



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

*Collaborating for Conservation  
Strength in Diversity*

Nottawasaga Inn Resort, Alliston, Ontario  
October 18–19, 2018



**2018 OLTA Gathering**



# WELCOME TO THE 2018 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.

## 2018 Gathering Committee

Dan Cooper  
Tanna Elliott  
Alison Howson  
Laura Kucey  
Phyllis Lee  
Freya Potter  
April Weppler  
Gayle Wood

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 1 OPENING PLENARY

Thursday, October 18, 9:00 am - 10:10 am

Welcome—Alison Howson, Executive Director, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Inviting the Four Directions— Cindy Crowe, Blue Sky Community Healing Centre

Cindy Crowe, Executive Director and Lodgekeeper, is a band member of the Lake Helen First Nation, Robinson-Superior Treaty Area, located an hour east of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Her Spirit name is Standing Strong. In the language, you would say: Memashkegaabowek ndizhinikaaz. Her clan is caribou and, in the language, you would say: Adik ndoodem.

Opening Plenary—Janet Sumner, Executive Director, Wildlands League

Janet has more than 25 years' experience as an environmentalist. She has been the Executive Director of CPAWS Wildlands League since 2003. In 2017, Janet was appointed co-chair of the National Advisory Panel (NAP) with a mandate to provide recommendations on how Canada can meet the Aichi Target 11, protecting 17% terrestrial lands and inland waters in Canada by 2020. Janet is an expert negotiator, strategist and communicator with considerable policy reform experience.



Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change are the two greatest environmental challenges of our time. The solutions to both include protecting nature and addressing our land use footprint. Canada has committed to protecting 17%.

Hear how private land protection can help alongside protection of public lands.

### OLTA Member Accomplishments

This presentation highlights the achievements of OLTA and its members over the last year. Celebrate and learn from all the good land conservation and stewardship work in Ontario. Congratulations all around!

### BANQUET, AWARDS & AUCTION

Thursday, October 18, 6:00 pm—9:00 pm

This year, we will be remembering James Duncan and Angus McLeod who both left us too early. Cash bar opens at 6:00 pm. Start bidding on the wonderful auction items.

### THE FUN CONTINUES AFTER THE BANQUET!

Thursday, October 18, 9:00 pm on the upper level of the Starlite Lounge

### OLTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 18, 4:45 pm—6:00 pm

#### VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS

The Couchiching Conservancy  
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy  
Freshwater Future Canada  
Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario Farmland Trust  
Thames Talbot Land Trust  
The Conservation Fund  
Wildlands League

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### **2 CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS STANDARDS & PRACTICES UPDATE**

Thursday, October 18, 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair, Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices have undergone important revisions to better reflect the maturity of the land trust community in Canada and recent legislation changes. The updated Standards and Practices also allow Canada to remain aligned with internally recognized standards for the good governance of land trusts and sound land transactions and stewardship. The session will walk you through the key changes and present the simplified structure.

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will be familiar with the new structure of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices.
2. Participants will know what are the most important changes.
3. Participants will understand the rationale for the key revisions.

Session Type: Lecture

Level: All

### **3A PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE**

Thursday, October 18, 11:10 am - 12:10 am

Rob Davis and Anurani Persaud, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry

This presentation will provide an update on the national Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative, and an overview of the results of Ontario's recent experiences with assessing candidate protected areas and OECMs to date. We will describe the assessment process and criteria used, and share lessons learned from undertaking assessments and engaging land managers across a broad range of conservation lands.

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. Common understanding of the status of the national Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative;
2. Awareness of the definitions and criteria used to assess candidate areas for their eligibility to report towards Canada Target 1; and
3. Awareness of key opportunities and barriers to reporting private conservation lands in Ontario.

Session Type: Lecture

Level: Intermediate

### **3B INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**

Thursday, October 18, 11:10 am - 12:10 am

Cindy Crowe, Blue Sky Community Healing Centre

This would be a great primer to initiating and fostering a business relationship with the Indigenous communities of Ontario. Learn the dos and don'ts. What works and what wouldn't work. Simple tips gained through the 25+ years of the presenter's experience working in the northern communities and other communities in Ontario. This workshop will contain: an overview of communication tips; understanding your clients; getting started; scheduling meetings; winning tips; more planning; terminology; dealing with emotions; traditional spirituality and religion; importance of research; comfort level; and, right or wrong answers. This workshop is suitable for a general audience such as those in education, health, business, government, industry and non-profit interested in initiating and fostering a working relationship with Indigenous communities.

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### **4A STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENTS FOR SECUREMENT**

Thursday, October 18, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Ian Attridge, Barrister & Solicitor and Jeremy Collins, Ontario Heritage Trust

Conservation easement agreements (CEA) are useful as a tool to conserve land. How do you draft a CEA that is flexible yet strong enough to withstand legal challenges? Join this workshop to find out, hear an update on the CEA Defense Working Group's activities to strengthen CEAs in Ontario, contribute to a discussion of best practices, including a CEA best practice case study from OHT - an anatomy of saving a lake - plus sharing examples from your own experiences.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Intermediate

### **4B SECURING PROPERTIES OWNED BY AMERICANS: HELP IS HERE**

Thursday, October 18, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Sandra Tassel, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts; Kristen Callow, Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc.

Your land trust can protect priority properties owned by U.S. taxpayers by using the tools and knowledge provided by OLTA and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts' Cross-border Conservation Training Program. Developed over the past three years, the "tool-kit" has elements to upgrade your land trust's securement strategy, launch a targeted outreach campaign, conduct productive landowner dialogues and competently structure cross-border transaction. This session will demonstrate the array of new resources and how to use them. Interactive "role-play" between land trusts and landowners will increase your comfort discussing conservation with U.S. taxpayers. Bring your questions to discuss with our experts.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand what new tools and resources are available to build your land trust's cross-border conservation capabilities, and how to use them
2. Acquire the fundamental knowledge about US and Canadian tax incentives that you need to promote conservation as an estate planning tool.
3. Expand your ability to structure and negotiate transactions involving U.S. taxpayers who own land in Canada

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Intermediate



## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### **5A CLT STANDARDS & PRACTICES IN PRACTICE**

Thursday, October 18, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair, Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices have undergone important revisions to better reflect the maturity of the land trust community in Canada and recent legislation changes. The Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices are the guidelines that describe how to operate a land trust legally, ethically and in the public interest, with a sound program of land transactions and land stewardship. This is an interactive session to discuss the implementation of S&Ps including challenges you are facing in your organization.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will understand the importance of implementing the Standards and Practices.
2. Participants will know how to use the Standards and Practices in their day-to-day work.
3. Participants will be able to identify areas for improvement in their own organization.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: All

### **5B "MOM AND DAD WANT TO DO WHAT WITH OUR LAND?"**

Thursday, October 18, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Christopher Baines, C.A. Baines Mediation; Antoin Diamond, The Bruce Trail Conservancy

Just because the parents may want to donate their land to a land trust or CA doesn't mean it's a done deal. Many deals have fallen through the cracks when the kids find out and hit the roof. They don't necessarily see things the way their parents do. Learn tips and skills from two experts in the fields of mediation/negotiation who have sat "across the kitchen table" with parents and families and have the scars to prove it. This interactive session will include role-plays and war stories to expand your perspective and knowledge.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Basic skills in mediation through lecture and role-play.
2. Negotiation strategies to ensure all parties are at the table.
3. Understand cash benefits of donating land that even the kids will appreciate.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Advanced

### **6A ECOLOGICAL GIFTS: ECOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY AND CHANGES IN USE**

Friday, October 19, 8:30 am - 9:55 am

Laura Kucey, Environment and Climate Change Canada

The Ecological Gifts Program receives interesting and diverse submissions about donations of land, and interests in land, from across Canada. Ecological sensitivity submissions tend to be as varied as the lands they describe. This submission, along with title documents, determines whether a donation will be eligible for the program. Let's talk about the essential elements (and common omissions) of ecological sensitivity submissions to ensure that your organization develops a strong application. Related to the ecological features of a property, Income Tax Act provisions require that recipients receive authorization prior to any changes of use of ecological gifts. We'll discuss activities, definitions, and change in use considerations.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Ability to develop strong ecological sensitivity submissions
2. Understanding change in use provisions and requirements

Session Type: Lecture and Interactive

Level: All



## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### **6B CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE: WHY WE NEED NATURE TO SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE**

Friday, October 19, 8:30 am - 9:55 am

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

What do flooded basements, forest fires and starving polar bears have in common? These are all phenomena that are increasing as our climate destabilizes as a result of carbon and other greenhouse gas pollution. Dan will share some of the observed and predicted changes to Canada that result from carbon pollution, and new research on the role of nature conservation in climate change. This session will also explore opportunities to leverage climate change to increase funding and accelerate conservation, and how the actions land trusts take today will impact our environment, society and economy forever.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Key observed and predicted impacts of climate change in Canada.
2. The planning and actions that land trusts can engage in to help nature and people adapt to climate change.
3. Opportunities for land trusts to leverage climate change for additional funding and to accelerate nature conservation.

Session Type: Lecture

Level: Intermediate

### **7A CONSERVATION FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE AND HEALTHY LANDS**

Friday, October 19, 10:05 am - 11:20 am

Helen Doyle, EcoHealth Ontario; Nekeisha Mohammed, Conservation Ontario; Kristie Virgoe, Kawartha Conservation

There is growing evidence that there are specific physical and mental health benefits from living in clean, healthy ecosystems and from having access to natural areas and biodiversity. What does this mean to the land trust community and our community outreach?

EcoHealth Ontario (EHO) is a collaborative of professionals in the fields of public health, health care, education, planning, conservation and the environment. They are working together to increase our understanding of the relationships between environment and health with the aim of finding ways to increase the quality and diversity of the urban and rural green spaces in which we live.

Healthy Hikes is an annual initiative of Conservation Ontario, in partnership with Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities and other similarly-minded organizations. The initiative encourages Ontarians to step into nature at Conservation Areas from May to October.

Forest Therapy is a research-based framework for supporting healing and wellness through immersion in forests and other natural environments. Forest Therapy is inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin yoku, which translates to "forest bathing." "The forest is the therapist and the guide opens the doors."

Session Type: Lecture

Level: All

### **7B COLLABORATING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Friday, October 19, 10:05 am - 11:20 am

Paul General, Six Nations; Mackenzie Lespérance, rare Charitable Research Reserve

A panel session to provide indigenous perspectives on land conservation and in particular to hear from Indigenous peoples about their relationships with land trusts and how land trusts can engage better.

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### **8A KEEPING A PROMISE FOR TOMORROW**

Friday, October 19, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Bill Lougheed, Georgian Bay Land Trust; Tanna Elliott, The Kensington Conservancy; Dan Cooper, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

This panel will share their experiences with endowment funds, which help land trusts steward their lands for perpetuity.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: All

### **8B CULTURAL DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Friday, October 19, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Nidhi Tandon, Networked Intelligence; Ashoo Anand, Credit Valley Conservation, TBD

This panel will share their experiences and review strategies to encourage more cultural diversity in our activities.

Level: All

### **9 FUNDERS PANEL AND CLOSING SESSION**

Friday, October 19, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Sarah Colley, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation; Peter Kendall, The Schad Foundation; Thea Silver, Ontario Trillium Foundation

The panel will talk about their funding programs and priorities. Then you get to ask questions.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: All

The Closing will follow the Funders Panel.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION DONORS**

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Christopher Baines	Muskoka Mornings
Cuttingboard.ca	Ripley's Aquarium
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy	Three Farmers
Fit Cricket	Toronto Haunted Walk
Hockey Hall of Fame	Wellington Brewery



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Ashoo Anand, Senior Coordinator, Multicultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation**

In her role as the Senior Coordinator, Multicultural Outreach, for Credit Valley Conservation, Ashoo has been involved in connecting and building partnerships with the community-based organizations in the Peel region. Being an immigrant, she understands the challenges newcomers face in Canada and their lack of connectivity with their local natural environment. Through her programs she is engaging linguistically and culturally diverse communities in environmental education and awareness.

### **Ian C. Attridge, Barrister and Solicitor**

Ian Attridge is an ecologist and lawyer based in Peterborough (Nogojiwanong), the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe. 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 outdoor activities, singing, and fostering sustainable communities.

### **Christopher Baines, Principal, C.A. Baines Mediation**

Christopher Baines is the principal of C.A. Baines Mediation, a firm that specializes in conflict resolution, facilitation and training. He has extensive experience working in government, business and the non-profit field. He is experienced in training and coaching people from all levels of business and government. Christopher regularly works with individuals and teams in mediation, assessments, conflict resolution and team building. In mediation, he specialized in dealing with estate planning around family land transfer issues. Board positions include the Collingwood Police Services Board, Simcoe County Solid Waste Infrastructure Committee, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts and President of the St. George's Society of Toronto.

### **Kristen Callow, Program Officer, Ontario Land Trust Alliance**

Kristen Callow is OLTA's Program Officer. Kristen is working on OLTA's three-year Cross-border Conservation Training Program (CCTP) in partnership with the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. 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 (MWLT), Kristen worked through the process of becoming a land and cash grantee with American Friends and helped complete MWLT's first cross-border transaction.

### **Sarah Colley, Regional Manager for Ontario, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**

Sarah Colley is Regional Manager for TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) for the province of Ontario. She joined the TD FEF team in 2017 as Regional Manager and has been with TD since 2014. She oversees the Foundation's community-based environmental granting program throughout the province of Ontario, and supports the delivery of the TD FEF Leadership Program. She studied at Dalhousie University and completed her Bachelor of Arts in Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS) and International Development Studies. A few of her favourite things include: reading, photography and trying out new recipes.

### **Jeremy Collins, Acquisitions Coordinator, Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT)**

Jeremy Collins is a specialist in the acquisition of fee simple and conservation easement interests in cultural and natural heritage properties. As Acquisitions Coordinator for the OHT, he brings almost thirty years of practical experience in conserving cultural and natural heritage resources. The story of his latest natural heritage easement acquisition for the Trust has been 12 years in the making and completes a goal to protect the entire 1Km plus shoreline of a lake and the associated unique geological landscape. It reflects all of the best practices promoted by OLTA for acquiring a natural heritage conservation easement. Jeremy looks forward to sharing the highlights of this unique milestone in his career.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Cindy Crowe, Executive Director and Lodgekeeper, Blue Sky Community Healing Centre**

Cindy Crowe is a band member of the Lake Helen First Nation, Robinson-Superior Treaty Area, located an hour east of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Her Spirit name is Standing Strong. In the language, you would say: Memashkegaabowek ndizhinikaaz. Her clan is caribou and, in the language, you would say: Adik ndoodem. For thirteen years Cindy has been the Executive Director and Lodgekeeper for Ozhaawashko-giizhig Traditional Teaching Lodge operating as the Blue Sky Community Healing Centre. There are four Spirits that guide the lodge which promotes unity and teaches individuals about the four sacred laws: love, kindness, caring and sharing. Cindy's vision for an indoor lodge promoting peace, culture and teachings has been realized with the acquisition of commercial space where the Blue Sky Community Healing Centre has been established. Cindy's passion continues to be promoting the teaching of the medicine wheel. Personally, she is the grateful mom of five adult children and three grandchildren. She enjoys travelling around the world learning how similar we all are and is a published author.

### **Rob Davis, Manager, Protected Areas Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

Rob Davis is Manager of Protected Areas Section with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry which is responsible for the development and transfer of legislation, regulation, and policy related to protected areas in Ontario.

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

Antoin Diamond is the Director of Land Acquisition and Management, The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). The mission of the BTC is Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever along the Niagara Escarpment. Antoin brings her expertise in real estate transactions, landowner relations, and land use planning policies and the legislation needed to implement the numerous securement options available to landowners, that supports the BTC's

mission. Originally from the UK, she appreciates how land and trails that are held in public trust foster community engagement, which in turn generates the necessary resources to support land conservation that is necessary to sustain healthy communities. She holds an honours degree in Geography and GIC and Environmental Analysis from the University of Guelph, and is a members of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a registered member of Ontario Professional Planners institute.

### **Helen Doyle, Chair, Ontario Public Health Association's Environmental Health Work Group**

Helen Doyle is Chair of OPHA's Environmental Health Work Group, contributing to advocacy and policy development. Her areas of expertise include air quality, climate change, the built and natural environment, healthy housing, and environmental exposures. Recently retired from York Region Public Health, Helen managed an interdisciplinary team, working to improve environmental public health through research, health promotion, partnerships and policy development. Helen is on the Board of Directors for the Windfall Ecology Centre, a Green Communities Canada non-profit organization.

### **Tanna Elliott, Executive Director, The Kensington Conservancy**

As Executive Director, Tanna Elliott has lead the growth of this land trust. Tanna, as a long time resident of Northern Ontario has a great passion for her home, its open spaces and fresh water. Concerned about water quality and over development on the shores of Lake Huron and the many pristine inland lakes, she has become a strong voice in educating landowners and municipalities on good stewardship practices. Tanna spent 6 years on the Ontario Land Trust Alliance Board of Governors, three of those years as Chair. She has demonstrated her skills as both an organization and team builder. Under her guidance she has played an important part of the growth and development of numerous organizations.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **W. Paul General, Manager of Six Nations Eco-centre and Wildlife Officer**

For over 20 years, Paul General has been the Wildlife Officer and Manager of the Six Nations Eco-centre. He is a member of the Seneca Nation - Snipe Clan. Paul is active as a director on four boards as well as participating in over 30 committees and working groups monitoring and contributing towards the protection and enhancement of our environment. He is a member of the rare Charitable Research Reserve's Land Securement Team. Paul is a painter, photographer, author, teacher, lecturer and an ecologist/environmentalist by virtue of his work experience and upbringing as a First Nations person.

### **Peter Kendall, Executive Director, The Schad Foundation**

Peter Kendall is the Executive Director of The Schad Foundation, which funds environmental causes and projects worldwide. Peter also serves as President of Earth Rangers, a charitable organization dedicated to educating children about biodiversity loss and as a Director of TNC Canada and Cornerstone Standards Council. Prior to joining Earth Rangers, Peter held senior executive positions with technology and organic foods companies. He was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 Business Leaders in 2005.

### **Dan Kraus, Senior Conservation Biologist, Nature Conservancy of Canada**

Dan Kraus is a Senior Conservation Biologist, National Office with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). He is an expert on Canadian biodiversity, conservation and landscape ecology. He has recently written reports on topics ranging from freshwater conservation to the natural capital of forests. Dan also co-authored conservation strategies for all four Canadian Great Lakes. He applies his knowledge of nature to help identify priority areas and increase awareness about biodiversity. He is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario. Prior to NCC, he was an ecologist with Parks Canada and an environmental consultant. Dan often shares his stories about nature and conservation through NCC's blog, and his editorials have appeared in media across Canada.



### **Laura Kucey, Habitat Biologist, EGP Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Laura Kucey is the Ontario Regional Coordinator for the Ecological Gifts Program. She has assisted recipients and donors with over 100 donation transactions coming through the program and looks forward to helping with each new scenario. Laura previously coordinated consultations on federal species at risk recovery documents and prior to that, worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in the Biodiversity and Lands and Waters Sections.

### **Mackenzie Lespérance, Program Coordinator & Facilitator, rare Charitable Research Reserve**

Niibii ee shoo be ghee tong gung (Smiling Water) - is an Indigenous Research Fellow at the rare Charitable Research Reserve, an urban land trust and environmental institute in Waterloo Region/Wellington. She has completed a Bachelor of Science in Plant Biology and a Master of Science in Plant Agriculture from the University of Guelph and is now doing her Doctor of Philosophy in Indigenous Studies at Trent University.



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**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.

**Nekeisha Mohammed, Communications  
Officer, Conservation Ontario**

Nekeisha Mohammed has worked in marketing communications for more than 10 years within health care, foundations and environment. She is skilled at telling stories that influence donors to dig deeper into their pockets to support your cause, and implements imaginative and compelling campaigns that amplify your brand.

**Anurani Persaud, Senior Ecologist,  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**  
Anurani Persaud is Senior Ecologist, Protected Areas with the Ontario government. Her role currently includes coordinating assessments of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) toward Canada Target 1, and co-leading the Ecological Integrity Strategic Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

**Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair, Director of  
Securement and Stewardship, Nature  
Conservancy of Canada**

Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair has a BA degree in biology, a master in land planning and project management, and a graduate diploma in business and sustainable development. She joined the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in 2007 as the Richelieu Watershed Project Manager for the Quebec Region. She is now the National Director of Securement and Stewardship working for NCC's national office. Marie-Michèle is responsible for the development and implementation of securement and stewardship policies, ensuring NCC is always utilizing best conservation practices. Over the years, she has particularly developed a practical expertise in easement drafting, monitoring, and enforcement. In 2018, Marie-Michèle joined the Expert Committee of the CLTA for the revision of the Canadian Land Trusts Standards and Practices.

**Thea Silver, Strategy Lead, Ontario  
Trillium Foundation**

Thea Silver has worked in the not-for-profit environmental sector for more than 20 years. She is currently the Strategy Lead for the Green People Action Area at the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), where she is responsible for advancing knowledge mobilization and developing strategic partnership to enhance the impact of OTF's investments in a healthy and sustainable environment. Thea also sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) and is co-chair of the binational Great Lakes Funders Collaboration. Prior to joining OTF in 2014, Thea held senior roles in a number of environmental organizations including the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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

Sandra Tassel has nearly 30 years of experience in conservation acquisitions in the US and Canada. She works with US taxpayers who own natural lands in Canada and with American Friends' conservation partners in 5 provinces to secure monetary, land and easement donations. To date, American Friends has completed 25 transactions valued at over \$16M USD that protect nearly 3,000 acres. In addition, American Friends has made grants totaling approximately \$2.5M to its Canadian partners. Sandra lives in Washington State. Previously 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.

**Nidhi Tandon, Networked Intelligence**

Nidhi Tandon has a Masters in Agrarian Economics (UK) and began her career as investigative reporter with Zimbabwe International News Agency and BBC Africa Service. She has over 20 years' experience as independent consultant, in investigative research, advocacy and training, and leading strategy and policy analysis

Nidhi is happiest working with community organizations to promote an empowering environment, through advocacy for access to and control over natural resources and assets, through adaptation and mitigation policy advocacy to address climate change, and through advancing sustainable livelihoods, solutions and prospects.

**Kristie Virgoe, Director of Stewardship  
and Conservation Lands, Kawartha  
Conservation**

Kristie Virgoe is a Certified Forest Therapy Guide and a member of the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides. In her professional life, Kristie is the Director of Stewardship and Conservation Lands with Kawartha Conservation. In this role, she is able to work with dedicated landowners and the land they love so much. Kristie is the Chair of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and her work experience includes various Land Trusts and Conservation Authorities to help protect Ontario's sensitive spaces and provide people with opportunities to deepen their own relationships with nature. Kristie and her family live in Cannington Ontario and can often be found on the many trails throughout the area.

### OLTA PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

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## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Dinner and Informal Networking - Riverview Dining Room
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Registration - Room #9
7:00 pm	Movie Night: Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World - Room #9

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

7:45 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast - Riverview Dining Room	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration - Room #2	
9:00 am - 10:10 am	1 Welcome - Room #2  Inviting The Four Directions Cindy Crowe, Blue Sky Community Healing Centre  Opening Plenary Janet Sumner, Wildlands League  OLTA Member Accomplishments	
10:15 am - 10:45 am	2 Canadian Land Trusts Standards & Practices Update Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair, Nature Conservancy of Canada Room #2	
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	3A Protected Areas Update Rob Davis and Anurani Persaud Room #7	3B Indigenous Relationship Building Cindy Crowe Room #8
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Riverview Dining Room	
1:15 pm - 2:30 pm	4A Strengthening Conservation Easement Agreements for Securement Ian Attridge and Jeremy Collins Room #7	4B Securing Properties Owned by Americans: Help is Here Kristen Callow and Sandra Tassel Room #8
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	5A CLT Standards & Practices in Practice Marie-Michèle Rousseau-Clair Room #7	5B "Mom and Dad Want to do What With Our Land?" Christopher Baines and Antoin Diamond Room #8



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

4:45 pm - 6:00 pm	Ontario Land Trust Alliance - Annual General Meeting Room #2
6:00 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 19, 2018

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast - Riverview Dining Room	
8:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration - Room #2	
8:30 am - 9:55 am	6A Ecological Gifts: Ecological Sensitivity and Changes in Use Laura Kucey Room #7	6B Conservation and Climate Change: Why We Need Nature to Solve Climate Change Dan Kraus Room #8
10:00 am - 11:15 am	7A Conservation for Healthy People and Healthy Lands Helen Doyle, Nekeisha Mohammed & Kristie Virgoe Room #7	7B Collaborating with Indigenous Communities Mackenzie Lespérance, Paul General & TBD Room #8
11:15 am - 11:30 am	Break	
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	8A Keeping a Promise for Tomorrow Dan Cooper, Tanna Elliott & Bill Loughheed Room #7	8B Cultural Diversity & Community Engagement Nidhi Tandon, & Ashoo Anand
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch - Riverview Dining Room	
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	9 Funders Panel and Closing Sarah Colley, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation; Peter Kendall, The Schad Foundation; Thea Silver, Ontario Trillium Foundation Room #2	



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

## 2018 Ontario Land Trust Gathering

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

### BRONZE



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