



2019 OLTA GATHERING
“A Place To Grow: Protection and Connection”

CONFERENCE SESSIONS
Draft

Sunday, October 6, 2019

A. Prince Edward County’s South Shore Tour

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Dick Bird, Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust

Join the tour from Point Petre to Point Edward along the South Shore. Point Petrie is the southern point into Lake Ontario. From there, you will stop at Hasting Prince Edward Land Trust’s Miller Family Reserve – 500 acres. Dick will show you the local IBA which is part of a global network of places recognized for their outstanding value to bird and biodiversity conservation. The final stop will be the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory where staff will explain their work including bird banding. Car pool will be arranged.

B. Land Trust Board Member Roles and Responsibilities Demystified

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Karen Cooper, Drache Aptowitzer LLP; April Weppler, Consultant

People often join a board because of their passion for the cause, not their knowledge of governance and board responsibilities. It can be a steep learning curve. This session is aimed at new board members, as well as those looking to increase their knowledge of board governance, roles and responsibilities, and legal obligations. This will be an interactive session, with lots of time for discussion and answering your specific questions.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understanding of board roles and responsibilities, including fiduciary and legal obligations of a board member.
2. Understanding of different types of boards, and how a boards focus can change as an organization grows.
3. Introduction to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Novice

Monday, October 7, 2019

1 Welcome

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Paradigm of Place- The Role of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg in Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis

Rick Beaver, Restoration ecologist, visual artist and member of Alderville First Nation

This presentation will discuss the role of the michi saagiig anishinaabeg in defining society's relationship with the environment in Ontario through an examination of their history, contemporary world view and ethics, their cooperative arrangements with conservation groups and governments and the impacts these have made in their efforts in addressing the decline in earth's biodiversity.

Through his personal professional experience as a restoration ecologist, land manager and member of Alderville First Nation Rick will provide insights into the complex journey his community is engaged with in addressing the evolving acceptance of traditional indigenous environmental knowledge in the resource management equation.

Success and failure will both be examined with a view to improving our shared record of achievements.

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

2A Standard 9 Ensuring Sound Transactions

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Antoin Diamond, The Bruce Trail Conservancy; Don and Marnie Ross, Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust; TBD

2B CRA and Legal Issues that Matter for Land Trusts

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Karen Cooper, Drache Aptowitzer LLP

An update on CRA and legal issues of importance to land trusts including an update on the new rules for public policy dialogue and participation in elections, a primer on donations, changes to the rules regarding remuneration of directors and an update on the status of corporate law in Ontario.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Basic understanding or rules around advocacy.

2. Update on other CRA compliance matters.
3. Update or provincial corporate law.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: Intermediate

3A Standard 12 Land Stewardship - Conservation Planning: what to protect and how to manage it

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario

Introducing Open Standards, benefits of conservation planning, and miradi. It is easy to be tempted to jump straight into protecting any property, and to jabbing away at stewardship work without much thought to longer term goals. This makes it easy to find yourself owning properties with limited conservation value compared with others nearby, and also makes it harder to know when to continue or when to stop with a given conservation approach. Donors, volunteers and staff can easily become disillusioned when there is no clear end point. Simple conservation plans can help avoid all of these problems.

Learning Outcomes:

1. How to construct a basic conservation plan.
2. How you should use the plan.
3. How you might use miradi to build and house your plan.

Session Type: Interactive & Lecture

Level: Novice to Intermediate

3B Indigenous Relations

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

TBD

4 Community Networking: Get to Know the Gathering Crowd

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

It is time for sharing and learning about land trust topics from others at the Gathering.

5A Conservation Actions for Climate Change

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

TBD

This session will demonstrate ways in which climate change impacts our typical approach to land stewardship and management. We will look at potential threats climate change poses to our nature reserves and methods to increase the resiliency of our protected spaces through stewardship and management actions.

5B Funding Land Conservation

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Susan Walmer, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; TBD

Topics may include stewardship funding models, endowment funds and raising money in the local community.

Tuesday, October 7, 2019

6A Tools for Climate Change Planning

8:30 am – 9:30 am

OLTA Climate Action Working Group

OLTA's Climate Action Program was established to help land trusts respond to climate change. In partnership with the University of Waterloo, we are working with a Master of Climate Change student to develop a Climate Vulnerability Assessment Tool. This tool will help land trusts identify the potential impacts of climate change in their regions and the threats climate change presents to their properties to help guide management actions

6B Ecological Gifts Program: EGP ABCs and the S&Ps

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Laura Kucey, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Join us for an interactive session about the Ecological Gifts Program (EGP). New learners and seasoned participants are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions.

Enabled by provisions of the Income Tax Act and centred on the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices, there are several EGP requirements that recipients/land trusts must adhere to. This will not be a step-by-step process presentation. Instead, we will focus on EGP frequently asked questions, hot topics from the audience and review EGP linkages to CLT Standards & Practices (all during a game of EGP BINGO). Participants will come away with a tip sheet outlining 26+ ways to strengthen organizational practices around S&Ps and EGP submissions.

Learning Outcomes:

4. Answers to EGP frequently asked questions.
5. EGP requirements based on the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices.
6. 26+ ways to strengthen organizational practices around S&Ps and EGP submissions.

Session Type: Interactive

Level: All

7 Community Networking: Get to Know the Gathering Crowd

9:30 am – 10:00 am

It is time for sharing and learning about land trust topics from others at the Gathering.

8A Standard 11 Conservation Agreement Stewardship

10:15 am – 11:15 am

OLTA Conservation Easement Defense Working Group

To reduce the risk of successful challenges, this group has developed and implemented some key best practices. We will discuss our updated CEA Template to assist with the drafting process of new CEAs. Lastly, we will demonstrate how a land trust may undertake CEA revitalization with your own outdated easements using our CEA Revitalization Pilot as a case study.

8B Youth Work in the Our Community

10:15 am – 11:15 am

TBD

This session will discuss current opportunities to involve youth in our work, This will include youth stewardship and student engagement such as the Product for Credit at Fleming College. The team from Fleming, MC2 Environmental Consulting, working with OLTA will present the results of their project.

9 Grant Programs for Land Trusts

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

TBD, Wildlife Habitat Canada; Alison Howson, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Topics will include the Natural Heritage Conservation Plan – Land Trust Conservation Program, how to get support for seasonal staff and more.

10 Conservation in Our Challenging Times

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature

11 Closing Session

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm