



SAVE THE LAND  
YOU LOVE

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-2022



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE



## VISION

A landscape rich with connected and protected spaces, supported by a thriving conservation community.

## MISSION

Empowering a vibrant and enduring land trust community in Ontario.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Caroline Schultz, *Chair*  
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## STAFF

Alison Howson, *Executive Director*  
Morgan Roblin, *Conservation Science Manager*  
Phyllis Lee, *Member Services Coordinator*  
Jeffrey Driscoll, *Program and Communications Coordinator*  
Longyu Gu, *GIS Technician* previously Sarah Hoyos & Junli Hu  
Mikayla Johnston-Clayton, *Program Coordinator*  
Ashley Roszko, *Engagement Coordinator*  
Erinn Todd, *Grant Administrator*  
Jean Labrecque, *Bookkeeper*



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year we have witnessed a growing appreciation of how essential nature is for us all and the importance of coordinated approaches to protect biodiversity, connect ecosystems and resilience to climate change. We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters, members and staff who make the work we do to care for Ontario's natural areas possible.

Through the past year Ontario Land Trust Alliance has continued to flourish. This was the first full year of progress on our Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. We continued to progress our dialogue with Indigenous leaders, knowledge holders and keepers of the land to advance our efforts towards reconciliation. We have focused our conversations on learning how to make space and encourage diversity, equity and inclusion in all our work.

This year OLTA provided more funds to support land securement and stewardship than ever before, expanded our team to grow our engagement activities, provided more educational resources and increased our GIS support. We have also continued our climate action program and developed programming to engage new Canadians and visible minorities.

OLTA has continued to grow, delivering new programming and expanding our collaborative efforts, including the creation of a new national alliance for land trusts.

We still face great challenges but are taking decisive action to move towards realising our vision - a landscape rich with connected and protected spaces, supported by a thriving conservation community.

We are pleased to share this report on achievements in 2021/22. Next year is a special one for OLTA and our members as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Celebrations have already begun and will continue as we highlight the work of the many dedicated volunteers and experts we have been honoured to work with over the past 20 years. To all those who championed land trusts 20 years ago and before, and to those who continue to be guiding lights for our community, thank you.

Thank you for taking an active role in supporting OLTA. Your support is empowering a vibrant and enduring land trust community in Ontario. We look forward to increasing our impact - for all our relations, be they plant or animal, large or small.

With warm regards,



Caroline Schultz  
Chair, Board of Governors



Alison Howson  
Executive Director

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Better Supported Land Trusts



This year OLTA supported land trust securement, stewardship and restoration through approx. \$1.8M in partnership with the Government of Ontario, and secured many millions of dollars more for future programs, we also grew capacity building and volunteer land trust learning in partnership with the Government of Canada and private donors.

Eleven OLTA led programs provided education and training elements, including volunteer land trust leadership, climate action and conserving species at risk. Assessing Your Organization workbooks were updated and a pilot completed ready for new assessments in 2022/23.

## Sharing our Collective Impact



OLTA leadership is elevating the profile of land trusts through new, complex but beneficial initiatives, such as the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts, and a renewed Natural Heritage Conservation Program.

Cross-party relationships have been strengthened resulting in growing provincial and federal opportunities and support for land trusts, thanks to MapleCross and The Gosling Foundation.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



OLTA continued to learn, providing ethical space, valuing differences, and creating opportunities to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in all of its work. We grew new Indigenous partnerships, shared new connections and continued to Engage New Canadians with Nature - Hosting 328 new Canadians at 20 environmental outreach events since inception.

## Looking After OLTA's People



Our incredible and dedicated staff team continues to grow, including creation of a new role Engagement Coordinator (Ashley Roszko) to help us see all our work through an engagement lens. Processes are in place to encourage a supportive and sharing work place, including encouraging junior staff and others to take development opportunities and supporting these financially.



# OLTA MEMBERS

American Friends of Canadian Conservation  
Bruce Trail Conservancy  
Canada South Land Trust  
The Couchiching Conservancy  
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy  
Georgian Bay Land Trust  
Haliburton Highlands Land Trust  
Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust  
Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy  
Huronian Land Conservancy  
Kawartha Land Trust  
The Kensington Conservancy  
Lake Clear Conservancy  
Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation  
Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy  
Lambton Wildlife Incorporated  
Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac,  
Lennox & Addington

Long Point Basin Land Trust  
Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust  
Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust  
Muskoka Conservancy  
Niagara Land Trust Foundation  
Northumberland Land Trust  
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust  
Ontario Farmland Trust  
Ontario Nature  
Rainy Lake Conservancy  
rare Charitable Research Reserve  
Rideau Waterway Land Trust  
Ruthven Park National Historic Site  
Thames Talbot Land Trust  
Thickson's Woods Land Trust  
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust  
Thunder Bay Field Naturalists



# OLTA ASSOCIATES

Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region  
Nova Scotia Nature Trust  
Ontario Heritage Trust  
Conservation Ontario  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation  
South Nation Conservation Authority  
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Wildlands League  
Brant Land Trust  
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq





# MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here are just a few of the many successes of our Members. Member's Featured Properties can also be found in the Anniversary section of our website. Check it out!



Kawartha Land Trust recently secured Pipers' Woods, a 61-acre woodlot situated on limestone bedrock with mature trees and an abundance of wildflowers with the support of the Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program. Kawartha Land Trust has protected over ten new properties in the past two years, with a total of 28 properties!



Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT) has been working hard on the Glen Elbe farm to create an experience learning centre to help TIWLT host events, offer education, let people participate in research, and more! This work continues to transform this ecologically significant area.



## PROTECTING THE HIGHLANDS CORRIDOR

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has been promoting the protection of the Highlands Corridor as a nature-based solution and highlighting a strategy for its protection, in partnership with Ontario Nature and Glenside Ecological Services Limited. They are doing incredible work to promote the awareness and protection of the Highlands Corridor.



Muskoka Conservancy received an amazing donation to protect over 3,000 feet of natural shoreline and nearly 25 acres, in one of Lake Rosseau's busy bays. Muskoka Conservancy protects over 59,600 feet of shoreline on Lake Muskoka, Lake Joseph, Lake of Bays, Lake Vernon and more!

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our Members and Associates who work tirelessly throughout the year to advance land conservation in our communities.



# 2021 OLTA AWARDS



Dave Warner was presented with the Angus McLeod Vision Award. Dave was recognized for his volunteer contributions for over 30 years. Dave helped in the creation of the Thousand Islands Nature Conservancy (now the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust) and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. He has worked on many land securement projects and continues to work diligently on land trust matters.

## OLTA's 20th Anniversary

### Ontario Land Trust Alliance turned 20 years old this July!!

On July 2, 2002, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance became the official provincial association for the Ontario land trust movement!

It is amazing how the land conservation movement in Ontario has changed over the years, led by many land trust heroes.

Now, OLTA has a strong network of land trust members, associates, and partner organizations; collectively we make an incredible impact! We are immensely grateful for 20 exceptional years of OLTA.

Next year's Annual Report will be our 20th Anniversary Edition!



*"The OLTA partnership has resulted in the sharing of important information, supporting our capacity for growth, professional development, close personal relationships, and it has inspired us to do more."*

(Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy)

*"[OLTA] has been vital to our ability to network with and learn from our colleagues. These relationships have been priceless for professional development and sometimes for moral support and coaching in difficult times."*

(The Couchiching Conservancy)





# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenues	2021/22	2020/21
Government Grants	\$1,790,115	\$1,349,605
Private Grants	\$23,790	\$35,024
Other Grants	\$7,342	-
Memberships	\$55,005	\$58,395
Annual Conference (registration only)	\$11,494	\$9,670
Special Events	\$2,552	\$3,135
Project fees, workshops and other revenue	\$41,654	\$50,315
Donations	\$44,905	\$10,670
Total Revenues	\$1,976,857	\$1,516,814
Expenses	2021/22	2020/21
Operations, communications and member services	\$64,500	\$51,291
Education, training and capacity- building	\$1,827,537	\$1,394,696
Annual Conference	\$18,062	\$17,665
Total Expenses	\$1,910,099	\$1,463,652

## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2022	2021
Current Assets	\$2,493,265	\$416,954
(Cash/accounts receivable/pre-paid)		
Current Liabilities	\$2,082,098	\$72,545
(accounts payable/deferred revenues)		
Net Assets (Accumulated surplus)	\$411,167	\$344,409

# Ontario Land Trust Alliance's Impact

This year, OLTA has developed training and tools to strengthen conservation easements, address climate resilience & engage more diverse audiences

OLTA has supported the protection of conservation lands valued at **\$110.3 million**

More than **\$4 million** in funds have been made available through OLTA for land securement and stewardship!

OLTA has supported recovery actions for at least **74** species at risk

OLTA has **50+** members, associates & partners

OLTA currently has **11** programs

More than **800** people engaged through workshops, events, e-news & social media

OLTA members have protected & managed over **117,000+ acres & 1,100 properties**



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE



# Thank you for your commitment to strengthening land conservation in Ontario

## PARTNERS

Blazing Star Environmental  
Bullfrog Power  
Cade Associates Insurance Brokers Limited  
ECO Canada  
Enbridge  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Fleming College - Credit for Product  
Gosling Foundation  
Government of Canada  
Government of Ontario  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
MapleCross  
Metis Nation of Ontario  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

## DONORS

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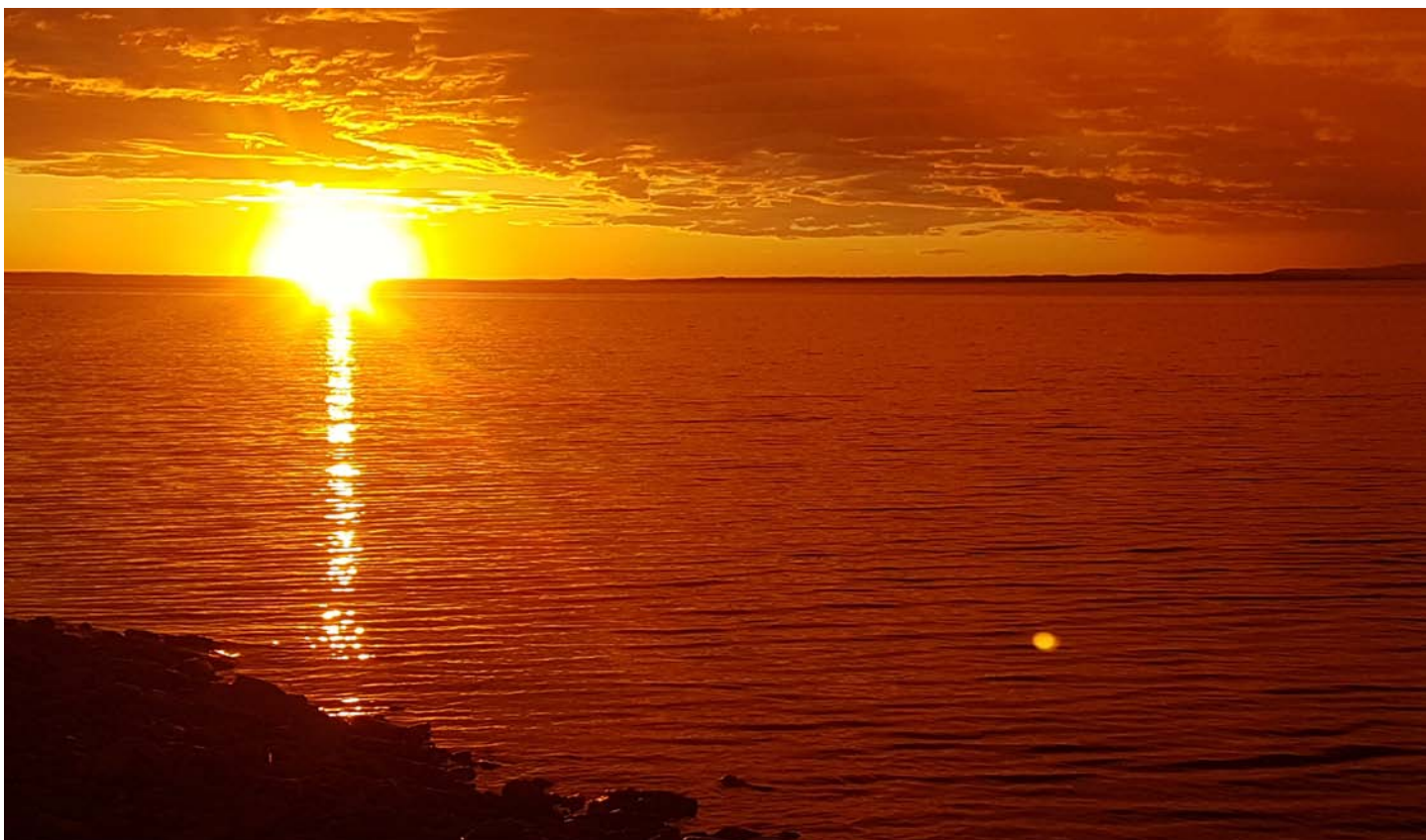
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Caroline Schultz  
Frank Shaw  
Cynthia Smith  
Jenna Sui  
Ric Symmes  
Thunder Bay Field Naturalists  
Susan Walmer  
Peter Welles  
Patricia Wilson  
Doug & Gayle Wood  
Luc Zandvliet  
Sheila Ziman

In Honour of Andy & Jackie  
In Memory of Fran McArthur  
In Memory of Julian Bernard

Thank you to all the donors who wish to remain anonymous.





Through all its work Ontario Land Trust Alliance acknowledges and is grateful to all the original stewards of the land. For many, many thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have inhabited, cared for and used these lands and waters, applying original instructions, Indigenous knowledge systems and laws. Ontario Land Trust Alliance also acknowledges those Indigenous Peoples, and other peoples who currently live, work, play and learn on the lands around us. We are grateful to work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with all Indigenous Peoples. We'd also like to acknowledge the land and water wherever we are, life in water, air we breath, these gifts that are given, and we promise to take care of them for future generations.

Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) is a registered charity focused on providing community, knowledge sharing and support to land trusts and other groups committed to land conservation across Ontario.

Our members and partners work from Rainy Lake in the west, to Windsor in the south, and Cornwall in the east, in 50 connected charities and communities. Ontario Land Trust Alliance's local land trust members collectively own and care for over 117,000 acres across Ontario, engaging the support of thousands of volunteers and supporters annually. OLTA connects the land conservation community by sharing knowledge and best practices, reducing financial barriers to land conservation, promoting organizational excellence, sharing access to current research and Indigenous knowledge systems and acting as a voice for land trusts among the public, governments and other rights holders and partners.



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