

A close-up photograph of a dark-colored salamander with a lighter, patterned underbelly, resting on a large, crumpled, reddish-brown leaf. The leaf is partially covered in small, light-colored spots, possibly mold or debris. The background shows other dry leaves and a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a rock or ground.

SAVE THE LAND
YOU LOVE

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023





Through all its work the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) acknowledges and is grateful to all the original stewards of the land. For many thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples inhabited, cared for and used these lands and waters by applying original instructions, Indigenous knowledge systems and laws. OLTA 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 and air we breath, these gifts that are given. We promise to take care of them for future generations.

ABOUT OLTA

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. Collectively, OLTA's land trust members own and care for over 135,000 acres across Ontario, and engage 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Resilient lands and waters that are well cared for, and communities connected to these areas – these lands support humanity, and all its relations, plants, animals, big, small and everything in between. They provide clean water, fresh air, and healthy soils. The land trust community and our partners and supporters strive for this every day, and this year the Ontario Land Trust Alliance continued to create opportunities to connect, listen with open hearts, learn and grow together.

This year OLTA's operating budget tripled to over \$6 million. Over 90% of this goes directly to support land trusts. As we grew our operations to increase our impact, we also kept a strong focus on our policy development and operational management by building human resource and technology support.

Through our advancing equity, diversity and inclusion strategic priority, we strengthened relationships and understanding across communities, and continued to work in meaningful ways towards truth and reconciliation.

Our membership increased by 10% and we continued to encourage and support groups just starting out, new Indigenous-led land trusts and more established environmental charities.

The land trust community now cares for over 135,000 acres of land. This year, we collectively worked with over 125,000 members, supporters and partners, built or grew relationships with many First Nations and Metis Peoples, and encouraged connection and learning between western and Indigenous knowledge systems.

Thanks to the leadership of federal and provincial governments, foundations and other partners, this year OLTA created a new collaborative multi-million dollar initiative, which will support at least fifty new land conservation and restoration projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also received a significant boost to the hugely impactful Greenlands Conservation Partnership.

We are pleased to share this report on our achievements in 2022/23. To all those who continue to be guiding lights for our community, thank you. Thank you for taking an active role in supporting OLTA. Your commitment is empowering us to increase our impact – for our community and our world.

With warm regards,



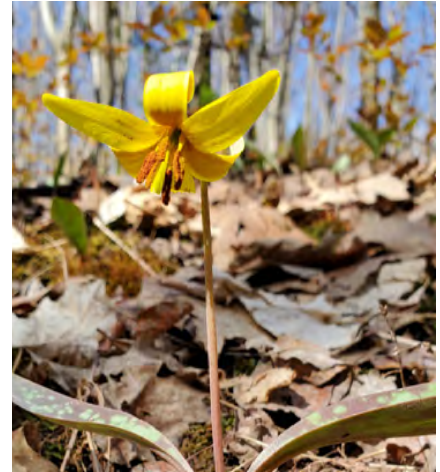
Caroline Schultz
Chair, Board of Governors



Alison Howson
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Better Supported Land Trusts



This year OLTA grew its partnerships, providing more funding for land trusts than ever before – an incredible \$15.9M in additional multi-year funding was secured, to support nature smart climate solutions and conservation of biodiversity rich landscapes across Ontario.

We continued to grow capacity in the community through sessions supporting good governance and operations - 91% of the membership recorded progress in Standards and Practices since 2021. Membership grew by 10%, including both Indigenous-led land trusts and other land trusts, we strive to support all land trusts to increase our collective impact for all nature.

Sharing our Collective Impact



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



The first national summit in collaboration with the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts (ACLTC), and other alliance partners, was held in Ottawa in October 2022. The event also celebrated the creation of ACLTC, a new strong national alliance for the land trust community.

Relationships have grown with both provincial and federal elected officials and departmental staff and OLTA continues to successfully advocate for land trusts' key priorities both independently and with key partners including land trusts, Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts, Nature Conservancy of Canada and many others. Increased funding both provincially and federally is indicative of growing recognition of the importance of our community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Land Trust Practices



OLTA continued to learn, as a board, as a team, and as a community, valuing differences and creating opportunities to foster equity, diversity and inclusion. New associate memberships this year were primarily from Indigenous-led conservation groups helping build more meaningful connections as we continue on our journey towards truth and reconciliation. Our Engaging New Canadians with Nature Program was renewed and expanded to support access to nature for all equity seeking groups.

Growing Organizational Capacity to Continue to Serve the Land Trust Community




OLTA is building our organization's people power - cultivating relationships with those who share our organization's interests, and supporting them in specific ways to grow our community. This year, our committees and working groups were well supported by volunteers and our community is growing as a result. OLTA also continues to support flexible working practices, with new HR support and benefits package development, further supporting the team.

OLTA 20TH ANNIVERSARY

1999

Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP) funding started

- OLTAP, an important funding program for OLTA and OLTA's land trust members, started to support the acquisition and management of ecologically sensitive lands



2002

Ontario Land Trust Alliance incorporated!



- With a membership of 23 land trusts, Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA Inc.) was fully incorporated and became the official provincial association for the Ontario land trust movement!
- 16,000 acres and 199 properties were collectively managed and protected by Ontario land trusts.
- Funds available through OLTA for land securement in Ontario totalled \$14,000

2005


Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices

A History of the Land Trust Movement in Ontario (1947-2016)

In Celebration of OLTA's 20th Anniversary (2002 - 2022)

Contributors:
 Barb Heidenreich, OLTA Governor, Project Lead
 Ian Attridge, Governor, Faculty, Trent University; OLTA Governor, Project Coordinator
 Sara Kelly, Faculty, Sir Sandford Fleming College; OLTA Governor
 Martina Albert, Ecosystem Management Technology Graduate, MC2 Environmental Consulting
 Chelsea Houston, Ecosystem Management Technology Graduate, MC2 Environmental Consulting
 Maura Van Meer, Ecosystem Management Technology Graduate, MC2 Environmental Consulting
 Cherylene Wilt, Ecosystem Management Technology Graduate, MC2 Environmental Consulting
 Bianca Pitt, & Co., OLTA Volunteer



2007

- OLTA grew to 37 local land trust members
- In June, OLTA invited Ontario's Conservation Authorities to join the Alliance as associate members; 8 associates joined

2012

OLTA's 10 Year Anniversary!

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

Throughout 2022-23, we celebrated this milestone by connecting with founders and conservation leaders, reflecting on OLTA's past, sharing our collective impact, and planning for our future.

The wonderful Barb Heidenreich also led the development of a history of the land trust movement. Our hearts were full, from everyone sharing reflections and celebrating with us!

Visit our website at www.olta.ca to learn more about the events and materials developed for our anniversary.



2022 SUMMIT OF CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS

In October 2022 the Ontario Land Trust Alliance collaborated with the Land Trust Alliance of BC, Le Réseau de milieux naturels protégés and the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts to organize and present a national summit for land trusts.

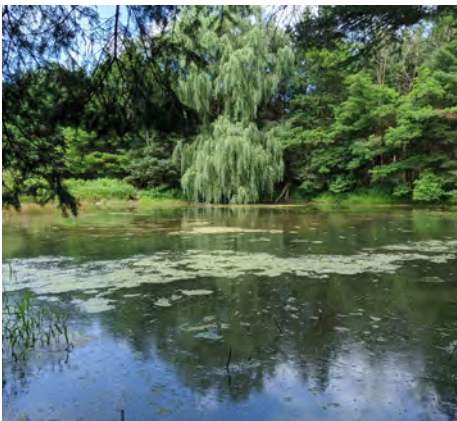
Over 165 representatives from land trusts, Indigenous communities and governments from across the country came together and shared experiences, collaborations and key learnings about caring for these lands that we call home. It was an overwhelming success, including invitations to meetings on Parliament Hill and a thank you to land trusts in the House!



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
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

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
Thames Talbot Land Trust
Thickson's Woods Land Trust
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust
Thunder Bay Field Naturalists



OLTA ASSOCIATES

Conservation Ontario
Credit Valley Conservation
Island Nature Trust
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Métis Nation of Ontario
Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
Ontario Heritage Trust
Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

Ruthven Park National Historic Site
South Nation Conservation Authority
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Emerging Land Trusts

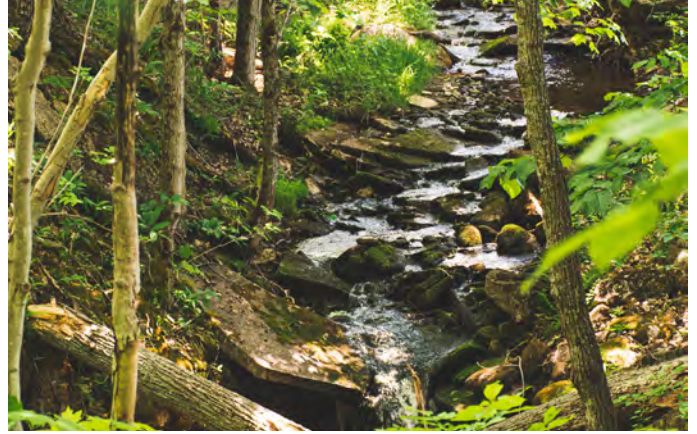
Brant Land Trust
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Eastern Ontario Land Trust
Greenough and North Bruce Wilderness Alliance Inc.

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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. Below are a few of the many successes of our members.



[Thunder Bay Field Naturalists](#) secured 2,500 new acres in three areas including Ward Lake Nature Reserve, McTavish Wetlands Nature Reserve and Escott Nature Reserve.



The [Couchiching Conservancy](#) added protection to over 14,800 acres including 55 nature reserves and easements, and one road allowance.



[Bruce Trail Conservancy](#) secured 445 acres across six new Protected Areas. They planted 37,000 native trees to restore forest habitat and reestablish declining species, and began planning Healing Garden projects with Indigenous partners.



[The Kensington Conservancy](#) launched a bat monitoring program with >75,000 recordings! They also protected 278 acres of coastal wetland and opened ~3km of hiking trails both in Gravel Point Preserve.

Check out the publicly accessible properties in the [Land Trust Directory on our website!](#)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenues	2022/23	2021/22
Government Grants	\$6,226,138	\$1,790,115
Private Grants	\$86,203	\$23,790
Other Grants	\$5,168	\$7,342
Memberships	\$60,616	\$55,005
Annual Conference (registration only)	\$87,159	\$11,494
Special Events	\$0	\$2,552
Project fees, workshops and other revenue	\$38,635	\$41,654
Donations	\$11,391	\$44,905
Total Revenues	\$6,515,310	\$1,976,857
Expenses	2022/23	2021/22
Operations, communications and member services	\$83,069	\$64,500
Education, training and capacity- building	\$6,308,893	\$1,827,537
Annual Conference	\$76,558	\$18,062
Total Expenses	\$6,468,520	\$1,910,099

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
Current Assets	\$1,479,916	\$2,493,265
(Cash/accounts receivable/pre-paid)		
Current Liabilities	\$1,021,959	\$2,082,098
(accounts payable/deferred revenues)		
Net Assets (Accumulated surplus)	\$457,957	\$411,167

Ontario Land Trust Alliance's Impact

This year OLTA developed training and tools to strengthen governance, share Indigenous teachings and grow land trusts capacity

More than **\$6 million** in funds have been made available through OLTA for land securement and stewardship

OLTA supported recovery actions for at least **50** species at risk

OLTA members have conserved and now care for over **135,000** acres and **1,300** properties

The land trust community engaged over **1 million** people through workshops, events, e-news and social media



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening land conservation in Ontario

PARTNERS



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Cade Associates Insurance Brokers Limited
Canada Helps
ECO Canada
The Gosling Foundation

Government of Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada

DONORS

Ian Attridge
Mark Bisset
Deborah Black
Brittany Bonapace
Ellen Brownbill
Susan Bryan
Joyce Chau
Ted Cowan
Joy Croke
Beacon Environmental
Give Foundation
Kim Gavine
Elizabeth Gavrilova
Beth Gilhespy
Kathryn Gold
George Gordon

Peter Hannah & Daphne Buckley
Barbara Heidenreich
Thomas Hurst
Duncan & Robyn Jones
Sara Kelly
John Kintare
Daria Koscinski
Susan Lang
Kimberley MacKenzie
Gordon Marjerrison
Carolyn Mathers
John McFadyen
Mark McLean
Matt Miller
Paul Mitchell
Brian Morris

Paul Peterson
Dieter Poenn
Sean & Agata Rudd
Caroline Schultz
Frank Shaw
Jenna Siu
Patricia Wilson
Dave Winkle
Scott Young
Sheila Ziman

In Honour of Kate Read-Maney
Krista Kaptein - In Honour of
Kubes family

Thank you to all donors who wish to remain anonymous.



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*

Ian Attridge, *Vice Chair*

Kimberley Mackenzie, *Vice Chair (retired March 2023)*

Kathryn Gold, *Secretary*

Beth Gilhespy, *Treasurer*

Joyce Chau

Sara Kelly (*retired May 2023*)

John Kintare

Daria Koscinski

Jenna Siu

Patricia Wilson

STAFF

Alison Howson, *Executive Director*

Morgan Roblin, *Director of Conservation*

Phyllis Lee, *Member Services Coordinator*

Erinn Todd, *Grant Administrator*

Julia Ercolani, *Nature Smart Program Manager*

Longyu Gu, *GIS Technician*

Michelle Hill, *Conservation Program Specialist (Wetlands)*

Mikayla Johnston-Clayton, *Program Coordinator*

Jessica Obodoechi, *Education and Training Manager*

Ashley Roszko, *Engagement Coordinator*

Alisa Charbonneau, *Conservation and Restoration Technician*

Kelly Gingrich, *Communications Specialist*, previously Elie Ngoy

Jean Labrecque, *Bookkeeper*