



Photo Credit: Dave Ramdas

Hello to Ahmic Lakers, cottagers up and down the Magnetawan River, and all in the Magnetawan Watershed!

I hear that Spring has been late arriving this year. Maybe I'll finally get to see a little snow at the lake (only joking). I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible soon, and I

would like to express personally my great appreciation for the support you have given. It is your combined efforts that make the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust (MWLT) viable and so special! I would also like to thank all of you who have expressed an interest in the Land Trust, what we do, and what we can do together. We invite you to explore our website and ask us any question you have, via email or in person.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thanks to new supporters and to longstanding supporters who have made sustained financial commitments to the Trust over the years as we approach our 10th year in formal existence. You can be assured that your Board remains dedicated to the preservation of the natural, historical, scenic, and recreational value of Ahmic Lake and the surrounding area – just as you are!

In 2017 much effort went into property monitoring, trail maintenance, and boundary marking and re-marking. The past Fall and Winter have been active with continued stewardship and monitoring of properties under our care. During 2017 and through to this Spring, a lot of effort has gone into stewardship, education, community engagement, and Board matters.

We also hosted a session on American Land Donations and supported the East Parry Sound Science Awards for the third consecutive year. Together with members of our community we hosted a bird identification hike, joined the newly formed Magnetawan Waterways Committee, hosted our second annual Magnificent Magnetawan Photo Contest, and supported for the third year the MWLT entry in the Magnetawan Soap Box Derby.

We are particularly thrilled and appreciative of the April 5th, 2018 letter in which the Municipality of Magnetawan attests to the value of the Land Trust in the community; and acknowledges the Trust's and Val's (MWLT Coordinator Valerie Fieldwebster) giving "generously of their time, money and energy to organize free environmental workshops and educational events in Magnetawan." I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Municipality for the interest and support it has shown to us throughout the years. And, a special thanks to Val for her tireless work and dedication.

[Letter.](#)

The Board conducted five meetings, two in person and three by teleconference, in addition

to holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and multiple Committee meetings.

Val attended the Ontario Land Trust Alliance Gathering in Orillia as well as the Canada Land Trust Summit in B.C. These are great educational and networking events for land trust efforts.

The Land Trust continues to seek potential properties for conservation and to assist local landowners who are interested in learning more about how they can support the mission of the Land Trust. Additionally, we can speak with both Canadian and American owners of property in the Watershed about potential tax savings based on donations to our recognized charitable operation in Ontario.

We are looking forward to more successes in 2018 as we strengthen our efforts at community outreach and education. Work is underway on new articles for the local media and a series of citizen science projects, including presentations on two Nature Watch programs: Frog Watch and Plant Watch. Community members will also have a chance to participate in monitoring for dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies, and benthic invertebrates. (For those of you who may not know the meaning of "benthic" - like me until Val educated me - it basically means the bottom of a body of water.) All of us are fortunate with such magnificent flora and fauna throughout the Watershed, and the Land Trust stands ready to help conserve the environment.

Much of the new efforts we have initiated are being supported by a second talented staff person, Mike Peppard, who has joined the MWLT as the Stewardship and Communications Coordinator. Mike's role complements and supports Val's continued outstanding leadership.

We have firmed up timing for our AGM and Annual Celebration. The AGM will be on Saturday, July 28th starting at 10 a.m. at the Ahmic Lake Golf Club. Our Annual Celebration will take place starting at 5 p.m., Sunday, August 5th at a location to be determined. With respect to the Trust's Annual Celebration, we are thrilled that the Highlander Brew Co., South River, will for the third year in a row donate its craft brews for the gathering. Please note that the AGM and Annual Celebration welcome members, donors, and *everyone* with an interest in or curiosity about the Land Trust.

More information about these and other events is available in this Newsletter, on our website at mwt.org, and/or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MagnetawanLandTrust.

As I have expressed before, and will many times again, your advice and feedback are welcome and appreciated.

See you soon!

Barry Graham
President

Science Fair Winners!



The Land Trust's second annual East Parry Sound Science Fair Award went to Owyn Boeckner and Hunter Adam. Both are in grade 7 at South Shore Public School. Their project was called 'Super Filter' and it involved using milkweed as an environmentally friendly way to absorb oil spills.

Owen Boeckner and Hunter Adam

Mike Peppard joins the MWLT Team

A New Addition to Our Staff!
Introducing Michael Peppard:
Engaging Communities in Environmental Experiences



No one who has experienced the raw beauty of nature ever really takes it for granted nor can they forget it. Many people in fact would like to do more to protect and preserve it. Helping many of these many people do just that has been the work that I have enjoyed the most in my career. I am very happy therefore to have been offered the role of Stewardship and Communications Coordinator with the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust, and to be working with Valerie Fieldwebster (Coordinator), and the Board of Directors of the MWLT.

Over the past twenty-plus years I have enjoyed working with rural land-owners, urban residents, and cottagers on a variety of projects from stream restoration to urban forestry and citizen-science programming. In every role I found a keen interest among people of all ages to learn more about their local environment and to do more to protect, preserve, or enhance it.

My background is in Zoology and Restoration Ecology but it has always been as much about engaging, educating, and working with people as it has been about biology.

A big part of my role with the MWLT will be just that. Specifically, engaging members of the Magnetawan community in Citizen Science and other environmental programs.

For more on Citizen Science, please read on.
Michael Peppard

Events

Watch our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more details

Calling All Citizen Scientists!

Citizen science is “the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists”.

But what does that really mean?

It means that in our ever more connected world anyone interested in participating in making it a better place can do so. Technology now makes it possible for a great many people to play a small part in creating something much greater together. In the case of citizen science it means that a lot of data on plants, birds, animals, and the weather can be gathered over large geographical areas, over many years, and then made available to scientists who otherwise would never be able to gather so much information on their own.

The best features of citizen science are; anybody can participate and the collection of high-quality data that enables scientists to come to real conclusions about the state of our natural world.

Are you a citizen scientist?

“Citizen science bridges gaps by harnessing the power of people who are motivated by curiosity, a desire to advance research, or a concern about environmental conditions in their communities, and then connects them to projects that benefit from their energy and dedication.”

We invite all members of the Magnetawan watershed to join us in gathering data on frogs, insects, birds and plants this spring, summer, and fall!

Citizen science programs

- Frog Watch
- Plant Watch
- Benthic macro invertebrate monitoring
- Dragonfly monitoring
- Birds

For details contact Mike: stewardship@mwlt.org



**Join us in
Plant and
Wildlife Monitoring**

Click here for more detail!

Photo Credit: Cathy Gauthier

2018 Magnificent Magnetawan Photo Contest

Enter via; Facebook, Email, or Instagram
Deadline for submissions July 31, 2018
Full Contest Rules here.

Photo Credit: Jonathan Pruitt



8th Annual General Meeting
Saturday July 28, 2018, 10 a.m.
Ahmic Lake Golf Club

In order to reduce waste, a limited number of the **2017 Financial Statement** and the **2016 AGM minutes**.
If you would like a copy of either of these documents please contact Val Fieldwebster at magnetawanwt@gmail.com
Photo Credit: Dyane Brunton

2018 Annual Celebration
Everyone is Welcome!
Saturday Aug 5, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Location; TBA

[Click here for more details](#)

Photo Credit: Paul Ferbrache



Annual donation giving allows the Land Trust the security it needs to forge ahead and take on long term projects.
'Donor Roll' recognizes donors have made donations in 5 out our last 6 donation years.

**2017 Donor Roll
Northern Pike (5000+)**

- Rouse, Ted - Cove easement
- Rouse, Jimmy - Cove easement
- Norton, Molly - Cove easement

Caudwell, Steve *

Pickeral (\$1000 - \$4999)

Box, Walker - Earl & Ann *
Candler - Sam & Boog *
Candler, Mckenna - Sarah & Ted
Cays - Ian & Julia *
Chemnitz - Brian & Shelley *
Coolidge - Dexter and Carol *
Denny - Dallas & Margaret
Graham - Barry & Palmer *
Levering - Ted & Mary *
Norton - Matt and Molly *
Ramsay - John & Marsha *
Seibels - Edmund & Beth *
Spalding - Bo & Melissa
Terlevich - Fabio & Molly *
Totman - Chris & Christie *
Verity, Penney - Louise & Mac *
Rouse - Molly*

Large Mouth Bass (\$500 - \$999)

Bohaker - Bert & Susan *
Dauncey - Terry *
LaMotte - David & Deirdre *
Langford - Mark & Lila *
Mills - Tom & Jeannie
Rosen - Howard & Kelly *
Verity - Carol *

Sunfish (\$250 - \$499)

Candler - Richard & Jennifer
Cauldwell - Sally *
Daly - Patrick
Ferrier - Allison
Fleming - Sarah
Foster - Ed & Mary *
Griffith - Lee & Denny *
McEwen - Tom & Tamara
McKenna - Joan

Murphy - Beverly
Van Nest - Matthew & Joanne
Webb - Steve *
West - Bill & Patty
Wood - Robert & Deany *

Rock Bass (\$20 - \$249)

Chapman - Bob
Embry - Richard & Nancy *
Fenimore - Mary-beth *
Jallad - Yazan
Kelly-Mitchell - Olga
Little - Ted
Reid - Doug *
Schatz - Ron *
Simons - Byron & Janet *

All Donors will be recognized in our Spring Newsletter unless the donor indicates otherwise.

Americans donating over \$200 may donate through American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts and receive an American income tax charitable receipt from it. Click on the American Friends logo above for more information.



**American Friends of
Canadian Land Trusts**

Canadians and Americans donating less than \$200 may send a cheque to [51 King William](#) P.O. Box 300018 Huntsville, ON P1H 0B5 and will receive a Canadian charitable tax receipt or may donate using a credit card by clicking on the Canada Helps link.



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We send these newsletters to folks who may share our interest in preserving Ahmic Lake

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