



From the Land

A Message from the President

After a long winter I am pleased to share some good news stories with you! But before I do, a reminder that it's also time to renew your membership in HPELT if you have not already done so. It's vital to our success to have strong member support so please renew and encourage others to join our community Land Trust.

For those of you interested in giving to HPELT to advance our work we have an article that explains the benefits of donating to our registered charity. Your donations are used locally to help protect our natural and cultural heritage and improve our environment, so please consider a gift.

Proposed McMahon Bluff Nature Reserve

These are exciting days for HPELT volunteers as we work toward the creation of a new nature reserve through the acquisition of McMahon Bluff at the mouth of the Black River in Prince Edward County. Because of the rare plant communities and unique glacial features of the limestone bluff, the province has identified this site as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest for both Life and Earth Sciences. It has also been identified as an ideal site to provide habitat for the recovery of bald eagles on eastern Lake Ontario. Can you imagine how future generations will feel when they see these magnificent birds soaring through the skies of Prince Edward?

Although we're just getting started, HPELT has already secured funding support from the Ontario Heritage Trust and one private foundation to purchase the property. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has also provided funding to hire a project Coordinator to assist in Communications and fundraising.



The golden-winged warbler is a species which many biologists believe is in decline because of habitat loss. It finds a summer home and breeding habitat in The Land Between. See the article about this important part of the Hastings Prince Edward area on Page.4.

In conjunction with the Ontario Heritage Trust we have hired an experienced real estate negotiator to assist us with an appraisal and Phase One Environmental Assessment and to negotiate the actual purchase.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to introduce Peter Webster as our Project Coordinator. Peter has extensive communication experience and has been involved in successful community-based fundraising projects. He will be developing communication products that will increase public awareness of the Trust while assisting our fundraising efforts. HPELT will be seeking funds primarily for long term stewardship of the Nature Reserve. Any contribution you can make to protect this special part of the County is most welcome.

HPELT is most grateful to Dick Bird, one of the volunteer members of our Board who has donated a hand-crafted canvas-cedar strip canoe to help our fundraising efforts. Dick is spearheading a project in our local schools to provide hands-on learning experience for students in constructing canoes. We will announce our plans for fundraising soon so you can learn how you could be the lucky one to own this one-of-a kind canoe!

Baptiste Lake, North Hastings

HPELT congratulates the Baptiste Lake Association in North Hastings for undertaking a lake stewardship plan to provide for the long term protection of this beautiful part of Hastings County's natural heritage. The Association recently received an award from *Cottage Life* magazine through the second annual Green Cottager Awards for this significant undertaking. The first draft of the Lake Plan will be available at the Baptiste Lake Association meeting on 19 July at Birch Cliff Lodge. HPELT is pleased that the Lake Association has taken this initiative to protect the natural values of one of the larger lakes in Hastings County. This is a great example of how volunteers can work to ensure the environmental health of water and landscape. We hope that this success will be repeated on our other lakes where cottage owners have demonstrated their interest in and commitment to stewardship of water quality and wildlife habitat.

Tweed and Area

There is good news from Tweed where the Tweed and Area Arts Council has announced the acquisition of the Actinolite United Church for a local centre for the arts. The church is a landmark building in Actinolite, constructed in the 1860s from locally quarried stone. It is readily visible from Highway 37. It is encouraging to see such a beautiful example of our local architectural and cultural heritage reborn for a new community use. HPELT congratulates the volunteers who have worked so diligently to make this happen and the Tweed Council for supporting the project. We look forward to seeing this building enter its new life. We wish the Tweed and Area Arts Council much success in completing conversion of the building.

Stewart Murray, President



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

This association's work mentioned in the president's letter is an excellent example of the slogan "Think globally, act locally." Visit their website for more information about their activities, local events and services available in North Hastings.

(<http://www.baptistelake.org/index.asp>)

(Photo courtesy of Kan Chhatwal, Past President)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The executive of Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust strive diligently to be as fiscally responsible as possible. Our administration costs such as liability insurance, website, mailing, printing and a postal box are necessary to maintain a competent, functioning not-for-profit incorporated organization. They also enable us to communicate with members, friends and potential land donors. You make these things possible through your generosity - membership fees, donations, and occasional small grants for legal fees. Your assistance at shared fund raisers allows us to share the profits with project partners.

Three years ago we were able to make a small investment to establish a "Land Heritage Fund". When we closed the books at the end of the last fiscal year we were able to allocate a nominal sum to the Land Heritage Fund without leaving us strapped for cash. We want to grow this investment trust to generate revenue to ease and support expenses related to land management and conservation easements with private land owners. Any gifts intended for this purpose should clearly state "Land Heritage Fund", and would be most appreciated. Of course, gifts for any other purpose are also appreciated.

We are grateful for all the interest and support which our members and friends and interested community organizations provide us, and for the confidence you have in the goals of the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust. We thank you so very much.

Olive M. Root, Treasurer

PLANT SALE

The FIFTH Great Canadian Plant Sale partnered by Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust and Friends of Massassagua Point was most successful on May 24th. We had lovely weather, great helpers, lots of plants and lots of fun! A big thank you to friendly neighbours and to those who made plant contributions and helped in any way at this event. The cleanup crew did a super job. We generated revenue of \$750.00 – best ever. Our sincere appreciation to all

Plant Sale Committee - Erica Hayes - Leslie Graham - Olive Root

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS

A new organization supports Canadian land trusts and their conservation efforts across Canada through cross-border conservation. The American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFoCLT) was conceived through the work of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

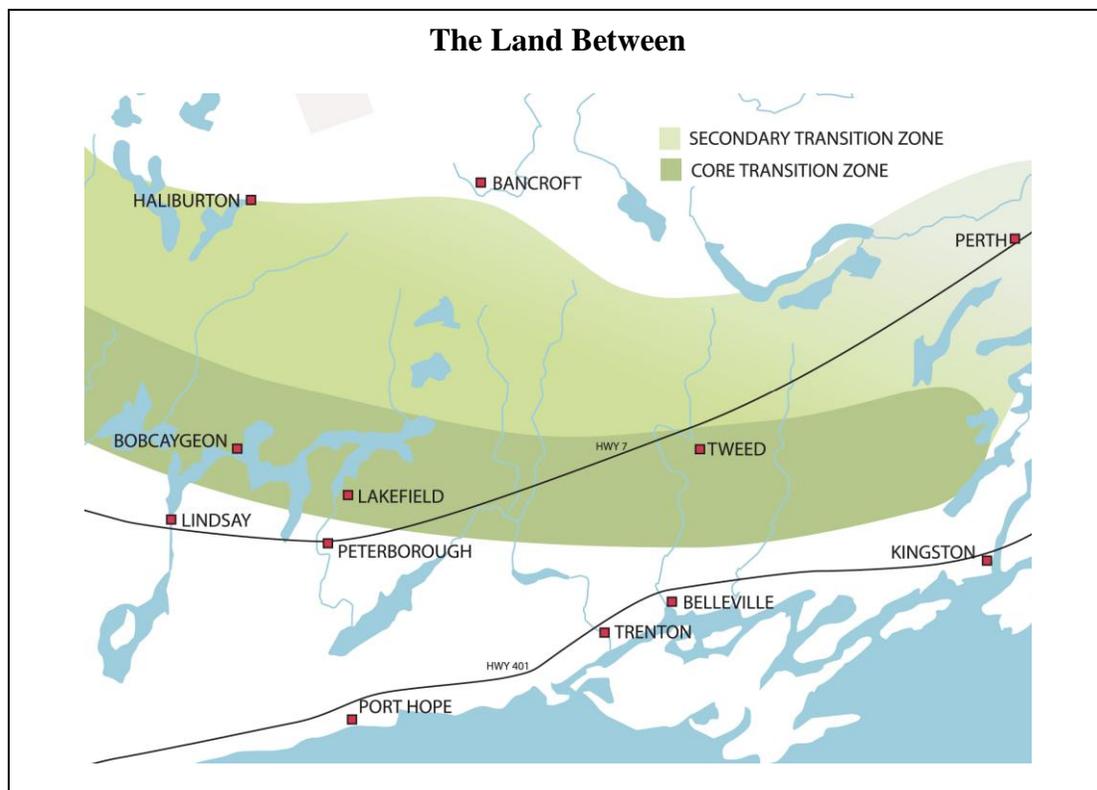
Once AFoCLT is fully operational, U.S. residents will be able to donate Canadian land, or a conservation easement over their land to AFoCLT and will be eligible for the same tax benefits as would be available if the property was located south of the border. AFoCLT will seek special tax status in Canada so that donors of land, or interests in land, would not incur a capital gains tax on their gift. Donors will also be able to donate tax deductible gifts of cash and stock/securities.

Go to the website of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (<http://www.nsnt.ca/>) or contact the Hastings Prince Edward land Trust for more information.

THE LAND BETWEEN

(Information from *The Land Between* website - <http://www.thelandbetween.ca/>)

Two of our neighbouring land trusts, the Couchiching Conservancy and the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy have formed The Land Between Collaborative. The name refers to the transition zone between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands stretching from Muskoka to Kingston. Ecologists call such an area an “ecotone.”



As a typical ecotone The Land Between is a patchwork of habitats. The southern part is characterized by limestone. The granite barrens on the edge of the shield are typical of the northern section. The pattern is created by small and connected lakes and wetlands between the dry open ridges and cool shaded forests. Because of this mosaic it has some of the highest habitat mix in Ontario. It is the northern limit of the range of some species such as the five-lined skink and the white oak while it is the southern limit for others like moose and jack pine.

The Land Between contains many unique biological communities including Atlantic coastal plain communities, alvars, barrens and a variety of wetlands. All of these are under rapidly increasing threats caused mainly by population pressures. Boomers are reaching the ages for buying leisure residences or for retiring outside cities. Restrictions in the provincially established Greenbelt will squeeze development northwards.

The Land Between is easy to damage. Due to its shallow soils, rapid drainage and interconnected aquatic resources, it is very susceptible to contamination. Thin soil means low absorptive capacity resulting in a limited capacity to filter water. It takes very little development from housing, septic systems, golf courses, roads or trails for motorized vehicles to cause severe damage to soils, vegetation and water quality. There is a real risk of losing the reason people move to the area.

The Land Between is in the middle of larger homogeneously defined ecosystems and at the edge of OMNR jurisdictional boundaries. It is beyond most Conservation Authorities and planning responsibilities are fragmented among several municipalities. It is not too late but The Land Between needs our help. There is still time to consider watershed plans and work with local groups. Visit The Land Between website (<http://www.thelandbetween.ca/>) to become better informed. Join HPELT to help in important work in The Land Between and the rest of the Prince Edward Hastings area.



The five-lined skink is Ontario's only lizard. It is common south of the border but it is considered vulnerable in The Land Between because it is at the northern edge of its range.

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**People protecting places – from the
shores of Lake Ontario to the edge of
Algonquin Park**

The Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust (HPELT) is a group of people who are committed to protecting the natural and cultural heritage features of our region. The land trust was founded in 1997, and is a community-based, non-governmental, registered charitable organization. In 1998 HPELT secured federal incorporation and status as a registered charity. HPELT is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, and is registered with Environment Canada as a qualified recipient of Ecological gifts.

Our mission is “to facilitate the protection, in perpetuity, of the important natural and cultural heritage features of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

YOU CAN HELP

Hastings and Prince Edward Counties are fortunate to have a diversity of wild spaces and historical landscapes stretching from the shores of Lake Ontario to the edge of Algonquin Park. This land provides habitat for a unique variety of wildlife and plants, and has shaped our outdoor heritage. Through your membership and donations HPELT will help protect our land permanently, for the enjoyment of future generations. Help create a natural legacy.

- Yes, I would like to support the work of the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust. Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____.

- Yes, I would like to become a member of HPELT and help support the ongoing work of the organization.
 - \$20.00 – Individual
 - \$35.00 – Family
 - \$50.00 – Association
 - 500.00 – Corporation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

All the flowers of to-morrow are in the seeds of yesterday. John Muir, 1838-1914.