



SAVE THE LAND YOU LOVE

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019





MISSION

To strengthen land conservation in Ontario by building and supporting a strong land trust movement.

VISION

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. It also continues to operate and expand as a trusted funding program administrator to support the sector.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kristie Virgoe, *Chair*
Gayle Wood, *Vice Chair*
George Gordon, *Secretary*
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Barbara Heidenreich
Sara Kelly
Caroline Schultz
Frank Shaw
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STAFF

Alison Howson, *Executive Director*
Morgan Roblin, *Conservation Science Manager*
Phyllis Lee, *Member Services Coordinator*
Freya Potter, *Communications and Development Manager*
Kristen Callow, *Program Officer*
Laura Gerencser, *Species At Risk Program Assistant*
Jeff Driscoll, *Program Assistant*
Alex Marino, *Climate Action Program Assistant*
Jean Labrecque, *Bookkeeper*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to all our members and associates for all your conservation successes. Over 17,000 more acres have been recorded as protected, since the last time we came together! You people are incredible! We are inspired and reminded of the strength of our community every time we see a new member project, securement or campaign.

The importance of land conservation is being recognized more each year. Key influencers, like Greta Thunberg, are advocating globally for investment and action in natural climate solutions. The role land trusts play is critical to the future of our children and grandchildren. Let us take this momentum and use it to strengthen our community, for the sake of our planet, we are her stewards.

We are incredibly grateful to our funding supporters who value the work we do to conserve Ontario's natural heritage. With this support, this year OLTA has advanced research and training programs to build land trust strength and capacity. We have a new climate action project, focusing on developing land trust actions and communicating the benefits of land trust lands as natural climate solutions.

Our conservation easement project has moved into its next phase, with the initiation of a CEA revitalization pilot project and development of a revitalization guide. Finally, a new initiative is in development that will support engagement and build excellence in our community. A land trust education program and a platform for sharing best practices in implementing our Standards and Practices is currently in the works. This will build on our success from this year, providing training to staff and volunteers from 95 organizations across the province.

Nationally, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) showed its commitment to private land conservation by supporting the new Land Trust Conservation Program, a four year \$20M fund. OLTA staff and board have worked closely with land trusts nationally to influence the design of this program, to benefit land trusts in Ontario and other provinces.

We are proud of what we have accomplished this year. It is because of the passion and energy of our members, volunteers, staff and Board of Governors that we are successful. Thank-you. Each year we grow stronger as a community. It has not been an easy year, and we have many challenges yet to face. Do not underestimate the value that you bring to this movement. In the eyes of our children and their children, that value is immeasurable.

We look forward to working with all of you in conserving nature and biodiversity this coming year!

With warm regards,



Kristie Virgoe
Chair, Board of Governors



Alison Howson
Executive Director

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

OLTA's incredible members
have saved over
103,000 acres
of conservation land
since 2002



Workshop and webinar
training organized for
95 organizations
and many more
individuals in 2018/19



Over
1,200 acres
of new cross-border
conservation since
2016



92 amazing
volunteers
contributed more
than 1,000
hours in 2018



Building **land trust**
excellence, promoting
best practices,
partnering in research,
sharing knowledge



OLTA has helped to
protect conservation lands
valued at

\$98.1 million



Working groups
developing training and
tools to strengthen
conservation
easements



Working group
focused on
developing climate
actions for land
trusts



With support from
OLTA, recovery
actions have been
carried out for
72 species
at risk

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here is a small snapshot of the many successes of our members.

Thunder Bay Field Naturalists (TBFN) purchased two properties on Michipicoten Island boasting 538 acres of undisturbed wilderness. Funding was provided from private donors and the Canada Nature Fund. Michipicoten First Nation volunteers will be helping TBFN volunteers to monitor and care for the Michipicoten Nature Reserve.

The Tadenac Conservation Initiative is a 5,400-acre protected area of pristine wilderness south of Twelve Mile Bay. Georgian Bay Land Trust secured this highly biodiverse area with assistance from the federal government's "Quickstart" program.

Muskoka Conservancy secured their 40th and 41st properties. Stream to Skeleton Lake has wetland habitat and upland forest. Bert and Millie's Nature Reserve is a unique habitat in Muskoka featuring a 20-acre wetland .

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.



Photo: Connie Hartviksen

2018 OLTA AWARDS

New this year, the OLTA Vision Award for volunteers will now be known as the Angus McLeod Vision Award. This is to honour Angus' contribution as a long time OLTA volunteer. Also new this year, we are recognizing an Emerging Land Trust Leader.

Allyn Abbott was recognized with the Angus McLeod Vision Award. She has been an outstanding volunteer, dedicated to Muskoka Conservancy and to the land trust community in Ontario and beyond.

Christopher Baines was recognized for his long standing involvement in the land trust community - locally with Georgian Bay Land, provincially with OLTA and cross-border with American Friends. He received the Angus McLeod Vision Award.

Sandra Tassel has contributed to the success of many cross-border transactions, worked to increase land trust capacity for these transactions and generously shared her expertise. Sandy received the OLTA Vision Award (Professional).

Smiling Water/Mackenzie Lespérance has greatly contributed to rare Charitable Research Reserve in Indigenous relations and is considered a trail blazer who will go on to a significant role in the land trust community. Smiling Water received the Emerging Land Trust Leader award.

Thank you to our partners for their commitment to
strengthening land conservation in Ontario



Echo Foundation
McLean Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Conservation Ontario
The Conservation Fund
Cade Associates Insurance Brokers Limited

2018 APPRECIATION EVENT SUPPORTERS

Loblaw
Metro

Routine
MEC

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Thank you for protecting natural landscapes in Ontario for generations to come

Virginia Atkins
Mark Bisset
Craig Beare
Susan Bryan
David Chambers
Bobby & John Clarke (In Honour of)
Ted Cowan
John Dayao (In Honour of)
Rob Davis
Shane Davis
Irene Fedun
Fit Cricket Nutrition
George Gordon
Gwen Harris
Brian Hobbs
Jim Johnston

Duncan & Robyn Jones
Sara Kelly
Daira Koscinski
Bill Lougheed
Bruce MacLellan
Gordon Marjerrison
Paul Peterson
Robert Purves
Caroline Schultz
Frank Shaw
Mary Alice Snetsinger
Lee RL Symmes
Randall Van Wagner
Kristie Virgoe
April Wepler
Dave Winkle

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenues	2018/19	2017/18
Government Grants	\$266,293	\$525,837
Private Grants	\$33,461	
Memberships	\$54,753	\$52,340
Annual Conference (registration only)	\$49,115	\$38,057
Special Events	\$6,743	\$4,947
Project fees, workshops and other revenue	\$9,297	\$23,388
Donations	\$5,324	\$2,718
Total Revenues	\$424,986	\$647,287
Expenses	2018/19	2017/18
Operations, communications and member services	\$106,358	\$48,698
Education, training and capacity- building	\$212,248	\$325,854
Annual Conference	\$50,645	\$36,737
Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP)	\$85,000	\$203,124
Total Expenses	\$454,251	\$614,413

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2019	2018
Current Assets (Cash/accounts receivable/pre-paid)	\$333,446	\$436,402
Current Liabilities (accounts payable/deferred revenues)	\$86,951	\$160,642
Net Assets (Accumulated surplus)	\$246,495	\$275,760

OLTA MEMBERS

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts
Brant Land Trust
The 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
Huron 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

Lone Pine Land Trust
Long Point Basin Land Trust
Lower Grand River 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
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
Ontario Heritage Trust
Conservation Ontario
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Nickel District Conservation Authority

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation
South Nation Conservation Authority
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Wildlands League



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Help us to save the land You love!