

SAVE THE LAND YOU LOVE



ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021





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

Gayle Wood, *Chair*
Caroline Schultz, *Vice 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*
Mikayla Johnston-Clayton, *Program Coordinator*
Erinn Todd, *Grant Administrator*
Sarah Hoyos, *GIS Technician*
Jean Labrecque, *Bookkeeper*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has truly been another challenging one for many people. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all in many ways, but we have also witnessed a growing appreciation of how essential nature is, for us all.

In February we finalized our new Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2024. We took the important step this year to create a new strategic priority, to provide leadership to advance equity, diversity and inclusion on all land trust practices. We have continued to progress our dialogue with Indigenous leaders and keepers of the land to advance our efforts towards reconciliation. We acknowledge this and other areas where we continue to grow, taking steps to educate ourselves, and through developing and acting on new commitments to improve our understanding of discrimination and systemic racism, act to break down barriers.

We also renewed both our Mission and Vision and created new supporting Values listening to the voices of community members, rights holders and stakeholders.

Since our last Gathering, OLTA has continued to have strong operations, delivered new programming, and increased our collaborative efforts. It is true we are facing great challenges but it is clear that our renewed mission could not be more urgent.

We are incredibly grateful to our members and supporters who value the work we do to conserve Ontario's natural heritage. With this support, this year OLTA has introduced a significant new land securement and stewardship fund and advanced research and training programs to build land trust strength and capacity. We have also continued our climate action program, and developed programming to engage new Canadians and visible minorities.

Thank you, to all of you, for taking an active role in supporting OLTA, and empowering a vibrant and enduring land trust community in Ontario.

With warm regards,



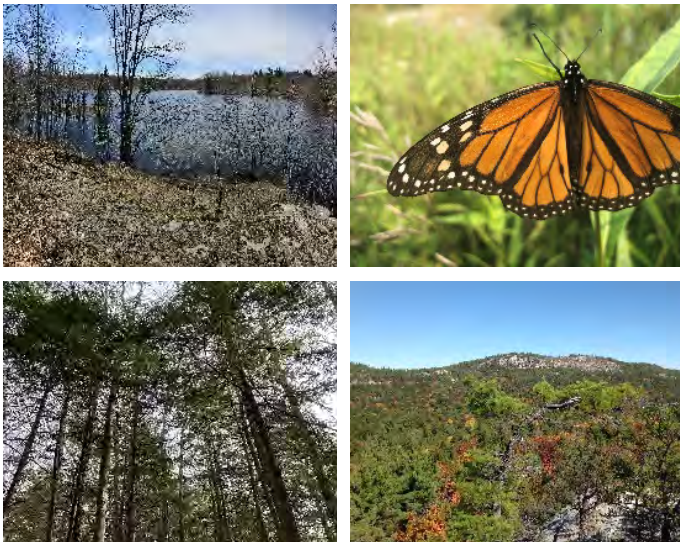
Gayle Wood
Chair, Board of Governors



Alison Howson
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Better Supported Land Trusts

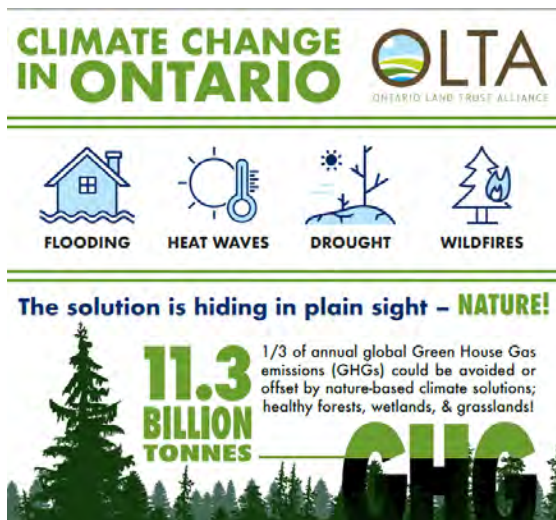


This year OLTA secured a new \$5.5M fund for Ontario land trusts in partnership with the Government of Ontario and NCC, and through capacity building, 86% of land trusts reported progress in CLT S&P adherence.



We finalized our Conservation Easement Agreement Guide, and an update to our Baseline Documentation Report Guide is in development. A Land Trust Education Committee was created - with an early focus on researching learning centre platforms and development of learning sessions on key topics for land trust board members.

Sharing our Collective Impact



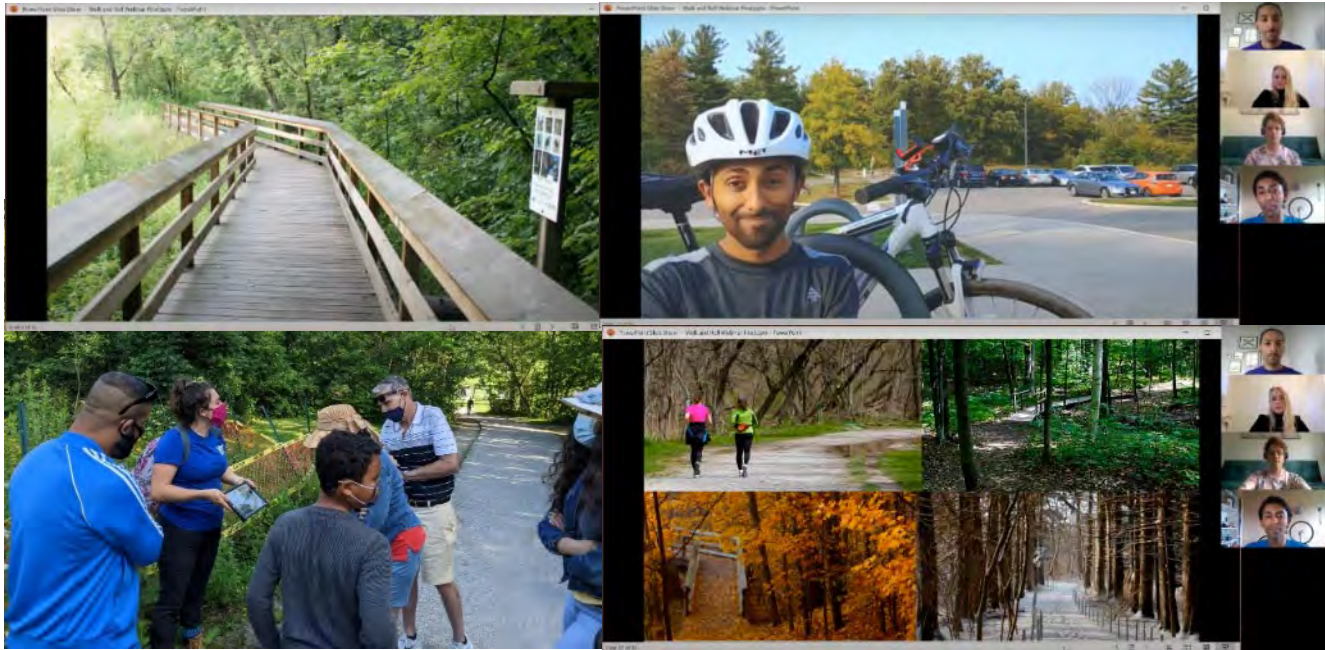
OLTA created climate action communication tools (4 videos and infographics) and shared these to promote land trusts' role in nature-based climate solutions.



OLTA engaged with national partners and moved the national voice for land trusts closer to becoming a reality in 2022. Media releases focused on program recognition, critical issues for the land trust community and highlighting securement accomplishments.

HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



OLTA committed to providing ethical space, valuing differences, and learning how to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in all of its work. We facilitated sessions focused on Indigenous learning, shared new connections and continued to Engage New Canadians with Nature - 116 new Canadians attended 8 environmental outreach events.

Looking After OLTA's People



Despite the pandemic we grew our staff team, including creation of two new roles, Grant Administrator (Erinn Todd), and GIS Technician (Sarah Hoyos) to support OLTA and members' mapping activities. Staff and volunteers were supported with new initiatives to help us stay connected while remote working and we collaborated with partners to grow engagement organizing strength for land trusts and OLTA.

OLTA MEMBERS

American Friends of Canadian Conservation
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
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

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

Carolinian Canada Coalition
Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
Ontario Heritage Trust
Conservation Ontario
Essex Region Conservation Authority
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
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trusts

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here are just a few of the many successes of our Members.



The Kensington Conservancy now protects the entirety of Coatsworth Island, a 28.8-acre undeveloped island in the St. Joseph Channel in Lake Huron. The western half was purchased in 2019, and the eastern half was purchased in February 2021.



Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy protected over 3,400 new acres in eleven new reserves, including 161 acres in the Muir Reserve on the Bighead and Heaven's Gate at 1,984 acres.



Rideau Waterway Land Trust celebrated their 25th anniversary and protected a 74 acre property in the Frontenac Arch with the support of the Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program.



Ontario Farmland Trust protected over 700 acres in Bruce and Simcoe counties, protecting diverse agriculture and numerous species at risk.

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.

2020 OLTA AWARDS

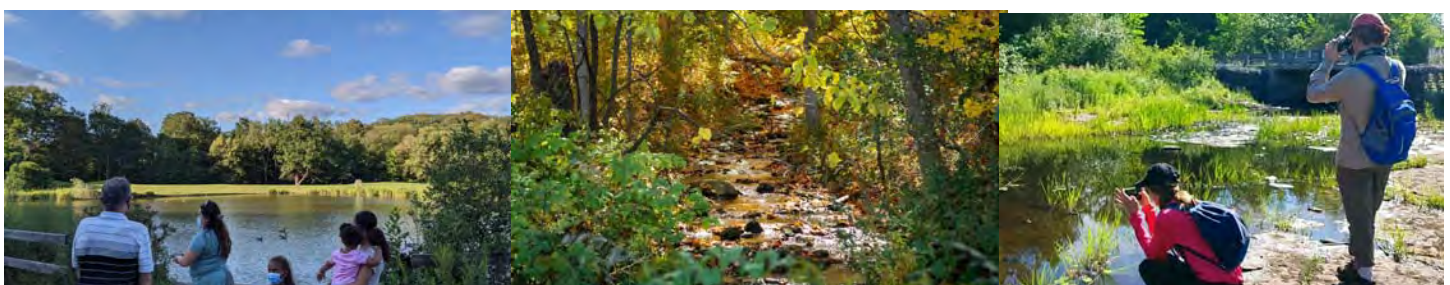


Bill Dickinson was presented with the Angus McLeod Vision Award. Bill is a highly knowledgeable field biologist whose personal mission is to share what he knows. He has inspired many, many others over the years, particularly young people.

The Vision Award (Professional) was presented to Christopher Gosselin. His life-time work has contributed greatly to conservation and the land trust movement in Waterloo Region, and he has been a long term supporter of various land trusts and other organizations devoted to the protection of our natural environment.

Patricia Wilson was recognized with the Emerging Land Trust Leader Award. Patricia is a natural community engager and is challenging us, and others, to increase our reach to both share our passion for land conservation and also learn from and involve new, emerging and often hidden voices in our work.

The Land Trust Award for Excellence was presented to the Ontario Farmland Trust. Last year, OFT created a partnership with the National Farmer's Union - Ontario to address the farmland succession crisis in our province. OFT also had an ongoing effort to bring the organization into "high compliance" with the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices within 1 year.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenues	2020/21	2019/20
Government Grants	\$1,349,605	\$119,596
Private Grants	\$35,024	\$72,876
Wage Subsidies	-	\$20,235
Memberships	\$58,395	\$58,535
Annual Conference (registration only)	\$9,670	\$47,168
Special Events	\$3,135	\$6,381
Project fees, workshops and other revenue	\$50,315	\$7,510
Donations	\$10,670	\$9,884
Total Revenues	\$1,516,814	\$342,185
Expenses	2020/21	2019/20
Operations, communications and member services	\$51,291	\$64,854
Education, training and capacity- building	\$1,394,696	\$184,081
Annual Conference	\$17,665	\$48,498
Total Expenses	\$1,463,652	\$297,433

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2021	2020
Current Assets (Cash/accounts receivable/pre-paid)	\$416,954	\$364,185
Current Liabilities (accounts payable/deferred revenues)	\$72,545	\$72,938
Net Assets (Accumulated surplus)	\$344,409	\$291,247

Empowering a **VIBRANT** and **ENDURING** land trust community in Ontario

OLTA's incredible members have saved over **110 000 acres** of conservation land since 2002

More than **600 participants** engaged in land trust learning through **28 workshops and events** in 2020/21

Helped to protect conservation lands valued at **\$103.9 million**

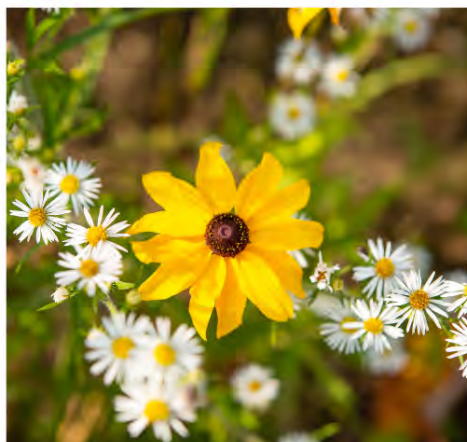


Developed **climate tools** and **championed** land trust **nature-based climate solutions**

With support from OLTA, recovery actions have been carried out for **73 species at risk**

22 783 acres of land trust lands assessed as **protected areas** during our first pilot, more to come

BUILDING land trust excellence, **PROMOTING** best practices, **PARTNERING** in research, **SHARING** knowledge



Thank you for your commitment to strengthening land conservation in Ontario

PARTNERS

Blazing Star Environmental
Cade Associates Insurance Brokers Limited
Canadian Land Trust Working Group
Conservation Ontario
ECO Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fleming College - Credit for Product
Greenbelt Foundation
Government of Canada
Government of Ontario
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Southern Ontario Nature Coalition
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

DONORS

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Murray Peavoy
Vicki Schmolka
Caroline Schultz
Frank Shaw
Patricia Short-Galle
Birgit Siber
Susan Walmer
Gayle Wood

In Memory of Michael Garmaise and
Alan Ferguson
In honour of Bob Barnett

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.

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 100,000 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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