

Lot 3

How are Land Donations Like Snowflakes?
A Big Thank You to our Supporters!

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The Falls on Old Man's Creek

Photo Credit Brian Chemnitz

Dear Valerie,

This turns out to be an auspicious time for a changing of the guard at the Land Trust. We received our first major gift of land and completed our first land purchase last year, both under the guidance of Kristen Field. We are now embarking on acquiring our first conservation easement. All of these turn out to be far more complex than we ever imagined. Kristen did a remarkable job of untangling the first two and now we have a new Coordinator, Valerie Fieldwebster, who has already jumped in and moved us ahead on the third. We feel the loss of Kristen, but we are very fortunate to have someone as competent, conscientious, and delightful to work with as Valerie to replace her.

I am sorry to report the resignation from the Board of one of our long time members, John Ramsay. With our full launching of the Land Trust over the last year John has decided to put his time and his focus in other areas. He has made a substantial contribution ever since we first dreamed of establishing this Land Trust, and I shall miss him.

We are grateful to have Brian Chemnitz join our Board. He and his family have had a long connection to the lake. Brian and his wife, Shelly, own property beside the Old Man's Creek and have played key roles in the Stewardship of this reserve from the beginning.

I continue to get a burst of energy every time I think of the acquisition of Lot 3 on Old Man's Creek last year. Not only does it complete the major part of what we set out to do with Old Man's Creek, but the way all the neighbors of the Creek came together to support Geof Garth's extraordinary contribution showed an inspiring commitment to the lake. It gives me enormous confidence in our future.

Thinking of Ahmic!

Your President,

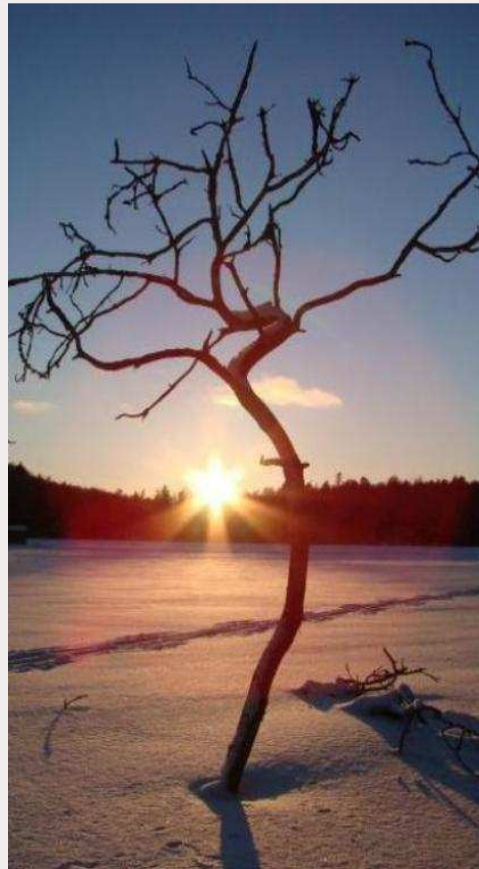
Dexter Coolidge.

A Cove Easement

No two snowflakes are alike and it looks as if no two land donations are either!

The Land Trust has been given the opportunity to explore the process of developing and stewarding a Conservation Easement. This Easement has the potential to add 305m (1000') of protected shore to our Land Trust's stewardship.

A Conservation Easement (CE) can be a "best of both worlds" solution for land owners who would like to see their land preserved in perpetuity, but would still like to use it and not lose their sense of ownership. With a CE the owners continue to own the land. Together with the Land Trust, they work together to prepare an agreement, which outlines restricted uses, for all or part of the land. Once an agreement is prepared it is registered against the land's title and will follow the land through subsequent ownership changes. An agreement typically includes prohibition of commercial, residential or industrial development. It may also restrict logging but allow for owners to continue collecting firewood for their personal use. Preparing a CE agreement is detailed and costly work, but we are excited to work through this process.



View from the shore of the proposed Conservation Easement



2012 Cocktail Party

Farewell Kristen

Kristen Field (now Callow-she was married in the fall), our Executive Director since 2009, resigned at the end of last year to take a full time position with another land trust. Kristen made an enormous contribution to the Land Trust, seeing us through one organizational, bureaucratic, and legal thicket after another. Her job was made much more complex, as ours has been, by the need to work through the legal requirements of two countries, as well as the organizational requirements of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. She handled it all with aplomb and is largely responsible for the speed with which we acquired the original Old Man's Creek property and then purchased Lot 3 as an addition to that. We shall miss her guidance as well as her unwavering warm and patient demeanour.



On the bridge over looking Old Man's Creek

Welcome Valerie

On January 20, Valerie Fieldwebster joined our Land Trust team, as our Coordinator. Valerie brings with her many years of work experience with the Communication Department of the Grand River Conservation Authority. She has volunteered her time, canoeing and hiking with 'Youth at Risk' giving them a chance to connect with nature. She has assisted with monitoring and habitat restoration for threatened and endangered species and contributed to the Guelph Field Naturalist Club, as President and youth program leader. She looks forward to hearing your stories, seeing your photos, and helping the Land Trust reach its goals.

Please contact her at:

magnetawanwlt@gmail.com or
[\(705\)783-1772](tel:(705)783-1772)



Kristen's Daughter, Taylor, doing soil research on the Old Man's Creek Property

Thank you for your Support in 2012

2012 was a wonderful year for connecting with our supporters.

A Big Thank You to those of you who have been with us since the beginning and a warm welcome to those who chose to join us this year.

Rock Bass (\$21 - \$249)

Astron Specialty Metals
Elise Barnaby
Lee and Bill Bone
Brian and Shelly Chemnitz
Nancy and Richard Embry
Mary Beth Fenimore
Don and Judy Flemming
Deborah Kelly
Fritz Kelly
Woolcott Kelly
Tom and Margaret Little
Franci and Norris Little
Anne and Bruce MacLane
Joyce and Bill Mahan
Kelly Seibels
Janet and Byron Simmons
Anne and Mat Sudduth

Sunfish (\$250 - \$499)

Betsy and Bo Candler
Virginia and Merdyth Ewing
Gay and Chris Legg
Rosie and Monica Jeffares
Beth and Frank Marchman
Sally Caudwell and Jerry McKenna
Alex and Cay Mills
Jane and Richard Moore
Patty and Bill West

Species at Risk Sightings Wanted

Watching for and recording species which are considered at risk of extinction is a big step toward helping protect these species and may provide financial support for our Land Trust. Provincial and Federal Canadian Government both offer funding programs to assist land trusts acquire and steward properties that contain species at risk or their habitats.

Here are just 2 of the 10 possible Species at Risk considered to possibly occur in the Ahmic Lake area. The other 8 species being Spotted turtle, Map turtle, Stinkpot turtle, Eastern Hognose snake, Snapping turtle, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Canada warbler, Eastern wolf.

The Blinding's turtle and the Chimney Swift

Any sightings of these two, and other Species at Risk can be reported to the on-line MNR rare species report, or to Valerie Fieldwebster at

magnetawanwlt@gmail.com.

When reporting a sighting it is important to know:

- The location in as much detail as possible with GPS coordinates being the best.
- The time and date of your observation.
- Distinctive details about the species and the habitat.
- An accompanying photo is valuable when making a species at risk report.



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

Clint Brooks

Lila and Mark Langford

Jeannie and Tom Mills

Carol and Dick Verity

Louise Verity and Mac Penny

Steve Webb

Pickerel (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Julia Barker and Michael Badham

Bert and Susan Bohaker

Anne Walker and Earl Box

Lee and Laura Berg

Jennifer and Ricky Candler

Sam and Boog Candler

Whit and Ellen Conrad

Carol and Dexter Coolidge

Frances Ann and John Graham

Palmer and Barry Graham

Marion and Les Green

Deirdre and David LaMotte

Tom and Marnie Little

John and Betty Minkowski

Beth and Lewis Nix

Marsha and John Ramsay

Beth and Edmund Seibels

Ann and Bruce Spalding

Bob and Mary Stockdale-Vernon

Molly and Fabio Terlevich

Christie and Chris Totman

Denny and Rob Wood

Northern Pike (\$5000 +)

Anonymous

Molly Norton and Matthew Bond

Geof Garth

Mary and Ted Levering

Ted Rouse

Melissa and Bo Spalding

Babbie and Jon Styslinger

Watch for the **Chimney Swift** circling around your cottage at dusk, making the chattering sound of a child's wooden squeaky toy. This little bird deserves our awe. Unable to perch, except inside a chimney or a hollow tree, it does *everything* on the fly. It catches bugs, collects nesting material, and drinks all while flying! If your cottage or home has an old style brick or stone chimney, it could be the main roost for more than a hundred Swifts or the nesting site for a single family.



The **Blanding's Turtle** is easily distinguished by the yellow throat and domed shell. They prefer shallow clean water and can travel several kilometres between their summer, nesting and wintering habitats. Watch for them on roadsides and shoreline trails. They can be spotted basking in the sun, early on sunny mornings after a cold night. This turtle must be 14 years old before laying its first clutch of eggs. The first batch is relatively small, around 20 eggs. She will not reach her full reproductive potential until 50 years old.

[Donate Now](#)

If we have not listed you, it is due to either your request to remain anonymous or an oversight on our part. If the latter, please accept our apology and let us know so we can acknowledge your support of the Land Trust in a subsequent Newsletter.

