadian partner. This was American Friends' first BC conservation easement. His many other community roles include Treasurer of the Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber's representative to the community-led Village Vision planning effort, and President of the Nanaimo CarShare Cooperative. In addition to serving on American Friends' board, John is a member of the Corporation (essentially an extended Board of Trustees) of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. John is a retired geophysicist who grew up in eastern Massachusetts, where his father started two land trust organizations that together have protected some 40,000 acres over the last fifty years. John is a graduate of Dartmouth College and earned a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the M.I.T.-W.H.O.I. Joint Program in Oceanography.

Leslie Ratley-Beach, Conservation Defense Director, Land Trust Alliance

Leslie Ratley-Beach joined The Land Trust Alliance as its first Conservation Defense Director in August 2007. Leslie led the effort that created the first ever national conservation defense liability insurance program (Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC) and she continues to coordinate the delivery of Terrafirma services to the land trust insured owners, as Vice President of Alliance Risk Management Services. She is a national author and speaker. Previously, Leslie worked with the Vermont Land Trust for almost 13 years first as Stewardship Director leading the program responsible for more than 1430 conservation easements on over 470,000 acres of land with more 1200 landowners and prior to that was Project Counsel where she drafted and helped negotiate more than 600 conservation easements. Leslie has a law degree from Boston University (1985) and Bachelors' degrees from University of Oregon and practiced law first in Massachusetts and then in Vermont.

Cheyenne Richardson, Community Stewardship Coordinator, rare Charitable Research Reserve

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Philosophy at Wilfrid Laurier University, Cheyanne went on to complete a post-graduate certificate in Fundraising and Resource Development at Georgian College. Cheyanne is passionate about contributing her fundraising skills to create positive change and has been volunteering with non-profits for over seven years. Cheyanne completed her fundraising internship with Georgian College at *rare*; she is now working as the Community Stewardship Coordinator, working on various fundraising and community relations projects. In her spare time Cheyanne enjoys spending time with her friends and family and traveling around Ontario in search of good live music.

Carolyn Scotchmer, Regional Manager, TD Environment

Carolyn Scotchmer has been a Regional Manager for TD Friends of the Environment Foundation since 2012, and is now responsible for the Greater Toronto Area and Western Ontario. Prior to joining TD, she spent over ten years working in the charitable sector in Toronto and Calgary, developing and managing programs focused on community development through greening and community gardening. Most recently she served as Executive Director of Greenest City, where she received a Vital People Award from the Toronto Community Foundation, recognizing Toronto's non-profit leaders. Carolyn holds a Masters of Environmental Studies from York University as well as a Bachelor of Science (Biology) from Queen's. She has also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the West-End Food Co-op, as well as Board President at Citizens' Environment Watch (now EcoSpark).

Jenna Siu, Board Member, Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity

Jenna Siu is currently on the board of directors for the Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity, a new youth network, and the lead for the resource and development working group. Jenna completed an Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Biology at Queen's University, followed by a Master's of Science at Western University. For her master's research, she studied some of the effects of landscape fragmentation on swallowtail butterflies in southern Ontario. Since then she has worked on different conservation-related projects, as well as worked and volunteered for various Ontario land trusts. Her main focus in these roles has been land stewardship and public outreach.

Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Sandra Tassel has more than 20 years of experience in conservation acquisitions in the US and Canada. Since 2012 she had primary responsibility for AF's transactions involving American owners of priority Canadian conservation lands. Working with land trust partners in 5 provinces, these land and easement donations valued at more than \$9 million USD have protected 19 properties owned by over 40 individuals. Previously Sandra served on AF's board for 6 years. She lives in Washington State. Before moving to WA she was the director of the Trust for Public Land's program in Colorado, and was a founder of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts.

Lindsay Telfer, National Project Director, Canadian Freshwater Alliance

Lindsay Telfer has two decades of experience working with organizations, institutions and governments in developing policies and processes related to sustainability and public engagement. Her experience includes designing and participating in multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations, strategic planning development, and communications and marketing geared towards public engagement in sustainability solutions. Lindsay has built a knowledgeable repertoire of leading edge strategies for effective communications, messaging, and engagement practices. She is currently the national project director for the Canadian Freshwater Alliance, an initiative on the Tides Canada shared platform. The Freshwater Alliance builds, connects and supports freshwater constituencies across Canada.

Toby Thorne, Species at Risk Technician, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Toby Thorne is OLTA's Species at Risk Technician, working on the Conserving Species at Risk project. Toby joined OLTA to help establish bat surveys on OLTA's member's properties, as part of the CSAR project. He has been working with land trusts to inventory bats at sites without previous surveys, and to conduct more in depth monitoring at sites with recent records of bat SARs. He also assists with other SAR surveys. He caught his first bat at the age of eleven, and has been chasing them ever since. He gained a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford in the UK, before moving to Canada to undertake a master's degree studying bat migration at the University of Western Ontario.

Katie Turnbull, Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Katie Turnbull is the Project Manager, Restoration Projects, Restoration and Infrastructure Division at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. She graduated from Fleming College, Ecosystem Management with a diploma as a Technologist and Technician and from Trent University with a Honors Environmental Science Degree. She has worked at Tiny Marsh (Elmvale ON) monitoring wildlife and bird banding. She joined TRCA in 2005. Katie oversees the meadow and forestry programs with implementation of wetlands and streambank restoration on various projects within TRCA Jurisdiction.

Kristie Virgoe, Program Manager, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

Kristie Virgoe started her career with the Kawartha Conservation where she led the Stewardship and Land Protection divisions for over 8 years as the Manager of Environmental Protection and Restoration. Since that time she has worked for the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) as Program Manager and the Muskoka Conservancy as their Executive Director from 2012 to 2015. As a busy mom, Kristie volunteers with her local school and puts her feet into action, volunteering and participating in the annual Weekend to End Women's Cancers walks, as well as running over 200km in two years to raise money for land protection in Ontario.

Susan Walmer, Executive Director, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

Susan Walmer, formerly a dedicated board member serving as Treasurer with the Land Trust, has also served and worked with Save the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Oak Ridges Trail Association. A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CMA), Sue combines her long-held enthusiasm for community engagement, deep appreciation for Canadian historical context and concern for a healthy environmental future in this challenging position. Past work experiences including Senior Accounting and Finance Manager at American Express ensure that Sue brings the best of corporate sector practices to the non-profit realm. Sue has served as a volunteer in fundraising and other activities with many local, national and international organizations including the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Southlake Foundation, Heart and Stroke, and is a World Vision supporter. Sue served on the Town of Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee and as the Municipal Energy Conservation Officer. A tireless advocate on many fronts, Sue was the 2008 recipient of Aurora's Citizen of the Year Award.

April Wepler, Program Manager, Freshwater Future Canada

In her 14 years as a conservation professional, April Wepler has had a variety of work experiences ranging from Stewardship Coordinator roles with the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and Ontario Nature, to a project manager in the Conservation Lands department of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. She also served two terms on the board of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, where she held the positions of Secretary, Vice-Chair, Chair, and past-Chair. April holds an Honours Bachelor of Science from University of Guelph, specializing in Wildlife Biology. April lives with her family in Guelph, Ontario where they enjoy hiking, paddling, and generally exploring the outdoors.

Photo: Toby Thorne



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016

11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Managing Carden Alvar's Prairie Smoke Nature Reserve <i>Kristyn Ferguson</i> Field Trip - Meet at the Nature Reserve	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Registration - Geneva Court Lounge	
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Learning Institutes	Reviewing Appraisals for Non-Appraisers <i>D. Babineau, A. Diamond, L. Kucey,</i> <i>K. Virgoe (Moderator)</i> Geneva Court Room #4	Challenges of Land Stewardship <i>D. Cooper, K. Ferguson, E. Horrigan,</i> <i>K. Turnbull, A. Weppler (Moderator)</i> Geneva Court Room #16
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration - Geneva Court Lounge	
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	For overnight & dinner guests - Dinner And Informal Networking Geneva Court Dining Hall	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Registration - Geneva Court Lounge		
7:45 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast with Round table discussions - Geneva Court Dining Hall		
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Registration - Centennial Centre Lounge		
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks 1A National Conservation Landscape <i>John Lounds</i> OLTA Member Achievements Slideshow Centennial Centre Auditorium		
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Break & Registration - Geneva Court Lounge		
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	2A Conservation Easements 130 Years of Experience Challenges and Trends <i>Leslie Ratley-Beach</i> Geneva Court Mezzanine	2B Setting Land Securement Priorities On A Landscape Scale <i>Kate Potter & Niall Lobley</i> Geneva Court Room #16	2C Funders Panel <i>Reggie Hall, Carolyn</i> <i>Scotchmer, Gilmar Militar</i> Geneva Court Room #4
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch with Round table discussions - Geneva Court Dining Hall		
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	3A Building Member Engagement: Land Trust Case Studies <i>Lindsay Telfer, Tanya Clark,</i> <i>Cheyenne Richardson</i> Geneva Court Mezzanine	3B Surf & Turf: Why Land Trusts Need to Pay Attention to Water <i>April Weppler, Dan Kraus,</i> <i>Dorthea Hangaard</i> Geneva Court Room #4	3C National Conversation <i>Paul Peterson</i> Geneva Court Room #16
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Break - Geneva Court Lounge		

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	4A Conserving Species at Risk: Bats & Snakes - Special Not Spooky! <i>Alison Howson, Toby Thorne, Emily Finstad</i> Geneva Court Room #16	4B OLTA Cross-border Conservation Training Program <i>Kristin Callow & Sandra Tassel</i> Geneva Court Room #4	4C Inspiration for Your Next Fundraising Campaign <i>B. MacLellan, S. McDonald Aziz, S. Walmer, J. Love</i> Geneva Court Mezzanine
4:45 pm - 6:45 pm	Ontario Land Trust Alliance - Annual General Meeting Centennial Centre Auditorium		
6:45 pm - 8:30 pm	Cash Bar, Banquet & Auction Geneva Court Dining Hall		
8:30 pm - whenever	Open 'Jam Session' around the campfire		

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast - Geneva Court Dining Hall		
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Registration - Geneva Court Lounge		
8:30 am - 9:45 am	5A Natural Heritage Database: How to Use it for Your Land Trust <i>Paul Nichol</i> Geneva Court Room #4	5B Natural Conservation Areas Planning <i>B. Lougheed, M. McFarlane, D. Kraus, C. Cordes</i> Geneva Court Mezzanine	5C Ecological Gifts Program: A Year of Q&A! <i>Laura Kucey</i> Geneva Court Room #16
9:45 am - 9:55 am	Break - Geneva Court Lounge		
9:55 am - 11:05 am	6A Do a Bio Blitz! <i>Kristie Virgoe, Kyla Greenham</i> Geneva Court Room #4	6B The Next Generation in Conservation <i>Jenna Siu, Dennis Murray</i> Geneva Court Mezzanine	6C Conservation Easement Agreement Best Practices <i>Mark Bisset + Panel</i> Geneva Court Room #16
11:05 am - 11:15 am	Break - Geneva Court Lounge		
11:15 am - 12:30 pm	7A Closing Plenary Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Centennial Centre Auditorium		
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch And Informal Networking - Geneva Court Dining Hall		



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

2016 Ontario Land Trust Gathering

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