



GATHERING 2024

Program

OCTOBER 28-30, 2024

**Resilient Lands, Resilient People:
Sharing Innovations
and Diverse Approaches**



Welcome!

We are excited to be hosting this year’s Gathering at the isaiah tubbs resort and conference centre, Prince Edward County, Ontario.

The Gathering is always a wonderful time for networking and sharing. We hope that you will also take this opportunity to connect with OLTA staff to let us know how we can best support you.

Thank you to the 2024 Gathering Committee!

Becky Big Canoe Corina Brdar Terra Duchenne Alison Howson Laura Kucey
Phyllis Lee Jessica Obodoechi Aaron Rusak Erin Todd Rebecca Weigand

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Land Acknowledgement

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, and they continue to do so. 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 remain dedicated to the continuous journey of reconciliation with all Indigenous peoples.

Special Events

OLTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday October 29 at 4:00 pm

Banquet & Auction

Tuesday October 29

Cash bar and Silent Auction opens at 5:30pm followed by buffet dinner.

Bonfire

Tuesday October 29 at 8:30pm

Gather around the campfire. Bring your instruments and voices. Join in the fun!

Be sure to check out the displays from our partners and community members.

Conference Schedule

Monday October 28, 2024

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Registration - <i>MacDonald Hall lobby</i>		
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	1a. Restoration for Species at Risk at Sandbanks Provincial Park	1b. Governance 3 Part Series <i>Windemere Room</i>	1c. Indigenous Land Trust Sharing Circle - Session 1 <i>The Williams Pavilion</i>
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Registration - <i>MacDonald Hall lobby</i> Bedroom Check-in Registration Office		
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>		
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Informal Networking		

Tuesday October 29, 2024

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration <i>MacDonald Hall lobby</i>	
9:00 am - 10:15 am	2. Welcome Opening Ceremony Plenary: Reconciliation & Collaboration: Support for Indigenous Land Trusts <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	
10:15 am- 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am - 11:45am	3a. Essential Tax & Legal Update: Recent Changes, Cases, & Policies Impacting Land Trusts <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	3b. Monitoring Across Scopes, Scales and Sizes <i>Windemere Room</i>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	4. Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Land Trust Sector <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break	
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	5a. CEA Working Group Update and Indigenous Considerations for CEA Planning <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	5b. Show & Tell for 'Data Nerds' <i>Windemere Room</i>
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Ontario Land Trust Alliance - Annual General Meeting <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	
5:30pm - 6:00 pm	Cash Bar and Auction <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll bar</i>	
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Banquet & Auction <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	
8:30 pm - whenever	Bonfire <i>O'Neil Pavilion</i>	

Wednesday October 30, 2024

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	
8:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration <i>MacDonald Hall lobby</i>	
8:45 am - 9:45 am	6. Land Trust as Land Back? <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Break Bedroom Check-out - <i>Registration Office</i>	
10:15 am - 11:15 am	7a. Informal Networking Time <i>MacDonald Hall & Windemere Room & Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	7b. Indigenous Land Trust Sharing Circle - Session 2 <i>The Williams Pavilion</i>
11:15 am - 11:30 am	Break Bedroom Check-out - <i>Registration Office</i>	
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	8a. Novel Approaches to Protecting Landscapes <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	8b. Bridging the Gap: Sharing Local Land Trusts' Influence Nationwide <i>Windemere Room</i>
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch <i>The Restaurant on the Knoll</i>	
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	9a. Funding Land Conservation - Grants & Beyond <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	9b. Stories of <u>Indigenous-Led</u> & Partnered Conservation <i>Windemere Room</i>
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break	
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	10. Closing <i>MacDonald Hall</i>	

For more information on the sessions and speakers,
please visit our website.



Session Descriptions

1a. Hike: Restoration for Species At Risk at Sandbanks PP

Speaker: Corina Brdar

Join Ontario Nature's Corina Brdar for a guided walk at Sandbanks to learn about the work that's been done to restore habitat for eastern meadowlark, bobolink, and other grassland birds. This work was done to meet the requirements of an overall benefit permit as required by the Endangered Species Act, due to the construction of a new campground. This will be an easy walk along roadways and trails, with optional opportunities to "bushwack" into the new "old field" habitat that's been created.

1b. Governance - 3 Part Series: Finance, Organizational Assessments, and Good Governance

Speaker: Susan Cumming, Stacie Lloyd, John Grass, Leah Myers

This three-part governance session will cover key topics for Board members and senior staff.

Susan Cumming of Legacy Accounting will share about organizational financial underpinnings, fiduciary and fiscal responsibilities, financial allocation and management, and the basics of cybersecurity for land trusts.

Stacie Lloyd of Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust and John Grass of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust will be sharing their experiences with OLTA's Assessing Your Organization program – what they learned through the process and what changes were made because of those learnings.

Leah Myers will be discussing the role of boards and principles of good governance, based on her experience on a number of not-for-profit boards and in particular the journey of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Board of Directors from a more operational to a governance board.

1c. Indigenous Land Trust Sharing Circle

An opportunity for Indigenous-led land trusts and Indigenous-led conservation groups to connect with each other.

2. Plenary: Reconciliation and Collaboration: Support for Indigenous Land Trusts

Speakers: Becky Big Canoe and Sonia Molodecky

The land trust community has an unparalleled opportunity to work alongside Indigenous communities to envision and co-create the world we all need and depend on. Becky Big Canoe and Sonia Molodecky, co-founders of Mno Aki Land Trust, will be sharing some of the exciting developments and opportunities for collaborations that will assist Mno Aki Land Trust to fully embody its goals. The story of Mno Aki Land Trust is part of a bigger story of how we can come together to conserve lands for future generations.

3a. Essential Legal Update: Recent Cases, Changes, and Policies Affecting Land Trusts

Speaker: Karen Cooper

The presentation will provide an overview of recent changes, cases, and policies that will impact the operations of land trusts from a Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) and corporate law perspective.

3b. Monitoring Across Scopes, Scales & Sizes

Speakers: Adam Grottoli, Corinne Wilkerson, Aaron Rusak

Georgian Bay Land Trust has been enhancing their landscape monitoring in remote areas, as well as their research capacities and projects. Monitoring large landscapes can be time-intensive, and the constraints of time and resources often limit the level of detail that can be obtained. Adam will share how they implement targeted monitoring, as well as utilize drones to assist in their efforts. In addition, Aaron will discuss their species-specific research programs, and how they tie into their monitoring efforts, with a focus on Prairie Warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Bog Copper.

Corinne from The Kensington Conservancy will share her experiences utilizing a range of tools for monitoring biodiversity on TKC's nature preserves, including trail cameras, automated recording units, and monitoring software. She will also discuss how this small organization maximizes its efforts through data collection apps, citizen science initiatives, dedicated volunteers, and collaborative partnerships.

4. DEI Practices in Action: Implementing Change and Addressing Barriers in the Land Trust Sector

Speakers: Patricia Wilson, Kymani Montgomery, Ashoo Anand

This engaging workshop will focus on putting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles into practice within the land trust sector, with special emphasis on overcoming barriers to change. The session will feature a dynamic panel of speakers from across the environmental sector, each bringing intersectional identities and lived experiences to the conversation.

The workshop will begin with brief, 10-minute presentations from each of our speakers, who will share insights from their personal and professional journeys toward advancing DEI in the environmental sector. These presentations will set the stage for a lively panel discussion, where speakers will dive deeper into how organizations can navigate challenges, address systemic barriers, and foster more inclusive and equitable practices within land trusts.

5a. CEA Working Group Update and Indigenous Considerations for CEA Planning

Speakers: Martin Straathof, Ian Attridge, Laura Kucey

The session will have two components:

1. Update on the OLTA Conservation Easement Agreement (CEA) Working Group activities, with a focus on the CEA Revitalization Guide for amendments and updates on clarifying procedures for registering CEAs on the land title.
2. Martin, Ontario Farmland Trust, will share experiences and evolving approaches to incorporate Indigenous considerations within an easement. Martin and Ian will expand on this experience to foster a group discussion on key topics related to Indigenous considerations when drafting CEAs including relationship building, traditional uses, challenges, limitations, and land back elements.

5b. Show and Tell for “Data Nerds”

Speakers: Alissa Paxton, Darby Alderson

Calling all data nerds! Bring your enthusiasm for record keeping and data management tools with this show & tell workshop. Presenters Alissa Paxton (Kawartha Land Trust), Darby Alderson (Thames Talbot Land Trust) will provide some insider information on the CRM/data management tools that their land trusts are using.

Following that, you will get the chance to connect with other land trusts that use the same CRM/data management tools as you, or ones that you would like to try, to discuss pros, cons, and tips & tricks.

6. Land Trust as Land Back?

Speaker: Hayden King

Over the past 4-5 years a new social movement has emerged, drawing on and reflecting much older demands by Indigenous people: Land Back. Growing from protests against the construction of a pipeline across Wet'suwet'en territory in B.C., the Land Back movement has expanded to highlight the many forms of dispossession. But it has also sought to challenge them. Most recently, the Land Back movement has turned towards tangible strategies for land repossession, ranging from consent regimes and permitting processes to counter-mapping and environmental assessments. Can land trusts be another option for Indigenous reclamation? This presentation considers the context and scope of land back and the potential utility of land trusts to this movement.

7a. Informal Networking Time

We invite you to use this time to make and build connections and share ideas, resources, and skills.

7b. Indigenous Land Trust Sharing Circle

An opportunity for Indigenous-led land trusts and Indigenous-led conservation groups to connect with each other.

8a. Novel Approaches to Protecting Landscapes

Speaker: Bill Lougheed, Mark Stabb, Toyosi Bakare

This session covers three successful novel approaches to land conservation.

One approach is local to where the Gathering is being held – collaborating for conservation in Prince Edward County’s South shore. The South Shore Joint Initiative worked on creating a path to landscape resiliency.

Many areas of Ontario remain unfragmented by roads and in their natural state. In south central Ontario most of these remaining natural spaces are under threat of being lost forever. The second approach will discuss the out-of-the-box conservation tools and mechanisms used to successfully protect a 32,900-acre section of coastal corridor through a conservation easement agreement with the municipality.

OLTA’s Nature Smart Program Manager will discuss the innovative program and how it broadly addresses land conservation through a GHG-targeted approach.

8b. Bridging the Gap: Sharing Local Land Trusts’ Influence Nationwide

Speakers: Renata Woodward

Local and regional land trusts play a crucial role in advancing national and international conservation goals. However, many Canadians and decision-makers remain unaware of the sector’s impact. With key moments such as the upcoming fall economic statement, the spring budget, and a looming federal election on the horizon, it’s essential to enhance the visibility and support for land trusts’ conservation efforts.

Join the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts to gain insights into our collective initiative to boost national awareness of land trusts. This is also an opportunity to understand the critical importance of government relations and advocacy in our mission to protect Canada’s natural heritage.

9a. Funding Land Conservation: Grants and Beyond

Speakers: Kim Neale, Jim Rutten, Rob Wilson

OLTA administers the Government of Ontario's Greenlands Conservation Partnership (GCP). The first iteration of the GCP was a great success! The second iteration includes \$20 million in available funding over the next four years for land securement and restoration. Learn about next steps for the upcoming granting round.

Indigenous perspectives in ecological economics are transforming the landscape of conservation finance, how we measure impact and how we collaboratively make land relationship planning decisions. This presentation will provide an overview of emerging Two-Eyed Seeing approaches in ecological economics and the applications of this work to advance outcomes-based bonds, biodiversity and nature stewardship credit conservation finance mechanisms.

9b. Stories of Indigenous-Led and Partnered Conservation

Speakers: Kaitlyn Patterson, Clint Jacobs, Smera Sukumar

Smera and Clint will speak about a collaborative partnership of land-based two-eyed seeing gatherings in southwestern Ontario and burn restoration project on Pelee Island. Kaitlyn will build on the introduction to the All Our Relations Land Trust at the 2023 OLTA Gathering and review updates and new projects and also reflect on visions for the future and potential collaborations among land trusts.



Thank you for supporting our 2024 Gathering!



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**Thank you to our Gathering Committee,
and all our donors, supporters, and volunteers!**